

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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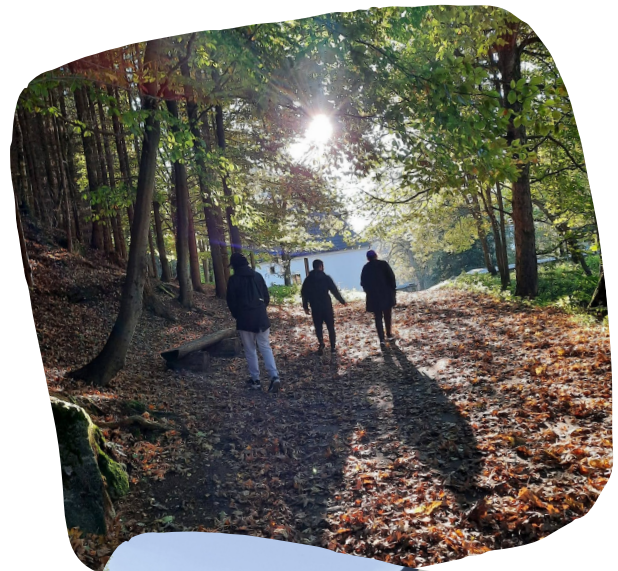
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My Erasmus+ in Hradec Králové was my first experience studying abroad, even though this is my last year of college. When I chose Hradec, people asked why the Czech Republic, they told me that I should go somewhere you don't know. But that was the reason, actually. As a Slovak, I understand the Czech language and the country is almost the same as mine... And I can say that I've made a good choice; I felt like at home. Not to forget, I also had friends living here in Hradec.



I arrived in the middle of September and the very first day I forgot about the meeting with my coordinator. Well, at least I saw the town square and monumental cathedral of the Holy Spirit. As a student of History, I enjoy sightseeing. After arriving in my room at the dormitory, I've met my first roommate from Armenia. In a while, three boys from Portugal came and the group at C6 was formed. I have decided to study in the Czech language so I didn't get to know as many people from Erasmus as others. However, I got to meet some from my block at the dormitory, when we were playing football. They were mostly from Spain, Italy, and France and I constantly asked them a lot about their countries.

I have come with my classmate from Slovakia. At the beginning of it, we planned to visit Prague and the ESN presentation gave us some other inspirations of places to visit. The first place we went to see was the castle Častolovice, close to Hradec, and it was totally worth it. The next stop was a trip to Kutná Hora. Definitely, one of the most beautiful cities I have seen. Everything was so preserved as if time had stopped. But my journey didn't end here in Kutná Hora. After a few weeks, our friend took us to her place in the north of Hradec, on the border with Poland. We stayed there for three days and besides visiting a monastery, we climbed rocks for hours. The nature was stunning but I am not really the type of person that climbs rocks, to be honest, and it was a tough experience. Later on, after we went to see Prague, we wanted to see the eastern part of the Republic and the choice was the city of Olomouc. On the day of our arrival, there was some kind of festival so the atmosphere was amazing. When we came back, the time to prepare for exams was slowly coming so we didn't travel anymore. Also, we enjoyed the pre-Christmas time in Hradec. Looking in retrospect, I regret not going to the western side of the Czech Republic but who knows, maybe there will be an opportunity in the future.



I know very well that the Czech Republic is a country of beer, so during my stay, I decided to taste every beer I'll come across. And I did so. I brought some beer to my father in Slovakia too. Another task that I've fulfilled is that I've brought a magnet (for the fridge) from every place I've visited for my mum and my sister. That would be all I could remember. I would like to thank my buddy Veronika for making my Erasmus stay memorable and the Erasmus project for making this all possible.