

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

**JAKUB HRUBOVSKÝ**

SLOVAKIA

WINTER SEMESTER 2021-2022

I still have in my mind that moment when I realized that studying abroad will provide me with nice experiences and it had an added value. This thought was with me for almost 2 years. I started researching about universities and places where to go on Erasmus and Hradec Králové always starred in the first places, but it was not the first choice. In 2020, I decided to go on Erasmus in Krakow, Poland, but due to the pandemic my plans changed and now I am truly thankful for that situation and the opportunity to be, eventually, in Hradec Králové.



At the beginning of this journey, I had not a lot of expectations but I knew I was seeking unforgettable new adventures... And I came here with my schoolmate from Slovakia; we were under the wings of our friend Veronika, who was also our buddy. She showed us everything that we needed to know and I must say that our friendship became really stronger and more valuable. We met on her Erasmus when she was studying in the same town in Slovakia. That is why we can really feel how Erasmus connects people!

And how was my first Erasmus experience? Well, we had to attend a welcome meeting, which, of course, we totally forgot about. Instead of this, we went for a walk around the city and our coordinator could not find us. Yes... That is how the adventure began!



Initially, the biggest challenge for me was speaking English with people in the dormitories or at school. I was afraid because I did not have a fluent proficiency in this foreign language but definitely this saying of “the practice makes the master” is totally true.

On the other hand, I work as a part-time barber, so in my free time, I was cutting the boys’ hair in the dormitories... Overall, there I got to meet different nationalities, cultures and improve my speaking skills in English and this was really fun. We all connected through various activities such as playing football, table tennis, or training in the gym: these were activities which I was always looking forward to. We have created international relationships here and I am more than thankful for them.



When it comes to school and studying, I have to say that the system of education in Hradec Králové has a high level. I have realized that education is not only about memorizing but rather about understanding things. All in all, the subjects at school were really beneficial.



In conclusion, my Erasmus life is coming to the end and I want to thank also our coordinator, Marketa Dolezalova, who has always been nice to us, willing to support and help us during our journey. So many things that I will keep in my memory, so many friendships and experiences. Thank you, Erasmus!