



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	MSc Urban Environmental Management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/04/2022 until 30/09/2022
Country (exchange)	Germany
City (exchange)	Kiel
University (exchange)	Christian Albrechts Universität
Faculty (exchange)	

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I had been on exchange before and I really enjoyed being in another country, meeting new people, learning new things and learning a new language. I really wanted to improve my German.

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

Simply because I had never heard of the city and it caught my attention. I thought it was interesting that this city was at the German coast and was well known for marine ecology. Kiel was a smaller city with good infrastructure and nice surroundings. In addition, I wanted to improve my German.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by train and that was perfect! There is a comfortable train going from Amsterdam to Hamburg with one stopover. Also sustainable 😊

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	Ocean economics	6	You had to write and present an essay in this course. You were free to choose the topic as long as it was related to ocean economics of course.	4	I liked that I had one course where I didn't have much classes, which gave me more freedom
2	Principles of sustainability in time and space	6	This was a boring 3hr lecture where I had the feeling that I didn't learn interesting things. It was not interactive.	2	
3	Theory of politics; MA-democracy	6	Discussion and moderation in class about the theory and reasoning behind politics.	3	Interesting course, though really philosophical
4	Landeskunde Deutschland	6	Introduction to culture, politics and economy in German	4	Unfortunate that it was online
5	Ocean sustainability	6	Come up with a project and also implement the project to improve ocean sustainability	5	Interesting how much freedom we had and could implement the project.
6	Kommunikation in Kontext C1		Talking in German	5	Nice teacher and really improved my German with this course.
7	Deutsch als Fremdsprache		German grammar course	4	Nice teacher as well and I was happy again with my German improvement.

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

I had really different courses, but I really enjoyed that. Academic level differs amongst the courses. Some were easy and some were more difficult. There was a big difference in teachers and study material. I can not really give a general answer to this question...

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 formal (very German) and very bureaucratic. There was a lot of paperwork and this often was not in the favour of the student. We had to apply to exams and papers ourselves. Everything works with applying for certificates. At WUR you are more supported with administrative tasks.

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

I really enjoyed the language courses! Also CAU has a great variety of sport facilities. There is a big German mensa with german food in the canteen.

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 house at WGgesucht.de

I had a shared apartment that I subrented from a girl who also went on Erasmus exchange. I lived with two Germans and another exchange student. I paid around 370 euro for 20m² furnished room. All my friends were in the campus of CAU, which also looked good and with fairly cheap prices I would say. Locations differed a bit, so I would suggest to look into that carefully.

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

Stereotypes of Germany are sometimes true I found out. Punctuality and bureaucracy are high on the list. For the rest the Germany and Dutch culture are quite similar, which makes life easy there in a way. Though, German techno is a big thing there!

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

Around the same prices! The campus was a bit cheaper sometimes.

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

I got a 'Semesterticket', which I paid around 250 euros for. With this I could travel within my Bundesland Schleswig Holstein (which also including Hamburg!). I thought it was expensive, but I also made use of the ticket and travelled a lot around the province. For

the rest there are a lot of boats in and around Kiel, which you can also make use of through this semesterticket. Big bonus.

My transport to university was mostly my Dutch bike. I brought it from NL 😊

6. Free time

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

I enjoyed visiting cities nearby such as Hamburg, Flensburg, Eckernförde, Lübeck etc.

Kiel has some beautiful beaches and cute villages as well around the city. Kiel is a bikable city, so take the bike to the other side of the city.

Eat a fischbrötchen in Eckernförde or Flensburg.

Visit Hamburg and go clubbing there or second hand shopping.

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

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

Don't expect too much of Kiel, it is not a crazy city. But it is perfect for a relaxed time to take a step back and spend time in nature, with friends, go to cafes, and explore the surroundings.

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The German semester starts late and ends later than the WUR. I found it hard to do my administrative tasks so late after the exchange.

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting new people and having fun, doing courses outside of my studies, improving my German and living abroad.

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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