



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Environmental Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	1-2-2022 until 30-6-2022
Country (exchange)	Lithuania
City (exchange)	Kaunas
University (exchange)	Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)
Faculty (exchange)	Environmental Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to dive into a wholly new experience at a foreign location with no one around me that I initially know. I wanted to feel how it is to be fully dependant on yourself, getting used to a new culture and meeting new friends

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

I've never been to any of the Baltic states nor did I knew a lot about them, which made me very interested in it. Of all universities, the ones in Tartu (Estonia) and Kaunas (Lithuania) had subjects that sounded the most fitting for my study. I chose Kaunas because I felt like that city was more different than Wageningen (whereas Tartu seemed more similar: small city with high percentage students that follow mainly life sciences-related studies). That's why I chose Kaunas, to experience something new.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

On my way back I travelled by public transport (train and bus) although this was pretty time- and money-consuming. The most convenient route would be Netherlands→Berlin→Warsaw→Kaunas, which have quite good connections via railroad or Flixbus etc. Travelling by public transport is very much worth it, though, because you can visit all these cities in between and you get a feeling how far you are actually travelling

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	<i>Accounting for sustainable engineering</i>	6	Financial analysis of a company regarding their environmental impact	3	Interesting subject I never thought about, but personally I'm not that interested in financial analyses. Nice that you have to establish contact with a real company for the coursework
2	<i>Environmental Management</i>	6	Setting up environmental management plans for a company	3	Nice
3	<i>Life Cycle Assessment</i>	6	System analysis of products/companies/ materials and evaluate their environmental impacts	5	Really interesting, you learn to work with a program to compare the impacts of different products relating to their material and energy input
4	<i>Lithuanian for Foreigners (level A1)</i>	6	Basic Lithuanian language	3	If you are motivated and ask questions you can properly learn the basics of this language. But it has to come for a big part from yourself
5	<i>Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>	6	Learning about concepts in sustainable consumption and production	4	Learning about a variety of interesting concepts, a more theoretical course without any real applying exercises
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

I would say that compared with the WUR, the workload and level of the courses is a bit lower nonetheless very interesting. Perfect for Erasmus. Examination is way more easy, though, as often you can use your own notes during the exam.

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 culture is very open to foreign students, they aim to make it as open and easy for anyone to follow the courses (at least the ones I followed). It was partly during COVID time, though, so most of my lectures were online which is for me a bit harder to follow/maintain focussed.

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

Everything. The campus is a very nice place with leisure centers, catering, sports, gym etc.
Nothing to add

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 had a place in the university dorms (Dorm 8 to be precise, specifically for international students): Very cheap but also a bit dirty and uncomfortable, perfect to meet more Erasmus students though. Other (more expensive but still good priced) options are Solo Society (big international student complex with a lot of facilities) or private rentals (perhaps less preferable because you don't automatically meet a lot of other students there).

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

People are more closed/colder than in the Netherlands. They don't greet each other in the streets, cashiers in supermarkets don't speak to you, etc. It is not impoliteness, this is just how Lithuanians are. In bars they don't start a conversation themselves, but as soon as you do so they are eager to talk.

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

Very cheap: University dormitory is around 120 euros, Solo Society is 350 euros and a private rental can range from 200-400 euros

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

Great and cheap public transport infrastructure: unlimited bus usage in Kaunas is 5,50 euros/month. Train from Kaunas to Vilnius is around 5 euros. Within Kaunas you can also use Bolt scooters or CityBee cars. Everything is very well accessible.

6. Free time

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

Kaunas, and Lithuania in general, is a different place in the winter and summer. In the winter with thick snow you can hike through the forests or walk over frozen lakes and grab a beer in the cozy bars. In the summer everybody is sitting outside in the main boulevard, in the parks or at the beaches of the nearby lakes/river.

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

BBQ on the fireplaces at the lakes

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

Dzem pub is a typical Erasmus bar for during the week: Tuesday karaoke, Wednesday beerpong, etc. Thursday we usually went to nightclubs like Taboo or Déjà vu and in the weekend you can go anywhere.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I learned that I am an extravert person and I was never alone. The fact that I shared my room with someone else (I was not very close with) caused me to be outdoors pretty much all of the time, I ate, studied, and did everything with others. I can imagine that if you need some time on your own sometimes, it may be hard to not be alone at any time when living in the Dormitory.

What was your best memory abroad?

Pff too many to be honest: Roadtripping along the Baltic coast, kayak trip in a national park, etc

8. Contact details (optional)

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