



Univerzita Hradec Králové  
Filozofická fakulta



Rayhan Negadi

### My Erasmus+ Story

Hello, my name is Rayhan Negadi, I'm a French student studying Political Science and I did an Erasmus placement at the University of Hradec Kralove. I arrived here at the end of February with my girlfriend, with whom I had chosen to share this adventure. We settled in the centre of the city to ensure that we would both have this experience, so from the start we got to know the city, which in France is not really very well known. I was surprised by the beauty of the city, which, while retaining the tranquillity of a medium-sized town, offers a fair amount of activity. I really like the range of colours offered by all the buildings, which gives it a very jovial and exotic feel. I also really liked seeing the White Tower, the symbol of the city from several angles, like a big lighthouse.

A few days after the meeting with Hradec, it was time to go back to school. I was a bit apprehensive about this moment because I'm not the best in English and I was counting on this trip to improve me, especially in oral communication. That first day was just a few administrative formalities, but it gave us the chance to meet other Erasmus students for the first time. And the fact of meeting foreign people and sharing our cultures is, I think, one of the most exciting aspects of Erasmus. So, with the help of my girlfriend, who made up for my poor oral skills, I met Jakub, Andreia and Diana, two Portuguese and a Slovakian, who have remained among our closest Erasmus friends. We all shared an Asian restaurant opposite the University. But thanks to ESN activities and invitations to Palachova, I've extended my circle of friends. And this really helped me to improve my speaking skills, especially my self-confidence.

About a week later, we started the courses. I liked all the courses and was really interested to read the titles. But then again I was a bit anxious to know if I was going to be able to understand everything, but in truth from start to finish it all went well and even better. I really loved the Czech history of XXth century course, as I'm a big history buff. And for the same reason the History of Political thought in Central Europe course, even if the method and approach were different. So these two courses were my favourites, thanks to their content but also to two



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fantastic teachers. However, I enjoyed all the others to varying degrees, but I was interested from start to finish in each of the courses. So getting to work for the exam period was not a very complicated task. I'd also like to mention the Czech language course. This was very interesting from an Erasmus point of view, as it allowed me to extend my immersion into everyday life with a bit of willpower. Today, I'm proud to be able to go to the restaurant and ask a meal in Czech.

But for me, the most important thing about Erasmus is taking the opportunity to discover the city, the country and its surroundings. Thanks to very low prices and stays with family and friends, I was able to discover some magnificent places. Firstly, in Hradec, I was able to visit the Museum of East Bohemia twice, visit the Sadowa battlefield, enjoy the town's beautiful parks, learn about local customs and go to a hockey match. I also took advantage of the activities offered by the ESN, such as the unforgettable experience of the February ball. Nearby, I recently discovered the Kralove Nad Labem zoo and once again took advantage of the excursions organised by the ESN to discover the rival town of Pardubice, which I have to admit has a certain charm. I visited several towns and places around the country, some more remote than others. Prague, of course, on more than one occasion. But also Brno and the surrounding area, where I visited the famous Moravsky Kras. But also Kutna Hora, Jicin, Adrspach.... But my favourite city, and my surprise, was undoubtedly Olomouc. I don't really know why, but this town surprised me with its beauty and idyllic setting. I also travelled beyond the borders of Bohemia and Moravia, so I went twice to Leipzig and Dresden in German Saxony. I also travelled to Poland, to fabulous Krakow. But also to Budapest in Hungary, a city I fell in love with. My main regret is that I only visited Slovakia, a country I'd like to visit more often. And finally, on my way back to the south of France, I'll be passing through Austria and stopping for a while in Vienna, Austria, to complete the number of trips I've made on this wonderful journey.

So I'd like to thank the town of Hradec Kralove, to which I'm now attached; also the town's university and the teaching staff, who were exemplary, and especially you Marketa, who were always available and helpful in the event of a problem, thanks to you the experience was all the more enjoyable.



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