



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	BSc Landscape Architecture and Planning
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/10/2019 until 14/02/2020
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Germany
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Dresden
<b>University (exchange)</b>	TU Dresden
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Environmental Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience education at another university, and regarding my background with bilingual education and an overall interest in learning languages, it felt right to study abroad.

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

German felt like a useful language to 'master' and I had heard positive feedback about Dresden and its environment. The TU Dresden was said to be of good standards, situated in a city but an hour away from nature.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The car proved best for me, but the trains were also very doable.

## 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
<b>1</b>	Spatial Development	10	An overview of the German planning system and -law	4	Very juridical, but interesting insights on the smaller scales
<b>2</b>	Natural Resources	10	A forestry zoology, hydrobiology and soil basis applied on human use of natural resources in these areas	3	Even though it is a master course, I felt like many things were not particularly refreshing; Seminars with guest-lecturers were interesting!
<b>3</b>	Population Geography	5	Mix of social geography and population geography	4	Pretty introduction-like, would sometimes have liked somewhat more depth, but enthusiastic about the contents
<b>4</b>	Settlement Geography	5	How settlements/cities functioned in the past, function now and may function in the future	4	This course overlapped in my schedule so I did not follow all regular classes – this is not the case every year, we just had bad luck; the professor was very helpful with thinking out a solution to this
<b>5</b>					
<b>6</b>					

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

The study mostly consists of lectures and seminars, sometimes intertwined. The academic level is lower than in Wageningen, and therefore the workload is doable. The lesson material was not always what I expected. I did oral exams instead of the often written examinations, these were about 20-30 minutes long. Classes were all in German, but professors are willing to give the exam in English.

**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 local students were lovely. We did have a lot less contact hours compared to the WUR, and a semester of lectures and seminars with tests at the end of the entire semester. The professors are always called by surname and to be approached politely. Most of the time the classes are bigger than I am used to at the WUR, engagement was relatively high in response to questions, however not always as high in showing up. Classes are not recorded, but published online.

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

There is a possibility to more cheaply get into a sports club through the university, however full=full. I did not do it and had something arranged differently. There are so-called Mensa's where food is served; they are spread throughout the campus.

## **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?)**

I signed up through Studentenwerk and got a room quite quickly. It was approximately 15mins (bus or bike) away from campus and rent rates are seriously lower than in Wageningen or other Dutch student cities. It was a room with shared facilities.

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

Germans love meat, I don't. That was something to play into at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's alright. They love to say they're very punctual, but compared to the Dutch culture it is actually quite the same. In the East the inhabitants may feel quite distant, I must say, but it might also just be the life in a city.

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

About two thirds of what I pay for a room in Wageningen.

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

With the semester ticket you have to buy at the start of the semester, you can travel for free in Dresden with bus, S-Bahn and train. Outside of Dresden, the ticket allows you to travel for free in certain trains only in Sachsen. University is well-reachable by bike and by public transport (between 10-40mins depending on what location you live and where you have your lectures).

## 6. Free time

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

In Dresden: the museums, the Großer Garten, the Altstadt, the Neustadt, the Christmas markets, the Dresdner skyline at night during a stroll past the Elbe-floodplains

Swiss Saxony is gorgeous and really large (the Bastille-bridge is very touristy, but other hiking routes are less busy and in my opinion more beautiful)

Prague is 2 hours by train or by flibus

Berlin is 2/3 hours by train or by flibus

Trains are often travelling on time, and flibus was okay with my travels as well

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

Just cycle past the Elbe for a while. It has very diverse, a kind of villas, past its route, which are worth seeing.

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

I spend a lot of time on the water actually, rowing. If you're into that, it is great for a change. Furthermore: L'Ostéria (Italian restaurant) has huge and delicious pizzas, everything around the Neumarkt (near the Frauenkirche) is very expensive, so beware.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Getting back in time for period 4 in Wageningen and having to make a lot of phonecalls and write many emails before getting that done.

The times at which the Hausmeister/Studentenwerk/Bürgerbüro were available appeared very unusual and not efficient to me. (Weekdays, not every weekday, very specific times and not always very reachable).

The German was hard at first, but I got the hang of it after a language course I did beforehand and practicing it by only communicating in German.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Getting to know so many lovely people and cooking dinner with them, having chats, sporting with them and just having a great overall experience.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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