



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)	[Satoka Tamaki]	
Field of study in Wageningen	Msc - International Land and Water Management	
Form of study exchange	Minor - Msc	
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	2/4/2018 until 31/8/2018	
Country (exchange)	Germany	
City (exchange)	Munster	
University (exchange)	[University where you studied]	
Faculty (exchange)	[Faculty where you studied]	
How did you get information on studying abroad?	Websites	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contact person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exchange programme	
	Study advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other students	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Differently	[Insert answer]

1.2 Motivation for exchange

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

Answer:

My hometown Hokkaido was used to be covered with a large area of peatlands. In the late 19th century, the Meiji government decided to exploit Hokkaido land for agriculture use to meet the demand for food. Foreign experts introduced the subsurface drainage system. The peatlands were drained, and the soil was brought to improve the soil quality. The stronger species were invented to meet the cold climate condition. Within 120 years, Hokkaido became the food storage of Japan with the self-sufficiency rate of 200 %. I got to know this fact when I was a bachelor student, and I am fascinated with knowing the peatlands exploitation history in Hokkaido where I grew up. Since then, I have been interested in the peat history and its functions.

For my internship, I wanted to do something about peatlands. Therefore, I contacted IPS national committee in the Netherlands to ask for the internship opportunity. Then, Mr. Guus and Mr. Bernd gave me the chance to have an interview and introduced me to the overview of the IPS projects. The project sounded quite tricky because I had only known the peat used for agriculture and its

conservation aspects, but not about the peat extraction and peat utilization for fuel and horticulture. However, I wanted to challenge myself to advance my knowledge of peat. Therefore, I decided to take this opportunity to do the internship in Munster, Germany.

2. University and studying

2.1 Academic structure

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

Answer:

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					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

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:

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:

2.5 Facilities of the university

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

Answer: The office is located in Altenberge. In total, 16 people work for urban planning, vegetation research, windmill construction and management, peat extraction and rewetting scheme, and so on. People here are quite friendly and gave me comfortable space always. I really like here.

The working space was provided. The small garden with various plants and flowers is lovely to refresh between works. The Sphagnum moss is also grown in front of the office for some projects.

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: I felt in the beginning that people in Germany is less friendly than Dutch people. However, now I know it is just a characteristics of Germans and I got many new friends in here the end of the internship. It is a must to speak German to be able to live comfortably unlike the Netherlands. I met many people don't speak English. I tried to learn greetings and useful sentences and it helped a lot to communicate with locals. It is said that the people in Munster is richer than people in other cities, I felt the atmosphere is quite peaceful and safe most of the time. Munster is once chosen as the best city to live in Germany. I could enjoy cycling like the Netherlands. The food at the supermarket is slightly cheaper than that of the Netherlands.

This year was football world cup year, generally speaking, German start the conversation about football.

Munster is popular studying destination in the field of medicine and music. I could meet musicians and medical students.

I heard that it is rude to do cheers with an empty glass.

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: I went to Aasee which is a lake in the city center. There is enough place for picnic and relax. The dom and old city house are must see buildings. The Munster card for tourist is available, with it you can enjoy sightseeing for one day or two days in Munster. I liked the nature reserves in North Munster where you can see birds and ponds in the green area. Osnaburg is the neighbour city only 20 min by train. It is smaller city but cozy. I went to Bremen by bike and train. Most of the places in Germany is accessible by Deutsch Bahn and other transportation

method. It is recommended to book long distance train ticket as soon as you plan your trip. The price is changing and becoming high and also depending on which train to take. In Munster, bike is the best way to move around. Unless you are a registered student in Germany, transportation fee can be costly.

3.3 Insider info

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

Answer: Hafen is the area in the eastern part of Munster. There you can see the harbour and restaurants and bars to enjoy chilling. The supermarket opens until the late evening.

3.4 General info

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

Answer: The parks are everywhere in the city. I enjoyed the barbeque, doing yoga, and running. I also cooked and baked a lot. The rabbits and birds are also seen. I liked the ice cream shop called Milano in Gievenbeck and Kebab restaurant in the city center. Vapiano is popular Italian restaurant with affordable price. During world cup season, I could see monitors everywhere for public viewing. There is a canal for swimming. This summer was quite hot, swimming is popular among people.

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: I searched for the room on WG.de which is the popular platform to find the temporal room in Germany. I sent several requests with self-introduction through the website and I got the reply from one of them. After having an interview I was selected as a new housemate. I lived with two German guys, they were very supportive during my stay in Germany and involved me in various activities with neighbours.

Some house requires you to visit them for the interview but I only could do interview via Skype. It is always better to search in advance so to get the place to stay!

My room rent was 200 euros including everything. The house is very clean with a regular cleaning assignment. I got a private room and kitchen, bathroom, and living room are shared. I mostly spent money for grocery and bike stuffs.

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: In general, the living cost sounds higher in Munster than in Wageningen. However, cooking by yourself and cycling can help you to save money. Also, less drinking beer helps as well.

4.3 Accessibility from the Netherlands

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

Answer: I always used train to come to Germany. The ticket is around 20 euros per way, the traveling time is 3 hours from Munster hbf to Ede-Wageningen. Driving can be faster. I tried to book immediately when I set the schedule.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>	100 euros

3.5 Transport

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

Answer: Better to buy ticket in advance on the website for the train and long distance bus travel. The local bus ticket can be bought in the bus but if machine is nearby, it is cheaper to buy on machine. If you have a friend who is a student registered in Germany, you can travel with him or her together for free.

4.6 General Tips

General tips and tricks for travelling and living.

Answer: Dusseldorf airport is one of the largest international airport in Germany. I went to other country from Dusseldorf some time. I also could ask housemate for driving. There are many event held in the city center. I enjoyed Send and Music festival in April, July and August. Cycling road is well paved everywhere. I could also bring the bike in the train (need bike ticket) which I liked a lot.

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	[Satoka Tamaki]	

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