

**VERÓNICA**

**H**ello, my name is Verónica Arciénega Guzmán, I am from the city of Sucre, Bolivia San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca.

I had the opportunity this winter to study a semester at the University of Hradec Kralové extraordinary experience.



I arrived at Hradec Kralové on the 15th of September 2017. It was autumn, so the city had very beautiful scenery with colourful trees. I met other international students during the first week and the team of Buddy system who organized several activities for us starting with the Welcome party, the Czech Republic Presentation and one of my special memories was the trip to the beautiful city of Prague.

It was very easy to get used to my new city, Hradec Kralové is very organized and has all the facilities like transportation, shops, sightseeing and services. Also, Palachova Koleje the place where I lived this semester is a cozy space that has the equipment necessary for an adequate residence. Since the beginning the staff at the



reception and Mrs. Valentová at the Administration office were very friendly and helpful.

Completing the procedures at University was not so complicated because I received a lot of collaboration and guidance from the people of the International Office, they were very informative and helpful all the time. I am very grateful especially to Mrs. Kouřimová, my coordinator, who always answered all my questions and helped me with the formalities.

When I won the scholarship, I was optimistic about the quality of European education, once the classes started, it was proven beyond my expectations that the academic level during the semester at the University was excellent and has, been one of the most positive in my university career.



My classes have allowed me to improve my knowledge about European history, mainly from Central Europe in the 20th century, I analysed the history of this part of the world from different perspectives, expanding the knowledge I received at my university in Bolivia. It has been a very enriching experience at the intellectual level due to the teaching method with excellent lectures prepared by the teachers, selected updated bibliography and good debates during the seminars. I am very satisfied with the program of the subjects and with the professionalism of the teachers.

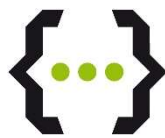


In addition to my History subjects I took the course of Czech language, one of my favourites was because of the enthusiasm of the teacher and because after a couple of weeks I was able to have a basic conversation with locals which was very useful during my trips in the Czech Republic.

In my free time I was able to do two activities that I really like, travelling and taking pictures, I visited many beautiful places in the Czech Republic like Český Krumlov, Kutná Hora, the zoo in Dvůr Králové, Brno, some nice castles, and some other countries in Europe.



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Also, during the semester the university and the Buddy System organized different activities for the students, my favourites were the country presentations because I learnt lots about the other students countries and I also had the opportunity to



talk about Bolivia and show pictures and videos promoting the tourism, “What’s with the world today”, another interesting way to talk about the political scenery of my country nowadays and the “Autumn and I” photography contest in which I obtained first place with one of my pics.



On a personal level, I believe that living alone and far from my country allowed me to know myself better, to be more tolerant and open-minded, to strengthen my capacity of resilience and adaptation. I have learned a lot about other cultures and about the different values that each one has. I think this allowed me to have a more respectful view of the “other” and believe that true inter-cultural integration is possible, without doubt the Erasmus Program is a great tool for this.

In conclusion, I just want to thank the university of Hradec Kralové for this fabulous semester, my Erasmus experience could not have been better.