



University of Hradec Králové
Philosophical Faculty



My year at the University of Hradec Králové



Being accepted at the UHK for 2 semesters changed my life in many ways. From the moment I knew I was accepted, different obstacles showed up. I was not granted any scholarship and had to do two jobs simultaneously to be able to afford traveling to the Czech Republic from Brazil and also for my living expenses there.

At the same time, I was studying at my home university, gathering all the necessary documents for the visa and selling muffins during class breaks.

(The picture by the side depicts the label: Help me study in the Czech Republic!) All the hard work paid off at the moment that the airplane landed in the Czech Republic. My first weeks in Hradec Kralove was chaotic. I was afraid of not making friends because my English language skills were not good enough and I also thought of how I would adapt in the Czech Republic and with the Czech people. The Buddy System and the International Office were very helpful in answering lots of questions, as they guided us from the academic bureaucracy, organizing events to make friendships bonds.



Being a Brazilian in Europe, my stay was a combination of 'firsts'. With the International Office, I tried skiing for the first time and found out that I am absolutely terrible at it. It was also my first time seeing snow!



Later on, I tried ice-skating in Vienna and discovered that I may not be that bad at it.

The courses at the UHK were administered by a team of various international teachers and doctoral students. I was able to learn about their country of origin and issues associated with their countries, for

example, learning from a Nigerian about rebellious groups in Africa and Nigeria is not the same as learning it from a book. At UHK, I got closer and personal to the worlds' problems and more involved with subjects taught in classes.

One year at the UHK blessed me with amazing people, lifetime friends, and a new relationship. I feel that I grew in academic, professional and as a person. The experience of living abroad changes you, makes you break your visions and adapt yourself to a different environment.

The opportunities to travel are many. With the UHK, I visited Poland for the first time. A teacher took the entire class to Warsaw, the capital, for a history class on the Warsaw uprising. That was the first time I travelled with the University, which was followed by many others in the summer.

At the end of the year, I accomplished my dream to see the Northern Lights in Sweden. I am proud to stand with the University of Hradec Kralove and have been constantly engaging with friends from my home-university, helping them to find a way to experience studying abroad, most especially at the UHK. Lastly, the first photo shown below was the picture I took when I arrived at the UHK which was dated 11.02.2018.





(My expression in the picture shows how happy I was to be at the UHK!)