



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Climate Studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2021 until 01/03/2022
Country (exchange)	Austria, Vienna
City (exchange)	
University (exchange)	Boku, Environmental Sciences - Soil, Water and Biodiversity (EnvEuro)
Faculty (exchange)	

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I have always wanted to get more international experience especially in my field where I focus on climate change it felt weird that I only truly knew the Dutch experience and perspective. This is why I wanted to also learn about it from a different countries perspective.

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

Austria has a lot of expertise surrounding sustainability, and furthermore their location in the middle of Europe also made it really easy to travel to other places and explore there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I have always taken the nightjet from Amsterdam to Vienna which was really easy and convenient. My advice is to book this as early as you can since then the tickets can be quite cheap but if you wait too long they get more expensive.

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
1	Climate change and regional impact	3	Here we focussed on the latest IPCC report and the implications of that	3	The last exam of this course was quite late which made it complicated when leaving Austria
2	Innovations for Sustainable Forest Management	4	Learned about how to forest innovation and how to apply it to the forest sector	2	The idea and the contents of this course could be very interesting. Sadly, how it was given it became quite boring quite fast and remained superficial.
3	Interdisciplinary seminar on agriculture, climate change and transition	3	We chose a country and had to develop an extensive presentation about the country and how it contributed, was affected and was dealing with climate change	5	I really like this course, it gave you the ability to really go in depth and learn a lot about 1 country in specific. It is a lot of self study, which I don't mind but might be good to take into consideration
4	Introduction in Natural resources management and ecological engineering	3	Deals with fundamental ecological concepts	3	For me this course was too easy and it dealt with concepts that I already know. But it can be valuable if you have not taken any ecology/sustainability courses.
5	Risk management and vulnerability assessment	3	You learn more about risk management and vulnerabilities. Then you have to write a paper + presentation about 1 country and conduct a risk management assessment	5	By far my favourite course that I have taken. And it helped me understand the different dimensions of risk management better
6	Sustainable Spatial Development	5	It teaches about how spatial planning in a city can be done sustainably.	5	Very interesting and spatial planning was quite new to me.

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

This really depends per course, but in general I felt like the work load and academic level were a bit lower than what I was used to.

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?)

This is difficult for me to answer since most of my classes (unfortunately) were done online.

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

I am actually not sure about these facilities, so I would assume they are not that abundant.

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?)

You have to organise your own housing, but this is doable in Vienna just make sure you do it on time.

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

It took me way too long to realize that in Austria they don't have a lot of what we know as traditional bars, but instead it is completely normal to just have a couple of beers at restaurants.

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

I paid around 500 a month for rent. But there are cheaper places in Vienna. Groceries surprised me and were quite a bit more expensive than I expected especially fruits and vegetables. Public transport is quite cheap however in Vienna.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

I mostly used my bike that did not have any gears which is doable but in certain areas can become quite intensive. You can also get a subscription for the public transport for roughly 75 euros I think.

6. Free time

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

Schönbrunn & Belvedere are both amazing places to visit. Also near Belvedere is the museum of national history which I definitively recommend visiting.

Danube-Auen National Park, is an amazing place to walk and hike

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

"The chapel" It's a secret bar next to a restaurant and probably my favourite bar I have been to in my life. The entire atmosphere is amazing and it has some of the best cocktails that I have had.

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

When going out make sure you bring cash, they don't always accept pin.

The district Josephstad has some really good restaurants that are not too expensive.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The planning of courses for BOKU.

What was your best memory abroad?

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Jorian.van.oostrum@gmail.com	