



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	Bsc Environmental Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	01-03-2024 until 23-07-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Technische Universität Berlin
<b>Faculty</b>	Process sciences
<b>Country</b>	Germany
<b>City</b>	Berlin

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to go out of my comfort zone and experience living in a different country and make friends from all over the world.

### b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I wanted to improve my German.

### c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Berlin seemed like a really interesting city to live in because it has a lot culture and history so that is why I chose the TU Berlin.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

There is a direct train from the Netherlands to Berlin so that is very convenient.

## 4. University and studying

### a. 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	Global Environmental Governance	6	It covers some governance theories and future planning theories	4	It was a fun course with a lot of interactive classes.

2	Geographical Information Systems	3	Basic principles of gis and some computer work	3	It was interesting but a very basic introduction so not as extensive as intro to gis at wur
3	Advances in water management and climate adaptation	3	Lectures about recent research papers in water management	4	Interesting
4	Economics of climate change	6	Concepts and calculations around climate change economics	2	I did not like the way it was taught as the explanations were sometimes very unclear
5	Pre-semester intensive course german	6	A month-long course before the semester to learn German	5	I would really recommend doing this course as it was a great way for me to immediately meet a lot of people
6	German course C1 wirtschaft und technik	6	German course during the semester	4	It was good to keep up my german during the semester but the quality of the course depends a lot on the teacher

**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):**

No, I would say there were enough courses but it was quite limited since all bachelor courses are German.

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):**

I think they had some interesting courses in environmental policy but it was not that many. Moreover, there were a lot of courses that were listed for the summer semester but only a week before the semester starts the final course lists are available. So, I had to change most of my course choices. Also, I think if you want to graduate on time and need 30 ects, Berlin in the summer semester is not the best option because the semester starts and ends later compared to Wageningen so there is a large risk that you won't get all your grades back in time. This was okay for me because I did not need 30 credits but otherwise it would be quite stressful.

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

Yes I think the courses were well-taught.

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**

**f. What is it like to study there?**

*E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?*

There are way fewer contact hours than at WUR and the workload is a bit lower. I had to write papers, do written exams, oral exams and presentations. Doing an oral exam was quite new for me.

**g. What is the culture of the university?**

*E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?*

How approachable the lecturers are really depends on the course. Some lecturers were very approachable and others a bit more distant. I feel like at the WUR it is more clear who you have to email when you have a question about the course.

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

*E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?*

There are a lot of different sports courses you can do at the TU so that is really nice! Moreover, there are multiple mensa's where students can get cheap warm meals during lunch with a mensa card. You can also go to other universities' mensa's in Berlin.

## 5. Housing-traveling-living

**a. What are the possibilities for housing?**

*E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?*

There are 3 dorms you can sign up for but a place is not guaranteed. I luckily got a dorm which was a 15-minute walk from the campus. It was a dorm with a lot of people and not very clean. But the location was really good and I made a lot of friends there so overall it was really nice. And it costed 350 per month which is something you won't find on the free market in Berlin.

**b. What is the culture like?**

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

German culture is quite similar to Dutch culture. But I did notice cultural differences with my friends from other countries. I liked that Berlin has a lot of interesting history and museums to explore. It also has a lot of fun neighbourhoods with cafés, bars, clubs, flea markets and unique small businesses. Moreover, Berlin has nature and lakes that are easily accessible. So, I would say Berlin has a different culture than Wageningen as it is a very large city.

**c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

We got a semester Deutschland ticket which you can use for all regional transport in Germany. The public transport is pretty good in Berlin. But I first did have to get used to the fact that everything is further away because it is a big city.

## 6. Expenses

### a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	60
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Really depends
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	350 dorm with 22 people
Grocery costs per month	200-300
Public transport costs per month	50
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	15 per meal

### b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

It is around the same price as the Netherlands and sometimes a bit cheaper. However, the cafés and restaurants can be pretty expensive. Also, clubs often have a 20 euro entrance.

### c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

## 7. Free time

### a. What are must-sees in the area?

*E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?*

I feel like after all the basic sight-seeing attractions like Brandenburger and check point Charlie, I think a day trip to Potsdam is super nice as it is a really nice town. Also, I like the area around Hackesher Markt.

### b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

I liked just going to parks like Tiergarten and the Jewish Museum was really impressive.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

### a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

I think the hardest part was all the administrative tasks and coordination. The TU Berlin is not that well organised so this sometimes caused a bit of stress as everything happened last minute. Also, all the IT systems were quite old and a lot of things did not go automatically. So, I had to coordinate a lot myself. In Berlin the semester is from April to half of July and exams can be in between July and September. So, I had to ask a lot of teachers if I could do the exams and assignments earlier. Also, I had to get certificates from every individual teacher so they did not have an automatic system like Osiris. But in

the end, it all worked out okay. However, the different semesters does make it a bit stressful and complicated sometimes.

**b. Best memory?**

I love all the friends I made here and just exploring the city together. It was nice to hang out together and go to cafés and learn about each others' cultures. For example, I learned bits of Polish and Chinese because of my friends. We also went on some trips together. For example, we travelled to Montenegro. This was also really fun.

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>		