

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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Being in the Czech Republic for one year meant learning, changes, and unforgettable experiences. My name is Juliana Bohorquez and as a Latin American student, at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali, having the opportunity to study for a year in Europe within the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility project, that also allowed me to live, travel, and learn about new cultures, was very significant for my life. Being at the UHK allowed me to dialogue with people from nationalities that I have never imagined I could get to know.



Living here expanded my vision of the world and made me more sensitive to what is happening outside and to the feelings of my colleagues. I was able to learn from each experience, from each person; I learned that prejudices are only barriers that divide, that from the difference you can learn a lot and that being far does not mean being alone.

Furthermore, studying the construction of society from a European perspective also gave me new tools and ways of approaching social phenomena. I had the possibility of getting a little bit out of what I was used to study, to stand from a different perspective, and to enrich myself professionally.

As a future political scientist, I valued being able to experience different perspectives closely, develop empathy from the recognition of others and learn more about European history. Doing that from a culture different from mine, with teachers whose place of enunciation and methodology were new to me and with subjects that challenged me, was really enriching for both my personal and professional life.



One part of me will always remain here, in the Czech Republic, and I will return to my country with many learnings, with the best experiences. I'm leaving with incredible friends that became my family, loving the seasons and the change. I'm leaving with another perspective on life and with a lot of nostalgia to leave the place where I grew up and lived so much. I never would have thought that a country as far away as the Czech Republic would become my home.



The Czech Republic opened the doors to one of the best experiences of my life. It invited me to challenge myself, to deconstruct myself, to share my life with strangers, and to love the changes. It was a completely new experience for me, and I must admit that at first, the idea of being alone in the other world scared me, but arriving and meeting people from all over the world, sensitive, empathetic, and friendly, made the Czech Republic also feel like home. I am in love with the country, with the seasons, with all its landscapes, with its cities; although Czechs are very different from Latinos, I learned to love that difference as well. I am also very grateful to the country and the university because they made this experience possible, always willing to help, to accompany me.

