

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

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Most people dream of an experience like the Erasmus experience, but only a few get to live it. I am from a beautiful country in the South-West of Africa, with a population of only 2.5 million people. Never having been outside Namibia, a few people can feel like plenty. But my goodness... That is just the tip of the iceberg. The Erasmus experience is an experience like no other. It has not only taught me more about other countries but has provided me with so much knowledge about my own country. And sure, getting free money is an amazing thing, but what makes the Erasmus experience a phenomenal one has little to do with finances. It is the people you meet, the places you see, the laughter you share, and the memories you create.



Different people come from all over the world to meet for a short time and part ways soon after. It is almost devastating, but the moments you have will make it all worth it.

The Erasmus experience has allowed me to form bonds so great that oceans or borders could not part them. Being alone in a foreign country is always hair-raising. But soon enough you learn to find your groove. You meet amazing people, all with different personalities and styles, and if you are open enough, you will find that there is more of a person than a face. The Erasmus energy is so genuine. Be it sharing a meal with dishes from a variety of countries over dinner, taking a walk, and admiring the beautiful



scenery, throwing hoops on the basketball court with friends or partying the night away at some dope club. There is always a good time to have.

Just like I did, you will struggle initially. You will have difficulties navigating public transport and might find yourself getting off at *Adalbertinum* rather than the *Tesla* bus top. Making new friends and opening up may be uncomfortable, you may get culture shock, and you may overspend or conflict with your roommates.

Whatever challenges you may encounter, rest assured that it gets better with time. The Erasmus experience is a positive one. Make sure to find happiness in everything, be open to trying new things, and make a few mistakes. This journey does not require your perfection but accommodates your imperfections. If you are lucky, you may leave here with a significant other or a bun in the oven (kidding ☺).

I got here by mere chance, perhaps it was fate. But I knew the moment I heard about Erasmus that I wanted in. There were so many obstacles along the way, honestly, I barely made it here. My sincere gratitude goes to the International Office of the UHK for all their combined efforts. I find it difficult to put my Erasmus experience into words.



I do not think there is enough vocabulary to make justice. It is truly one of those things that require experience to be truly understood. There is so much beauty to be found in traveling to a foreign country all by yourself, not having any clue what to expect.

The Erasmus experience is for the most part what you make of it. So, make it beautiful and worthwhile, allow your imagination to run wild, let go of all your fears, do not be afraid to try new things, and remember to be yourself.

This experience has instilled in me an abundance of knowledge. About myself (the good and bad), other people, my country, and those of others. The Czech Republic is conveniently located in the centre of Europe. Being at the heart of Europe, it gives access to many other countries. A bus ride or train ride can easily get you anywhere. With gorgeous castles, museums, churches, and parks there is so much to see. And with all the entertaining bars, clubs, festivals, concerts, and beer that is cheaper than water (I recommend Kozel/Pilsner) there is so much to do. The fun never stops, and excitement never sleeps.





Take it easy on yourself. Do not take yourself too seriously, enter conversations with an open mind, and listen more than you talk. Put your shoes on and buckle up for an experience like no other. You will never be the same again. It will make you braver, expand your mindset, set your soul on fire, warm your heart, and elevate your desires and dreams. I assure you that your imagination will not measure up to the real thing. So, if you happen to find yourself asking why me? It is because Erasmus chooses you. And it seeks to offer you an experience like no other!!

