



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bsc Forest-and Nature Conservation
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	(11/09/2023) until (19/01/2024)
Exchange destination: University	Mendel University
Faculty	Forestry and Wood Technology
Country	Czech Republic
City	Brno

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted to live in another country and experience an new culture. And then I found out I had the possibility to go on an Erasmus. The option to study and live abroad at the same time sounded perfect, so I took my change.

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

The courses of the faculty looked al interesting and I had no knowledge of these different topics. I wanted to learn something new and that is why I picked the Mendel University. And I was never really been to the Czech Republic, so that was also a motivation for me to go to Brno.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I went by de night train from Amsterdam to Vienna and from there I took the train to Brno. So you can go to Brno by train, but there is also a flix bus option. And you always can fly to Prague of Vienna and from there you can take a bus or train 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	European Forestry, Environmental and Science Policies	4	You will lit a lot about the European Union and how everything works	3	The course was more about the European Union, then forestry.
2	Forest Access Roads	5	Cool course were you learn what is needed for forest roads	5	Class with 5 people. You get used to it 😊
3	Forest Establishment	6	You learn all the steps to create a forest. Topics are all the different seeds, but also the machines that are needed	3	
4	Public Relations in Forestry	4	The course creates a deeper understanding why people are so important in forestry	4	Class with 5 people. You get used to it 😊
5	Urban Forestry	4	The benefits of nature in cities and all the different factors that are important for urban forestry	3	There was too little information about the policy behind Urban forestry. It was mainly about different ways to scan trees and techniques to take care for trees
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What is it like to study there?

The learning schedule is completely different then at the WUR. I had only one course a day, except on Thursday where I had two courses. The time especially was different. I had class on Thursday from 7:00 till 13:00 and of Monday only one hour at 15:00. In general I had a lot of free time, so that was very nice. The courses were interesting and not to hard. You will experience a new way of studying, but in general it is not that hard.

What is the culture of the university?

As a Erasmus group, you are really isolated from the rest of the students. My classes were in English, but for the Czech students, the classes are in Czech. So you are in a class with only Erasmus students. The teachers are very nice and can speak proper English. Some speak better English, then others. Ther are faculties, so that is different than at the WUR. I had only class is building B: The faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology.

What does the university offer students additionally?

There is a mensa, where you can have meal for lunch. And there is also a pizza place where you can buy pizza for 4€. There is also a sports centrum, where you can play sports and go to the gym At the dorms there is an option to do the laundry. And there is the green pub at the dorms, this is the pub where there are a lot of Czech people, mainly students from the forestry department.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

There are three different places where you can stay as a mendelu student, that are provided by the university. The most people sleep at the Jak dormitories. It was relatively easy to get a room here. Just be on time. All the rooms are double, so you will have a roommate. The rent is between 150€ - 180€. There are options to find a private flat, but most people life at the dorms.

What is the culture of the country like?

People are quit stubborn in my opinion. I met some Czech I met were very friendly, but these were also member of the ESN. It was hard to come in contact with other Czech students. I feel most people are very private. Some people can speak English, but if you go to a bit more local places people only speak Czech. The local cuisine is very nice, especially the Svíčková Na Smetaně (ossenhaas). People eat a lot of carbs and meat, but there are also good vegetarian options in Brno. And if you like beer (pivo), the Czech Republic is the place for you.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

The public transport in Brno and also in the rest of Czech Republic is one of the best thing to here on Erasmus. You can travel by train and bus really cheap as a student. Brno has amazing tram and bus network, where everything is connected and you can reach every place with the tram. The university was also very accessible, around 5 minutes by bus. There is also a nightbus going every hour, so if you go partying there is the bus to help you get home. And taxi is also really affordable, around 4€ for a ride.

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: lower

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 150€ for a room with a roommate

Groceries: lower

Public transport: 30€ for 3 months

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 9-14€ per dinner

Daytrips/sight-seeing: one day trip: 20€, long weekend to a other city like Budapest or Krakow: 50-130€

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

The following cities were very accessible by train and/or bus: Prague, Vienna, Krakow (also Auschwitz) , Budapest, Bratislava.

Smaller cities in the Czech Republic and nature: Cesky krumlov, Sumava national parc, mikulov, Adamov watch tower and Babi lom near ceska.

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

I do not know if these things are in the Travel guide or not, but I would recommend in Brno to go to visit Villa low beer and Villa Tugendhat. The arboretum of the Mendel University is also really beautiful.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

One restaurant I really liked was Restaurant na Chatê. Its close to the university and its very local. And go for a hike in the forest at the north side of brno, there are also a lot of old mines there, its very nice and you can have a beautiful view of the city.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I had no wifi in my room, because apparently I should brought a ethernet cable (so bring this one). I had to buy it at the store. I also had no bankcard with visa on it, so I could not buy things online (such as tickets for party, but also doing the laundry). Because of this I also had trouble getting the public transport card. But eventually I made a revolut account and everything worked out fine. So If you to Brno, bring a ethernet cable if you go stay at the dorms and create a revolut account (or something like a creditcard). I could pay at bars or restaurant with my ABN card, but there are high fees due the exchange rate, and with a visa card you don't have to pay this.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Besides all the cool trips I Made to various trips to other cities and other countries. One of the best memories was one of the first parties in Brno. It was the flag party, where everybody was presenting their own country. It was an amazing night and I made a lot of friends and memories that night. It was the perfects party to start this beautiful adventure.

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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