

Student Experience Report

University of South Bohemia

I did my Erasmus+ exchange program at the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic from January to June/2021. I chose to go there because my thesis supervisor is a lecture at this university and this university is part of the consortium of my Master course (European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations). The process of preparation for this exchange started right when I decided my thesis supervisor. After that, there was the process to find an accommodation to stay in Prague which was easy for me as I had already lived in the country before for my internship.

I flew to Prague from Lisbon and when I arrived there I took a bus to the city center. Prague is a nice city in Central Europe with many things to offer. Prague is home to about 1.3 million people, while its metropolitan area is estimated to have a population of 2.7 million, which for me is the perfect size for a city. Prague also has an intense nightlife. However, as I was there during the pandemic I could not enjoy it the most, only at the end of my stay. Moreover, Prague has many different cultural events, such as fairs, expositions at museums and cinemas.



Furthermore, as I love to travel, I also had the opportunity to go to other cities within the country. I went to the beautiful town of Český Krumlov, in the South Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. Its historic centre, centred around the Český Krumlov Castle, has been a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992 because of its well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. It is a beautiful city with an amazing architecture.



Concerning the academic part, throughout the semester, I didn't have classes because I was just writing my Master thesis. Hence, I had meetings with my thesis supervisor weekly, whether online when we were in lockdown or in person when the restrictions were lifted. My supervisor also gave me many tips about the Czech Republic and helped me a lot with my thesis, since I wrote about the rise of populism in the country and its impacts on the implementation and development of policies that affect beneficiaries of international protection.

Finally, at the end of my stay in the Czech Republic I had the opportunity to go to two other cities in the country, Brno and České Budějovice. České Budějovice is famous for the Budweiser Budvar Brewery and the historic city centre is well preserved. It is also where the University of South Bohemia is located, so I went there to see the university as well. In

Brno I had the opportunity to visit the museum of the Roma people which was very interesting.

In conclusion, my experience in the Czech Republic was great and I highly recommend it to everyone. The cost of living in the country is not very high, so it is affordable to go out and eat in restaurants, bars and go to clubs. Ultimately, an interesting fact about the Czech Republic is that the country has the highest consumption of beer per capita (litres per year) in the world and the beer is sometimes cheaper than water in restaurants and bars! Hence, I would highly recommend it for beer lovers and party animals.

