



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BBI
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	22-09-2023 until 11-02-2024
Exchange destination: University	Czech University of Life Sciences
Faculty	Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources
Country	Czech Republic
City	Prague

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience a half year living in another country completely outside my comfort zone, and Erasmus was the best option for this.

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

I mainly chose the country because I heard that Prague is a really great city to live and study in and to meet lots of people.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Taking the bus takes the longest, but it is the cheapest and the most green option. If you take the night bus it is totally fine, although quite long.

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	Plant Physiology	5	Course on the basics of plant functioning.	3	Good course with nice practicals, lectures were not that well done.
2	Environmental Physiology of Plan	5	Plant functioning in relation to the environment.	4	Interesting course with few people, but teacher was sick quite often so there was very little actual class.
3	Agricultural and Environmental Microbiology	5	Course about microbes in relation to the use to humans in different contexts.	5	Very nice practicals and well organized, lectures were good except the guest lectures which were a bit boring.
4	Fundamentals of Plant Protection	5	Plant protection and different plant antagonists explained.	4	Very interesting, but attendance was not mandatory so I missed some of the lectures and practicals. What I did experience was definitely worth a try if you are interested in plant protection.
5	Field Crop Technology	5	Course about how to grow the most basic crops.	1	I hated the teacher, the lectures were terrible and the subject did not interest me at all.
6	Special Crops	5	All different "Special" crops explained in what way they are used by natives and how it is used on industrial scale.	5	Very interesting and the teacher did a very good job explaining everything. This course was one that felt really on the same level as a course at the WUR.

What is it like to study there?

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

Studying was very easy and overall did not take much time. There was mandatory attendance at most lectures and practicals, which meant being at university almost everyday of the week.

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 culture definitely feels more lowkey than at the WUR, teachers are not as professional and students seem the same.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The catering at the university was amazing! At the menza you can get a cheap meal to fill you up for the whole afternoon which tastes pretty good most of the time.

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?

On campus is cheap but far outside the city centre. I lived near the centre, which was a bit more expensive but worth it.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

The people are usually more rude and don't care if you don't understand them immediately. I have been yelled at for not understanding when a cashier asked me something, but this is something you get used to.

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 is amazing, cheap for students and well structured. Taking a Bolt is also a great option to get home quick late at night.

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: higher

Groceries: lower

Public transport: lower

Restaurant/going out for dinner: a lot lower

Daytrips/sight-seeing: lower

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?

The city of Prague itself is beautiful, especially the parks scattered around the city are worth a try! The old town is full of tourists but still nice.

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

The techno clubs in Prague are amazing if you are into that.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

There are some great bars in Prague 7, also the area Zizkov in Prague 3 is very nice for all kinds of different restaurants.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I was feeling a bit alone in the new country, but finding people who also just arrived really helped.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

All the nights sitting in bars with my friends talking about life and getting drunk of cheap beer 😊

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Merlijn.jasperse@wur.nl	