



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Msc Earth & Environment
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	(1-02-2023) until (1-7-2023)
Country (exchange)	Austria
City (exchange)	Graz
University (exchange)	Universität Graz
Faculty (exchange)	Geoscience

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to have a different focus in my study. In Wageningen I got to learn about hydrology in delta-countries, but I wanted to get a focus on different environment and what challenges they have. So in Wageningen the topics are often about the Sea level rise. In Austria I learnt a lot about the challenges which come a long Glacier melt in mountainous areas.

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

During my board year at StartHub Wageningen, my 'boss' recommended me the university of Graz if I have an interest in environmental sciences and climate science.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Train works perfectly. Also, the top-studierende ticket (160euros) in one semester, you can travel by public transport in the whole province of Styria.

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	Mountain Hydrology	4	Hydrology of mountain regions	5	
2	Practical course in Hydrology	4	Using measurement equipment to research hydrological questions in the area of Pasterze Glacier	5	
3	Atmospheric Dynamics	3	Theoretical course about the equations that hold for the big movements in the atmosphere.	4	
4	Field course Alpine hydrogeology	2	Using measurement equipment to research hydrogeological questions in the area of Johnsbach creek valley	5	
5	Field trip Snow and Avalanches	3	Getting to know how to measure snowlayers, avalanche danger and how to be save in winter in mountainous areas	5	
6	Climate Risks	3	Lear everything about the IPPC, natural and social science	4	
7	Geman Language (B2)	3	Speaking course	3	

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

The structure is different from Wageningen, a lot of the courses are overlapping, which makes it impossible to do everything you want to do. Also, there are waiting lists, so be sure to register for more courses. Furthermore, all exams are in the last week, so try to spread the workload.

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 very flexible for Erasmus students, so if any trouble arises with deadlines, exams etc. you can always write them.

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

You can do USI courses. These are sport courses for 30 euro's, in any field you can think of.

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?)

They offer dorms via the university. I live in a WG (privat wohnung), which I would really recommend, since it is much more like a studenthouse in Wageningen and you get to know students from Graz.

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

In Graz there is a very musical culture. In every corner of the city they have live music playing, which is really nice. Furthermore I guess it is more socialistic (also there is a communist party ruling in the province)

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

It is a bit lower. I paid 320 for my room in Graz, which was bigger and cleaner than my room in Wageningen where I pay 300. Also, I have the cheapest room possible in Wageningen and here in Graz I am on average.

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

Buy a bike! Buy a top-studierende ticket (160 euros for free traveling 5 months in Styria).

6. Free time

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

- Schlossberg, uhrturm

- Wildon badensee
- Schokl wandern
- Kunsthaus

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

- Wildon badensee
- Plabutsch – nice viewpoint

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

- Obar – nice cocktails
- Munzgrabenstrasse 126 – lustige WG partys

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I forced myself to speak german with my housemates. In the beginning this was hard, but the learning curve was much steeper and higher, than when I would have started to speak English with them.

In the start you don't know anyone, so if you don't feel well or something you are by yourself. Going for a hike or contacting people back home helped me overcome this.

What was your best memory abroad?

Skitouring, hiking, cycling and climbing in the mountains with my friends. Meeting new people and getting musical with my housemates.

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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