



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BBI
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-02-2023 until 10-06-2023
Country (exchange)	Czech Republic
City (exchange)	Brno
University (exchange)	Mendel university of forestry and agriculture
Faculty (exchange)	Forestry

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to include international parts in my study program, to step outside of my comfort zone and broaden my life experiences.

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

I chose for Brno as it has a very good forestry faculty, with cool courses about trees, vegetation and such

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Take a night train to Vienna, from there it is just 1,5 hours to Brno by train or Flixbus

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	Forest Pathology and Protection	6	Pathogens and pests in European tree species	4	High level, lots of interesting guest lecturers
2	Dendrology and Ecology of Forest Tree Species	4	European tree species	5	High level, quickly getting skilled in identifying 150+ ornamental and native tree species
3	Forest Ecosystems in Europe	6	Ecosystem composition in terms of trees and shrubs in Europe	5	Very educative, good insight in the natural landscapes in Europe
4	Tree Climbing	4	How to work like a professional arborist	4	More practical course
5	Geobiocoenology	5	The Czech and Slovak forest classification system	4	Interesting view on classifying forest types
6	Soil Sciences and Protection	6	Introduction in soil sciences	4	Nice and lowkey introduction into soil sciences, including soil formation and soil profiles

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

The workload is rather low, little homework except for the last weeks where most courses will ask for a report as part of the seminary works. Physical lectures and enough field trips to the arboretum, Brno or further

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 university is more focused on the different faculties, each with their own buildings. The lecturers are very open and approachable, but the Erasmus students have courses separate from Czech students, so little engagement.

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

The university offers dormitories with all facilities and has proper and varied catering options. As a student you can subscribe for two sports for free on the Mendel sports location.

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 is multiple Mendel dormitories in Brno. Rent is quite cheap but do think about the fact you will get roommates. Choose carefully if you want roommates and how many.

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

Czech Republic got a drinking culture. Beer is cheaper as water in some places! Many alcoholic options. Most young people are also very open, older people can be more xenophobic and mostly do not speak English at all. Czech cuisine is very nutritious, lots of meat and dumplings/potatoes. Eating in restaurants is rather cheap!

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

Around 600 a month, if you eat out + party once a week

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 Brno is very good! Also very cheap, for 30 euros (with student discount) you have 3 months of free travelling in Brno and its outskirts! For further journeys take Flixbus (just 3 euros to most destinations in CR, with student discount!) or Regiojet

6. Free time

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

As it is in the middle of Europe, travel to many other countries! Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, Dresden, Bratislava, Warsaw! Also, check out Cesky Krumlov (cute town) and Bromouvsko (nature reserve) in CR.

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

Closer to Brno is a lake, on the east side. On the Northwestern side there is lom Hady, a beautiful place for a hike in the former limestone quarry! Lednice and Olomouc are two destinations with an hour travel time from Brno, but definitely worth a visit!

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

The biggest club with the most parties is Fleda. The biggest bar is Utopia, you can also play pool there! Furthermore, there is loads of cool pubs + dancing bars like ArtBar, HighFive and the Mendel canteen!

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge was living with two Czech roommates, who spoke mainly Czech to each other.

What was your best memory abroad?

All of the trips I have made were fantastic! But maybe the best memories in Brno were in my first and last weeks in Utopia playing pool with friends!

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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