



We all have dreams and a vision of where we see ourselves, but nothing prepared me of this opportunity that came my way. My name is Musumpuka Emely a fourth year student at the University of Zambia, perusing a bachelor's degree in library and information science with Political science and this is my story.



Everything was so surreal and like a dream not until I took that 15-16 hours flight and arrived in Czech Republic then it hit me that this was really happening. I was really thankful to the buddy assigned to me, Daria Zubkova, who received me from Prague airport to Hradec Kralove palachova koleje dormitories. She was kind enough to help me with the translation in the reception and also which buses to take for my daily movements from Palachova dormitory to building B.

My flat had four other roommates who were all Czech, they were kind and showed me around the flat and offered to let me use their equipments. One of them was very kind and helped me with shopping and finding the nearest store which were Albert and Billa. Though language was the main challenge thus we did not interact as much with each other but thanks to google translate that came in handy in most of my enquiries.



Because I arrived late, I missed out on the first meeting with other international students which made my first weeks horrible and lonely because I knew no one. As days went on I meet different other students from different parts of the world which was interesting and existing with each day that came by. I learnt a lot of things from them especially through events like the

country presentations, trips and other activities arranged by the ESN Buddy system.

Thanks to the international office, it was easy to find my class venues and the map helped me to find my way around Hradec Králové. My classes were okay, however I needed some time to adjust and catch up on what I missed out, though notes or readings were sent to me which made it easier. The learning and teaching style were different from what I was used to but it was a different good.

My biggest challenge was making presentations during class seminars. I remember my first presentation so well because it was a total disaster, I won't go into details but am glad I did it despite the outcome. We have to take the first step for us to learn as well as build ourselves in areas we are lacking. Presentations helped build my confidence and I can confidently say I can at least speak in front of people without losing my voice or shaking like a leaf. I enjoyed some of the classes because they were interactive, my favorite among them was ICT, with each weekly task, I looked forward for more, it pushed me to do things I thought I wouldn't do and I enjoyed every tiny bit of my research for my exam presentation, I really learnt a lot.

I also had the pleasure of taking part in some minor sport activities, taking part in the cosmopolitan project and going on a class trip to Prague to see the mayor's office or house and to tour the senate hall. More so, I took it upon myself to visit some famous place in Czech Republic before I



left. I am privileged to have learnt of the rich history and the beauty that Czech holds, there is more to explore. I am not much of a drinker but I couldn't miss out on the Czech beer and the delicious meals. My favorite meal was svičková Na Smetana and fried cheese. When it comes to dessert I think I tried out everything since I have a sweet tooth but one of the extraordinary and unique dessert I tried was the strawberry dumpling.

In a nutshell, I can boldly say my stay was awesome, I explored, made friends from different backgrounds and cultures, and I learnt and experienced the life of a student at university of Hradec Králové.

