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Wageningen University and Research

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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)	Leonie Braks														
Field of study in Wageningen	Molecular Lifesciences (Biotechnology)														
Form of study exchange	Erasmus exchange														
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	15-2-2018 until 30-6-2018														
Country (exchange)	Austria														
City (exchange)	Vienna														
University (exchange)	Boku														
Faculty (exchange)	[Faculty where you studied]														
How did you get information on studying abroad?	<table><tr><td>Websites</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Contact person</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Coordinator</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Exchange programme</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Study advisor</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr><tr><td>Other students</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>Differently</td><td>[Insert answer]</td></tr></table>	Websites	X	Contact person	X	Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exchange programme		Study advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other students	X	Differently	[Insert answer]
Websites	X														
Contact person	X														
Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>														
Exchange programme															
Study advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>														
Other students	X														
Differently	[Insert answer]														

1.2 Motivation for exchange

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

Answer: Austria is a country with high level of education, which was an important criteria. It was also important for me to experience living in a big city to have some contrast to Wageningen.

2. University and studying

2.1 Academical structure

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

Answer: There are a lot of small courses (2-4 ECTS) throughout the semester, which makes the schedule very complicated and overlap of courses is almost unavoidable. The workload depends a lot on the courses you choose, as the time spent on a course is not always proportional to the amount of ECTS it is supposed to be.

Oral exams are more standard at BOKU then at the WUR. In general this is very relaxed as the professor wants to give you a good grade and will help you to come up with the right answer. It is not uncommon for a professor to just decide to give everyone who joined the course the highest grade (which is converted to a 9)

2.2 Courses

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

Answer: contents are very easy to find on BokuOnline

	<i>Course</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Short description of the contents</i>	<i>Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Protein chemistry and protein engineering (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	4		4	
2	Proteomics (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	3		5	
3	Surface chemistry (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	1		5	
4	Biologically inspired materials and interfaces (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	4		4	
5	Food biotechnology	5		1	
6	Biomimetic model lipid membranes (in Eng.)	3		2/3	

	Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)				
7	Biomaterials (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	2		5	
8	Scattering techniques in nanomaterials science (in Eng.) Standardgruppe (Confirmed place)	2		4	
9	Bioinspired structural adhesions	2		5	
	Synthetic biology	2		5	
	Prokaryotic glycoconjugates and disease	3		4	

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: For the small-scale master courses the professors are really approachable, very similar to the WUR. The welcome days are nice, but not comparable to the AID, it is more to introduce you to the online systems etc. It is possible to register for a buddie, I would strongly advise to do this as next to being very helpful in the first days it started a really nice friendship and it gave me the opportunity to meet more Viennese people.

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: This is all made really clear in the welcome days

2.5 Facilities of the university

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

Answer: There are several mensa opportunities to have lunch. All the universities of Vienna together offer sportcourses for affordable prices.

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: In general the culture is very similar to Dutch/Western-European culture and I don't think Dutch people will experience big troubles with this.

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: - (There are super good lists on the internet with all the highlights, as it is a very popular destination.)

3.3 Insider info

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

Answer: -

3.4 General info

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

Answer: The standard big clubs are very expensive so you might not want to go there every week. There are a lot of events throughout the year that give free entrance to some of them on certain evenings or before a certain time, so keep track of that using facebook. One of my favorite free clubs was Rockcafé Chelsea (at U6 Josefstädter strasse).

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: The housing is more expensive than in Wageningen but still affordable (no Amsterdam prices). Rooms can be found using OEAD or via various facebookgroups. I would advice to find a room for subrent, because then you will have a room with everything included. Many of the OEAD rooms don't have sheets, pillow or even kitchen supplies included and it will cost you a lot of money if you have to buy those seperately.

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: The living is a bit more expensive compared to Wageningen, but for such a big city quite reasonable. In the end I just needed my Erasmus grant to compensate for the extra money I was spending there.

4.3 Accessibility from the Netherlands

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

Answer:

4.4 Extra costs to reach destination

Extra costs to reach destination		X	
Should a visa be requested?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no X	[eventual costs visa]
Should a residence permit be requested?	yes X	no <input 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: Public transport in Vienna is amazing! You can buy a semesterticket if you have registered yourself as a Viennese citizen and use all of it unlimited, during the welcome days at the BOKU it is very well explained how this works.

4.6 General Tips

General tips and tricks for travelling and living.

Answer:

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	Leonie Braks	

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.wur.nl/exchange