



I arrived in Hradec Králové on a sunny and cold Friday in February. At the train station I was impressed of the difference between my native language and the Czech language, even though I managed to buy a bus ticket. When I arrived at the Palachovy Koleje I left my belongings and I was overwhelmed by a feeling of knowing that it was one of those unique moments and that something really good was starting.

As the days passed by, the time for going to the faculty came, where I was received in an excellent manner by Tomáš Hercik who took the time to show us the faculty, solve our concerns and give us all the information necessary for life in Hradec Králové. From that day on I was able to start working on my studies in the doctoral students office of the department of political science of the faculty, it is a place with all the necessary to progress in the studies and especially a place where I could meet doctoral students and faculty professors. The working environment is excellent and I really appreciated having access to it.



On the other hand, some activities appeared on the horizon that later became the



best experiences I had during my stay. In order to be brief, I am going to limit myself to describe only a few of them. The first was the ski trip on 8 March. The faculty organized a ski day for exchange students at an incredible price and provided ski clothing for those of us who did not have it. I think this is one of the days I would love to repeat.

We were accompanied by the international office staff and the Dean Pavlína Springerová of the Philosophical Faculty. Most of the students had never skied before they took the time to teach us the basics of skiing and as the hours went by we got better. I appreciate all the organization and dedication of the faculty staff because they really made the day incredible.

Another activity, which was repeated every two weeks, was called What's in the World Today. It is an informal meeting in U Stolu (a pub in the center of the city) where students from different countries meet to discuss the reality of a particular country, and where students from that country exposed their realities and then discussed them among all present. These meetings seem to me to be an extraordinary idea, the informal way allowed us to enrich each of the meetings by sharing experiences and knowing different realities. In addition, of course, to make new friends and reunions throughout the stay. It was very good because I was also able to talk about my country, discuss and get to know the image that people from other parts of the world have of Argentina. For all these reasons, I hope that What's in the World Today will continue to be held every semester.

Regarding the academic life of the faculty, my experience was very positive. I was asked to take some courses and so I did. The most difficult course for me was the course of Czech language, there I learned the basics to address other people in that language. The teacher Štěpánka Rubešová does an excellent pedagogical work and I believe that if I had the opportunity to take level 2 of the language, even with its difficulties, I would not hesitate to do so. I am convinced that in order to understand Czech culture in its full extent it is necessary to know its language and its forms, I regret that I did not have more time to develop into that knowledge.

On another hand, I was lucky to know and start a research agenda with Professor Karel Kouba, his disposition to discuss and address research topics of interest to both was a great stimulus even to get into my own doctoral studies. I wish in the future to have the opportunity to return to work at the university.

When someone comes from so far away, it is difficult to imagine what a city like Hradec Králové will be like and therefore I cannot help referring to the city. I had the opportunity to walk through many of its streets, enjoy its coffee shops, bars, and restaurants. To know its bridges, rivers and forests, to see the workers go to their jobs and use their public transport. It was wonderful to be part of the life of the city, I think I will miss the days in Hradec Králové. In closing I would like to thank the university and all of its staff for the opportunity to have this wonderful experience during the last four and a half months.

