



Erasmus+



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Report 2015/16

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	International Information Systems
Host university:	University of Economics, Prague (VŠE)
Host country:	Czech Republic
Study programme at host university:	N/A, Erasmus student
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS

1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)

I applied this exchange program through the international office of WISO under the chair of Prof. Dr. Kathrin Möslein. I submitted my application by 5 Dec. 2014 and I got the interview from Mr. Sascha Oks in January 2015. After the interview, I got the offer from Wi1 in February 2015 and waited for enrollment of VSE.

In April of 2015, I got the acceptance from VSE via email. They have asked me to register my personal details including passport number in their student portal ISIS by end of May 2015. Also they mailed me the documents for my Visa application in May. There are multiple rounds of course registration from June till middle of September in 2015. After my course registration, I went to Prague on 16 September 2015. The Orientation (Welcome) Week was held from September 14 until September 20, 2015. During that week I was provided with necessary information regarding the stay in Prague and studies at VSE.

2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

I went to Prague by DB IC Bus, which takes about 3 hours and 40 minutes. The bus stops right in front of the Central Railway Station, which is close to both university and the old town. You can walk across the Central Railway Station and take the tram 9 directly to the university and to the dormitory, which takes no more than 20 minutes.

My buddy Milan Polak is very kind and picked me up when I arrived in Prague. He helped me change my money (from Euro to Czech Krone), took me to the dormitory, helped me complete the dormitory registration, then guided me back in the university and helped me complete the registration in the university. I would like to thank him here for helping me go through this process on the first day of Prague. Without him things wouldn't go so smoothly!

3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I stayed in the student dormitory of Jarov III. F, situated in Jarov district, Praha 3, which is approximately 20 minutes from the University by direct tram line 9 and about 25 minutes from the city center. Originally there were only double-bed rooms available. Luckily I received an email in August 2015 stating that single-bed rooms (i.e. double-bed room with only one bed occupied) were available with a bit higher price. So I booked the single-bed room. Although it is a single-bed room, you still need to share bathroom, toilet and kitchen with another roommate since there are two single-bed rooms in one flat.

There are some grocery stores near the dormitory. If you want to buy cheaper stuff in a bigger supermarket, you need to take a tram for 3 stops. You can change for clean bed

sheets at the first floor near the administration office. If you want to do laundry, you need to write your name on a sheet on the front-desk in the office so as to book a time-slot.

#### 4. Study at the host university (Courses / Timetable)

Students need to register their courses on the student portal of ISIS within the registration period from June till middle of September in 2015. Students should register at least 10 ECTS. There seems no upper limit for the course registration. Since I didn't have any courses to transfer in this semester, I only registered courses of 10 credits. One of the course I chose is an intensive course that can be completed in a few days. This can be helpful for Erasmus students who want to travel and need a more flexible schedule. There are many languages course I would recommend. First of all, you are advised to learn Czech language when you live in Prague. The university offers many classes for basic Czech learners (A1). They are only 3 ECTS. You can also learn some basic Spanish or French during the exchange program.

The lectures started on September 21, 2015 and all exchange students were able to finish their exams by December 18, 2015. Normally students didn't need to take written exams but only oral exams and you can talk to the instructors to book a date for oral exam beforehand.

#### 5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)

First, the International Office of VSE is very prompt and polite when answering emails. No matter what kind of question you were asking, they would answer based on their knowledge in a polite way. If they didn't know the answer, they would advise you where to seek solutions.

They also have a professional and standard registration and de-registration procedure especially for us Erasmus students. They handled our confirmation of stay and learning agreements quickly and properly so that we could report to our home university on time.

They are also friendly and nice to all our exchange students. They have Buddy System and Facebook groups, which held couples of events for us Ice-breaking as well as providing us necessary information in Prague and VSE.

#### 6. Language courses at the host university (charges or fees required)

As I have mentioned in Point 4, there are many language courses with multiple levels offered in regular courses in VSE during the winter semester. The basic Czech language course is particularly tailor made for us without any knowledge of Czech language. The class is held every weekday from Monday till Friday. Hence you don't need to worry about any overlaps with other courses. You can also learn some other language courses such as English, German, Spanish and French offering in multiple levels.

#### 7. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)

The first thing after your registration is to get a student ID card. The card is very helpful, which helps you borrow books from the university library, print/copy, buy food in restaurants in both university and dormitory and help you enter the dormitory building etc. VSE campus contains four zones, which are inter-connected. The main library locates in the old building. In the library, you can borrow books and magazines, read newspapers, print/copy and do self-study. The print and copy costs cheaper than outside the campus and you can always add money into your card in the data center next to the library. The new building of the campus is very grand and the atmosphere there is quite vibrant. I could enjoy staying there the whole afternoon, discussing with my classmates and doing self-study under the roof of the new building.

#### 8. Finances & Spare time activities (sight seeking, cost of living, bank, mobile phone, jobs)

Prague is one of the most beautiful sight-seeing cities in the world. If you like historic treasures, you can go to the Prague Castle where you may need at least half a day to go through all the museums, churches and palaces. If you like romantic sight-seeing,

walking by the Vltava River and crossing the Charles's bridge would be the best option. If you like shopping, you can take a walk from Narodni Trida to Vaclavske namesti to enjoy the new town's atmosphere. All in all, I would not repeat what the tour books would say about Prague. You can take a walk to go through the places I have talked about and you would not find any redundant views. Every view of walking in the old town and city center of Prague is new and refreshing.

The living cost generally is cheaper than that in Nürnberg. In terms of breakfast, dinner and supper, it is 1-2 Euros cheaper per meal. So is the transportation. Students can get a semester ticket with a very comfortable price. Since I have an account of Sparkasse Nürnberg, I can draw money directly from Sparkasse (Československá Obchodní Banka) in Prague. In Prague, you can also use the sim card from Germany but you would not have 3G access. But you can use the Wi-Fi in the campus as well as in the dormitory, which I think is sufficient.

#### 9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

I think students and staff in VSE are very nice and helpful. From the enrollment, to registration, to regular classes and to the end of the study, they have been consistently friendly to me. I never expected that my buddy Milan Polak would be so nice and patient. He answered many of my questions, guided me through the trivial registration processes as well as showed me around the beautiful city of Prague. Here I would really thank the buddy system of VSE, also for the countless parties they have held. The ice breaking parties brought us exchange students from all of the world much closer and became friends.

All in all, I would recommend students to go to Prague for exchange in order to gain a memorable experience in their student life. The people are nice, the city is beautiful and things there are not expensive. If there is opportunity, I would like to visit Prague again in the future.

#### 10. Important contact persons and links

The University of Economics, Prague: <http://www.vse.cz/english/>

International Office: <http://ozs.vse.cz/english/>

Email: [exchange@vse.cz](mailto:exchange@vse.cz)

ISIS Student Portal: <http://isis.vse.cz/?lang=en>

Buddy System: <http://buddy.vse.cz/web/en>

List of Courses for Exchange Program: <http://ozs.vse.cz/english/exchange-programme/campus-in-prague/list-of-courses/>