



Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta



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What does it mean Hradec for me? Well, this wonderful experience started the 1st of February of 2023 in a city called Hradec Kralove. At that time, I was a Colombian student with fears and insecurities, who was about to start a new stage of her life in a foreign country with a totally different culture than the one she was used to. So then, my first connection with the country of Czech Republic was the beautiful city of Prague, thanks to the fact that the closest airport is the one in this city and from there it is only a 1 hour 40-minute drive to get to Hradec. I was only in Prague for 3 days before starting my life as an international student and, from the first day I felt the warmth and the welcome of the Czech people as well as the Latin migrants who are established in the city.

My Buddy named Nestor organized my first days in Prague where I would be welcomed by a close friend of his named Luciana. Both were two very important pillars to make my arrival in the country as pleasant as possible, in a few words, they welcomed me with open arms, and both were willing to help me feel more comfortable in the country every day. Thanks to them I realized that as a Latina I am not alone in the world outside of Colombia because there is a whole network of people of different nationalities and cultures who are willing to help you and always facilitate the process of adaptation. I personally feel that Buddy's program, at least for me, has been one of the best offers that the university provided me to adapt to life in the Czech Republic.

Beyond my first days as an outsider, I feel that Hradec surprised me in every possible way. It is a city full of lakes and green areas where you can share with your loved ones or just go to clear your mind of problems, besides, when I arrived it was in winter, so it also offered me the opportunity to live in a season that does not exist in my country. In the winter of Hradec, I knew the snow, the long nights, and the cozy pubs to share with friends after a long and cold day of classes. However, thanks to the semester I chose, I was able to have a multiplicity of experiences, both winter, spring, and summer. There I saw how a simple ray of sunshine, or a bud of a flower can change the state of people. The Czechs are happier, livelier, and friendlier thanks to the change of season, but it was not only the Czechs, but we as students also experienced the same. Going out and enjoying the wonders of Hradec has been a complete and very rewarding experience. Thanks to the location of the city, I had the opportunity to get to know many beautiful places around the Czech Republic and nearby countries in Central Europe.

Traveling, meeting, making new friends, getting to know new cultures, eating exotic dishes and more left me with this international experience and, thanks to that, I will live eternally grateful to Hradec, to the university and especially to the country for allowing me to live these 6 months in the happiest way possible. Thank you, thank you and thank you.

Děkuji.



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