

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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*"My experience  
in Hradec  
Králové".*



Trying to remember all the experiences that I have lived throughout these last months in Hradec Králové inevitably makes me not only feel nostalgic about this getting to the end but also to realize how much I have learned in so many ways during this semester, as well as how many beautiful things I have shared with people that months ago were complete strangers. To be honest, when leaving home, I still had a lot of uncertainty about how this experience would turn out.

Moving on my own for some months in a country I had never been to, where a language that I was completely unfamiliar with was spoken, and in a city I had never heard of until submitting my application to the program seemed kind of scary yet exciting at the same time. Although these fears did haunt me during the first days after arriving in the Czech Republic, especially during the challenging process of arriving in Hradec Králové after landing in the Prague airport, the scary side of them gradually faded away as I started settling in the place that would turn into my home for the following months.

Having the opportunity to take the Czech Language and Culture Summer School was a great beginning of my stay in Hradec Králové. Besides being able to learn some Czech basics that were extremely useful for the day to day activities and understanding some cultural characteristics of Czech people, the Summer school was also a great opportunity for meeting other international students with whom I would become friends faster than I expected. Moreover, being in Hradec Králové during the summer allowed me to enjoy the great weather while doing some fun and interesting activities like going swimming to Bělá, going for a barbecue in the forest with friends, going hiking to some beautiful places in the Czech Republic like Adršpach or Český Raj or just enjoying a cold pivo during a sunny day.



It was during those first months that I met people from all around the world that in the next months would become great friends of mine and with whom I would not only share classes or see each other in the dormitories but with whom I would also plan trips, travel and share day to day moments like a family. Without any doubts, this is what I appreciate the most of having the opportunity to come to Hradec Králové: meeting so many good people and making such great friends. Moreover, what was most interesting of this was getting to know people with different cultural backgrounds, with different native languages, practices, and beliefs that make one realize how diverse people all around the world are and how one can learn about this.

