

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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My Erasmus story began when one of my professors informed me that there was an opportunity for us, students of the Faculty of Sociology, to go abroad to study at the University of Hradec Králové in the Czech Republic. Before that, I had heard about Erasmus in high school and had very little information and was not particularly interested in it. Then, I learned some details about the program from my friend, and she also recommended me to apply for it because she participated in it and came back home with great enthusiasm.

It seemed impossible for me to go to Europe to study and I never imagined that years later, with the visa in hand, I would rush home to pack my things... I decided to finally believe it, and the thought that I was going to leave the borders of my country and study in an environment where different cultures were gathered for the first time motivated me, even more, to do everything to become a part of that community. Apart from that, the first thing I wanted was to get to know different nations, cultures, and their characteristics and study them through the eyes of a sociologist. We usually study a nation's culture or population by reading information from the Internet, but it does not always correspond to reality. In any case, seeing with your own eyes is better than reading an article on the Internet. The same goes for history, I think that the stories of different nations taught in world history at school can be presented more accurately by the representatives of those nations, and talking over a cup of tea and sharing the cultural and historical details of different countries is an irreplaceable feeling. And I couldn't imagine that feeling would be normal for me months later.

I was already on the plane on February 2nd, with documents I carried with me to different places - and were already half-crumpled - and hours later, I finally arrived at the Prague airport. And what followed was much more beautiful and wonderful than I imagined. These months gave me irreplaceable memories that will not be forgotten. I met people who did not share my language, way of thinking, or lifestyle. I lived and shared my life with them, and learned many things that I had not paid attention to before. I was given the opportunity to travel and know countries, and buildings that I had only seen in movies. I studied courses at the university that contributed to the expansion of my worldview. I made friends from different nations, and I believe that somewhere in the world, I will definitely meet them again and we will again gather around a table to share the cuisine and music of our countries.



Every day in Hradec Králové was a new discovery for me. And I'm glad I had the opportunity to have this Erasmus story and share it. And those who have a desire and are going to apply for the program or those who have doubts or it seems unattainable for them too, I want to say that this opportunity was not given to me and anyone else easily, but one thing I am sure of is that you will never regret it.