Erasmus Participant Report – Prague

Erasmus is a special opportunity, so if you consider living abroad for at least one semester don’t hesitate to participate in the programme. I would highly recommend you to choose Prague because of the massive opportunities in the city and the dedicated student programme.

I spent the whole 2018/2019 Fall Semester in Prague. The Erasmus+ financial support is provided, you receive 450 €/ month (1 € = 325 HUF). I didn’t live with this option, I applied for another scholarship. That one is called Campus Mundi Scholarship granted by Tempus Közalapítvány. I managed to fulfill their criteria, so my application was successful. I got 200 000 HUF/month. This scholarship and some own funds covered all of my expenses. The prices are slightly higher than in Hungary overall (with around 10-15%). In my opinion you should check this scholarship and the application criteria thoroughly and go for it.

Accommodation

You can choose in between several options. You can rent a room or move into the dorms. Renting a room is around 10000 CZK/month (1 CZK = 13 HUF). I would recommend you to choose the dorms, because in my opinion this option was more convenient. As an international student you can choose between Jarov F and Jarov G. Try to choose Jarov F as a first option, because there reside a massive amount of exchange students. Connecting to the rooms you can choose from 3 options: „Premium: single-bed room” (275 CZK/night), „Premium: double-bed room” (200 CZK/night) and „Premium room: one person in a double-bed room” (300 CZK/night). You must pay a deposit of 5000 CZK in advance (you are going to get it back after the move out process, if everything is OK with your room) and at least 10 000 CZK from the total price before the move in process (you can pay the total price in advance). You share the whole common area with your roommates and flatmates. I personally choose „Premium: single-bed room” option. It was more comfortable and more convenient for me, because I had my own space. The rooms has got a decent equipment.

Living in the dorms was amazing an amazing experience for me. I managed to get to know several international students there and I made a bunch of new friendships there. By the end of the semester we had a big circle of friends. My flatmate was a nice finnish guy. Sometimes we both invited our friends to our common area and had fun. The dorm area provided also various type of sporting activities. I usually went with some of my friends to Jarov C gym. It is a really decent one, the monthly pass was only 150 CZK.
The university

During the semester I was studying in University of Economics (VSE). The semester started with the Orientation week on 7th of September. I registered for 7 courses. I was really lucky, because all of them were equivalent with my courses at Corvinus. From my courses I would like you to highly recommend International Management – in English. This course helped me a lot to improve my presentation and management skills and the teacher was really emphatic. My courses are on master were slightly tougher than my courses at Corvinus. The evaluation of my courses covered a presentation, a term paper, a group assignment and a written or an oral exam. The registration procedure went via the university information system (InSIS). Some of my courses was with local students and they told me, they have some obligatory courses in English. I really liked it, so something similar could be great here at Corvinus as well.

Buddy System

The local ESN provides you a local buddy during your semester if you sign up for it in their system. My buddy was really helpful, she answered all of my questions and helped my to find the dorms and understand better some processes. The buddy system also organizes some day trips to other cities and some events in Prague. It can be useful to sign up for some of those. I registered for two of them. The Ice Breaking Weekend was really cool, I managed to make some new friendships there. The other one was the pub crawl with my friends. That was one of the funniest events for me during my exchange. During the first week you can also buy the welcome pack. It covers a Vodafone SIM Card, an ESN Card and your Nation2Nation (N2N) Pass. The price is 600 CZK. The N2N parties are really fun, they are in different clubs for the whole semester in every Tuesday night. It’s worth to visit them so I don’t recommend you to sign up for courses on Wednesday morning, unless you have an obligatory one.

Public Transport

Prague has got a really decent public transport line. There are 3 metro lines and several long tram lines and some bus lines as well. I mostly used tram 9 from the dorms to school. It only took 15-20 minutes. I also travelled with several other trams and the metros quite frequently. The night transport is really nice, there are several night trams and they come normally in every 30 minutes during the weekdays and 20 minutes on the weekends.

Travelling
Fortunately Prague is not so far from Budapest. You can either travel with Flixbus or tram or with Ryanair. For me tram was the most convenient option. It only took around 6,5 hours and the ticket was 19 €.

You should visit some Czech cities. I visited Brno with friends during the first part of my semester. The city itself is really pretty. You should visit there at least the Spielberk Castle and the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral. I also visited the marvellous city of Plzen. If you consider to go there don’t hesitate to much, the famous brewery of Pilsner Urquell is just waiting for you. I also visited the historical Cesky Krumlov. You should definitely go to the castle and city center. There are several other cities I haven’t been yet, but worth to visit. You should definitely go to the historical city of Karlovy Vary. Kutna Hora with its famous bone church (Sedlec Ossuary) and St. Barbara’s Church can be an attractive option as well. You can go to Karlstejn to visit the castle. Bohemian Switzerland and Little Velka Amerika can be really nice destinations as well. Germany is also close, so if you would like to visit Dresden, Berlin or Munich don’t hesitate. There are also some other nice cities and places to visit, so if you have some free time travel as much as you can.

When you decide to stay in Prague for a while you should explore the city itself. Go through the Charles Bridge as many times as you can. It shows you another viewpoint depends on the part of the day or the current month. Don’t forget to visit the castle. The St.Vitus Cathedral, the St. George’s Basilica, the Golden Lane and the Old Royal Palace are just waiting for you among other sights. You should climb the Petrin Tower as well. The view is simply perfect from there. Vysehrad with its famous cemetery is also a nice place to visit. Charles Square and Kafka Square are important places to visit. Explore Prague as much as you can.

It was a really amazing experience for me and I hope at least some of you consider to visit Prague as an exchange student. Don’t forget to apply to Campus Mundi Scholarship. It gives you a nice chance to have an amazing journey over there, with tremendous huge amount of new skills related to school and experience thanks to your new friends.

Balázs Bencze