



Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta



UNIVERSITY
OF IOANNINA

My Erasmus Experience

By

Ever since I found out about the Erasmus programme, -when I was 13- I knew I wanted to participate. The experience of studying abroad with people from all over the world seemed perfect. Now that my Erasmus semester is sadly coming to an end, I can confidently say my assumption was correct. It was truly the experience of a lifetime.

Coming to Hradec Králové I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Being from Greece, I was not prepared for the central European winter. But harsh weather aside, Hradec Králové and especially the dorms at Palachovy Koleje became my home away from home and the community of international and local students became my Erasmus family. It sounds cliché but it is true. It is quite surprising how strong the bonds formed during such a short time can become. But of course, we did have some help with the bonding.

The ESN of Hradec Králové made sure to give us the best chance to meet and bond with each other and through their events I made some friends that I will hold close to my heart forever. They organized great events such as pub quizzes, parties, yoga classes and trips! Of course, ESN events were not the only way to meet people here. Living at Palachova, I met one of my best friends in the elevator! And another at the orientation meeting when we were welcomed by staff of the university. International students also organized events from their home countries, like parties or food exchanges to meet new people and strengthen their bonds with friends. There were of course the university events as well, such as the UHK Ball or the Sports Afternoon.

I am an archaeology student, so I belong to the Philosophical Faculty, and I was definitely very happy to be part of it. The professors, the facilities and the extra-curricular activities of the university far exceeded my expectations. All the staff is extremely helpful and accommodating, and I am very thankful to all of them for making my stay here better. My favourite extra-curricular activity of the semester was the Cosmopolity Project when we were asked to present our countries to local students. It was an enriching experience that brought all of us who participated, closer to Czech culture.

But the one thing that surprised me the most was the wide variety of the students' nationalities and the amount of students from different continents, like South and North America, Asia, and Africa. A fact that I was unaware of before coming here and that brought all of us the opportunity to truly challenge cultural beliefs and stereotypes and also brought me the opportunity to meet my best friend here, a student from Brazil. Who would have thought? Definitely not me.

The city of Hradec Králové also brought me the opportunity to explore beautiful parks within the city limits and of course the opportunity to travel all over the Czech Republic and explore legendary places like ADRŠPACH-the place where Narnia was filmed! And Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic which is a short train ride from Hradec Králové. This was definitely a highlight for me as Prague is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever visited with a rich history and many, many sights to see.

In conclusion, coming to Hradec Králové for my Erasmus is definitely one of the best decisions I have made, and I would do it again in a heartbeat. It offered me so much, but most of all it helped become a better version of myself and it has broadened my horizon and perspective in ways that I cannot quite put into words. It is something you have to experience to understand. I wholeheartedly recommend an Erasmus and I absolutely recommend the University of Hradec Králové for anyone who wants to come into contact not only with central European culture but also cultures from all over the world.



1: A Brazilian party for the beginning of summer.



2: Winning the ESN music pub quiz.



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