



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Tourism
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/10/2021 until 18/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Slovenia
City (exchange)	Maribor
University (exchange)	University of Maribor (Univerza v Mariboru)
Faculty (exchange)	Faculty of Arts

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

It was one of the possibilities of my minor and I always enjoy to go to a foreign country, especially to be there for a while to make it feel like you're not a tourist anymore but more like a local

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

I did not have any expectations or idea how it would be like in Slovenia and how it would look like. I was too curious not to go, basically. The university attracted me because of the courses given. There were many courses available in the direction of Sociology and Geography.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

There are multiple ways to reach Maribor, because it is located close to Vienna, Budapest, Zagreb and Ljubljana. So just look for the cheapest flights (flights from Brussels might be cheaper than Amsterdam). From Vienna, Zagreb and Budapest it is easy to go directly with the flibus to Maribor. From Ljubljana, there are trains and busses.

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	Population Geography	5	Population descriptions of different areas	5	Quite easy topics to describe populations
2	Economic Geography	6	sustainability in regions from an economic perspective	4	small assignments
3	Social Anthropology	5	Social background of cultures and people	4	Interesting view of point
4	Marketing Research	6	How marketing research is done	4	A lot of relevant information
5	Regionality	4	Focus on European Committee projects	3	Not that much guidance provided for the presentations of projects
6	Culture of Consumption	6	Cultural background of several phenomena, such as shopping, food, advertisement, etc.	5	Very interesting, common phenomena are seen from a different point of view

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

The academic level is adequate of every course. The examination is either a presentation, oral exam or written exam, but there are not a lot of questions for both the exams, but the questions are more in-depth. The workload is manageable.

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 university is more based on the self-study of the students and with some courses, a lot of freedom is given as long as the assignments/presentations are done.

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

The university offers student coupons, with which you can eat for about 3 euros in a restaurant for dinner or lunch.

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?)

The university offers accommodation in three dormitories, but you have to sign up yourself.

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

The local cuisine is based around meat, but in the city there are a lot of different restaurants, such as pizzerias, spaghetteria, mexican places, chinese restaurants. Also in local restaurants, there are pizzas and pastas on the menu.

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

Two of the three dormitories are 600 euros for the whole semester, which would be around 130 euros per month. The other one is a bit more expensive, but probably around 800/900 euros in total instead of 600.

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

The city is quite small, so almost every thing is of walking distance. There is a possibility of taking the bus, which is 2 euros if you pay in the bus itself or 1 euro if you pay through the app or have a card of the bus.

6. Free time

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

In Slovenia, there are a lot of small cities that are worth to visit for a day, like Ptuj, Kranj, Celje, which are easily reachable by train. Also the coast is very nice with a lot of small cities and in Slovenia a lot of nature parks can be found. There are regular busses around the coast. There are also bigger cities to visit, such as Ljubljana, and outside Slovenia Vienna, Graz, Budapest, Bratislava, Zagreb, or Belgrade. These cities can be reached by flibus.

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

Pohorje. It is the hill close to maribor and has always an amazing view and it is possible to ski or snowboard there during the winter. Also Piramida is a small hill in Maribor that is very nice to visit either during the day or during the night.

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

For restaurants it is best to search in the app that comes with the Student coupons (it is called Prehrana). For going out, Stuk is a very nice place or KMS, Wetrinsky or Niagara.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge was in the beginning when three of my courses were not available anymore and I had to change them and figure and which ones were available and what to do. Also if any challenge came up, I could go to the people from ESN, they are very helpful and know a lot about the city. I would recommend everyone that is planning to go to Maribor, to join the Facebook group of ESN Maribor, because they can help you with any difficulties.

What was your best memory abroad?

Interact with so many different people from different countries. Also living with many people together can sometimes be a bit of a mess, but it gives so much fun because there is always something going on, you never feel alone and you can always ask for advice or share memories.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Kirsten / Kirsten.balk@wur.nl	