

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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SPAIN

SUMMER TERM 2021-2022

During the second semester of the 2021/2022 term, I did an Erasmus exchange at the University of Hradec Králové. I arrived at the student residence on the night of 2nd February with a group that was traveling with me from Spain and whom I would never have met if it weren't for this exchange program... A group that today I gratefully consider family. I had barely unpacked my luggage when I already perceived the kind of experiences and values that an opportunity like this can bring to your life. With this, February began and I already knew someone from every part of Spain and even from some corners of Europe that I would never think of.



As the weeks passed, I began to follow a routine. I attended classes in the morning, and in the afternoon or evening, I did several activities; either doing sports or going out. I didn't really know what I was going to find in this city, but I was pleasantly surprised: laser tag, aqua parks, cinemas, shopping centers, restaurants, nightclubs, endless bars and restaurants, and great connections to travel throughout Europe. Along with my stay, the feeling that Hradec Králové was my new home became more and more real. I felt so comfortable that it was like being on a constant journey but with your obligations.



Attending class was a privilege because of the opportunity to connect with such different people in such a short time, bringing a vision of the world so different from mine but very interesting and enriching. I think this was what impressed me the most in these first three months and one of the reasons why I still think that leaving your comfort zone will always be an opportunity to grow and open doors for you in the future. These people, so different from me and with their own stories and lives, made me open my mind and learn from them, their cultures and beliefs as they also learned from me... International meals, trips to their countries of origin or walks and bonfires by the lakes of Hradec and its forests made it possible to call people so different and from distant origins my friends.

There were moments of uncertainty and fear, but at no time did I think about going back home... And before I realized it, I finished my Erasmus just as I started it, although with a suitcase full of friends and experiences that a city as small as Hradec managed to unite. Definitely, every corner of it will ever be marked with impressive moments!