



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Master Plant Sciences (MPS)
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	1-9-2023 until 29-2-2024
Exchange destination: University	Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
Faculty	Faculty of Life Sciences, Albrecht Daniel Thaer Institut für Agrar- und Gartenbauwissenschaften
Country	Germany
City	Berlin

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I chose to do an exchange because it is well promoted by the exchange office and my study programme, and because many of my friends have done an exchange too.

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

Firstly I wanted to go to a German-speaking country, since my German skills were already good, though I wanted to better this. The reason that I chose this university is because I had visited the place already when I was in high school, and they gave an introduction to what studying there would mean. Besides, this university was one of the few options to move to a big city, so I could find some contrast to studying in Wageningen.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Berlin is easily accessible by train (ICE line Amsterdam-Berlin).

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	Farm Management in the Agricultural and Horticultural Sector	6	A course about management of agribusiness in general. Science behind the agri-food	4	

			value chain but also sustainability and agroecology are topics in this course.		
2	Post-Harvest Quality and Stored Product Protection	6	This course takes an in-depth look on the chain between harvest and consumption. You learn what processes influence quality of products and what mechanisms there are to prevent deterioration of products	3	
3	Biodiversity and Conservation Management	6	My personal favourite course. It needs some dedication because it is taught in 4 weekends (Sa & Su). You get an in depth look on how natural areas are managed and how to view nature.	5	
4	Climate Change, Energy and Bioeconomy Management	6	Interesting course cut up in two, Climate Change and Bioeconomy. The Climate Change part gave me some insights in the science behind climate change processes while the bioeconomy part gave some more hands on science on how to help business transform to more sustainable practices.	4	
5	Agroecosystems, Environment and Sustainable Natural Resource Use	6	Very diverse course that approaches several aspects of agriculture. Cropping Systems and Landscape are discussed, but also Animal Welfare.	3	
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What is it like to study there?

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

Studying at Humboldt University can sometimes feel quite old-fashioned. ICT systems are not as up-to-date as in Wageningen and for registration a lot is still done on paper. The examination of the courses follows in the end of the semester. So, all courses have an exam moment in February. Resit or postponing an exam is possible, then it will take place in April. Most material is provided online through Moodle, online environment where the different courses upload contents.

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?

It depends on the lecturer you have how approachable they are. Some older teachers stick more to hierarchy than others. Engagement with local students was for me a bit harder since most students in my courses were international too.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The University has on the different locations a Mensa, which is the canteen. It is opened during lunchtime and serves several options of meals. Sport facilities are offered at the start of the semester and you have to subscribe then, there is no later moment to subscribe to university sports.

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 no real on-campus housing. I myself did not get a room via university and had to look on free-market. WG-gesucht.de is the website most student accommodations are posted where you can find a flat with other students or living with a landlord.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

I am from The Netherlands and discovered that most of the culture is not that different from the German culture. Differences are hard to explain, you have to experience it yourself to get to feel differences.

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 Berlin is extensive. U-Bahn (Metro), Bus and S-Bahn (city train) were my most used ways of traveling. Besides there is also trams and even ferries which I could

use with my campus card (Regulations may differ per Semester). I also had a bike, which perfectly got me from A to B.

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: ca 70 euro retour, if you book early with Deutsche Bahn

Visa if applicable:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable): University can help you with this

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 500-800 euro, room in shared flat. depending on luck

Groceries: 6-10 euros per day

Public transport: 49 euro for Deutschland ticket (all regional transport, incl. bus, tram, metro etc.)

Restaurant/going out for dinner: Döner 7 euro, or cheap for 3-4 euro. Restaurant depends on the area you are in but you can find a nice place to get dinner below 15 euros.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: again, Deutschlandticket

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?

Berlin has a lot of culture and history, so for me leaving the city was quite unnecessary.

Did some daytrip to Leipzig, but Dresden is also a nice getaway place.

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

Drachenberg, next to Teufelsberg. But also several of the free museums, and museum Sunday (first Sunday of the month) on which entry for a lot of museums is free

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Berlin has an awful lot to offer. Try to do some research on what you want to see, but also let yourself be led by the people you meet there.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

In the start of my exchange I did not really know where to go and with whom. Making friends was tough at the start. Eventually through ESN Berlin I found some people and we made our separate group to do things besides the ESN activities.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

A lot of memories were made and a lot of new friendships came to be. I can not think of one special best memory, everything was quite awesome!

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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