

Free Report

Master of Organic Agriculture and Food Systems at Hohenheim University

Erasmus Exchange Student at Wageningen University

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Knowledge and experience are important in life. As for myself, I love to learn something new; not only in academics, but also in culture and new people. Exchange semester at Wageningen University is like an eye opener for me.

My bachelor background is food technology. When I decided to do an exchange semester, I searched any information regarding the university with food technology major and Wageningen University and Research (WUR) is the answer. WUR is a famous university for food technology. It has some specialization in food technology, for instance: ingredient functionality, dairy technology, product design, food processing, etc.

To apply an exchange semester at WUR, I contacted Mrs Klumpp and received some information. I need to submit the application form, CV and also motivation letter. The selection process takes about 2 weeks after the deadline. After I was selected, Mrs Klumpp helped the Erasmus students to register in the guest university. The application form and learning agreement should be filled in and signed by the study advisor. After I got the confirmation letter from the guest university, the application for Erasmus grant can be done with Mrs Renz.

The exchange coordinator at WUR is also very welcomed to the new Erasmus student. Because I am not an EU citizen, I should apply for the residence permit. The cost is about 600€ and non EU student should take the permit in Dutch embassy (Dusseldorf or Berlin). The steps for the application were clearly informed by Mrs Jansen. In addition, the guest university also offered an accommodation priority. Thus, I just have to come and get the key in Student Desk.

When I arrived in Wageningen, I missed the Annual International Day. Some friends said that it was fun, but I can't come due to a project at Hohenheim University.

However, I was clearly informed about how to access my WUR account, register the courses, register in the municipality, open a bank account, etc.

Although I have chosen some courses in the learning agreement, I changed the courses once I arrived there. There are 5 courses that I took during my exchange period, which are Food Ingredient Functionality, Molecular Gastronomy, Food Law, Food Components and Health, and Dairy Science and Technology. Studying at WUR is very interesting because the theory and practical are combined. The laboratory used is also very sophisticated. There are different laboratories for different courses. The practical makes the learning more fun and understandable. It's such an interesting experience in gaining knowledge.

The courses were usually conducted the whole day; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Sometimes, it also needs a group work afterwards. So most time was used with studying. However, on weekends, people can go to other cities, for example: Amsterdam, Den Haag, Rotterdam, Maastricht, etc. People can go by bus and train. Because the Netherlands is not so big, people can do a day trip to one city.

In Wageningen, you should ride your bicycle wherever you go. It's because the transportation is costly. There is no special offer for international student. Moreover, the bus connection is also not good because there is no direct connection from one building to another building. So people in Wageningen can't live without a bicycle. Sometimes, the bad weather became a challenge to reach the class. People should ride their bicycle even it rains or snows.

In conclusion, the exchange semester at WUR is very useful for my future. The learning process combines both theory and practical, makes people ready to face the working environment. New lessons, new culture, and new friends are the best experience during my exchange semester. On the other hand, biking is a challenge for myself, especially during bad weather. Actually, I don't like biking. But I need to struggle to reach the class. And after all, it's totally worth. As for myself, the exchange semester, particularly at Wageningen University, is a very interesting programme. Hohenheim University opens a big opportunity for a brighter future.