

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

ROBIN HARMS

NETHERLANDS

SAXION UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

SUMMER TERM 2019-2020


WINTER TERM 2020-2021

I was lucky enough to come to Hradec Králové on February 3rd, 2020. I was so nervous and anxious. But it turned out that the two semesters that I stayed in Hradec are the happiest and best ones so far in my life.

A nice Erasmus girl picked us up from Prague main station and another girl from the bus station, and we were brought to the dormitory. I checked in, and I was put in a room with a Brazilian student, who turned out to become one of my best friends in the Czech Republic and probably for the rest of my life.

When the semester started, we still had five weeks of classes before the school closed due to the pandemic. What I loved so much about the UHK was that the teachers were so nice and willing to help. Everyone was interested in where we came from and why we were there, and teachers made an offer to get to know us. It was a short period, but for me, it really impressed me because, at my university, I feel more distant from my teachers. So I really loved the welcome feeling, and I felt easily at home at the university.





Then when the pandemic came, everything closed. Luckily I and my friends stayed during the crisis, and we managed to have an amazing time together. We got to know each other very well, and almost every one of us decided to stay for another semester, so we became very close friends, and we made the most amazing memories together.

The online classes were hard in the first semester. The teacher didn't know what to do, and neither did we. I only had online classes from one course, and two other courses provide us with online information, and we had to figure it out for ourselves for the other courses. But it was easy to do, and I passed all of them.

When I returned for the second semester, everything was online and way better organized. The online courses were scheduled in our calendar, and we knew perfectly what to do. In this semester, I also did an Internship at the Integration Centre for Foreigners. So I was on Monday and Wednesday on the internship, and on Tuesday and Thursday I had courses, and it was good to combine and easy to manage. I really enjoyed the semester; I had the feeling that it was better organized and that I was more mentally stable, and I also wanted to do a lot of effort. But what I do have to say is that I had trouble with some teachers because I was not added to the Teams page, and I could not reach the teachers. So I had a problem that I was behind with some courses. Yet, I managed to pass them.

Hradec Králové, the city, really became my home. Now, while writing this, I am already in The Netherlands, and every day I am thinking back about Hradec and how much I miss it. I love the city because it is big but also small as a village, and all my friends were living next door.

I love the Czech Republic because it feels like it is a hidden paradise. There are so many beautiful places to see and to discover, places that you will not see if you were only going for a few days of holidays. I feel like I have seen the most, and I can not wait to return.

I would like to thank everyone from the university because I had an unforgettable stay, and I will be forever grateful.

