



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Economics and Governance
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-02-2019 until 14-06-2019
Country (exchange)	Hungary
City (exchange)	Budapest
University (exchange)	Corvinus University of Budapest
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Economics

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience studying on another university in another country and culture.

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

I wanted to go to a big city, and checked the courses that were given. I ended with Barcelona, Bologna and Budapest. I was placed in Budapest, Corvinus University.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Easiest to reach by plane, Wizzair flies on Budapest, relatively cheap tickets on Eindhoven. But also Check Vienna and Bratislava, sometimes these airports have better times to fly to and both are just 2h by train or flibus from Budapest.

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	Comparative Economics of European Integration	6	Economic integration of the EU from both economic and political viewpoint	5	Interesting and course load was good. Also the lecturer was very interactive with the class and easily approachable.
2	Behavioural Economics	6	Psychological theories on (economic) decision making of humans	4	Teacher gives interactive and funny lectures.
3	Advanced Quantitative Methods	6	Methodology of economic, social and environmental indicators (development indexes etc.)	2	Different than I thought it would be. Very standard non-interactive classes with the indicators explained but no exercises are done what so ever. Presentations on a certain topic was mostly to show the country of origin of the (international) student.
4	Equal Opportunity Policies	3	Analysis of different political spectrums like left, right, altright, socialism, etc in order to explain certain economic situations like Brexit or eg euro crisis.	2	The course was not very challenging in the sense that sometimes we would just watch large YT vids or a movie about Brexit.

How is the study formalized?

The academic level was average, not very challenging but also not lacking. The university is to my view a bit 'conservative' in the sense it says we are the uni, we know everything and you students should learn what we know/think is true.

What is the culture of the university?

Teachers are very approachable and friendly, however sometimes is communication via email somewhat slow. The digital world is for some older lecturers a bit (too) new.

By the ESN there is a buddy program organised. This is nice because you can become friends with your Hungarian local and is helpful for finding out life in the first month. Try to put some effort in to meetup as I heard from some Hungarians that students don't answer and just let the contact die out.

What does the university offer the student additionally?

There are in every building some kiosks with coffee, snacks and cheap sandwiches. Also a canteen restaurant with cheap meals are available (only during the day, dinner is not a thing), and the food is alright.

There is a gym at the uni, but due to weird opening times I have not used that one. Also sport and dancing classes are given via the uni.

5. Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

There are housing companies renting out flats for international students. A bit pricey for Hungarian standards but all are located in the very centre of the city (I had a flat only a few metro stops from the University and a few mins walk to the restaurant/bars/club area). For Erasmus students the university has no dorms or housing. Also possible to go there and find a room with other internationals in the first week of the semester. Think about 300-400euro for a room p/month in the city centre.

What is the culture of the country like?

I have been to Hungary quite some times before and experienced the people as friendly and welcoming. Therefore I was a little bit shocked in Budapest. They have a very strong attitude in the service and shops, no greeting, grumpy faces etc, these are (sorry) mostly the lower educated people. Don't bother that, its how they are there, I think that they in general don't know how to handle tourists/foreigners. What also doesn't help them is the lack of English often. But they value manners high, especially towards older people be kind and give your seat to them in eg the tram.

Local cuisine is very different than in NL, lots of meat, spiced dishes and many pasty sweets.

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

All-inclusive I paid 450euro per month.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

Very cheap student subscriptions for the public transport, which is phenomenal. Very frequent and every corner of this huge city is reachable within no time. Buy a semester pass around 55eur at a ticket desk (16000 huf) (also possible with the WURcard as is it an European university). Or the monthly cards in a ticket machine.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

All the 'tourist things' are nice to visit, the castle hill, heroes square etc. But besides, the gellert hill, baths and nature around Budapest (normafa and Janos hill) are very nice to escape the busy city sometimes. Also margit island is a must go when the weather is nice.

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

I travelled a lot to neighbouring countries. The esn of Corvinus organises some trips, which are very nice to attend! But also go to undiscovered places like Serbia, Ukraine (Kiev), Montenegro and Slovenia.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

In the city centre are many restaurants and food bars. For students: Smart Kitchen, wokbar where you can choose your ingredients yourself and have a noodle box for just 4eur. Aquarium klub is nice for concerts, Instant (club) is nice but very touristic you'll get tired from that. Many nice bars in the jewish district like Udvar Rom, Pajta pub, Doboz, Elato haz, and other districts: A Grund, potkulcs. Also on Monday for all internationals at Morrisons 2.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The fact that you must discover the way things work all at your own. Also to be (more) lonely sometimes.

What was your best memory abroad?

The travels and trips with my international friends to different destinations. Also watching the sunset and the city getting lit up on of the hills (preferably Gellért hegy).

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	jgskiraly@hotmail.com	