

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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Honestly, when I found out that I was going to be able to study abroad in Europe for a semester, I was shocked and excited, because I was not sure if it was actually going to happen. And I am glad I ended up in the Czech Republic because of the friends I've made along the way and the opportunities to travel to many places. The Czech Republic is more affordable than many other European countries which have made it easier for me to travel and visit many places that I have always wanted to see. I am beyond grateful that I got to visit the places I visited in only four and a half months. I am happy that I got to experience many different cultures and got to spend four months within the Czech culture. All of the cultures I have experienced are quite different from my American culture back home, especially the university system.

Being in Hradec Kralove for four months has honestly changed me into a different person with a new perspective, influenced by the people I have met. I have met many different kinds of people from all over the world and shared so many experiences that I would not have been able to experience back home in Missouri. The friends I have made here have told and taught me about their cultures which is something I will always remember. I also enjoyed teaching and sharing my experiences of my home country with my friends and other people I have along the way in the past months. It was also interesting to hear their thoughts and opinions on current events and issues from other countries.

As I have mentioned before, I am beyond grateful for having been able to experience this and am very lucky to study abroad. This is really a once in a lifetime experience to travel and immerse oneself into new cultures and try so many new things, and I think more people should try it. This is just the start of me traveling more often and I will for sure be back, especially to the Czech Republic, because there is much more here that I want to explore.