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University of Hradec Králové  
Philosophical Faculty



MAURICIO



## My Erasmus experience in UHK

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Before talking about my Erasmus experience it is necessary to talk about my expectations before my arrival to Hradec Králové, because I consider it important to compare my expectations and the reality to understand my Erasmus experience. Everything started when my home University in Bolivia "Universidad Mayor de San Simón" (San Simón University) published the call to do one semester of social studies in the Czech Republic, then I told myself "I have nothing to lose" and effectively I had everything to gain in applying. I applied to the scholarship and then I got it. To be honest I didn't know so much about the Czech Republic or about the Erasmus program but I considered the possibility to study abroad as the best opportunity to learn different things, observe and understand new cultures, different people and improve my English.



After one semester here I can say that I will choose the Czech Republic every time, the experience is simply unique and in the next points I am going to explain why.

### About the Country

As I said I didn't know so much about the Czech Republic, I only knew about its past as Czechoslovakia, its communist past, its geography location and of course that they have the most famous beer but the beer deserves its own subtitle. Now I know better about the brief history of the country and about the long history of the Czechs. Normally in Bolivia we learn about Latin America history and Mundial history (Mainly about the western





European countries) but almost nothing about the Central European countries, this experience allowed me to learn a different version of the history and another perspective that I consider so important in my way to be a political scientist. Learning about new societies and new cultures was exciting and completely different from all the history that I knew, from this experience, I will definitely continue on my way to learn about the CEE countries.

### About the Czech beer



I have to confess that in Bolivia I was not a big fan of beers, I didn't like the taste, everything changed when I found the Czech beer. It is impossible to talk about the Czech Republic without talk about the beer, and when you try it, you understand why.

The beer is the perfect element in every event in the Czech Republic, in that jokey games, meetings with friends, political and social discussions, etc. And also we have to add that the beer is cheaper than water in the Czech Republic, so is the perfect partner for all students.

### About the Czech people

Maybe the main stereotype about the people in this region, is that the people here are always serious and they are always in a bad mood. After almost five months living here, I can say "well it depends" on people's my opinion, haha, the Czech people have serious face most times. However it doesn't mean that they are angry, a serious face is normal for them, it was strange in the beginning because in Latin America the smile of someone is a symbol of normality.





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It's necessary to understand that the people in the Czech Republic are accustomed to see serious faces and a tranquil environment. So in Latin America we were accustomed to the opposite things. So this explains the reason about the the Czech facial expression and it expresses anger to foreigners; but when you talk with Czechs you will notice that Czechs are relaxed and friendly. I made good friends here and all my relations with Czechs was good. I have nothing but the best to say about them.

### **About Hradec Králové University**



The University here is not so different from other universities in general. However, the vibes here are special. Since the beginning of my study, the University helped me to make new Czech friends, to improve my skills, to learn more about the city. That is the only difference from my perspective. "the support of the University" but it

is a good one, because that support allowed me to be part of the Czech society and learn about it during all my Erasmus.

### **About Palachova**

If I would have to choose just one word to describe Palachova I would choose "home". Palachova became my home during my Erasmus, after all the trips, all the parties and some classes, Palachova was my place to come back. Life there is an adventure, shared apartment is one of the best experience. I got to know and witness new cultures, I tried new dishes and I made my best friends.



### **About the international students**



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If the word to describe palachova is "home", the word to describe the other Erasmus students is "family". I knew a lot of new people with different culture, different language, different thinking, etc. And they taught me a lot of important lessons for my professional and common life. Maybe my Erasmus experience wouldn't be the same without them. Now the countries around the world has faces and I could say that I have a friend in most of the countries around the world now.



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Bolivia