

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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I arrived in February and was met by a buddy at the train station in Hradec Králové; she took me to the dormitories where I was introduced to my Czech flatmates who immediately went on to cook a Czech dish for me (Smažený sýr). After that, I was soon contacted by my buddy again so I could join a group of students for a trip to the university buildings. There I met some cool people, and we decided to have a beer later that night. This short introduction was, therefore, enough to already gain new acquaintances who later became friends.



Throughout my stay here in Hradec Králové, I have gained a surprising number of friends from different countries and different fields of study, particularly if you consider the fact that the semester was during a worldwide pandemic where classes primarily were held online.

In these last days in Hradec Králové, I have been fortunate enough to experience a music festival, and for anyone who may consider going here, if you show up in the city center and walk around with a beer in your hand, you are guaranteed to meet new people who will greet you with a smile and shout something incomprehensible in Czech to you, then you will mutter shyly that you only know English, after this, there are ONLY three possible outcomes: 1. They get their friend who speaks better English to talk to you. 2. They are willing to talk in English themselves. 3. They will keep talking Czech to you regardless and sprinkle the conversation with several utterances of the word "Na zdraví" in which you are expected to raise your glass and drink for dear life. Jokes aside, it is hard to pick out a single event partly because of the misty memory I have after all that drinking and partly because I spent most of my time hanging out with people in general and it was almost always a good time!



The Czech Republic is an easy country to travel to and an easy country to travel from. Even during Covid, I had the opportunity to visit both Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia. For those of you who study political science, I can say that the course content was very interesting in most courses I took. I would recommend courses that emphasize Czech perspectives. Lastly, if you are ever invited to a Czech garden party, say yes; they have beer-taps at home! (be prepared for a blackout).