

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

yes No

New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to contact alumni outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your contact details in case of enquiries?

yes No

Study program at EUF

European Cultures and Society

Discipline combination (if BABW)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Host country

Czech Republic

Host university

Masaryk University

Semester abroad (e.g. winter semester 2020/21)

Winter Semester 2020/21

2. Your story

At this point you can now tell your stories from abroad. Often it is not so easy to tell about your experiences abroad in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some reflection questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

As preparation for my semester abroad I followed the guidelines provided by the EUF and the Masaryk University. The Masaryk University has a special website for foreign/exchange students where you can access all the information you need. Additionally I started following the Masaryk University's Instagram Account where they provide students with additional information such as good places to visit, apps for the Czech Republic, packing lists, etc.

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

I decided to live in the dorms where I met most of my friends. I also took part in the orientation week of the Masaryk University where I also met a lot of people. The Masaryk University also has a buddy programme where you get assigned a buddy according to your own interests. The Erasmus Student Network Brno also organizes a lot of activities where you can meet people. When meeting new people my tip is to be open-minded and to also try new things. Especially in the beginning just try to take part in as many activities as possible.

What I would have liked to know before going abroad?

/

How was the study program at the partner university structured?

(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

The courses at Masaryk University were structured similarly to the ones in Flensburg. There is a lecture period followed by an examination period. The only difference (at least for me) was that there were midterm tests and presentations throughout the semester which were graded.

All of my courses were in English. The courses were easily accessible via the module catalogue and registration was also very easy via the Masaryk University's information system (like Studiport, Moodle all in one).

In the Czech Republic the grades are A, B, C, D, E and they will be transformed into our system at the end of your Erasmus.

My final grades were made up of the grades of the midterm tests, presentations and final exams or papers.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

During my Erasmus I met a lot of people from all over the world. The conversations we had made me more open-minded and

gained more perspectives and different viewpoints on different topics. I also became more conscious of my own upbringing and culture. Sometimes you have to live somewhere else to become aware of this. During my Erasmus I also became more confident.

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

Before going to the Czech Republic I considered it to be part of Eastern Europe. While being there I realized that this understanding came from a very Western European point of view as the Czech Republic considers itself to be more central European. I also learned how different topics can be treated differently in different countries.

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

My daily life in Brno consisted of my studies and a lot of walks as I had a Corona semester abroad and there was a lockdown in the Czech Republic for most of my stays. But by going for walks I got to know Brno so much better and fell in love with the city. Brno is a student city with a normally lively nightlife. There are a lot of bars, pubs and restaurants. My friends and I often times went for walks and stop at a café to get a coffee to go. It is also possible to live a very sustainable life in Brno. There are a lot of vegan places, a vegetable market and zero waste shops. The public transport in Brno is also very good. Normally there stops a bus/tram every 10 minutes in front of the dorm so you can get to the city centre quite easy. There are also nighttime buses which leave frequently from the main train station. The university also offers sports courses and there are a lot of gyms in the city as well as a bouldering hall. The Czech Republic is a great country for travelling. As a student you get a lot of discounts on train tickets. For example can you get from Brno to Prague (~ 3 hours) for less than two euros. Brno is in the south-east of the Czech Republic. From there it is only a 1 ½ hour train ride to Vienna or Bratislava.

To conclude, I really enjoyed my semester abroad and living in Brno.

How did you manage with the money?

As the Czech Republic is in group 3 of the Erasmus grant you will get 330€ a month. With this life is easily manageable in the Czech Republic.

I decided to live in the dorms because it was the easiest but also the cheapest. For my single room in the dorm Sladkého I paid 130€ per month. (Bonus: At Masaryk University you can apply for an Accommodation Grant even as an exchange student. With this I got ~ 108€).

Food prices are almost the same as in Germany. Some products are cheaper, some are a bit more expensive.

The cheapest thing in contrast to Germany is going out to restaurants, bars, pubs. Generally a meal doesn't cost more than 8€. And little funfact: Beer is mostly cheaper than water.

For my bus/tram ticket in Brno I paid 25€ for three months. All in all I can say that life in the Czech Republic is considerably cheap and that it is manageable to get by with the Erasmus grant.

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

During my semester abroad I wrote a blog about my experiences for the German Academic Exchange Service and its campaign "studieren weltweit". If you are interested to get some more information you can check it out here:

<https://www.studieren-weltweit.de/welt-erleben/lara-tschechien/>

The blog is written in German but if you open it in Google Chrome you can get it translated by Google.

3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/imagine your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following reflection questions can help you choose an appropriate photo:

- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?

EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG:

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass Rechte Dritter an dem/den unten näher bezeichneten Foto/s nicht bestehen und ich der EUF die Nutzung dieses/dieser Fotos gestatte

Yes No



*My
Komárov
Sladkého*



dorm My room (1)



My room (2)



*Bílá
(Brno)*

Hora



Brno Dam



*Spilberk Park
Brno*



*My favourite
place in Brno*



Market in Brno



*My favourite
Café in Brno
(SKOG)*



*Brno
Architecture*



Dorm Vinarska



*Kitchen
in
Vinarska*



*Faculty of
Social Studies*



*Masaryk
University*



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Many thanks for your assistance!