



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Biobased Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/02/2022 until 02/07/2022
Country (exchange)	Austria
City (exchange)	Vienna
University (exchange)	BOKU
Faculty (exchange)	BOKU

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Since during my bachelor programme my exchange was cut short due to Covid, I felt like I still wanted to experience the studying abroad experience. Moreover, I have always already been interested in working abroad in the future, so in that sense it was a good try out of living abroad.

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

I heard great stories about Vienna's student life. The combination of culture and nature is perfectly combined in the country.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Nightjet is great (night train from Amsterdam/Utrecht, straight to Wien (no changes)).
Bed is most comfortable (and more expensive, but worth it imo).

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	Agroforestry in mountain regions	3	Information on different agroforestry practices, their appliance, going from very broad to more specific knowledge	3	
2	Interdisciplinary excursion on organic agriculture	2	Organize own excursion to organic farms in Austrian region, focus on 1 certain topic of choice	5	
3	Field trip agricultural and food economy	1	Visiting businesses in the food supply chain	3	All in German
4	Waste as a resource	4	Studying how waste can be reused, interesting practical exercises included	3	Very interesting, in German
5	Intensive German Refresher Course - moderate advanced	3	2 week intensive, grammar, conversation	5	
6	Statistics with R	2	Basics into programming with R. Lectures followed by practical exercises	3	

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

This really depends on the course, since lecturers have rather a lot of freedom to design their own courses. Workload was generally fine, however, one should keep in mind that many courses require self study / homework next to the time spent in lectures/tutorials. The level is also fine (you can make it more challenging by choosing to do courses in German 😊).

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?)

Both lecturers and local students were rather friendly. Since I also followed courses in German, I was able to meet locals (i.e. Austrians), which was a nice experience. They are generally very open for a chat.

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

The university has several cafeteria's, where you can enjoy a meal or coffee (including two very cool ones run by students!) In addition there is a table tennis table, a beautiful park

right next to the Türkenschanz buildings and several events (pub nights f.e.) organized by and for students throughout the semester.

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?)

It is both possible to sign up at student dorms, in which you will most likely get assigned a room. In addition, you can look online (WG gesucht, Facebook) for shared flats. This is what I did and really enjoyed, since it is more personal than a dorm imo.

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

Do not wear shoes in a house 😊 The student culture is less present (such as student associations in the Netherlands). Students are rather active in (political) organizations for example or organize them in other manners. Regarding cuisine: no boterhammen for lunch, but a warm meal.

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

About the same price / slightly more expensive. High variety tho and more offer than in Wageningen, so good to be critical.

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

Semesterticket is 75 euro and can be used in all public transport in Vienna. Eventhough I used my bike mostly, I could recommend getting this as well, just since it gives more freedom. Moreover, BOKU is located on a hill, so sometimes more comfortable to travel by bus than by bike.

6. Free time

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

Preferred travel method is for me (as always) the bike. Eventhough infrastructure is not like in the Netherlands, it is still a very unique way to experience the city and see it differently than travelling with public transport (PT). Tho PT is also organised very well in the city.

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

Donauinsel, the Wine Yards north of Wien

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

Vienna is full of nice coffee bars (tho coffee is rather expensive), so this is really dependent on where you live. Boku also has a cute Farmers store/cafeteria. Regarding going out: sometimes (legal!) raves are organized somewhere outside in the city, which is great.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

Mainly the start of the semester was challenging, to organize my courses and make the timetable fit. Although the course system at BOKU is supposed to be very flexible and allow for many varieties, it also makes it very complicated to make your schedule fit.

What was your best memory abroad?

I have had many great experiences, and find it therefore rather hard to choose one specifically. Generally, I really enjoyed random activities and trips, undertaken throughout the semester. This included a trip to Slovenia with a few friends, a hike in Baden (town nearby Vienna), swimming sessions in the Donau, coffee breaks with friends.

8. Contact details (optional)

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