



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	International Land and Water Management
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	02-2024 until 06-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Universidad Nacional de Colombia
<b>Faculty</b>	
<b>Country</b>	Colombia
<b>City</b>	Medellin

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because it is a great learning experience. You have the opportunity to be exposed to many things you would normally not encounter.

### b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

Because I wanted to experience Colombian culture.

### c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

I choose the campus of Medellin over Bogota, because of the sports activities that were offered here. Once I came here, I just fell in love with the city and its people :).

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

I flew straight to Medellin, but if I had more time, I would have travelled via Bogota.

## 4. University and studying

### a. 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	Agroecología	8.5	About all kinds of topics around agroecology, the application of practices + an excursion	4*	Cool, combining practise on an actual farming with theory

2	Laboratorio de video II	5	About experimental film making	4*	A lot a inspiration and the teacher challenges you to push yourself
3	Realización documental	5	About the process of producing a documentary + actually creating them	4*	Also a lot of inspiration and nice assignments
4					
5					
6					

\*the reason I give the courses a 4 and not a 5 is that there was a strike at some point during my exchange which made it so that I could not complete the courses according to the original course guides, but adaptations had to be made.

**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):**

Courses were taught in Spanish - don't feel intimidated if your Spanish is not great, just made use of online translators when you have to and you will improve along the way xx

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):**

Absolutely, I was able to choose any courses of my interest! Which was absolutely awesome.

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

Yes, the courses were awesome - I specifically selected courses with a practical aspect in addition to theory, to be able to hone real life applicable skills.

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

Absolutely, loved my professors aswel - the clases were pretty small and we all got to know each other. Also great contact with the teachers, they were very passionate about their courses.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

*E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?*

**g. What is the culture of the university?**

*E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?*

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

*E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?*

I generally felt that this university was more student oriented than the WUR. They offer so many extracurricular activities - cultural as well as sports. There is a swimming pool! There are a couple different catering spots and they're nice. I found it a very comfortable campus, nice place to spend time and hang out. The spot behind the swimming pool is also very nice to chill in the grass with a great view :)

## 5. Housing-traveling-living

### a. What are the possibilities for housing?

*E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?*

I found a room via VICO - I paid 1 000 000 COP, around 250 for a very nice apartment in floresta, super close to the metro, shared with 3 other girls.

### b. What is the culture like?

*E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?*

I feel like in general it's more extroverted. Life in the street is vibrant and I felt like I was constantly surrounded with inspiration, vibrant colors and music. People are very helpful and generally warm and open.

### c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

*E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?*

I went to university either with the metro (from floresta to suramericana + walking the rest of the way to the campus) or with a motorcycle uber if I was running a bit late. Walking on longer distances on the streets after dark is not super recommended if you don't know the area/are not accompanied by people who do - just take an uber.

## 6. Expenses

### a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	Around 800 euro
Visa - if applicable	Only to extend for 3 more months and not expensive
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	Can't remember
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Depends where you want to go
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	Around 250 euro
Grocery costs per month	Depends where you shop, I usually went to la vaquita and it was around 100 euro/month - check out the plaza's if you have time
Public transport costs per month	Around 1 euro/uni day, if I went by metro

Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	Really depends - you can have a traditional colombian meal for around 3 euros
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**b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:**

Generally lower

**c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

At the time I was there, 1 euro was around 4000 COP

## 7. Free time

**a. What are must-sees in the area?**

*E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

So much nature all around when you go a bit outside of the city

**b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?**

Make local friends (either via university or for example sports outside of uni) and join them to see different places around the city - everyone is into something else, it's nice to explore new things

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

**a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?**

For me the ATM's of Bancolombia didn't allow me to not accept their conversion - maybe go to davienda. I only used cash, would get around 2 000 000 COP at a time to save on fees.

**b. Best memory?**

Time spend with friends :). Met some lovely people over here.

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>	Unless you really really have to know something; mbalou.bayo@wur.nl	