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Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta



NATHANIEL



***THE JOURNEY FROM GHANA TO CZECH
REPUBLIC.***

***University of Ghana-University of Hradec
Kralove.***

Story by Nathaniel Nyarko-Debrah.

Dated... 29th January, 20128 @ Hradec Kralove.

University of Ghana



After all preparations, it was time to fly over the aerial territories of Ghana and many other countries to reach the land of Beer(Czechia). Geographically located in the heart of Europe with many Castles and also known for its Beer production. I was very eager to explore and experience a new environment, culture and education system.

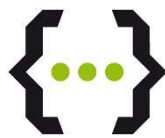
On the 8th of September, the journey began when I left Kotoka International Airport for Praha Airport. I arrived in Praha on Saturday 9th September 2017 where my other colleague and I was picked up by our buddy(Jana) at the airport.

By 4:00 pm in the afternoon, we had already arrived at the hall of residence (Palachova). Our buddy took us to the reception for us to do all the necessary registrations at the dormitory. After some few minutes of registration, I was given the key to my apartment and room. Our buddy then took us to Futurum to change our Euros into Crowns and also buy some stuffs for ourselves. The first interesting thing which I found strange is for me to buy a polythene bag for myself after buying things from the shop as this is not the practice in the country.





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The next night, most of the International students converged at the popular Matys Bar. It was an interesting time for me as I got to meet a lot of people from different parts of the world.

One main thing I observed on my way from Praha to Hradec Kralove is the beautiful landscape. There are a lot of green grasses, trees and also well thought out plans giving the country a well spatially organized geography. On the 15th of September, the buddy booked for an appointment for me to open my bank account in order to receive my scholarship from the university. Three days afterwards, there was a party organized for all the International students and I was present too. It was a great event especially the moment I found awkward was when we all formed two circles facing each other. Then the music plays and when it stops, each person talks to the one in front of you, hahaha. It was full of fun.

On the 19th of the same month, we had our academic registration then Czech presentation and another party. My life was beginning to experience “party blood” in it. Every single day in the dormitory, students attended parties and pubs. I was often indoors as I am not really a “party animal”. Whilst planning my stay in Hradec, I was also looking for some part-time job opportunities which I actually got through one Emeka, a Nigerian who is a student at the University and the same faculty.

On the 25th of September, I had my first lecture and three days before I had attended a Conference in the main school. It was very educative but surprisingly I met very few international students. Lectures continued and I had quite a number of presentations which is not common in my home University and therefore saw it as a good opportunity to improve my public speaking skills and confidence. I also enjoyed the teaching style and also the fact that the lecturers give the students the necessary reading materials and sites to get them. The small size of the classrooms is





something I really admired too. I also had the chance to teach some of my culture during many programs organized by the Faculty and also during the country presentation which was very useful to many students.

In the month of November, I started to tour other parts of Europe together with some of friends. We visited Vienna and Bratislava in November. During our tour to these countries, I made some observations in the transportation and infrastructure of these countries and Czechia. The architectural works is almost the same especially in Bratislava as we (I and my friends) at a point were thinking we were still in Hradec Kralove. We continued our trips after the Christmas break in December and toured some Western Europe countries.

After all my trips, I started to prepare for the end of my semester exams. With regards to the exams, I really had the first-time experience of having an interactive oral exam in UHK. And also, the ability of the student to select the times favorable to him or her for the exams is something not common in my home University. The time allocated for each exam too in my opinion is very good except some courses which some students thought the time wasn't enough.



One very important thing I observed is the way the Lecturers and Staff of the University were always ready to help and assist the students making the students feel at home.

Generally, my stay in Hradec Kralove was very great as I got good friends, Lecturers and Supervisors. Also, the good infrastructural facilities both in the School, dormitory and outside the school made things very simple for me. The transportation system is also very efficient and drivers in Hradec(Czechia) are very patient and law



abiding. One funny thing I also observed is the fact that you meet people standing in the buses whilst there are empty seats. I always saw it strange.

With respect to social life, I observed that a lot of people in Hradec Kralove are friendly and welcoming even though language is the main problem in getting in touch with a lot of people.



Also, generally racism is something that is rare in Hradec Kralove as a lot of people relate with foreigners well without discriminating. Smoking in public is one thing I never liked throughout my stay in Hradec Kralove. It is common to see people smoking everywhere and for someone like me who does not smoke it was kind of worrying but I had to manage though.

The country also has a very good and stable economy, low cost of living and seeking for job is much easier to get as compared to many other countries including my country.

Hradec Kralove is a place I would recommend for anyone at any time due to the good economy, good educational system, transportation, security, sociable people, minimal racism and very good geography and not crowded with a lot of people.

My stay in Hradec Kralove (Czechia) has been wonderful even though I could not drink much of the beer because am not a fan. It's a shame to be in the Land of Beer without drinking much. I HOPE TO COME SOON,

The place to be is Hradec Kralove. (CZECHIA)

END OF STORY.