

# Erasmus+ Story

## Marta Gutiérrez Barrientos

Hi! My name is Marta, I'm from Spain and I study a degree called Global Studies. It touches several fields including economy and law, but I took my stay in Hradec as an opportunity to deepen my knowledge on political science especially. It was very nice that I could choose my courses so freely, because I was able to take classes on politics of the Czech Republic, the Visegrad countries and totalitarianism theories that were very interesting for me, and I could have never taken them in my home university.

But, of course, Erasmus isn't only about studying. During my time here I was able to travel a lot. Hradec is actually better communicated than I expected (I say that coming from a small town myself). I visited Poland a couple times, I went to Budapest, Vienna and a few cities in Germany, such as Berlin and Dresden. As to my travels within the Czech Republic, I loved Karlovy Vary and Brno. Obviously, I went many times to Prague, I thought it was the prettiest during Christmas but, honestly, during spring it is even more pretty, and the train from here is super convenient!

My stay in the dormitories was... interesting. From staying a whole day without water, losing power, and false fire alarms to desperately trying to communicate with the people in reception through signs and google translator, let's say we had our ups and downs. But I have to say that I am very grateful that here I met my roommates for the summer semester and I have had the best time with them (but I cannot say the same for all my flatmates).

I have met some wonderful people here in Hradec, in the dormitories and the faculty, and I am glad to say that I can call many my friends. It's always difficult to make new friendships when you arrive someplace new, and I have to stress the efforts from the ESN community to create activities where we can meet and have fun. Also, for making opportunities for us international students to go watch hockey, that is truly one of the things that I will miss the most from Hradec, going to the hockey matches.

I'm also very grateful because here I have met so many international students, from so many different places, and I feel that that is an experience that only an exchange program can offer you.

For future students I must say, the summer semester is much better than the winter semester. This may be a personal opinion, but, as someone who lives in Spain, where we have many hours of sun, the sun setting at 4 during winter was very depressing. Fine, the snow was super fun, and I had never seen so much snow in my entire life which I loved (despite being constantly scared of slipping and falling), but there's snow still in the summer semester.

To conclude this story, I will say that I had a lot of fun in Hradec, it took me some time to get used to it, but in the end it was totally worth it to do my Erasmus here.