



Wageningen University and Research



Disclaimer

The “VeSte goes abroad” survey will be used to inform students interested in an exchange programme to complete their minor. All answers are personal experiences, that is why no rights can be derived from the answers.

If you do not want to answer a certain question, you are free to. Readers of this survey should only contact the author of the survey if the author explicitly agreed to be contacted. The contact should be for addition to this survey.

Enjoy!

With regards,

VeSte Wageningen

VeSte Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

1.1 Basic information student

Name (optional)	Marieke van Keeken
Field of study in Wageningen	Bsc - Management and Consumer Studies
Form of study exchange	Minor - Bsc
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	9/1/2017 until 28/2/2018
Country (exchange)	Germany
City (exchange)	Frankfurt Oder
University (exchange)	European University Viadrina (EUV)
Faculty (exchange)	[Faculty where you studied]
How did you get information on studying abroad?	Websites <input type="checkbox"/> Contact person <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange programme <input type="checkbox"/> Study advisor X Other students <input type="checkbox"/> Differently [Insert answer]

1.2 Motivation for exchange

Reasons for exchange, why this choice, interests, etc. (optional)

Answer: I wanted to experience something new, shift my own boundaries, get to know different cultures and experience a different study environment. European University Viadrina (EUV) wasn't my first choice, but in the end I choose this to learn some more German and the given courses seemed interesting to me. I was mainly interested in a university which give courses with a focus on finance. The European University Viadrina (EUV) only has 3 faculties and therefore gives more in-depth courses into business sciences like finance. I really enjoyed that, because it is not possible to take such courses in Wageningen.

2. University and studying

2.1 Academic structure

How is the study formalized; study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material etc.

Answer: A semester is divided into two blocks in which you can choose as many courses as you want, but you have to figure out a schedule yourself. I chose two courses a block and one course which was given the whole semester. Each block consists out of 7 weeks. The exams are in the last week of a block. In general every course is built up out of one lecture of 4 hours a week and one tutorial of 4 hours a week. Only one out of the five courses, I followed, required a book. Mostly the required books can be borrowed in the library, which saves money. The courses don't really require that much self study in between the lectures and tutorials in comparison to WUR. The normal exams last 2 hours in total and are mostly the only way of examination in a course.

2.2 Courses

General information about the followed courses. If desired, more detailed information can be added beneath the column.

Answer:

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Financial accounting	6	The introduction of terms and methods of financial accounting.	3	
2	Macroeconomics	6	The basics of the (un)employment market, money market and supply- and demand market.	3	
3	Business Taxation	6	Tax regulations for individuals and business. How to calculate them and the additional law.	5	I was really interested in the course material and learning goals. That is why I appreciated the course a lot.
4	Seminar in Finance	6	Analysing scientific articles and based on this write an own article on an assigned topic.	3	
5	Mittelstufe 1	-	Lessons in German on the level of B1.	5	I really liked the set-up of the course.
6	Mittelstufe 2	-	Lessons in German on the level of B2.	5	I really liked the set-up of the course.

2.3 Culture of the university

What is the culture like, how approachable are the lecturers, is there engagement with local students? Introduction programme present; mentors, buddies? Differences with the WUR, etc.

Answer: The EUV is a really international university with a lot of international regular students, even in the bachelors, therefore there is a lot of engagement with local students. The lecturers are less approachable than at the WUR, however the university is small, so it is quite easy to find the right contact persons. The culture among students is also different. Not much is organised for students. Once a month or so a big party is organised in one of the clubs. Besides that, most activities are organised by students self. There is not really an introduction program. 3 moments within the first week are organised to gain basic knowledge about the university and its system. Luckily it was possible to sign up for a mentor. In my case, my mentor was a big help. He introduced me to regular students, took me to parties, showed me around in the city and helped me with the first essential things, like getting the keys of your room and registering at the townhall.

2.4 How does the university function?

How does the university function in the broader sense? Enrolment university, course registration, faculties, presence international office etc.

Answer: There is a lot of bureaucracy in Germany. Enrolment at the university takes several steps before it is done. EUV also requires a payment for administration fees and semesterticket fees. This has to be paid in cash, which is inconvenient, because it was around 200 euro's. The registration for courses takes also some time. First of all you need to register to get all course material and later on you need to register in a different program for the exam. The last program mentioned is in German, so that could give some difficulties to exchange students. The international office arranged a lot of things clearly. They created a facebook page and all essential information was posted on there. Besides that, you could always walk in the office to talk to them.

