



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bachelor's Economics and Governance
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	07-02-2022 until 28-06-2022
Country (exchange)	Czech Republic
City (exchange)	Brno
University (exchange)	Mendel University
Faculty (exchange)	Foreign Relations and Regional Development

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To see new places, meet new people and see new things.

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

The Czech Republic is in Middle-Europe, which means you can travel to many interesting places within a few hours. I also think the history of the place is interesting and different from our history in Western-Europe.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by train from Deventer to Vienna because I am trying not to fly. And it was quite easy! I went in the night train where I had a bed, and I met nice people. From Vienna it's a short bus of two or three hours to Brno.

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	Global Agriculture	4	Overview of agricultural practices, situations and techniques across the continent	4	interesting
2	Global Forestry	4	Should be same as above but for forestry	2	No classes because of too less people
3	Cross-cultural Psychology	6	About psychological phenomena across people from different cultures	5	Interesting (although mostly focused on east-west dichotomy)
4	Development problems of the Middle-East	5	History and problems of ME	5	Interesting, especially if you like history (or politics)
5	Dev. Problems of Africa	5	Situation and the problems in Africa	3	Interesting but a bit repetitive
6	Food Safety	5	Definitions of food sufficiency and food safety and situations across poorer countries	5	Very interesting

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

The workload is not too high, however, at this faculty I did have to put in effort to get good or sufficient grades, while I know that in classes of friends from Erasmus the level was lower. This is probably because I was the only one from the international students in this faculty, which means I was following 'serious' courses with Czech students and not just courses directed at Erasmus students.

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?)

Lecturers are very approachable, and the classes were just as small as in Wageningen.

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

Not so much to be honest, there are no sports facilities like in Wageningen, although there are sport courses you can choose one from to follow throughout the year. There is one meal in the menza per day (for like 4 or 5 euros), which is okay but won't suit everyone I guess. The university is a bit older and less modern than WUR, which is not per se a problem. There is a botanical garden next to the university which is beautiful!

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?)

Most people live in one of the JAK flats, where you share a room with two or three people. I liked this personally, you learn from it to be more accepting and tolerating of others, although of course it depends on your roommates if you're lucky. Besides, there is also a football field where we played as international students, and when you're going to parties it's nice to live in JAK because more people go there.

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

Not super different from Dutch culture (at least, in half a year you don't notice everything different). People are not super over-the-top or loud, which I found nice, and I think Czech people are quite nice overall.

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

Housing is cheaper, and beer of course too. However, normal groceries are quite the same as in NL I would say, and eating out is just a bit cheaper but not too much.

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

Great public transport by busses and the metro. Metro takes 15 minutes from JAK into the center of Brno, and a pass costs around 50 euros for the whole period.

6. Free time

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

The cities around, like Vienna, Budapest, Prague (!!), Bratislava, etc. And the nice nature, for example in Slovakia which is a beautiful country.

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

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

The center of Brno is not huge, and although there are many bars and pubs most of the parties I visited were organised by the ESN (being a member is a good idea). If you like super busy cities where there are many people in the centre every time of the night Brno might too small, although it is cosy and I think there is enough to do.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The period after the first week, where you constantly had to be super social. For me as a person that is not always talkative and extravert this was difficult, although it also taught me that you will always find nice people if you are just nice. And its fine to not be the loudest person in the group.

What was your best memory abroad?

Many things!! Seeing so many beautiful cities, living in the beautiful city of Brno, and making two of the best friends I've had and spending time with them.

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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