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# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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*"I am not sad  
about living, but  
I am nostalgic  
for the moments  
that will never  
repeat"*



When I look back and think about the past five months it is inevitable to thank life for the opportunity, the experiences, and the people I met. I never imagined I was going to have the possibility to do this exchange. I think that is the reason why I am so grateful for every moment I had, even those in which I was sad. Living in Hradec Králové was a huge change to me because it is a very small city compared to where I live. In the beginning, I was really worried about not being able to adjust to such a quiet and unpopulated city.

However, as time past, I realized how lucky I was to have this change to a more calmed city where I do not have to worry if I am walking late at night on the streets, and I can breathe deeply because there is not as much contamination as in my home city. Now that I have to return to Colombia I am sure I am going to miss living here.

One of the most amazing things about living in the Czech Republic is that I could travel a lot.

The fact that I did not have classes on Thursdays and Fridays and that the Czech Republic is located at the center of Europe allowed me to travel to Poland, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, and Austria. Being a student in the Czech Republic is amazing cause they have a lot of discounts on train tickets, so basically I managed to travel cheaper than I would around Latin America. Every trip brought adventures due to the different languages, currencies, or the new people I got to know. I also had the chance to discover almost every corner in the Czech Republic. I loved hiking at Bohemian Switzerland, I was amazed by the huge rocks at Adršpach, I tried thermal water at Karlovy Vary, I got scared at the Sedlec Ossuary in Kutná Hora, I tried some cheese at Olomouc, and I tasted the original beer at Pilsen. I got the chance to visit many cities in this amazing country, without taking into account the hundreds of times I went to Prague.

Definitely, the best part of my exchange was the traveling part, but it would not have been the same without the amazing company I had. One thing that I never expected when coming to this University was to find so many Latin-American people, even some teachers. It was a huge surprise to realize that almost half of the international students spoke Spanish. Even so, I had the opportunity to met people from all around the globe, from Honk Kong to Cape Verde. I know it is very difficult to meet some of these people I knew here again, but I really hope to have the chance to do it in the future. I could not ask for a better company, not only for my trips and almost every weekend dinner but also for my birthday.

Finally, I am very grateful for the people, the experiences and the opportunity. I feel I have learned a lot during the past five months, not exactly because of the classes, which I also enjoyed, but because every situation was an opportunity to learn new things. From learning to cook dishes of other countries to speak a little bit of Czech, which I believe is the most difficult language ever. I am not sad about living, but I am nostalgic for the moments that will never repeat.

