



Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta



MY ERASMUS STORY

One question people I encounter in the Czech Republic keep asking me is why Hradec Králové and not Prague. Truthfully, I had never heard of the town before till 2017 when my brother had an encounter with another Erasmus student who came to Ghana. His portrayal of the town invigorated me into wanting to come to Hradec Králové. I did my research when I was applying for the scholarship, and I realized it best fits in my definition of beautiful and calm places I would like to stay. It has beautiful people, wonderful scenery, and delicious delicacies. One thing I would miss is the efficient and convenient bus system.

Univezita Hradec Králové has personally been an excellent place for studies. The school is fully equipped with learning materials and some of the best professors. The courses offered were great with very flexible timetables. Some of the courses I enjoyed were Africa in the Diaspora and the Society and Belonging in Africa, both courses are taught by Dr. Stephanie Ludwig. I had the opportunity to learn the Czech language and it has helped me with daily interactions with the locals. The seminars organized by the school known as the Block of Expert Lecturers exposed me to different thoughts, cultures, and experiences from various countries. I learned a lot in that class.

The Cosmopolity Project which was organized by the Philosophical Faculty of the university was one of the highlights of my stay in the Czech Republic. The interaction with students and the exchange of knowledge between countries was amazing. The children were eager to learn about Ghana, our language, food, culture, our heritage sites, and the people. We also got to learn about Czech food, language, culture, and some popular sites in the Czech Republic. We had fun talking to different levels of students which made participation very interesting.

Finally, the Erasmus Student Network, the international office, and the officials at Palachova have been very helpful with our stay in the Czech Republic. The international office has always looked out for us making sure we are comfortable and that our mobility ran smoothly. The office was always open to us whenever we had concerns. The ESN office also had activities lined up for us. My favorite place was Adršpach. The scenery was breathtaking and is a place I would recommend to other students. The problem I had with the ESN was that the Africans felt left out in some of their activities and the ones that involved Africans were unattractive to us.

One thing I got to learn about the people of Hradec Králové is that, even though their disposition toward Africans seems unwelcoming, my studies in UHK have taught me that, these people compared to their European counterparts like Britain, Germany, France, and others who had interactions with Africans during colonialism, Czechia did not have such interactions and connections with Africans. So, some people in Hradec Králové may not have seen or encountered Africans before. They tend to keep to themselves or would not want to engage one. But once you get an opportunity to interact with them, they come across as lovely people. You can never go wrong with a “**Dobry Den**”. You always get pleasant responses.



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