



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Business and Consumer Sciences (BBC)
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	03/02/2024 until 21/06/2024
Exchange destination: University	Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU)
Faculty	Economics and Management
Country	Czech Republic
City	Prague

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I explored the option to go abroad quite late, almost two weeks before the deadline. Normally, I'm not really a type that would live five months abroad, because I really like it in the Netherlands, so why go away there? However, going on a study exchange looked like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, especially because the university does a lot for you, so you do not have to arrange everything yourself. I also heard good stories from other people who went on exchange, saying it was one of the best times of their life.

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

The reason I chose for the Czech Republic is because it was a good mix of two things that seemed important to me: an exciting, vibrant city where you can always do something, in combination with courses that are close to the study program I followed. Because you have to arrange some parts by yourself, I had to look for courses I could follow in every possible country. I saw quite quickly that there were not much universities that offered 30 ects in courses that were close to my study program at the WUR. Most of the times, when the universities did, the cities were not nice. I heard good stories about Prague and also saw they offered courses I liked, so that is why I chose for the country.

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

I chose for the CZU because it seemed easy to get in (in the Excel sheet with eligibility), and because, as mentioned above, they offered nice courses. I didn't look at the location or the reputation of the university, but when I looked at their website, it seemed good.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

I went by plane and would advise people to also go by plane. Although it is not the most climate-friendly, it is way faster than going by train or by car. By plane, you arrive in Prague in 70/80 minutes. Moreover, it is not that expensive, especially if you book your flight early. I also heard some stories from people who used another way of transport. People that went by train said it was nice because they could pack as much as they wanted, but warned about train service in Germany. They advised me that if I wanted to go by train, I should look for routes with a transfer of +1 hour, not less. They said a lot of trains have unexplained delay in Germany and therefore, you can risk missing your transfer. It also takes about 11 hours to get to Prague by train. I also heard stories about people coming by Flixbus, which is really cheap. If you want to go by Flixbus, book your seat, and also the one next to you! Then it is quite doable, I heard. Some people also said they arrived with their parents, who drove them, and then went on a trip for a week with them. If you want to do that, make sure you arrive a week before the introduction week, because it is really important you don't miss a day of the introduction week.

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	Economics of Brewing Industry	5	A lot of information about the beer production and economical beer market around the world	3	Rude teacher, but interesting course with some field trips.
2	Science, Philosophy and Society	5	General philosophical theories about the society and science	4,5	Good teacher with really interesting information. Gives another view on sciences that is not that known.
3	Introduction to Sociology and Rural Sociology	5	The basic information about sociology, with rural examples	3,5	Interesting course about sociology, but seminars (werkcolleges) were not interesting at all.
4	Marketing Communication Strategy	5	Short, intensive course about marketing	3,5	Easy course about the marketing per company. Requires some basic marketing knowledge
5	Communication in Management	4	Dives into communication not only in	2	Course is only 3 hours per week, but 1,5 is spent on

			management, but in society		communication games which were not nice.
6	Trade and Commerce	5	Basic information about starting up an own business	4	Really enthusiastic teacher who explains step by step how you can start up your own business. But really short course.

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

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): NO – Not all courses were suitable in my semester and therefore I had to pick some courses that weren't really in my favourite field. Still, I enjoyed them after all.

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

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

f. What is it like to study there?

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

Studying in Prague is really nice, but not that hard. The study forms are different than in The Netherlands, as you can choose between Intensive courses (only one week, the whole day) or Regular courses (whole semester, few hours per week). The academic level is a bit lower than in the Netherlands, also because the level of English of the teachers is not as good as in The Netherlands. At the start of the exchange period, you get some kind of tutorial on how to choose your courses, which guides you through the whole system of the university.

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?

Czech people are by nature a bit shy towards international students, but the culture on the university was very friendly. Although the security was quite high (officers walking on campus) as a result of the earlier attack on another university in Prague, the culture was still nice and I felt safe.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The university offers a good program for Erasmus students through their Erasmus Office. You can also eat on campus for a really good price.

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?

The possibilities for housing are quite good I would say. Of course, there is an opportunity to study at the dorms of the university, but I would advise everyone to not go there. Try to search for a house in the city centre through websites like erasmusinprague.com or through Facebook and WhatsApp groups, where more Erasmus Students are looking for roommates. The prices are almost the same as in the Netherlands. I paid 620 euros a month for a beautiful apartment in the city centre. At first I was a bit pessimistic because of the price, but paying a bit more for the location was the best choice I made, and also the most important one.

b. What is the culture like?

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

Czech people are not that friendly as the Dutch are. I've heard rumours that it is because their English is not really good and therefore they are a bit shy, which turns into harsh behaviour. This is only at supermarkets etc., with people above 40 years old. The young students are really friendly if you act normal and friendly towards them.

Furthermore, the city is really safe. Of course, you always have some shady people, but I heard from female friends that they were comfortable with going home on their own after a night out. There is also a lot of police, which gives a safe feeling.

c. 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 the best I've seen so far. With student discount, you pay 15 euros to travel unlimited in public transport for three months. It is really cheap and really reliable. If you ever need to go to the other side of the city, you can be there in 20 minutes by public transport. Everyone takes public transport to the university and the bus goes every two minutes. It's better than in The Netherlands, for sure.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	300-400 euros
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	50 euros
Daytrips/sight-seeing	4 long trips, 1200 euros in total
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	620 euros
Grocery costs per month	120-150 euros
Public transport costs per month	5 euros
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	600-700 euros

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

Equal/lower. I expected it to be lower, but generally only the price for beer is lower than in the Netherlands. Groceries are a bit cheaper, but not that much. Maybe 10-20 euros difference per month.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Save a lot of money for going out, as the average Erasmus student in Prague goes out around 3 times a week.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Of course, Prague itself is a beautiful city. I would also advise going to Vienna and Budapest, which is really cheap to go to if you go by RegioJet trains. Three days for Vienna is enough, I would take four days for Budapest. You can also take the Flixbus, but that is almost the same price.

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

In Prague, going to Vysehrad can be some kind of a hidden gem. Also the ice-hockey games are really nice to go to.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I got very lucky to live with two nice Dutch roommates and therefore, I did not really have a tough time on my own. Challenges can be that people do not speak English, try to work it out with some hand signals then.

The only challenge I experienced was that I got stung by mosquitos 15 times in one day and as a result, I had to go to the doctor. I had to go to the hospital because it was a weekend day. Make sure you bring your European Insurance Card when going there, because I forget it. I dealt with it by staying calm and calling the people that could help me.

b. Best memory?

My best memory was my 4-day trip to Budapest with four other Dutch Erasmus friends. The city is beautiful, the weather was really good and the options for going out are also really nice. Would really advise people to go there!

9. Contact details

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