

MY STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE


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First of all, I would like to introduce myself. I am Welele Weldie Welderufael, an exchange student at the University of Hradec Králové, Philosophical Faculty (Czech Republic) from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. I study political science.

I got the opportunity to apply for Erasmus+ program because my home university is its partner. My home university nominated me after evaluating my motivation letter, grade, and interview that considers the language skill. Thanks to the close follow-up of my coordinator, both at my home university and at the UHK, I successfully collected the necessary documents, got a visa to travel to the Czech Republic, and was able to realize my mobility. Erasmus' joy and curiosity to experience new challenges came to me when I was first recruited and allowed to participate. Since I have never been to a foreign country before, this program is very important for me; I have gained a lot of experience, and I have been able to get out of my comfort zone and face and adopt new challenges.

Although I feared that the mobility might be canceled due to the pandemic COVID 19, I was overjoyed when I received a letter of acceptance, accommodation letter, and scholarship letter and was able to apply to the embassy for a student visa. For me, going through this process is new in itself, so it helped to cure fear and develop self-confidence.

Thanks to the International Office and Erasmus Student Network, I was given pre-departure information, and my buddy was ready and helped me to easily get to my dormitory from the airport. When I arrived, the first thing that surprised me was to see the land covered with snow. I had never seen such a place before, and therefore, though it was cold, I was happy to see a place with different air and snow.



Taking courses with students from different countries is quite interesting, and that helped me to understand concepts and thoughts from different perspectives and experiences. Meeting a lot of new and different people, the excitement of the new experience makes this a great opportunity to know about and explore the world. It is a fantastic experience that helped me to share knowledge about other places' habits and ways of preparing typical dishes.

Staying in Europe's land of opportunity, integration, and friendship means a lot and flourishes my whole life experience and promises a better future. I will promote Erasmus among Ethiopian students.

