



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Economics and Governance
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> of September 2022 until 20 <sup>th</sup> of December 2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Czech Republic
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Brno
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Mendel University Brno
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Business and Economics

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I wanted to broaden my worldview and I wanted to experience how it was to go on an exchange. I also wanted to experience what it was like to study at another university. Lastly, I thought it would look good on my CV.

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

First I looked at the courses I wanted to follow from the list of courses. Then I compiled those in a list and send in the top 3 universities which had the courses I as most interested in. From these 3 choices Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic was selected for me.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Personally, I drove from my parents home near Rotterdam to Brno by car. Another Dutch girl told me she took the night train to the Czech Republic. Flying from Schiphol airport (Amsterdam) to Prague or Vienna and then taking public transport to Brno is also a viable method to reach the city.

## 4. University and studying

**Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?**

	<b>Course</b>	<b>ECTS</b>	<b>Short description of the contents</b>	<b>Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>1</b>	EU and Global Governance	4	Considers the monetary, cultural, geographical, religious etc aspects of Governance	4	Focuses mainly on the EU
<b>2</b>	European Integration and Globalization	4	About EU integration and major EU institutions	4	
<b>3</b>	Financial Management	6	Private and Market capital flows	4	
<b>4</b>	International and European Business Law	4	Business law according to EU treaties and regulations	3	
<b>5</b>	Migration and Development	6	Explores the correlation between migration and development	4	
<b>6</b>	Theory of Economic and Monetary Integration	6	Discusses the European Monetary Union	4	

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

The workload compared to the WUR is slightly less, because not every course requires students to complete an additional assignment beside their final exam. The exams cover more or less the same amount of material as the WUR courses, but students often have 5 or 6 exams in their exams period, so keeping up with the material is more important. The academic level of the courses is also roughly the same.

The examination is either an oral exam, a written test (online or in person) or a presentation. It can also be a combination of the these. Additionally, a written assignment or something similar may be required to pass the course, and some courses also have weekly exams or midterms.

**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 always open to answer questions from students, though I recommend talking to them before or after class as many of them take their time answering their e-mails.

Local students generally tend to not engage with exchange students, though they don't show hostility towards them. The exception is of course the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) students, who organise activities for exchange students and are available to contact for questions or problems. While this may sound uninviting on paper, the reality is that this pulls exchange students closer to each other, creating closer and more lasting friendships.

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

There is a medium-sized catering building in the middle of the campus, where students can easily get a cheap lunch. Most students I met though went into the city for lunch. Additionally, there are several sport clubs for volleyball, football, (ice) hockey, etc. Student will get the opportunity to sign up for these activities at the start of the semester. There is also gym which offers 6-month and 12-month memberships with a discount for students.

## **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 several dormitories that are open to students from Mendel University for cheap. The three main ones are Taufer, JAK and Academy halls. However, since these dormitories do not have the cleanest rooms to live in and given the fact that rooms are shared by 2 to 4 people, private renting is also a viable option. This is of course more expensive compared to the dormitories. Rent rates are discussed in an answer below.

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

People generally started their day earlier compared to the Netherlands. They also keep to themselves, almost never initiating conversation, although many will have a short conversation with you if you approach them.

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

For my student room in the Taufer dormitory I paid around €250,- per month (converted from Czech crowns into Euros) . Currently, I am paying around €420,- per month for a room in Wageningen. The price of privately-rented rooms ranged from €450,- to €600,-, though the average seemed to be around €550,-.

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

Most students travelled to the university via the public transport in the city (trams and busses). Most transport lines either crossed or ended up at a stop called Česká located at the city centre, so it is a good stop to keep in mind. You can buy a 1-month, 3-month, 6-month or 12-month ticket for public transport for all public transport lines within the city. The ticket will be linked to your debit/credit card, so if you get checked show them that. Personally, the 3-month ticket set me back about €27,- and the 1-month ticket cost me about €12,-. People with this ticket will have unlimited trips as long as the ticket is valid. As for taxis, it is cheaper to get an uber, loft or any of the other similar apps. Additionally, at some places there are electric steps available to rent.

## 6. Free time

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

I would recommend going to the city centre and walk around there. Beside the many shops there are also many old buildings, mainly churches, that are worth a visit. Also, going to cities in the vicinity (Budapest, Vienna, Prague) is also worth considering.

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

I don't know what does and does not appear in travel guides, but on the squares in the city centre there are often markets or concerts that you can go to that have much to offer.

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

My advise is to explore on your own and find what you like. Try to go on activities with the ESN, especially the introduction/welcome week, as it helps to get familiar with the local spots.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Finding a barber that spoke English. Also, finding a place that has decent Wi-Fi.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Probably the many nights where I went out with the friends I made there. If I had to choose, I would say the first night we went to the Sono club.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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

