

## ERASMUS-EXPERIENCE REPORT

**Name:** Anonymous

**Field of study:** NARMEE

**Host University:** CZU

**Year of study:** 2023

**Duration of stay:** from FEBRUARY to JUNE

### Publication of the report

I consent to the publication of this experience report including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, duration of stay) on the website of BOKU-International Relations for the purpose of sharing information related to the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can inform themselves about your experience at the host institution.

☒yes ☐no

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time without giving reasons with immediate future effect. Any withdrawal can be declared at any time by e-mail to [erasmus@boku.ac.at](mailto:erasmus@boku.ac.at).

**THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS WOULD BE INTERESTING FOR FUTURE OUTGOINGS:**

1. City, country and people + social integration
2. Accommodation
3. Costs and expenses
4. Arrival and departure (mean of transport)
5. Other (visa, insurance, etc.)
6. Description of host university
7. Application and enrollment formalities and orientation phase
8. Course offer and attended courses (short description and possibly grading)
9. "Study workload" (ECTS) per semester + grading
10. Academic counseling/support
11. Tips and summary

1. ESN CZU is quite active, social integration with other international students is super easy. It is harder to make friends with locals, especially those you don't study with.
2. More expensive than Vienna, very high demand, lots of scams to beware. Look on FB Marketplace, most of my friends found a place there and so did I.
3. Going out to eat and drink is much cheaper than Vienna, as is public transport if you're under 26, tickets to museums are quite normal etc. Not much difference in grocery prices, maybe Vienna is a bit cheaper in that aspect.
4. Arrival via train, departure via bus, Prague-Vienna has an amazing train connection, 4.5 hours ride with no transfers, lots of departures and arrivals daily.
5. European Health Insurance Card. Expect to pay good money for a doctor cause finding an English-speaking practice is hard, Uni provides zero support with finding you a doctor if you need one, their GP's are overwhelmed and not even locals look forward to visiting their doctor. All in all, don't get sick.
6. CZU is a nice place, with a lovely campus, big restaurant, many cafes, lots of greenery. Way more welcoming than BOKU, with whom it has no communication whatsoever. Do not expect people on either side to know what's going on in case you are a NARMEE student. Expect to have a list of courses which end up not being offered, cancelled years ago or their head professors having no idea what course you are talking about. Again, support is uninformed even if it is there for you.
7. If you can, go through CEEPUS as they had a longer deadline and got double the scholarship and they actually got it in CZK, not euros. They have a better support system.
8. I took Waste Geochemistry as a free elective, even though I was going there for my specialization...that was also the only course related to my field. I took Wetlands Conservation, even though I didn't want to go into the direction of conservation. The professor was super nice and tried very hard, the exam was not too hard and overall it was a pleasurable class to be in. I took Landscaping and Spatial Planning because they were the only ones fitting my schedule and ECTS count, they also turned out to be great, but of zero importance to me. Spatial planning required a lot of work, it probably took out most of my time out of all the courses. Professor is a native English speaker and knows how to entertain a crowd and you might get out of your normal studying field if you go there but you might enjoy it. I look at cities differently now. Landscaping requires



a lot of drawing, sketching, knowing plant species and their Latin names, so it was a pretty good fit for me considering my background. I really liked it and reconnected with my love for drawing. The last course was Forest Protection, where I learned I know nothing about forests. The professor was kind, helpful, easy-going and passionate about forests. He tried to teach us something without making our lives miserable. He made the classes very interactive, with everyone participating and guessing and answering questions. I know my friend would say it was a very basic course for her, as she has some previous knowledge and could probably have taught this course, but for me it was all new information.

9. As everywhere I studied before, ECTS count does not equal workload. There are courses that require way less effort to pass compared to the others. Grading is fair and similar to Austria.
10. None
11. Participate in ESN events to meet your new friends for the semester. Save up some money beforehand. Be ready to study a completely new field and broaden your horizons. Study and have fun.