



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Biosystems Engineering
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	24-09-2021 until 04-02-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Austria
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Vienna
<b>University (exchange)</b>	BOKU
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Livestock Sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I've always wanted to study abroad for half a year. Gain new experiences, get to know new cultures and meet new people. I also wanted to know what it would be like to study at another university.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

Ever since I was a kid, I've been vacationing in this beautiful country, and it's not too far from home. So you can go home whenever you want. The university offered interesting courses on animal husbandry that I would like to take. I also wanted to improve my German language skills.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

The train is quite comfortable and you don't have to transfer too often, book in advance so you don't pay full price. However, you can also fly very cheaply by plane from Dortmund or Eindhoven, for example. Vienna airport is close to the city. But by train you get off in the city centre ofcourse.

## 4. University and studying

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
<b>1</b>	Advanced methods in remote sensing: Machine learning and cloud computing	3	Computer practicals with good explanation about different machine learning topics	5	It is a very new course, but the teacher is great and you obtain a sufficient but clear overview about the different topics
<b>2</b>	Animal farming in organic agriculture	4	Only lectures about the topic	3	Lectures were to the point
<b>3</b>	Crop production systems in organic agriculture	3	Lectures and computer exercises about calculating balances for crop production	4	Interesting course where you really learn to calculate the balances with a nice computer programme
<b>4</b>	Post-harvest technology	2	Lectures	4	Nice course where all different techniques are discussed and you do some calculations
<b>5</b>	Technology in Organic Agriculture	3	Lectures and group work	2	Course was not well organised, but topics were interesting
<b>6</b>					

**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

It is difficult to answer this question in a good way, because corona had a major influence on the form of education. Field trips were cancelled, and teaching shifted to completely online throughout the semester. Teachers sometimes didn't know how to deal with this, and the organization of certain subjects was downright bad. In any case, not what you are used to in the Netherlands. No doubt it would be better without corona. The exams were manageable, the academic level was a bit lower I think and the workload was not evenly distributed over the semester. In the beginning you can do little, while at the end everything comes together and you run out of time.

**What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

Depending on the subject, most lecturers were easily approachable, and the groups were often not too large. What I sometimes found difficult was that a lot is still in German. In any case, there is not as good/much English as in Wageningen.

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

Many facilities were closed due to corona, but the introduction week is very nice, there are plenty of canteens and there is always something fun to do.

## **5.Housing-travelling-living**

**What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

I myself was in Base19, and I registered via their own website, so not via Oead, which is cheaper. Base19 has an ideal location for the university and the city, and the rooms are good.

**What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

In terms of culture, Austria does not differ much from the Netherlands, there are only minor differences. Vienna is a very international city with many different cultures, but also the typically Austrian aspect. Of course you can eat Wiener Schnitzel and Kaiserschmarren everywhere, and the city is very beautiful!

**Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

I would say the costs for living are approximately the same as in Wageningen.

**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 great. The metros run very often and also buses and trams take you everywhere comfortably and quickly. Everything is very clean and you only pay €75 for a whole semester.

## 6. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

I myself have regularly been to the mountains. It only takes 1,5 to 3 hours by car, and it is really beautiful. In the fall we regularly did beautiful hikes, and in the winter we went skiing. In addition, I definitely recommend visiting Budapest, and the much smaller Bratislava is also only an hour away by train. Furthermore, you will undoubtedly experience how beautiful the city is!

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

Then I would say the mountains near Vienna. Get to know people with a car and take advantage of it 😊

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

The Prater amusement park is impressive to see, and you can eat well in the area. And the Schnitzelsemmel from a wüerstelstand after a night out are really the best.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

The most challenging was the situation with corona. This made it difficult to stay motivated to attend school. I also cannot recommend getting a vaccination in Austria because of the large amount of administration it entails. But corona certainly didn't make the semester less fun!

**What was your best memory abroad?**

A weekend of skiing with German friends at the end of the semester. We had to deal with a snow storm and roadblocks, but in the end we did some great skiing!

## 8. Contact details (optional)

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