

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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Definitively, having this Exchange experience has become one of the most important things that have ever happened to me. And I'm not necessarily suggesting that it has been perfect but almost everything here has taught me something. Crushing with the reality of leaving alone, having a roommate (or several) not related to you, sharing a bathroom with a lot of people, and also the kitchen, makes you grow and overcome a lot of difficulties. Also, meeting people from all around the world makes this experience unique and special. I can say, without doubting it, that I have learned a lot just by speaking with people from other cultures. I have made a lot of new friends and confronted difficult situations, we have helped each other every time and this is the thing that I've liked the most.

The first moments of my experience were really different than I expected because reality hit me when I arrived at the dorm. To be honest, it didn't begin very well, but eventually, I started enjoying other things that made this experience magical. I had to adapt to everyday life, even though I didn't like it that much. Nevertheless, other things started changing my perspective, such as the possibility to grow and start being completely in charge of myself. Also, I started enjoying company from other people in daily life, as if they were my family here. Moreover, there are some differences in terms of security, stress, and anxiety that changed. Hradec Králové is a perfect city to have a safe and relaxed life, that also provides you with a lot of entertainment, as it is a student's city. Also, you have Prague just 2 hours away, giving you the opportunity of having amazing parties.

Even if you are surprised, there are a lot of things to do in Hradec. You can go to the woods, to the lake, to the city center, to clubs, and a lot more. It's up to you if you get bored because you can do those things alone also. However, the possibility of being alone is rare since you always have good company. This is the main tip that I can give you: Be open to meeting people. You can find perfect company there, places to be safe and sound. Meeting other cultures is always enriching, so just do it. Erasmus is unique and it happens just once, laugh about it and don't regret anything. The experience is real, don't believe the people that tell you that it is perfect, because it is not. It is far away from being perfect but be aware that it is going to be amazing.

I can be sure that I don't regret anything. My life perspective changed drastically and now I am more open to everything. I just stayed here for one semester, but it was worth it, and I don't regret it. I did miss my country, my family, and my habits, but I would not change this Erasmus semester. In the end, I know that I will return to my home, but I will never be back in Hradec.