

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

ALEJANDRA SALAZAR, SPAIN


I am very happy with my Erasmus experience in Hradec Králové. At first, I chose this destination because of the variety of courses that the UHK offered. However, I did not have any other expectations.



I arrived at Hradec Králové in September, when the weather was still nice. I was not expecting to see such a nice town, with colourful houses and green areas. When I first got to the dormitories at Palachovy Koleje I was a bit nervous and shocked since I did not know anyone except for one girl that had travelled with me. At the beginning it was a little bit difficult to settle down because we lacked many things in our apartment and the stores were already closed by 9 pm. Nevertheless, we managed to “overcome” the first night.

The next morning, a nice girl that had been in the dormitories for a while helped us to buy what we needed and to fix our things. The following days were extremely intense and fun because we got to know new people all the time, including the girls that were going to be my new roommates -who were all very nice-.

The welcome day at the university was very exciting since we were about to meet the UHK, to take the first lectures of our courses, and to know a lot of international students.

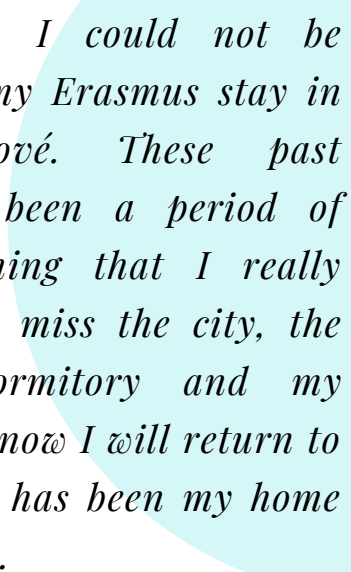


I remember an activity that the International Office prepared to gather the students from the Philosophical Faculty; we had a lot of fun getting to know things about other countries and we got along very well, so much that we even went to have lunch all together after the activity.

After that, we started our courses and our routine, even though at the beginning we had problems arranging our courses and ECTS, I really enjoyed the courses that I was enrolled in. The environment of the classes was very cool, and we got to discuss many topics among students from all over the world. I definitely learned a lot from that and from the debates we created in class. In general, I found all my courses fascinating and the classes very fun and interactive.

However, what I liked the most about my Erasmus experience was the bond we created among the students. Both in the dormitories and at the faculty we were constantly getting to know other cultures and countries from all over the world. I think I will never live such a nurturing experience again. Likewise, I gained friends that I think I will keep forever. The people from my country created a small family in a very different environment from what we were used to, and we always helped each other. From travelling together, to study together at the library, or even going to watch a hockey match together, we supported each other, and I will cherish those moments forever.

Travelling was a huge part of my Erasmus experience as well, and since we were in the middle of Europe, we were able to travel to many different places and for a very low price. We did not only travel to countries outside the Czech Republic, but also to places inside the Czech Republic such as little Czech towns and natural places that I loved.



In conclusion, I could not be happier with my Erasmus stay in Hradec Králové. These past months have been a period of constant learning that I really enjoyed. I will miss the city, the UHK, the dormitory and my friends, but I know I will return to this place that has been my home for five months.

