



MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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Living in Hradec Králové was an interesting and particular experience. Particular because doing a student exchange in times of pandemic is not very common. And interesting because even when taking classes from the dorms and without face-to-face activities, the experience is still beneficial for personal and professional development. The city is very quiet and safe and with beautiful running routes. Especially in the summer, that was one of the things that I liked: to practice one of the activities that I love (running) and, at the same time, have beautiful views of the place.

Taking the introductory course on the Czech language was very helpful in every way. From buying things in the supermarket to using trains and buses, being able to say "hi" in Czech, and understanding some words made me feel that the environment could be more familiar. Also, in their own way, people are very friendly, and a goodbye smile is always appreciated after asking something or asking for some guidance.

When the Czech government took off many of the restrictions, although it was not possible to have face-to-face classes, it was possible to visit some cities inside the country. Something really cool is that Hradec Králové is less than two hours from Prague, my favorite city in the world! I think that Prague is not only beautiful for all the history and the beautiful places in the same city but there is a special atmosphere in the city. Even if the day is rainy and gray, walking through the streets or near the river gives you good energy, almost happiness.

The country, in general, is amazing: castles with a lot of history, amazing blue sky, good food, and drinks. Almost everyone loves to drink beer, and although I don't like beer, I can say that the wine is also very good (especially in the South of Moravia). In the end, the exchange experience is quite beneficial (on the personal and academic side) and leaves good moments for memories.