

## ERASMUS-ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT

**Name: Anonym**

**Studienrichtung: Agrar- und Ernährungswirtschaft**

**Gastuniversität: Mendel University in Brno**

**Studienjahr: WS 2023/2024**

**Aufenthaltsdauer: von 09/23 bis 01/24**

### **Veröffentlichung des Berichts**

Ich willige ein, dass der vorliegende Erfahrungsbericht inklusive der oben angegebenen Daten (Studienrichtung, Gastuniversität, Studienjahr, Aufenthaltsdauer) auf der Website von BOKU-International Relations zum Zwecke des Informationsaustausches in Bezug auf den Studienaufenthalt veröffentlicht, sodass sich künftige interessierte Outgoings über Ihre Erfahrungen an der Gastinstitution informieren können.

ja  nein

Die Einwilligung ist freiwillig und kann jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen mit Wirkung für die Zukunft widerrufen werden. Ein etwaiger Widerruf kann jederzeit per E-Mail an [erasmus@boku.ac.at](mailto:erasmus@boku.ac.at) erklärt werden.

**FOLGENDE PUNKTE WÄREN FÜR SPÄTERE OUTGOINGS SPANNEND:**

1. Stadt, Land und Leute + soziale Integration
2. Unterkunft
3. Kosten
4. An- und Abreise (Verkehrsmittel)
5. Sonstiges (Visum, Versicherung, etc.)
6. Beschreibung der Gastuniversität
7. Anmelde- und Einschreibformalitäten sowie Orientierungsphase
8. Kursangebot und besuchte Kurse (kurze Beschreibung und evtl. Bewertung)
9. „Study workload“ (ECTS) pro Semester + Benotung
10. Akademische Beratung/Betreuung
11. Tipps & Resümee

1. I spent my Erasmus semester in the city of Brno in the Czech Republic. The city is the second largest city in the country, although it is very small and very cosy. The city offers many opportunities to do things and also to go out into nature when the weather is nice. I got to know and love it as a very cosy area.
2. Finding accommodation was much more complicated than I thought. The university provides student rooms in student residences, which are available through the university. As I decided that I didn't like sharing a bedroom with another person (which is common in student rooms, as an Erasmus student it wasn't possible to rent a single room), I looked around on private adverts. In the end I found what I was looking for and was able to live in a nice shared flat, but it took a very intensive search and lots of messages. I used facebook and the university's suggested websites as search platforms. Mendelu University also has an online "notice board" that you can look at.
3. Food and everyday items are a little cheaper compared to Austria. However, prices have risen a lot, especially in the last year, which is why the differences are no longer as high as they used to be. If you live in a student dorm room, the rent is significantly cheaper than in Vienna. In private accommodation, the rent is usually comparable to a room in a shared flat in Austria.
4. I travelled to and from the city by train. I can particularly recommend the Regiojet company for trains in this direction. It's cheap and very comfortable. Otherwise, you can also book a connection on the Czech Railways website (České dráhy).
5. In Brno, people who live there are required to pay a waste tax. This can be paid very easily online via the website (<https://www.brnoid.cz/en/waste>). You can enter the relevant period that you are in the city directly online and the amount is then calculated based on this.
6. Mendelu University has a very beautiful campus and the university's botanical garden in particular is a wonderful place. There is a canteen very centrally located (unfortunately the vegetarian options are not so extensive, but if you also eat



meat, you will be well catered for). Each institute has its own building, which gives you a good overview quite quickly. The distribution of the institutes into their own rooms also helps you to find the course rooms. After a few visits, you know where to go. Behind the Institute of Agricultural Sciences there is a very good coffee in a nice café run by students. Some of the university buildings are very old and stylish. The newer ones, on the other hand, are very modern. I usually walked to the university myself as I really liked the route. However, there are also good connections thanks to a bus stop in front of the campus. It is possible to do university sports at another location of the university.

7. The registration at the university was very good from the moment you arrived. The first few days were very well structured and the orientation week in particular helped you to find your bearings, ask lots of questions if necessary and get to know other students. Overall, I found the costs of the orientation week per person very high. I paid over €100 in advance to take part in the programme. Although there were also excursions and I wouldn't have wanted to miss out on taking part, the costs were still too high for me personally.

8. I attended a total of 5 courses. Four of these courses were planned and chosen by me in advance. I also decided to take a language course in Czech on site, which was offered by the university for us Erasmus students. I attended the following courses:

Agrotourism: An exciting subject with interesting content. I particularly enjoyed the excursions!

Environmental Ethics: The module went above and beyond what I have done so far in my studies. That's why I really enjoyed taking part in it. The exam was a very pleasant oral exam in the professor's office.

Landscape Ecology: This subject was offered by the same professor as the Environmental Ethics module and had a similar structure. I liked it a lot and by working on a seminar paper, I was able to engage very intensively with the content.

Organic Agriculture: Unfortunately, this subject was less promising. I had imagined more focus in terms of content beforehand. Unfortunately, I was a little disappointed with the organisation (the communication and planning of excursions and lecture times didn't go well at all). I didn't learn anything new in terms of content either, and language barriers on the part of the professors made it much more difficult to convey the knowledge.

Czech Language for Foreign: This course was fun and especially helped with the first language problems when shopping or ordering coffee. As more people don't speak English than I had previously assumed, I was keen to be able to say at least the simple things in Czech. I was able to do this by taking part in the course.

Each student is also entitled to two free sports courses per semester. That was a great offer and I really enjoyed doing it. The courses are really great and there's a large selection to choose from, which you can register for online.

9. The workload of the courses was limited. A lot of lectures were required at the beginning of the semester, which took some hard work. Later on, however, it



became less and we were able to organise the semester tasks ourselves. I found the grading to be very fair. The only grade that was not explained to me, as there was never a breakdown of the grade composition (even when asked), was the grade for the subject "Organic Agriculture". It was unclear to us students throughout the entire semester which of the tasks (2 lectures, seminar paper, participation in the lecture and participation in the excursions as well as a short oral examination) were graded and how. In the end, the grade was based solely on the oral exam, which made the rest of the work a bit worthless. I thought that was a great pity.

10. On the part of the university, we international students had the opportunity to write emails to a member of staff at any time or go to her in person during office hours. This was great and the employee had an answer to everything or was able to help us by knowing someone who would have an answer. ☺
11. Overall, I am glad to have done the Erasmus semester. It was a great way to round off my time at university, which is slowly coming to an end. I think that an Erasmus semester during the bachelor's programme is better, as most of the other students were also studying during the bachelor's programme. I really enjoyed spending a few months in the Czech Republic, especially the nature and the many opportunities to go hiking!