



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BES
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/02/2024 until 30/06/2024
Exchange destination: University	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
Faculty	FEM
Country	Czech Republic
City	Prague

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I love travelling and exploring and Erasmus is such a great experience and one of the best ways to see more of the world.

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

Prague is known to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It has so much culture and history but is also a great students city and is very affordable compared to other European capitals. I had never been before and as I did not grow up in Europe wanted the experience of living in a big historical European city.

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

While my choice was really more for the city, the university offered a wide range of interesting courses and was flexible and in English.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I decided to go to Prague with the FlixBus. It was by far the cheapest option and allows you to take all your many bags with you without worrying about a weight limit. This isn't for the weak though as the ride is about 14-15 hours but I found it alright. Make sure to take an overnight bus.

4. University and studying

a. Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	EC TS	Short description of the contents	Appreci ation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Fundamentals of Political Science	5	This was a nice introduction into political theories and electoral systems	5	I really enjoyed this course. Very great lecturer and interesting and opportunity to critically engage with interesting topics. Level was right and interesting but not too challenging.
2	Foreign Policy and International Relations	4	More general course on the main players on the global stage	3	Enjoyable but also quite basic and not very critical, also not very challenging.
3	World Economy and Economic Institutions	5	Also quite broad course on actors in the global economy	3	The lecturer was okay but also not a particularly challenging course.
4	Non-governmental Organisations in International Development	5	Course on the functions and questions surrounding NGOs	4	Very interesting and critical course that allows you to delve into the NGO world. More challenging than other courses but nice.
5	Developing Countries in International Trade	5	Economics with perspective on developing countries	4	Probably most challenging course with the hardest exam and most workload but overall enjoyable.
6	English for Debate and negotiation purposes	5	Course for Erasmus students with former American ambassador lecturer	4	Very easy course with basically no workload but very enjoyable and a good chance to work on some skills and meet other Erasmus students.

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): CZU offers a large range of courses in English, finding them was very easy and I had a lot of options

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes and no, while I do Environmental Science, I did not find many courses in that field that I found particularly interesting or relevant. Therefore, did most of my courses at other faculties where there were courses that appealed to me more

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Overall yes, there were large differences with some being quite challenging and work-intensive and others, especially the one for Erasmus students being very easy.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes I think these courses were a good choice for my current interests

f. What is it like to study there?

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

The study form is often quite chaotic and a bit less clear than I was used to. You have three months of classes followed by two months of exam period so it's quite relaxed.

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?

The lecturers are all very nice and helpful but engaging with local students is a bit harder.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There is a Mensa for food but sports facilities are not really there.

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 on campus forms but these are limited and from what I have heard not very nice or clean.

The campus is quite far away from the centre so you can choose where you would like to live close to.

Housing is limited in Prague (but not as bad as NL) but also be aware of scams.

I found a room in the centre with two other girls in the centre for around €600.

b. What is the culture like?

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

The cultural differences are not too shocking but in general Czech people are quite cold.

c. 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 Prague is really unmatched. It's very easy to navigate, will get you anywhere, very reliable and fast and best of all for students incredibly cheap. For a three month pass you only pay around 12 euros.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	€50-80
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	€10
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	Private room €500
Grocery costs per month	€250
Public transport costs per month	€4
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	€100

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

Prague is known to be very affordable for students and definitely much cheaper than NL. While the price of rent and groceries is not that drastically different, all leisure activities are much cheaper. Going out to eat, alcohol and uber are all very affordable.

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?

Prague is a city you can explore forever with so much to do. Outside of the city there are a few close town that are nice such as Karlovy vary and Kunta hora. Would also recommend visiting Budapest at any time of year.

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

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Everything was quite straightforward, one problem I did have was that I could only take 29 credits at CZU and needed 30 so I did an online MOOC at WUR for 2 ECTS to make up the last credit.

b. Best memory?

One of my favourite memories was a group trip to Budapest towards the beginning of the year. The city really surprised me and I met some of my best friends on the trip.

9. Contact details

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