

**ERASMUS Semester abroad**  
**University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU),**  
**Vienna**

**Experience Report 2018/2019 WS**

**Study Programme: ERM**

**Preparation Phase**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) is a very nice university and the people in the International office are very helpful and efficient, especially Ms. Ulrike Piringer who could provide you all information you are needed. BOKU has a very organized mobility platform and you only need to upload and download all document on the mobility online. The university website is very easy to access for finding all course information in detail. Overall, the application and organization were very smooth in BOKU. They are very systematic and wrote everything in detail. It's very difficult for you to have troubles in BOKU.



**Accommodation in the host country**

I did not very easy to find accommodation, because I was not in the right time to find it. All of the accommodations where near university were full. At the end, I found my room which is one hour from the university, and this was the only choice for me at that time. However, I love it which is the brand new district in Vienna. All buildings just finished to build. To avoid the difficulties to find the accommodation, keep in mind that the end of the university time in Vienna is in the end of January for the winter semester and the in the end of June for summer semester which many students move out in these periods, too.

Generally, living in Vienna is more expensive than in Germany, especially in accommodation. I paid more than 400 Euro a month for a shared room apartment.

### Study at the host university

I really love BOKU, also that's why I will stay here for another semester. As an ERM students, it's an advantage for us to choose courses in different institutions (because they did not call factuality). Once you qualify to study the course, then it would be relevant to our programme. They have different types of lectures, for example, lecture, tutorial, exercises and so on. I could choose based on my preferences. Since I got experience in Geography information system (GIS) in my 4<sup>th</sup> semester in BTU, I want to know more about it and drill in-depth on it. I chose a lot of courses about GIS in different institutions



which could help me to understand this topic in different point of views. The university is big and mainly focus in natural science and life science. BOKU has many computer labs for you to use which installed paid software you had to use for the projects or assignments.

I participated in a course called Negotiation change: simulating an international conference for sustainable development. It's an interesting course to discuss climate change and climate migration. At the end of the course, we had a two-day conference which be held in the UN in Vienna. Every student to be one of the delegate to represent their chosen countries.



I have to say that teachers from BOKU are not only nice and passionate in teaching, but also very flexible. I took some of courses which conducted in German. When I did not understand some of the points, they can explain to you in English perfectly in detail. If you have any problem of the exam time, they could arrange for you easily.

In the same time, study life in Vienna is not easy if you want to fulfill 30 ETC for ERM semester abroad credits. Many courses are in 3 ECTs or 2 ETC, even 1 ETCs. I took 11 courses in my past semester. I could say, I did not have any leisure time in the whole semester, including weekends. Some of courses only need to submits assignments and no exams at the end. Those are big assignments, and you could learn a lot from its. Seems I exaggerated the study life in BOKU. Don't under estimate it. It is true and it's worthy actually. If you want to find out your direction in environmental study in the future, BOKU definitely is your choice. I believe, you would find out so many interesting courses you want to study and just feel pity you only could stay here for one semester.