



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bch Food technology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/09/2023 until 22/02/2024
Exchange destination: University	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
Faculty	Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences
Country	Italy
City	Bolzano

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience living abroad in a different culture and meet new people from different places.

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

The courses that were offered seemed really interesting to me and Bolzano is quite a small city with beautiful surroundings because it is in the middle of the Dolomites. This really draw to me to be in the middle of a lot of pretty nature.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

With trains it is quite easily accessible. Either you can take some trains during the day but there is also a direct nighttrain to Innsbruck which I took. From there it is 2 hours to Bolzano.

There are also many airports available a bit further away like near Milan, Venice or Innsbruck.

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	Quality of horticultural products	3	Basics on factors affecting the quality of fruits and vegetables	4	
2	Innovation and authenticity for winery products	6	The basics of enology, winemaking techniques composition of grapes, wine stabilization and storage	5	
3	Novel food	6	The use of insects as novel food and laws needed to implement novel foods	3	
4	Fruit processing	3	Chemical and biological events during juice and jam preparation, drying and storage	5	
5	Cocoa and coffee fermentations	3	An overview of the chemical and microbial processes occurring during the fermentation	5	
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What is it like to study there?

E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.

The academic level felt the same as in the Netherlands even though I only followed master courses I felt it was very doable. We didn't have any assignments and almost no group work in between the courses which for me was difficult because you know less how prepared you are for the exams. Also some of my exams were oral which was different than what I'm used to.

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 Erasmus organisation was very approachable and they organized nice activities in the beginning to get to know fellow students. Engagement with local students was harder because they mostly spoke Italian with each other. Some of the lecturers were quite rude and difficult to approach while others were very kind and open.

What does the university offer students additionally?

E.g. catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?

In the mensa (cantine) they offer meals almost all days during lunch and dinner, they always have pasta or pizza for around €3/3.50 and other meals that differ day to day with meat, potatoes, etc. The university offers some sports including volleyball and football. They also have Whatsapp groups people interested in hiking etcetera. The university has different committees/groups which organize activities. These differ from more cultural activities and movie nights to parties. Furthermore within an hour you can get on the slopes for skiing and snowboarding which is very popular.

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?

There are some buildings with student housing available for which you can sign up. There are double or single rooms. If you do not get into those you have to find housing yourself which can be difficult but is very possible.

What is the culture of the country like?

E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?

It is a mixture of Austrian and Italian culture which can be especially noticed in the food and the language. I mostly noticed that many Italian people are very free and can decide or change things last minute. This might be specific for my study because it was quite new but often for example the laboratory or external activities would be decided at the last moment.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

For around €150 you can get abo+, which is a public transport card which can be used in the whole South-Tyrol and is valid for trains, busses and some funiculars. It takes a while to do all the paperwork to get the card but I found it very worth it. Otherwise you can use the app SüdTirolMobil to buy separate tickets.

6. Expenses

Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.

Ticket there: equal

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: €300 for single room in student housing

Groceries: equal

Public transport: €150 for a year public transport in South-Tyrol

Restaurant/going out for dinner: equal

Daytrips/sight-seeing: equal, but a lot of nature which is free ofcourse ☺

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

From the city centre there is a funicular to Oberbozen/Soprebolzano which gives you a view over the city which is very nice. With a bus you can go to Lago di Carezza.

Furthermore I enjoyed a lot to go to different towns/cities nearby like Merano, Trento and Verona. We also spend a lot of times on the slopes skiing and snowboarding. I got a skipass for Obergegggen which was very nice and a big area.

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

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

I struggled with the language because I speak neither German nor Italian very well so with some situations outside of the university it was sometimes hard to communicate.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Meeting many amazing people from all over the world and I loved waking up the sight of mountains every day.

9. Contact details (optional)

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