



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	03/10/2022 until 07/02/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Austria
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Innsbruck
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Innsbruck
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Department of Atmospheric and Cryospheric Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I mainly chose to go on exchange because it seemed like a lot of fun to me. Besides that, I wanted to develop my social skills and just learn a lot of new things.

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

Firstly, the beautiful environment. Innsbruck is located in the middle of the Alps, so plenty of hiking, climbing and skiing options. Secondly, the nice and challenging atmospheric science courses.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

By train is perfectly doable, both overday (around 70-90 euros) and overnight (cheaper but longer and less comfortable).

## 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	Numerical Modeling of Weather and Climate	6	Lectures on current state of atmospheric models and practical with flow over mountain ridge	4	
2	Mountain Meteorology	5	Mainly how large and mesoscale flow is affected by mountains	4	Very technical course with a lot of physics
3	Advanced Topics: Literature Study Climate and Cryosphere	2	In my year about machine learning in climate and glacier dynamics	5	Interesting and topical course
4	Physics of the Climate System	5	Lectures on the climate system and climate change, including practicals with jupyter notebooks and project on a climate phenomenon	4	
5	Advanced Weather Forecasting	3.5	Advanced weather phenomena, such as supercells, hail, tornadoes, drylines, etc. Also short look into (sub)seasonal weather forecasting	3	Took a lot of work, should be worth more than 3.5 ECTS in my opinion
6	Modeling of Climate and Cryosphere	3	Developing a large conceptual model on the water balance with a group. Some basic numerical techniques also included.	3	More conceptual than the course name sounds. Not a lot of actual modelling.
7	Advanced Topics: Avalanches	3	Lectures on avalanches by an iconic and experienced avalanche expert	4	Fun course which took the least amount of effort of the courses I took.

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

As for Erasmus terms, the courses actually took quite some time. You often hear from people that go on Erasmus that they have more free time than in Wageningen. For me, university took me actually similar amount of time and effort. The courses are on quite a high level, also since they have a 3 year purely meteorology bachelor at Innsbruck University. The master courses mostly build on this bachelor, so they assume quite a lot of background knowledge. Mainly with the mountain meteorology course this was a challenge, but with some effort I managed.

It has to be mentioned that they have a lot of holidays and free days in Austria. The winter semester starts one month later than in the Netherlands, and ends at a similar time. The Christmas holiday is also 3 weeks!

**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 people and teachers are nice and comparable to the WUR. My classes mainly consisted of Austrian, German, and Italian people.

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

There is catering at the university, comparable to Wageningen. The sport facilities are nice, they have a sport campus comparable to the Bongerd, but slightly bigger. One important thing to mention is that you have to register for sports courses well in advance! Please check this if you are interested in a fun course, because they are popular and quickly fully booked. You are also surrounded by mountains, so there's also plenty of opportunities to do sports there.

## 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 did it via OEAD student housing, which is the Austrian room.nl. I had a nice, neat and relatively cheap room in a student residence near the sports campus.

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

Locals are nice, but can be more focused on themselves. You also can tell by everything that most people are mountain focused: almost everyone likes to go skiing, climbing or hiking. The Austrian cuisine is not the greatest (apart from Kaiserschmarrn). I also like the Dutch supermarkets more.

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

Similar prices to living in Wageningen. My room was around €370 per month.

**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 in Innsbruck and Austria is very well organized. There's a lot of busses, trams and trains, which can be monitored on the minute accurately. I got the semesterticket Tirol, which gives you free transport with every mode of transport in the province of Tirol. I would recommend to buy this ticket: it's definitely worth it if you plan to make a few trips outside of Innsbruck as well.

## 6. Free time

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

The mountains around Innsbruck are great, you don't have to travel far. Some nice destinations to hike/ski are Seefeld, Kühtai, Stubaier Gletscher, Nordkette, Axamer Lizum, Patscherkofel. Italy is also close. The train over the Brennerpass is beautiful and takes you to cities like Bolzano, Trento and Verona, or even as far as Venice or Milano. München is also within a 2 hours train ride.

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

The klettersteig on the Nordkette. A great and doable climbing trail right across the ridge next to Innsbruck.

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

The Christmas market is nice but there's a lot of tourists. ESN has a meetup every Monday in the "Wohnzimmer" bar.

## **7.Challenges & best moment abroad**

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

To make contact with people in class. Most people were already in groups and spoke another language (German speaking group from the bachelor and Italian speaking group from another program). However, if you take the effort yourselves to communicate in English (or German) and start conversations, they are more open to you.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

There's so many great memories to choose from. One great memory was being the last on the ski piste, just chilling in the sun, skiing, and enjoying the great view with friends from abroad.

## **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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