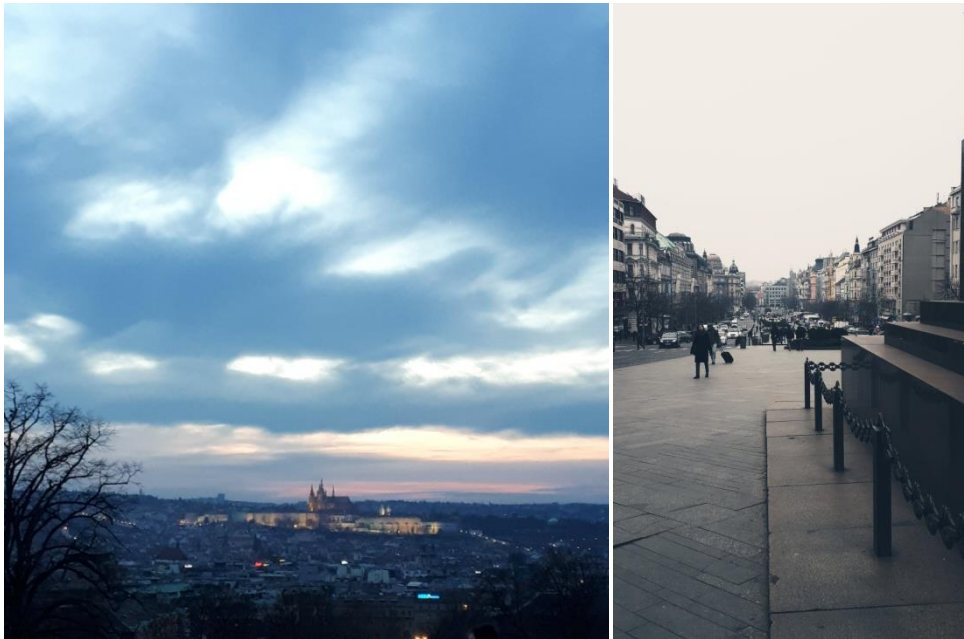


My experience report about my Erasmus semester in Prague.



I spent the last 4 months in a completely different country than Germany and the experience has been very educational for me. I did my fifth semester of studies i.e. summer semester 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic. In this report I would walk you through what I had to do in order to have my semester abroad. I really hope this helps you and you are prepared for your own semester.

1. Preparation:

This stage began from the moment we were told in which university we would do our Erasmus. I was lucky to be accepted by my first choice school, which was University of Economics, Prague. After that what I had to do was pick the courses I would be taking. Even though their course catalog is very vast most of their courses are with 3 ETCS points. I chose the courses I wanted to take and wrote them in the Learning agreement. I had to see if those courses would be recognized in my home university, therefore I went to the responsible people and they told me that I can. I had my Learning agreement signed and I sent it to the university in Prague. With all the documents being done, it was time to travel to Prague.

It was a really short ride with a bus to Prague. I traveled with a friend who was also doing her Erasmus in Prague. The bus dropped us at Florenc bus station and from there we decided to get an Uber since we heard it is really cheap and we had a lot of luggage. This is where my first struggle with the new country starts. The driver did not speak English, so we couldn't really talk to him. Also, even though the address we wrote in the app for the dormitory was correct he dropped us off somewhere else. We had a really hard time finding the right dormitory but with the help of another student we found it. My advice for you would be to register for the Buddy system and ask your buddy to take you from the bus stop or airport.

2. Accommodation:

I decided to stay in a dormitory since it was cheaper and less stressful than looking for a shared apartment. The receiving university provided me with all the information I needed for that. The application and payment for the dorm room were fairly easy. They also told us if we have problems just to write them an email and ask. I stayed at dormitory Jarov III F, I was told that it is the best of them all. I had a standard double room.

When we finally arrived at the dorm, we were very tired and a bit annoyed with our trip so far. However, we were welcomed warmly by the dorm staff, who helped us get the right documents and everything else that was needed. I was given my keys for the accommodation and I went to see my room. When I opened the door to my standard shared apartment it looked nothing like on the pictures but it was in great condition and really clean. The room was also pretty small but in good condition.

3. First shopping trip and first day in school:

Here comes one of the experiences I really hated in the country. I went to meet with my friend and buddy so we can go to our first grocery shopping. We walked to the supermarket and started shopping. I'm not sure if you are familiar with that but Czech Republic has its own currency which was really confusing at first because we saw all those really high prices and got confused a bit. However, that's not that big of an issue and you get used to it. We got our products and went to wait in line for the cash register. It was my turn to check out and I smiled and said "Dobrý den" which means "Hello". The response to that was a really mean glare and the person literally started throwing my groceries after she scanned them. This happened almost every time I went shopping, the staff was extremely rude and not helpful. I even saw once how a cash register person yelled at a girl who clearly didn't understand Czech language. I heard that people in Czech Republic are very reserved but I didn't expect them to be this rude. It was quite the shock for me and quite frankly I was a bit scared of shopping there.

The first day in the university was more informative. They told us a bit about the university about the country and some of their traditions. We also got to watch a performance of traditional Czech dancing. Overall, it was really nice and I got to meet a lot of new people. Also, they gave us a lot of food which was very nice of them.



4. My studies at the receiving university:

I chose my courses that were with 5 or 6 ETCS points, because I didn't want to stress with a lot of courses during my semester abroad. The teaching system there is quite different than the one in my home university. The attendance to some courses was mandatory and it contributed to the grade. I mainly took accounting courses and I had to do some presentations and papers for my final grade. I took Audit and Controlling, Managerial accounting and Performance Analysis, Economics of Life and I also wanted to take an intensive course. However, this course was only 3 ETCS points and I had to combine it with another course to get it recognized at my home university. But the intensive course got cancelled and the system for course registration was closed, therefore I couldn't take those two courses because I can't recognize a course with only 3 ETCS point in my home university. My advice is that if you want to combine a course with an intensive one, make sure you have a back up course. Also, I expected the professors' English to be on a very high level. I'm not sure if that was true. Half of the time I was really struggling to understand what they were saying because their accent was very strong as well.

The exams for the international students can all be taken in the last week of classes. However, I decided to take my time and not be so stressed about them, hence I took them in the exam period. The lecturers provide you with dates for the exams from which you can choose.

5. My day to day life and free time:

During the week I was either going to classes or sightseeing. My costs per month were around 220-250 Euros. The public transportation is reasonable for a student - around 13 Euros/month. Before I went to Prague I thought that everything is pretty cheap. Well, I was wrong. The beer is cheap, however everything else is the same as in Berlin or even more expensive.

There are a lot of things to do in Prague. It's a big city and you can never be bored. The Buddy system organizes a party every Tuesday and also a lot of other events. Some of my friends even went skydiving. You can enjoy good cuisine there as well. My favorite food places were The Blue Garden, The Little Mexico and the pizza place close to the dorms. I personally enjoyed doing to the beautiful

parks all around in the city. In the weekend, me and my friends, visited the many clubs in Prague. I would recommend not going to the big five story club because it is very expensive and not worth it.



In conclusion, the beginning was very hard for me, I was nostalgic and the mentality of most people there was not what I expected. I can say that my best experience was meeting such amazing people from such a different background and discovering the beautiful nature of Prague. And what I find really bad is that a lot of people in the stores and shops do not speak English and are very rude.

Overall, I would definitely recommend you to visit Prague. Beer is cheap, nature is beautiful and the city is very international. I met friends for life there.

