

Geography Erasmus in Vienna Austria – Leendert Plaetinck 1st semester 2014-2015

University of Vienna

The university is much bigger and older than the VUB. There is a huge group of exchange students and lots of extracurricular activities to choose from. All is more spread out into the (beautiful) city on different campuses but the public transportation is great.

Also with the greater chooses of courses which means more possibility to specialize.

Course 1: introduction to environmental biology

This was really interesting, I am a geographer but very interested as well in environmental sciences. The course was a bit hard, but it came with an interesting excursion to the Neusiedlersee.

Introduction to environmental science

This was my other course with more environmental topics. Every week was a different guest lecture which I really liked. It gives you a broad overview of what environmental science is about.

What is less interesting about this course is that it really focused on the university of Vienna. It is actually an introductory course where every professor of the department tells about his research. This course is mainly interesting for people actually participating in the full environmental science master program since it prepares them for it. Also a lot of background information is given in other classes which I did not sign up for, making it sometimes difficult.

Magmatische Prozesse und Krustenbildung

This course was similar to normal VUB-lectures. But a nice look onto volcanology .

Meteorologische Instrumente - Instrumentenkunde

This was one of the courses I liked the most. I was a bit disappointed that we did not actually use that many instruments but we did see a lot and had an excursion to the weather institute.

Also very interesting is that it was a “bloc-course” that means there were only 4 weeks of lectures and an exam the fifth week. This released some pressure of the many exams I had on a short period of time in January.

Bachelorseminar aus Physischer Geographie: Ausgewählte Themen zur Geoökologie - Ökosystemökologie (auch für Lehramtsstudierende)

this was writing a paper and presenting. All was self-study but it was nice to have this. I learned a lot and I liked having one courses like this.

Feld- und Labormethoden in der Physiogeographie

The actual field and lab work was limited but interesting.

Ökosystem-Ökologie und Biogeochemie

Very interesting subject, going over many diverse subjects.

