



MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

KAROLINA V.I. SHOOMBE

NAMIBIA

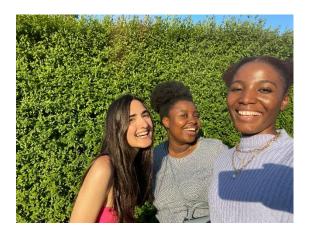
SUMMER TERM: 2022-2023

Going abroad is a huge boost for your mind, spirit and self-confidence, be ready to get the best from your experience, I thought to myself. I couldn't believe it was really happening, not until I took that 15-hour flight from Namibia to the Czech Republic. Oh well, welcome to Europe, I stepped out of that plane, and it was just one of the snowy days and it was so cold that I ignored checking the weather before travelling. I still remember my arrival like it was yesterday. I should take this chance to say thank you to esn, they organised someone to pick us from the airport. I have been in Hradec Kralove for 4 months and a half now and the experience has just been so amazing. The Erasmus experience has not only taught me about other countries but has also provided me with so much knowledge about my own country. Be it having to worry less about finances, making new friends, or travelling all around, trying new dishes, and learning about the diverse

courses at an amazing university, care less, Erasmus credit mobility got your back.



The exchange experience is so genuine. Not only because of the diverse courses from the UHK but also getting a chance to meet with other students from all over the world, trust me you will make great friends, the people you meet are amazing, all with different personalities and styles, if you are open enough, you will find that there is more of a person than a face. The Erasmus experience has allowed me to form great bonds. All I had to say is ahoj, ja jsem Karolina, jsem z Namibie (hello, my name is Karolina, I am from Namibia). I made so many friends from countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Spain, Bolivia, Czech, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Taiwan, Korea just to mention a few.



And here there is so many entertaining clubs, festivals and concerts, and so much beer that you can try out, which is even cheaper than water, I recommend kozel. Other than that, there is just so much to do. Being in the heart of Europe gave me a chance to travel to so many other European countries, France, Poland, Austria, Germany, just to mention a few. Be it sharing a meal with dishes from a variety of countries over dinner, taking a walk, chilling at the beautiful lakes of Hradec

Kralove, late night trains, riding a bike, or partying the night away at some dope club, there is always a good time to have.



Of course the beginning was a little bit challenging. Especially navigating public transportation, sometimes you will find yourself getting off the bus at udvora bus stop instead of Palachova. But well, I overcame that, so you can do it too.

I do not have enough words to express it all. Incase you make it through this program some days, I have got a piece of advice. Take it easy on yourself. Enter conversations with an open mind, and just like me, you will never be the same again. It will make you braver, expand your mindset, set your soul on fire, warm your heart and elevate your dreams.