



I decided to apply for this particular program because it most suited my academic, professional and personal interests. As I was finishing the first year of my master's degree, the opportunity of making part of my research abroad could not have come in a better time. For me, having the chance to study at UHK meant not only a cultural and educational personal exchange, but in a broader aspect, a chance to make an original sociological research bringing Brazil and Czech Republic closer.



It is relevant to outline the current egregious economic and political context of my country. Science in Brazil is facing what it seems to be a permanent austerity, in which investments in education are being constantly diminished and even completely frozen by the government. This scenario makes opportunities like an international mobility program even rarer, which, by consequence, makes it even more important.

The whole process of application and all the bureaucracy of moving to another country was very well handled by both UFSC and UHK International Departments, which made sure we had all information we needed through a very fast and efficient communication. Having the university dormitory available and receiving a scholarship were the two factors that definitely made this opportunity really happens. Not only the access to the university is fundamental, but also the permanency in it, which it is only possible by these kind of support.

All these previous aspects of the exchange process are utterly important, but the experience itself was even more incredible than I could predict. The courses offered by UHK were excellent, they gave me a background on Central European studies that I had not had before. One of the classes that most took me out of my comfort zone was the Central European Cultural History course. Learning about the art, architecture, music, food, social movements and many other cultural aspects of this particular region was amazing. The lecturer, Prof. Dr. Ondřej Tikovský, and the university took us to watch the Czech Philharmonic in Prague and this was an unforgettable one-of-a-kind opportunity since never before had I seen a concert in a Philharmonic Hall.



Doubtless, Erasmus+ has made a difference in my résumé and professional outcomes, still, the cultural and personal growth I have taken from this experience are immeasurable. Czech Republic is such a rich and stunning country. Whether I was drinking its famous beers (the best in the world) or eating a delicious smažený sýr, exploring Prague and its intense movement or trekking in Adršpach, I was just happy. Besides, I got to know people from more than 20 countries, sharing their cultural habits and their understanding of the world. I traveled to neighbor countries such as Hungary, Poland, Austria and Germany, a unique chance that has broadened my own reading of the world.

I'm really grateful I had the chance of being an ERASMUS+ student and to have come to an amazing country as Czech Republic. The personal and professional gains from this opportunity are countless and I can't wait to take everything I have learned to my home country and university. Thank you for so much, UHK and Erasmus+.