2.5 Facilities of the university

What does the university offer the student additionally? Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities, etc.

Answer: The university has a cafeteria which offers on weekdays between 11 and 15 four different warm meals for prices between 1.50 and 2.50 euros. Within these meals a lot of options could be chosen, like rice, potatoes or fries. There was a university sport centre, however this was small and really outdated. So most of the students go to one of the gym chains in the centre, which is only 5 minutes away from the university sport centre and the costs are the same, 19 euro's a month. Laundry facilities are provided by the dormitories. Before being able to use them, special coins are required which can be bought from the Hausmeister for two euro.

3. Free Time

3.1 Culture of destination

What is the culture of the country like? Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners, etc.

Answer: The culture is not that much different from the Netherlands. Germany has a bit more bureaucracy than the Netherlands. The cuisine contains more potatoes or potato containing products.

3.2 Travelling in the surroundings

What are must-sees in the area? Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan, etc.

Answer: Frankfurt Oder is located on the border with Poland. So it is a must to go to Poland and see cities there or just have dinner in the neighbourhood village which is around 10 minutes walk away. Besides EUV gives you a semesterticket which makes it possible to travel for free in the county Brandenburg. Within this county Berlin and Potsdam are must sees. Besides it is pretty easy to travel to Leipzig, Hamburg, Dresden and Wittenberg, which will only cost a few euro, because of the semesterticket.

3.3 Insider info

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

Answer: FürstenwaldeSpree is a must visit. This is mostly not stated in travel guides, but comparable to Giethoorn in the Netherlands. A city best visitable by boat.

3.4 General info

General tips and tricks about leisure time. For example: recommendations for restaurants, going out, etc.

Answer: Within Frankfurt Oder there are a few bars, cafés and clubs. They are on studentnights/parties nice to visit. Berlin is close by and has a lot more facilities to go out. That is a good possibility as well. It is cheaper to go out for dinner in Poland, in Slubice, which is the neighbour village. There is a big variety of restaurants in Frankfurt Oder and Slubice. The restaurants in Frankfurt Oder are already cheaper than restaurants in the Netherlands.

4. Travelling and living

4.1 Housing

What are the possibilities for housing? Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates, other costs, good neighbourhoods, etc.

Answer: Most of the housing for students in Frankfurt Oder is owned by Studentenwerk, which is similar to Idealis. They provide all different kind of rooms, on and off campus. I had a room on campus with my own bathroom, shared kitchen and 20 squared meters. The rent was 230 euro a month. This already includes all service costs.

4.2 Living

General price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen. It does not have to be an exact calculation.

Answer: I spent less money in Frankfurt Oder than in Wageningen. The rent was 230 euro. I ate every lunch during the week at the university, which approximately costed me 60 euro a month. As breakfast and dinner I ate bread, which costed me around 50 euro a month. During weekends I mostly went out for dinner, which in a month was on average all together 50 euro. I didn't have to get health insurance or any other kind of insurance. All in all, it was cheaper for me to live in Frankfurt Oder than Wageningen.

4.3 Accessibility from the Netherlands

How do you reach the destination? When to book your flights, transportation means, etc.

Answer: I reached my destination by train. It took me around 8 hours. It is also possible to go there by plane. It is best to book tickets a month or more before, since that will be the lowest price. However, in my case it was not possible to book something a month before, because I wasn't sure whether I was accepted to a room. I only got notified a week before. By that time the ticket by train costed 60 euro.

4.4 Extra costs to reach destination

Extra costs to reach destination			
Should a visa be requested?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[eventual costs visa]
Should a residence permit be requested?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[eventual costs residence permit]

3.5 Transport

Public transport infrastructure. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university, etc.

Answer: EUV provides a semesterticket after paying the semesterfee which is valid in the county Brandenburg. Therefore you don't have to pay anything else for public transport. Since I was living on campus, I didn't have to travel towards university. When it is the case there is a good public transportation system to university.

4.6 General Tips

General tips and tricks for travelling and living.

Answer: Just live by the day and enjoy every moment of your exchange! There is an enjoyable moment in every situation.

5. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Will I allow my name and contact details to appear on the website?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name	Marieke van Keeken	

6. Thank you!

Thank you very much for sharing your exchange experience. We are confident that many interested students can be helped with making their decisions! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to send a mail to: veste@wur.nl

For more information on student exchanges, check out: www.wu.nl/exchange