

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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My name is María Celeste Rumbo, I am from La Guajira, Colombia and I am a 20-year-old student in the eighth semester of International Relations. For me, being able to come to study at Hradec Králové, even in the midst of the difficulties that the pandemic posed, was a unique opportunity that I always wanted throughout my career in order to broaden my vision of the world and to fulfill the dream of visiting a country abroad for the first time and learning new ways of thinking beyond my environment.



Studying at the University of Hradec Králové provided me the chance to enrich myself academically, culturally, and personally in a way that exceeds the expectations I envisioned. Academically, the Czech Republic is a deeply important country in the study of the social, political, and cultural dynamics of Europe, and this University allowed me to focus on the research axis that I have always been interested in and to improve my analytical and researching skills required for the continuation of my studies in Colombia.

Being part of the Philosophy Faculty, where the knowledge of multiple careers converges through critical and highly qualified professors, allowed me to have a more holistic approach in my studies and expand my research in order to project myself to the forthcoming advance of my postgraduate studies about Europe. Along with this, I had the chance to get information about volunteering, internships, and research work in which I would love to participate in the future and that I undoubtedly require to be able to perform prominently in the professional domain.

I can also say that this opportunity allowed me to genuinely experience multiculturalism and the plurality of visions thanks to the extensive discussions and learnings that emerge not only in classrooms but also from the coexistence environment of students from such different parts of the world, which I consider to be fundamental to my training as a competent and comprehensive International Relations professional.



As a Latin American and Colombian student, I felt fortunate and welcomed to contribute to debates regarding subjects being deeply complementary to the classes we receive about European countries, such as the political trends of my region, democracy, social movements, and cultural and economic dynamics that are widely studied in my home university, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.



For these reasons, I can definitely affirm that I made the most out of my stay in the UHK. This experience has opened doors for me that I appreciate and am deeply thankful for. Also, I am completely aware that these are consolidating my academic potential and making me an integrated and trained student, capable of adapting and making the most of every experience.

The UHK was the best place to learn more about different cultures, surround me with proactive, passionate, and friendly people, improve my communication skills, become more independent, and especially have fun and enjoy the new family you get to build with your new friends.

