

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE


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***"My Erasmus
stay at the
University of Hradec
Králové"***



I have to say that my Erasmus in Hradec Králové was really great, even better than I expected. What I really appreciated was how well I felt taken care of by the ESN and the International Office. They always helped me when I needed something and I always knew there were people that I can talk to if there was a problem.

When I arrived at Hradec Králové my (ESN-)Buddy picked me up at the bus stop of Palachova and brought me to the dormitory where he helped me with the check-in and everything. It took a long time because everyone seemed to be arriving on the same day but eventually, I was done and I could go to my room which was still empty, my roommates had not arrived yet.




In the next few days, I went to a lot of events either organized by the ESN, the University, or by Erasmus students themselves. That way I could meet a lot of people really fast and got to know the university and its system pretty easily. Quickly, I made some friends and from that point on I felt like this Erasmus year will definitely be amazing. We went on a lot of trips together like to Prague, to Český Krumlov, to Liberec for skiing, or just into town in Hradec to go for a really tasty beer at Batalion.

Unfortunately, I had to cancel a lot of my further plans because after only a few weeks of Erasmus the Corona pandemic had reached the Czech Republic and the quarantine started. Of course, this was something no one expected from their Erasmus year, but somehow everyone dealt with it. The first few days were the most difficult because no one really knew what was going on or what was going to happen, and every day there was new information. Corona became the only topic, so much that we forbid each other to mention the word "Corona" to take our minds off the crisis. Really sad for me was that all of my roommates left because of the quarantine, so I was the only one in my flat. But I still met with a few of my friends to go for walks through the forest or to the lake very close to the dormitory.

After a few weeks, I got used to the situation. My teachers gave me assignments that I sent in via Email and received some feedback or presentations. It's really hard to stay motivated when you are doing everything alone inside your flat and you do not have the exchange with the teacher or the other students. But in the end, it worked out and in the last few weeks the measures were loosened, so we could do something again. We went for trips inside the Czech Republic again, we went to some bars, or just met outside. It was so nice seeing more people again and very sad that now the time was almost over.

Time went by so fast and I was really sad to leave, but that only means that it was a great time. I learnt a lot, especially from the people I met there because everyone has different perspectives, experiences, lives, and cultures, and it is so interesting to be confronted by that and through that learn something for yourself and your own life. Also, I enjoyed my classes because the topics were really interesting, and I learnt some new perspectives and content which in my opinion are useful and important for my studies in Germany.



I am really happy that I chose the Czech Republic for my Erasmus year, not only because I felt very safe during the Corona crisis, but because it's such a beautiful country with lovely places, and the people I met there were amazing.