



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Animal Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/02/2022 until 18/06/2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Czech University
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Prague
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to obtain the experience of living and studying independently in a foreign country, so that I can develop both personally and professionally. I also wanted to interact with international students, to broaden my mindset and sharpen my intellect.

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

I chose this university mostly because, after some research, I found out that this university gives me a chance to get in touch with the subjects that fit my passion and interests. But also because I was very interested in seeing the beauty of Prague.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

On the way there we went by train. This was not very clever since we had to change trains two times and this is not nice with multiple suitcases and bags. On the return journey we took the flibus. This was more 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
<b>1</b>	General Epizootology and Prevention of Animal Diseases	5	This subject gives knowledge on infectious diseases agents, their characteristics determining the development of disease, its spread and sanitary and economic consequences.	4	It is mostly focused on zoonoses. I really enjoyed this course because I am interested in viruses and bacteria, and wanted to expand my knowledge on it. The practical work is a bit disappointed, since we were only allowed to watch an ELISA practicum done by a PHD student, while at Wageningen university we already did it a view times ourselves. The teacher is one of the best teachers I had.
<b>2</b>	Wildlife Capture and Translocation	5	This subject provides knowledge on wild and zoo animal capture, handling and manipulation techniques, transport, and subsequent care and quarantines.	5	This subject is in cooperation with Prague Zoo. The two excursions are really interesting and a unique experience where you go behind the scenes of two different zoos. We were able to pet a black rhino, and to watch a tiger from up close being sedated. The teacher is a vet that works at Prague zoo. He has a really busy schedule, meaning that sometimes he shows up two hours late for the lecture, or sometimes he gets an important call from the zoo and has to leave in the middle of the lecture. This can be frustrating in learning the subject, especially because the vet is a pretty intense teacher that expects you to know everything he says immediately(!). but overall, the course is worth it.
<b>3</b>	Husbandry of Camelids, Equids and Elephants	3	In this course, you learn about camels, equids and elephants. Mostly about the adaptations these	3	Mostly equids are discussed, elephants is unfortunately only a really small part. You also go to a camel and horse farm, which is interesting because a lot of the

			animals make in extreme conditions, the husbandry technologies and the management of breeding and reproduction.		husbandry techniques are explained there. The exam is divided in two exams (first part: equids, second part: camels and elephants) and you also get two remarks. Your final mark is the average of these two.
<b>4</b>	Bird Diversity and Importance	3	In this subject you learn about songbirds, the species, distribution and specific features of these birds.	3	It was the first time this subject was given, so the teacher was a bit looking for the best way to teach and how to take the exam. You need to learn about 80 songbirds around the world, and the lectures are basically going from slide to slide with every slide having a bird, their distribution, and some features. It is too much exam material for only 3 credits. Also the exam is given oral in groups of 3/4, and your mark is based on the knowledge of the whole group. This can be a bit unfair.
<b>5</b>	Forest Protection	6	This subject teaches the most important abiotic, biotic (fungal, and bacterial diseases; insect, other arthropod and vertebrate pests) and anthropogenic damages on the forest, their prevention, monitoring methods and with protective measures, including chemical and biological ones. It provides knowledge on problems in forest protection in connection to Global change.	3	The subject was a bit unorganized. We had a different teacher for almost every lecture and sometimes no teacher showed up. But the subject is really interesting and I learned many new protective measures for the forest.
<b>6</b>	Botany	6	This subject is focused on morphological and anatomical features of higher plants up to the level of orders and divisions of fungi, algae, and	2	The course syllabus says you do not need any prerequisites knowledge, but if you don't have some (basic) knowledge, this course can be very hard. It is also a lot of study material, and even a lecture

			bryophytes, to be able to identify plants in praxis. You learn common species, their distribution and ecology.		of 5 hours was given with no break. All three teachers were bad in English, and words in slides were always misspelled, even important family names of certain plant species. But the main topic of this subject is interesting.
7	Meteorology and Climatology	5	This subject teaches characteristics of the atmosphere, meteorological elements, pressure systems, weather forecasting, energy and radiation in the atmosphere, greenhouse effect and satellite and radar measurements.	4	I really liked this course because I was always very interested in the physics part of geography. Teachers are very nice and good.

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

At CZU you have every course for a few hours each week from February until April. Unlike in Wageningen, where you focus on one or two subjects in a period of time. In May most exams are given, and June is mostly for resits. The academic level/examination/workload depends on the course. A lot of examinations are oral, and some are written. Most courses also have a seminar each week, where more practical work is done.

**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 teachers are chill and respond fast to emails. Some teachers and a lot of local students are also really curious about you, and like to get to know you.

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

The House of Residence and Mensa are purpose-built facilities of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. They take care of the accommodation and food for Czech and foreign students at CZU.

## 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 booked a room at External Dormitory West. It is 35 minutes from the CZU campus (tram stop across the street), it has private bathroom and silent study rooms. Prices depends if you take a double or single room and if you take a standard or premium room.

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

I didn't notice a lot of culture and habit difference in Czech republic. They do eat a lot of meat there, and that was sometimes a bit hard (since I m a vegetarian).

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

I do not have a room in Wageningen, but the prices at Dormitory West begin at 6090 CZK (around 250 euro). Also the cost of living is really cheap compared to the Netherlands. Especially the supermarkets and restaurants.

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

As a student, you can travel with any public transport in Prague city itself for 3 months for only 15 euros. Taxis are also cheap. To travel to campus, see picture.

The screenshot shows a public transport route planner interface. At the top, it displays the time '12:00' and date '18.11. Wed'. The overall journey time is '34 min.' and the distance is '13 km'. The route is as follows:

- Bus 100304 1050** (Transdev Střední Čechy s.r.o.):
  - 12:00 Praha, „Hlušičkova“
  - 12:04 Praha, „Nemocnice Motol“
  - Walking time approximately 1 mins
- Metro A** (Dopravní podnik hl.m. Prahy, a.s.):
  - 12:07 Nemocnice Motol
  - 12:16 Dejvická
  - Walking time approximately 4 mins
- Bus 107** (Dopravní podnik hl.m. Prahy, a.s.):
  - 12:23 Dejvická
  - 12:34 Zemědělská univerzita

At the bottom, there are icons for 'Connection details', a printer, a share icon, and a map icon.

## 6. Free time

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

There is a lot to see. Typical tourist things are the old town square, Charles bridge, the castle and cathedral, dancing house, petrin tower and the zoo. Some nice parks are letna park, kampa park and divoka sarka. Also some nearby cities outside Prague are fun to visit, like Kutna hora or Brno.

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

Strelecky island. It is an island just under the Legion bridge where you can feed swans and muskrats and have a beautiful view on the river. Sometimes culture events and open-air festivals are given

there. Also on the Petrin hill there is a planetarium located, where they allow you to look through a telescope to look at the sun during the day and the stars at night (do not go when cloudy).

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

Dogsbar is a must see. It is not really a club, but there is live music with a lot of dancing and it is open until 3am. For restaurants you should definitely try maitrea, lasagneria, la piccolo perla, dim sum spot, and modry zub.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I missed my family and friends back home a lot sometimes.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

I really enjoyed meeting so many new people. Also I really liked to small city trips outside Prague.

## 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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