



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Environmental sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	14-02-2022 until 30-06-2022
Country (exchange)	Austria
City (exchange)	Vienna
University (exchange)	Universitat fur bodenkultur wien
Faculty (exchange)	

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to become more independent and learn about learning abroad

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

This university offered a lot of courses which lined up with my interests and learning goals around sustainable development and environmental sciences. I choose Austria as well because I wanted to improve my German skills

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I reached Vienna by night train, it was a direct connection from Amsterdam to Vienna and I would highly recommend it.

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	Gender, Nutrition, and right to food	6	It was an intense course in which we partly discussed and partly got lectures about what the right to food is and why it is important. It focussed on different	5	

			areas around the world.		
2	Environmental and energy policy in the EU	3	We learned how the EU functions and how it is structured and it highlighted some important policies in environment and energy, it ended with a simulations in which each student represented a country and we discussed current affairs.	3	
3	Environmental and climate justice	3	Each week we discussed an article on environmental justice, highlighting different aspects and different areas in the world.	3	
4	Possible impacts of climate change on water resources	3	A theoretical course which gave an overview on the most urgent effects of climate change on water and how this are predicted/ modelled.	5	
5	Intercultural competence, acting effectively in an international environment	3	Some theory on how to behave accordingly in an intercultural environment, much homework, and a big group project more time intensive than 3 ECTs would suggest.	1	
6	Natural resource management in mountain forests	4	Silvicultural theory and 2 two-day excursions which were very hands-on	4	The Boku site said not previous knowledge required, but as someone with very little experience in silviculture, I definitely felt like I was behind

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

I followed very little courses which written exams at the end which I appreciated a lot. Examinations were more often in the form of essays, groupwork or attendance. The workload however was high for the low amount of ECTS you could receive, which for most courses was only 3. You also had to plan courses yourself which, for many people, resulted in a very high workload in certain months and a low workload in others. It also resulted in many overlapping courses.

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?)

Lecturers were approachable, similar to WUR. Engagement with local students was low, since many English courses were also given in German, so often only Erasmus students followed the English courses.

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

Sports was offered and library however much smaller than WUR.

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?)

Availability of housing is better than in the Netherlands, it was easy to find a dorm through the websites the university recommended, rent was a little higher than in Wageningen, generally around 400-500 euros for a private room with shared kitchen and bathroom.

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

People in the city were a lot more to themselves and stand-offish, the culture in the dorm was very strange to me, with no one sharing utensils and pot and such in the communal kitchen and even having your own locker in the fridge. So people in the dorm were also very much to themselves

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

Around 400-500 so a little more expensive than Wageningen

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

Public transport is great and only 78 for a whole semester, for all public transport in the city. The city is still big so traveling to university still took long but I rarely had to wait for the bus or tram for longer than 5 minutes, no matter how I timed it.

6. Free time

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

Make use of how central Vienna is, Budapest, Prague, Ljubljana, Bratislava are all within 4 hour by train. The nature around Vienna is also beautiful.

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

Wiener wald

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

I liked visiting the Brunnenmarkt because of all the street food and cheap vegetables as vegetables in supermarkets are more expensive in Vienna.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Loneliness was a big challenge since in Wageningen I am used to having everyone close and in a big city like Vienna that was very different

What was your best memory abroad?

Traveling around to neighbouring countries

8. Contact details (optional)

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