



Univerzita Hradec Králové  
Filozofická fakulta



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

## MY ERASMUS STORY ( Portia Ama Bansa )

**Dobry den,**

**jmenuji Portia Bansa**

**Jsem z Ghany.**

I arrived in Czech Republic on a very cold evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023. I came out of the airport wondering when the cold would end. It was not a wish that would come true soon anyway!



### **Arrival and settling in**

I met over thirty other students from other countries on the Erasmus Exchange program. It was interesting to know so many students from different backgrounds and speaking multi-lingual languages. The orientation was adequately done for us to settle in and also register and review the courses for the semester.

### **Lectures**

I started my lectures very early in the second week and I liked the courses I selected because they were new areas of focus and challenging as well. I did not know many historical issues about Europe and the course provided many insights into Europe in the past and present day. This created many curiosities in me, which urged me on to make plans to visit such places if time and finances would permit. However, some places are a 'must go' as my archeological curiosity peaked to a high point.

Then came the beginning of adjusting to the local language. "Dobry den", "jak se mate?". It was a good decision to choose the Czech language. One thing I observed was, it was difficult to communicate, as majority of people in Hradec could not or would rather not speak English. When I started the class, I wondered if I could ever get familiar with the language. However, it was refreshing to know that what we learn in class is what I needed to communicate with people. Interestingly, when my friends and I step into shops and greet



“Dobre den, we notice how the local folks warm up to us, if one should ask me how we managed with communication; my answer is, we survived very well and all thanks to the class.

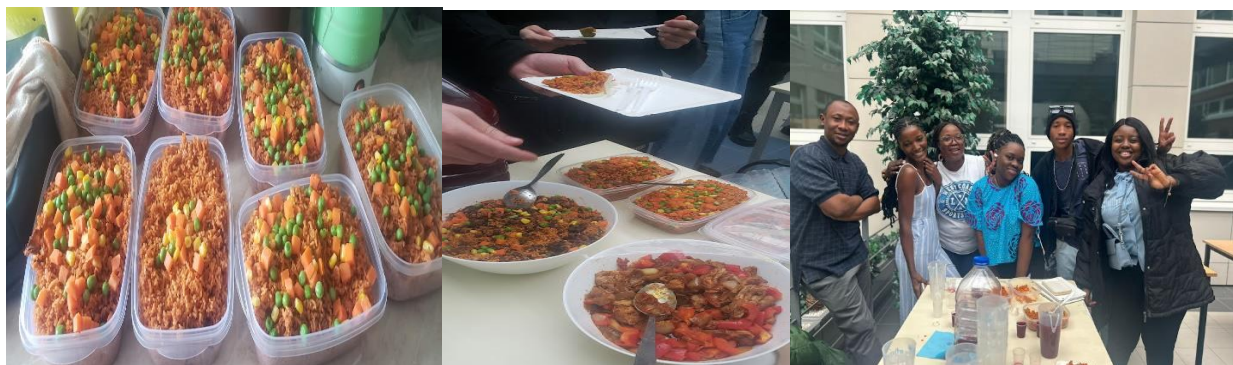
Not only did the Erasmus program expose us to UHK courses but the block of expert lectures also opened a window into learning interesting topics I may never have had the chance to listen to. I got to learn about the social, political and cultural situations of some countries and met very interesting facilitators.

### Fun and Extracurricular activities



The Erasmus Student Network of UHK organized group programs and trips as part of the social bonding for Erasmus Exchange students. The trip to Adrspach, which was a heritage sites, was very interesting. I enjoyed the walk and the hike around the landscape and did not even mind the cold wind that was threatening my body.

I also dared to prepare Ghanaian dishes for the FIM anniversary, and I was proud to see how so many people lined up to enjoy the meal and ask for drink recipes. The event was fun and seeing so many people with different intercontinental dishes. We tasted a variety and enjoyed every bit of it.



Participating in the Cosmopolity Program at the Elementary school was a great chance to share interesting stories about Ghana. We had five sessions with the pupils and the interaction was awesome. We learnt a lot from them, and we shared great information to satisfy their curious minds. This led to us volunteering at the Diecexzi katolicka charita in Hradec. We engaged some children from Ukraine about our country, learnt some songs and taught traditional bead stringing.

The Erasmus exchange program was very engaging and rewarding. It afforded me the opportunity to meet so many interesting people from different countries who shared their culture and knowledge with me. It was a great networking. I also learnt interesting subjects and topics, which I believe would be good to share, back in my home country. I was able to visit some countries, museums, and monuments to experience, to enjoy other heritage and see their material culture Above all, the environment provided for learning, having fun, social bonding and travelling was just the best.



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