



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Nutrition and Health
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/02/2022 until 27/05/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Hungary
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Budapest
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Food Technology

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

For me, going abroad to study has always been a dream. My sister, who is older than I am, went on exchange as well, which she enjoyed to the fullest extent. Partly because of this, I was also highly motivated to do an exchange.

Moreover, I wanted to challenge myself to get out of my comfort zone and meet many international new people; I wanted to get a taste of different cultures and habits, whilst also being able to study and experience a new university.

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

Budapest is very centrally located in Europe. I wanted to travel during my Erasmus Exchange. And to travel as green as possible, meaning mainly by bus/train, I needed to choose something fortunately located.

Also, I heard so many good things about Budapest: the weather, a good student/night life, a safe city.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It is a long journey, but the train is very accessible if you want to travel sustainably. Also, travelling by train gives you less issues with checking in with luggage in a plane 😊 The public transport in Budapest is literally amazing, so it doesn't really matter in which train station you arrive, because there will always be a bus/tram which can take you home.

## 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>	Preservation technologies and food development	7	-	3	Requires a lot of effort to keep up
<b>2</b>	Processing of plant based materials II	3	A course about processing technologies of oil seeds (cacao, peanuts), cereal products (wafers, bread), fermentation, lipid oxidation, migration etc	5	Very interesting but challenging
<b>3</b>	Basics of preservation technologies	3	-	3	Fairy simple
<b>4</b>	Food chemistry II	3	Practical course; you will be having lab sessions in which you investigate different food components (e.g. fats, proteins, alcohol)	4	Good to practice lab skills, interesting and a pleasant teacher
<b>5</b>	I Living Lab	6	ILL is a project in which you will be working with a team of about 5 members on a complex problem to which there is no real solution	2	My team mates were not very interactive, which resulted in mostly me doing the work. Therefore, I personally would not recommend this course, but my experience was highly dependent of my team mates.
<b>6</b>	Dairy Technology	4	This courses teaches all the objects which have to do with milk and milk products (e.g. cheese, yogurht...)	5	Very nice teacher, subject is interesting. However, there is no lab practice of some sorts, which makes this course a bit monotonous.

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

The major part of the education is lectures. This is completely different than what I was used to in Wageningen, in which you have lectures, practicals and work sessions in which you are able to process the information of the lectures through assignments etc. Dependent on the subject, you do have some lab practicals, but this is not a major part of the education.

**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?)**

Most of the subjects which I followed, were also given in Hungarian. Therefore, there was little contact with local students. I did meet local students through other activities such as sport associations.

Also, the rules are less strict in comparison to the WUR. At the WUR, when you are running late, you're not allowed to enter the classroom anymore. Running late in Budapest was never a problem; the teachers were very tolerant.

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

There were little other facilities. The campus is located on a botanical garden, which is very pretty in spring/summer.

## 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 found my room through a facebook group. If you search for something like "Budapest Erasmus", there are loads of options! Be sure to ask for a video of the room, or a rent contract (just to make sure that it is not a scam). It is normal to ask for deposit, usually it is 2 months rent. Also, I had to pay my utilities in cash.

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

I find it difficult to pinpoint specific cultural aspects of Hungary. I guess this is influenced by the long time period of possession and dictatorship, which maybe caused the people to loose part of themselves as well. Also, Budapest is a very big, thriving city, with a large international identity, so the culture of the Hungarian people might be a bit "lost" in all this internationality.

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

I paid 285 euros for the room and 30 euros for the utilities. I had a very spacious room, but with little daylight, which I did not find comfortable. I shared my apartment with three other international girls.

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

I love the public transport in Budapest!!! As a student, you pay about 10 euros per month, for unlimited travels. There are so many options; whether you pick the tram, metro, bus or train, you can cross town in about 40 minutes maximum. I don't have a lot of experiences with taxis, but they are more affordable in comparison to those in the Netherlands.

## 6. Free time

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

Go hiking in the North West of town, especially in spring when all the trees are blossoming. Also, Fisherman's Bastion around April/may (they also have blossom trees there). For a city a little bit quieter, go to Győr or Pecs.

Lake Balaton for hikes or during summer to cool off.

Since Budapest is so centrally located, cities like Vienna, Prague and Zagreb are very easily accessible by bus or by train, way more sustainable than the plane 😊

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

Mixat wine and beer bar, close to Racokzi square (if you like craft beers)

Liberty Bridge during sunset

A sup tour on the Danub

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

Join Erasmus Life Budapest (ELB). It's a student organisation which organizes tons of fun activities. Besides parties, which they do a lot, they also organize wine tastings, hikes, bike tours, free walking tours. It is 15 euros for a membership, but so worth it!

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I was way more home sick than I initially thought I would be. The sad part is, there is not a lot which you can do about it. Luckily, a lot of my friends were planning to visit, so it was good to have someone from home from time to time.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Going to see the sunset after a night out and not even be bothered about the cold or having to wear a jacket.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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