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MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE


DAVID NORATTO, COLOMBIA

*"Hradec
Králové helped
me to discover
who I want to
be".*



My exchange program in Hradec Králové brought with it numerous adventures that became memorable histories. And if I tell them to someone else, for sure it will be like that too. From taking the first train to making a trip with friends, to ordering the first meal and have a conversation with the indications that our Czech teacher gave to us, everything was fulfilled with -sometimes-contradictory feelings that today, looking back, I'm glad I lived.

Taking this into account, I am going to focus on the learnings that I had through experiences. And I say this because, believe me, as I felt it, everything was an experience. As Czech Republic is located in the heart of Europe and is a member of the EU, I had the door open to travel to almost all the regions of central and southeastern Europe by bus and mostly by train. This is important because, before coming here, I never imagined traveling around these countries.



Therefore, the cultural exchange that I lived was not only with the Czech culture, but it was also with almost all the Slavic values, beliefs, food, history, and variations according to the regions I visited. Not to mention that because of the huge history that the Czech Republic has, during some weekend trips I could hear, know and understand the myths and stories that are part of the imaginary of the Czech culture.

Moreover, the events in the city and the activities that the university offered make everyone part of a large learning system in which I could feel included. It is not only because of the courses with local and foreign teachers or the variety of classmates' nationalities but primarily because of the pure essence of Hradec Králové. I never imagined how open this city is. And it is funny because at first, I felt exactly the opposite. However, it is a matter of time for you to feel comfortable and enjoy it.

From discussions and meetings about "What's with the world today" at a pub, having representatives of different countries, to a huge gala in which all the foreigners living in the city cooked something traditional from their cultures, the learnings that people can get doesn't occur only on an academic place, but also almost everywhere.

To sum up, my exchange experience at the University of Hradec Králové is full of gratefulness more than with critics. Despite the bitter moments that everyone could go through, everything I lived here is memories I hope I will never forget. What is more, Hradec Králové helped me to discover who I want to be.

