

# MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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NAMIBIA

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Have you ever missed a flight? Well, it was my first time flying out of Namibia, and indeed, out of Africa, and guess what? I missed my flight, and I thought to myself, "HOW STUPID Morgen! Oh well, thanks to my coordinator, Ms. Vera, I had another chance to travel to Europe. What comes to your mind when you open the door and feel the freezing cold breeze on your face? Hello and welcome to Europe. I remember my arrival like it was yesterday; it was so cold that I had regrets because I ignored my coordinator's suggestion of carrying warm jackets, which I dismissed. I've been in Hradec Kralove for almost four months now, and the experience has been incredible. The beginning was the most difficult task ever. I didn't know how to take the bus or read the bus stop schedule to get to school. HECTIC!!



I've never had a single day in my life to learn and master something. Isn't that impressive? No, not at all, because I've already made so many stupid mistakes that I can't afford to make another.

It was simple to blend in; all I had to do was say "Ahoj jmenuji se Morgen" which is the Czech phrase for "Hello, my name is Morgen." Meeting people from Africa as close as Zambia, Ghana, and Nigeria, to more international students from Turkey, Argentina, Spain, the United States, Mexico, and Brazil, to name a few. I am all about charismatic students who simply want to have fun and make new friends. When students go to so many parties back home, we say PARTE AFTER PARTE.



Well, it's different when it comes to students who are Czech; they rarely smile, making it difficult to approach, but I made a few. It's funny; when I say a few, I really mean one or two.

Things were not so bad in academia, except for the fact that I was four weeks behind. All I could think about was how I was going to catch up, and fortunately, here lecturers are different. Don't get me wrong, the workload was not reduced, and I still had to work hard to catch up with the others, but they did make the work much easier. I'm not saying I aced all of my courses; I did my best, but I believe I could have done better. Exams were varied; I had a mix of online, face-to-face, and oral exams. Oral exams were given to me for the first time in my varsity career, and it was an eye-opening experience. The most surprising aspect of my exams was having my own country's Article for an exam.



I could not have asked for a better place to stay than the Palachova dormitories. All I needed to make the most of the opportunity was hot water running throughout the day and a very conducive study environment. The silent hours were something I had to get used to. They put my friends and me in the same flat because they knew I was a very loud person on my own. Mr. Dobrý Den is what we called him, the silence keeper, and you know what to do when he shows up.



Well, my four-month stay has come to an end, and I've spent my days since finishing my exams working at the "PAPRIKA MEDITERANIAN KITCHEN," they dubbed it the "HOME OF HUMMUS." One might wonder, with the scholarship, why to get a job. I didn't want to waste my last days sleeping and being sluggish. Working in the Czech Republic's capital city meant getting up at 6 a.m. every day and spending three hours getting to work, but what I really wanted was the experience. I have no regrets about any of my actions or decisions. What I do regret is that I did not stay another summer.

I don't have enough words to express my admiration and excitement after this wonderful trip. It's one of the most impressive, incredible, and unforgettable experiences I've ever had! Personally, it was quite challenging and, as a result, even more fascinating, because we had to adapt to the new conditions of life across the ocean from our home country sufficiently quickly, as well as get used to new types of tasks and requirements at the university; but all these details made the semester's experience even more amazing. It goes without saying that my four months abroad were extremely beneficial to me in terms of life and learning experiences.