



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Animal sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01/02/2023 until 01/06/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Czech Republic
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Prague
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to broaden my horizon and challenge myself by living abroad for a while, plus I wanted to follow some courses about wild animals, which the WUR did not offer.

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

I choose this university because they offered courses about wildlife and about developing countries (which I also find very interesting) I also heard a bunch of good stories about Prague, so when I saw the courses they offered I quickly made up my mind and decided to apply to for CZU.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The Flixbuses are very cheap, and I will take this to get home, but it does take some time to come here, however you do not have to change busses, which is nice, because you probably will take a lot of luggage with you. The train can be nice to, you have more space and can take a walk in the train, however you have to switch trains in Berlin and the train you have to book in advance, because otherwise it is very expensive. Flying is the quickest option, but in general also the most expensive.

## 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
<b>1</b>	Animal Census and Monitoring	5	This course is focused on the different ways to collect data from wildlife and how to process this data.	3	
<b>2</b>	Developing Countries in International Trade	5	In this course we learn with which commodities most developing countries trade with and what their position in the trading industry is and their advantages and disadvantages.	4	
<b>3</b>	Plantation Crops	5	In this course you learn about crops that are grown in tropical countries and what is so special about these plants, how they are used and why these plants are being grown on plantations.	3.5	
<b>4</b>	Wildlife Capture and Translocation	5	In these course you learn about different ways to catch, handle and translocation different wild animals, and which risks there are.	5	The teacher is a bit intense and can be quite hard on you.
<b>5</b>	Introduction to Sociology and Rural Sociology	5	In this course we learn about how people act in groups and what is the underlying theory about this.	3	
<b>6</b>	Natural Resource and Agricultural Economics	5	In this course we learn a lot about agriculture and is mostly focused on rural areas, and the economical factors that are part of agriculture as well.	3	

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

From every course that is worth 5 points, you either have 1 lecture and 1 seminar for twelve or 10 weeks (depending on if it is a last year's bachelor course or not) or you have 2 lectures and 2 seminars per week for 6 weeks. The lectures and seminar both have a duration of 1.5 hours each, with a small break between the lecture and the seminar. The academic level is in my experience lower than that of the WUR. The workload is about the same, but the teachers just expect a different level. Some classes have mandatory attendance, also in my experience I have had classes with about 20 persons per class.

**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 lectures are very approachable, because all my classes were only with about 20 people, so the teacher either knows you or at least recognizes you, in this way it is also easier to talk with the local students and get to know them a bit. That is a big difference when you compare this with the WUR. However I did feel more like a high school student at CZU than an actual university student, which I do feel like at the WUR

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

There is the cafeteria, where you can get lunch for very cheap, but there are limited options, you also have bunch of café's or restaurants all over campus, which are a bit more expensive.

## 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?)**

You can find a room on Facebook or sites, but you can also get scammed, this sadly happens a lot. You can also book a room in the external dormitories, I did that, I have shared deluxe room, for 400 euro's per month. This way the room is a bit bigger and you have access to free washing machines. However I would not recommend, because you have to pay about 20 euros per month for Wi-Fi, the rooms are quite out of date, and not the cleanest, like stains in carpets and old furniture. You cannot lock the bathroom door and the staff can just come into your room whenever they want, cause you can not lock the room in a way that nobody can come in. Also the people behind the reception are sometimes nice, but not always and also not the most helpful, so I would not recommend.

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

The difference is that people can be very rude, especially if you do not speak Czech and they do not speak English, they can get kind of mad, that you do not speak their languages. A lot of people do not speak English here and also do not even try. Their local cuisine is mostly meat.

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

The prices for rent are higher here than in Wageningen, but that is kind of logical since Prague is the capital, so a room in a flat is about 500 euros per month, or more expensive. The dorms are a bit cheaper, but then you have to share a room for about 300/400 euro's.

**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 is very good here in Prague, you can get everywhere with either tram, metro or bus, they go very often so you never have to wait long, only at night you have to wait a bit longer, but in general at least every 10 minutes a bus/tram will come. They are also very cheap, especially as a student, with your ISIC card (the student card) you can get a ticket for all public transport within Prague for 3 months for only 15 euro's, so that is very cheap in comparison to the Netherlands.

## 6. Free time

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

Of course you have to see the Charles bridge, and the Prague castle. Other than that I recommend going to the national history museum. Or you can also join ESN on walking tours or excursions, which is really nice. I prefer to travel by public transport.

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

I think most things do appear in travel guides, and you just have to walk around the city for a few hours and explore all the different nooks and small places around the city.

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

I loved old Hanoi for really good Vietnamese food for a great price or las adelitas for really good and cheap Mexican food. Or cacao for the best breakfast. For going out, it really depends on what you like, but there are a bunch of clubs, like duplex, dogs bars, epic, fashion club and many more. But I encourage everybody to just walk around the city explore and try different things.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

In the beginning I felt a bit lonely and sometimes a bit lost, because Czech is a hard language, and teachers here are not the best at communicating, so that is what I found difficult sometimes, but I quickly learned how to adapt.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Meeting people from all over the world and learning a lot from them, and also making great friends, with which you can explore a whole new city and just have the best time doing that. I also loved my friends from back home that came and visited my here.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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