



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	until 20.02.2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Czech Republik
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Prague
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Czech University of Life Sciences
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Environmental Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to know what it is like to live and to study in another country with another culture. I have never lived in another country before and therefore this was an opportunity I did not want to miss.

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

I had never been to Czech Republic before, and was therefore curious about the country. Also, I heard that the city of Prague has a lot to offer and therefore it would be a nice place to live.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I would suggest to travel by flibus or by train. I was brought by my parents by car, but during Christmas I travelled with flibus to the Netherlands and back to Prague. Flibus is relatively cheap, sustainable and the travel time is fine.

## 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	General Ecology	4	Teaches general principles of ecology.	3	It was a bit too easy, I hoped that it would be more in depth
2	Landscape History	3	Teaches the history behind landscapes in Europe.	3	This course was a bit off track for me. I thought it would be interesting, but it

					happened to be not so interesting as I hoped.
3	Advance Forest Ecology	6	Teaches the ecological functions of forests and what ecological factors are important for forests	5	Very interesting course with a lot of different teachers
4	River Restoration	6	Teaches about methods to restore rivers and what the restoration can have	5	Interesting course with a nice view on the practical use of the information that is taught to us.
5	Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	6	Teaches about the aquatic life in fresh water and what needs to be restored to protect this life	5	Interesting course with a lot of new information for me. Really a topic that took my interest.
6	Landscape Ecology	5	Teaches about the landscape features that have an impact on ecosystems in an area	4	I liked the ecology part of the course. However, it did not only focus on nature, but also more manmade landscape.

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

Most courses were examined via a test on paper. However, landscape history did have an additional speaking exam and River Restoration did only have exercises to examine us. The level of the courses is a bit lower than the level of the courses I have followed in Wageningen. The workload was relatively low, but the topics discussed in most courses was on an academic level.

**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 teaching on this university is on a smaller scale than that in Wageningen. You could easily reach the teachers if you wanted to and there was often interaction with the teacher in the classroom. There were not a lot local students in the classes I took, mainly international students took the courses that I took.

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

The University did have a canteen where food could be bought and also sport facilities were available if you paid for it.

## 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?)**

If was struggling to get a room in Prague. I had to search until the very end to get a room. You have to start early with searching for a room.

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

The Czech people can be stubborn, and the cuisine of the Czech Republic is not very attractive. However, Prague has a multicultural cuisine and there are a lot of students and young people in the city. People are very helpful to older people and people keep the streets clean.

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

I paid 570 euros per month, while I pay 380 euros per month in Wageningen.

**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 Prague is cheap. I paid 5 euros per month for public transport, because I could use my student card for discount. I had to travel 40 minutes to my university, since it was located far out of the centre of Prague. A taxi can be bought for under 5 euros via Bolt.

## **6. Free time**

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

First of all, the city centre and many different neighbourhoods in Prague are very nice to see and to experience. The national Parks in Czech Republic are beautiful and should be visited if you can manage. There are plenty of little towns in Czech Republic that are worth visiting and I have not visited them all. I winter, you can do skiing in Czech Republic. However, in summer the city of Prague is a totally different city. I cannot say whether there is a particular season when visiting Prague is nicest.

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

The neighbourhood Karlín is a very nice and modern area mixed with very old buildings. It is not focused on tourists, but there are some very high quality restaurants in that area.

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

Dog bar in Prague is the place to be if you want to go out, very special place. I have been going out for dinner a lot and I have found so many different restaurants with such high-quality food for a relatively cheap price (10 euros for a main dish at most). I have not even tried 1 percent of all the restaurants in Prague, so I would recommend to try many nice restaurants in the city.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

### What was a challenge you have experienced?

Keeping track of my money was a big struggle, since the currency in Prague is different from the euro and that made everything look cheaper than it actually was. Also, finding particular ingredients for cooking was very difficult. Some ingredients that are widely available in the Netherlands are not easy to find in Prague

### What was your best memory abroad?

The weekend trips I did with friends from the Erasmus program were by far the most fun. I really made new friends which I am still able to visit whenever I am on holiday in their country.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	esseyvos@gmail.com	