

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

PAOLA ESTEFANIA MOSQUERA SALGUERO

ECUADOR, UNIVERSITY OF CUENCA

SUMMER TERM 2019-2020

WINTER TERM 2020-2021

Dear University of Hradec Králové,

I find it difficult to express all the gratitude that I feel towards you.

From the first moment I arrived, you have given me your full support.

All the experiences and memories shared with my exchange partners; I will always carry them in my heart. Together we shared a lot of things, such as classes, group work, exams, travels, full support when we had doubts, and even we did quarantine together.

The cultural differences were very evident from the beginning. It was a bit difficult for me to find the necessary ingredients to prepare the food that I was used to eating, but after a while, I learned to be resourceful and learn to vary my food.

The language was struggling for me also, but I took Czech lessons in both semesters in order to understand the locals, and now I feel very proud of myself for what I've accomplished throughout this year.

On the other hand, I fell in love with Czech food, Svičková, Guláš, Česnečka, and many more dishes that I will miss a lot when I return to my country.

During the year of my stay in Hradec Králové, I met very good people on the way who always helped me. Everyone treated me very well and had a lot of patience with me when I didn't know something.

I would have liked to continue the face-to-face classes with my classmates, and I hope they never had to return to their countries. We were fewer and fewer, but we created important ties that will allow us to keep in touch, and we definitely have a home in each country where we can enjoy together again.

It will be very difficult for me to leave this place that I now call home, my beloved Hradec Králové. I love the Czech Republic and all its culture; I will definitely have more experiences again.

Thank you for absolutely everything you have given me for a year. To my coordinator, my teachers, the dormitories management, and my university.

This is not goodbye at all, this is a see you soon.

Thanks for everything.