

Sangyun Jeong
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Five Months of Wageningen



Wageningen is a rather small town in the Eastern part of the Netherlands, which can be reached in four to five hours by train from Hannover. There are nearby cities such as Ede, Nijmegen and Arnhem. They have comparatively big urban centres. Moreover, thanks to the fact that the country is not so huge and they have well-connected public transport system, core cities like Amsterdam, the Hague and Rotterdam are also easily reachable. However, Wageningen also has a nice centre area including several shops and restaurants, about 15 minutes away from the campus by bike.

Almost everyone ride a **bike** in Wageningen from here to there, so you'd better get used to it. I myself didn't buy a bike since I wasn't going to ride it in winter days, however, subscribed the Swapfiets with a

monthly payment. If you are considering having one, you can easily buy second hand bikes as well, both online and offline.

Apart from the nice and calm neighbourhood, **Wageningen University & Research** (WUR) itself is definitely a great university as well. The WUR, especially in the agriculture field, is well recognized worldwide. Therefore, all kind of systems, e.g. student portal, studying environment, and event announcements, are well prepared for international students and employees. Most of the master programmes in WUR are fully taught in English, therefore, you will find many interesting courses in English (only if your interest fits with the theme of WUR). I took five courses (6 ECTS each) in total, which were organized by Cultural Geography group (two courses), Land Use Planning group (two) and Landscape Architecture group (one). The lecturers were enthusiastic and supportive.

In addition, **semesters** in WUR are organized differently than Hannover. In my case in winter semester: September and October were assigned to the first period (not semester); November and December were the second; after the holiday, there was one month of (third) period in January. In other words, one semester is composed of three small periods, and each includes respective exams. Therefore, I would say studying in WUR might be rather intense and challenging if you want to get a decent grade.

Regarding the **housing** in Wageningen, it is known as quite difficult to find a room near the university. However, if you keep eyes on the Facebook group and the student housing webpage, you will be able to find one hopefully near the campus. You can also look for a room in nearby cities such as Ede or Bennekom, and there are some alternative housings organized by various groups. So, don't give up. Overall, I would definitely recommend to spend a semester in WUR. For anyone who wants to experience such an international atmosphere and to have a productive Erasmus semester, WUR will be a good choice.

