



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Social Sciences, BIN
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01-08-2022 until 05-12-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Colombia
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Medellín
<b>University (exchange)</b>	UNAL, Universidad Nacional de Colombia
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Facultad de ciencias humanas y económicas

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to improve my Spanish and learn about another culture. Moreover, I wanted to have the experience of studying in a different environment, meeting new people and seeing new places.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

As I said I wanted to improve my Spanish, this was possible in only 3 of the options the WUR provided, out of these, Colombia was the country of which the culture attracted my most.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

I flew from Amsterdam to Madrid and from there directly to Medellín, however, if you have a lot of time you can sail there.

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Theories of Power	5,1	About theories of what power is, about who has it, legitimacy within power, forms of arising of power	4	Difficult texts to read in Spanish, but really interesting
2	Latin America	5,1	About history and social processes and situations in different countries in Latin America	4	High study workload
3	International cooperation	5,1	About international projects and development projects	2	
4	History of Colombia	5,1	History of Colombia in the last century, mostly about the armed conflict	4	
5					
6					

**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

This really depends on the subject, for history the examination existed out of projects, for example we had to read original documents of the 1960s and write an essay about this. For Latin America we had two big exams about all the articles that we had read. Usually, the final note you get by combining the projects you have worked on and the exams that you did. The academic level is medium I would say, and the workload really depends on the subject. For Latin America the workload was really high, higher than most WUR courses. International cooperation on the other hand, did not have a high workload at all. The lesson material exists out of articles and parts of books, that the lecturers send to you online.

**What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

The lecturers are really approachable and really know their students. This is because the classes are small, more or less 30 students follow a course at the same time. The lecturers therefore interact a lot with the students. You are expected to join conversations and discussions, and sometimes the lecturer asks you directly to answer a question. Often students share their opinions on something, and by means of presentations students also explain parts of the teaching material to the class.

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

The university has lots of places to eat, for quite a cheap price compared to places outside of the university. Furthermore the university offers a broad amount of sport and cultural related activities, all for free. You can go the gym, swimming pool or join a sports team as well as go to dancing lessons, music lessons, or almost anything you can think of.

## 5. Housing-travelling-living

### **What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

The university does not help you with housing, however, it is not difficult to find a room. I got mine through the site getvico.com and lived in a student's house with shared bathroom and kitchen, with cleaning and washing service twice a week for 180 euros per month. This was in a safe neighbourhood 25 minutes cycling away from the university.

### **What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

The culture is quite different from the Dutch one, the food is all fried (however, it is an international city so you can find non-traditional food that is really good) and the people are really spontaneous and love dancing salsa, bachata, reggaeton or anything really. Everything goes a bit less effective and with more time, but it doesn't matter because the attitude of everyone is really relaxed. An example is that everyone, including the teacher arrives a bit late for class. The traffic is chaotic, and you should watch out, but the city is lovely green with a spectacular amount of trees and plants everywhere, including the campus.

### **Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

It's a lot cheaper. I rented my room for 180 euros a month and my lunch I bought at the university was 2 euros, and it was a lot of food. If you go to a restaurant you will probably not spend more than 5 euros, for food and drinks together. Uber was around 2/3 euros per ride as well, depending on the demand at that moment.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

In Medellín there is a metro, that costs 30 cents. Furthermore you have Uber and taxis for around 2/3 euros as well. In the flat parts of the city there are bicycle lanes, so I bought a bicycle for 50 euros to cycle to university each day.

## 6. Free time

### **What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

In Medellín: botanic garden, Provenza, el castillo, parque Arví, comuna 13, la 70.

Outside the city: Jardín, Guatapé, Concepción, San Rafael, Salento (Eje cafetero)

**What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

The neighbourhood Moravia. It is a typical non-touristic neighbourhood that has had many transformations. It started being a mount of trash with people moving there to search for valuable things. It was really poor and the government didn't care. Now it has improved a lot. For me, it is very interesting seeing the actual places people live in the city, and not just the most rich, touristic neighbourhoods.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

Saludpan is a really good restaurant with healthy, vegetarian food. For going out, El poblado is the most known neighbourhood, there are many clubs and you can go out literally every night if you want to.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

The first two weeks I really had to get used to the Paisa accent of the people in Medellín and did not understand a lot, however, I got used to it and learned a lot of new paisa words.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

My best memory is of the friends I made that lived with my in my house. We did so many spontaneous trips to other parts of Colombia, nights out with dancing in the best reggaetón clubs of the world, watching movies, eating out and many things more.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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