

Study program: Eur-Organics

Home university: Hohenheim University, Stuttgart Germany

Host University: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria

Mobility period: September 2016 – September 2017

Free Experience Report

My year in Vienna was a beautiful and exciting experience. Both the city and the University had much to offer. Compared to the courses in Germany, the Austrian study system works with smaller, yet more compact modules, meaning one can take more courses, but with fewer credits. I especially enjoyed the small class sizes and open discussions. The Professors were happy to engage the students and incorporate them into their teaching.

The organization was somewhat tedious (lot's of paperwork) but I always received immediate help and feedback from my course coordinators and the study services. The collecting of signatures and stamps is somewhat annoying, but the people dealing with the beaurocracy were knowlegable and helpful.

The course highlights for me included the various field excursions one could sign up for. It is a fun way to gain knowledge, collect credits and socialize with the other students. Also, there was a pretty big freedom of course choices, which I greatly appreciated.

Living in Vienna itself was comfortable and safe. I lived in a shared flat arrangement and often used the bike to get to University and around the city. The BOKU has many

extracurricular activities on offer, be it clubs, the university sports courses or, specifically for the Erasmus students, the international meetings at a café.

Finding a mastersthesis topic was not hard. Either one can choose an own topic, or the faculty websites have posted topics. My supervisor was quick to respond to questions and gave very helpful feedback. It is advised to sign up for an introductory statistics course, if one is a little shaky in that department.

All in all, my year at the BOKU was intense, highly enjoyable and can be recommended to those who appreciate the freedom of choosing their own course combinations.