



I arrived in the Czech Republic from Ecuador on February 2nd, 2023, more than 10 thousand kilometres away from my hometown and being my first ever time outside of the borders of my home, I expected the first few days to be clouded by the shock of sudden change. However, my experience was far from this. The hospitality of the University's staff and the warm welcome of colleagues and professors helped me grow academically and personally during these months in Europe, the companionship of students from all over the world that are just as eager to learn from other countries as I am, made of this opportunity, an amazing experience.

The courses I took provided me with a new perspective on current issues whilst instructing me on new tools for research and academic writing, I was encouraged to think critically in an environment where the professors regarded their students as colleagues and not as their subordinates. The course load was demanding though flexible enough to enjoy the experience of living abroad.

Furthermore, the opportunity to converse and share spaces with people from different cultures and countries has allowed me to view the world through different perspectives. This has largely contributed to my personal enrichment in these past months. Sharing the dormitories with other students, although at times can prove to be challenging, is also the source of endless laughter and a sense of camaraderie that makes Hradec Kralove feel like home.

In a nutshell, this experience has been exciting while challenging, and has allowed me to become both a better professional and a better citizen of the world.

