

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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BOLIVIA

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*"Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future,  
And time future contained in time past,  
If all time is eternally present,  
All-time is unredeemable*

...

*What might have been and what has been  
Point to one end, which is always present."*

T. S. Eliot


My name is Miguel Gonzalo Muñoz Arancibia and I'm an exchange student in the UHK within the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility project. I come from Bolivia, where I study Sociology in the Universidad Mayor de San Simón.

When I think about the time that I lived and studied in Hradec Králové, it is inevitable to reflect on the value of this time, and it is easier for me to express this value in two ways: separated in abstraction but together in practice.

On one hand, the value that this time has added to my personal-academical formation is immeasurable: the whole experience through the Univerzita Hradec Králové has taught me more than courses-related content, which, by the way, were truly good, both the lectures and the professors.



Since the beginning, and in many different ways, the opportunity to learn and grow academically have been transversal elements to every aspect of the University and the exchange due to the coordination with the International Office of the Philosophical Faculty of the UHK and the extracurricular activities.



It is true that with the limitations caused by the pandemic situation, this learning process was more difficult, but the commitment and will of all members of the UHK managed how to turn these limits into opportunities.

On the other hand, this experience was not only about academic formation, it definitely involved people, cultures, history, nationalities, travels, personal stories, food, community construction, etc. Even when it would be almost impossible to name all the people, places, and situations that marked this period in a positive way, I could start by sharing a bit of both the Czech experience and the International one. Regarding the former, without the intention of generalizing, I could say that the knowledge that we have in Bolivia about Europe is limited - perhaps even in a geographical sense- and that changed completely for me while being here; I found a different and new country with so much richness when it comes to history, language, food, and especially people... And I ended up creating a link with this place. And about the International experience, I have found remarkable people, from different countries, contexts, and realities, that made together with a temporal human place that I could call home.

Please, do not get me wrong, I'm not saying that the experience was perfect, or that there were no difficulties throughout the process -even at some point, I was not sure about applying to extend my stay in the exchange-, especially if we put in context all that is happening in the world this time, but I choose to stick to the good part, and that was a lot. Likewise, hard choices sometimes are the best ones, so, it is completely worth it.

Finally, since I'm studying sociology, I would like to end this story by mentioning one idea that came to my head while I was writing this, and it is Bourdieu's idea about how we can incorporate, through time and experience, some specific kind of capital, and transform in ourselves the having in being. In this case, by having this experience and time, it became part of my being, of my personal history... And I'm very grateful for that.