



Erasmus+



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

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

Personal Information	
Study programme at FAU:	Master International Information Systems
Host university:	Czech Technical University, Prague
Host country:	Czech Republic
Study programme at host university:	Faculty of Electrical Engineering
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	WS 2015
May the report be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) YES /
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is NOT applicable) NO to both

1. Preparation (organization, application at the host university)
2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)
3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)
4. Study at the host university (Courses / Language Courses / Timetable)
5. Support service at the host university (International Office, Department)
6. Facilities at the host university (library, computer pool, etc.)
7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)
8. Finances (cost of living, grant)
9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)
10. Important contact persons and links

1. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasthochschule)

I applied through the Technical Faculty of FAU, responsible for CVUT is Dr. Harald Köstler. I contacted him and sent him my application, CV and motivation letter. Soon afterwards, I got accepted from FAU and later on I received a letter of acceptance from CVUT. After some time the official letter of acceptance was also sent to me by post. The Erasmus-coordinator informed me by e-mail with all following steps and provided also info and log-in data for the dormitory application. I had to provide a learning agreement quite early in CVUT (i think during June), with all courses I wanted to visit there and the corresponding modules in the Technical Faculty. The course registration takes place during the orientation week in Prague, so the only thing the students can do is to inform themselves for the courses in the courses-portal of the university. Before my arrival to Prague I applied for a buddy. Generally speaking, all steps needed to be done are easy to find out during the ongoing communication with the Erasmus-coordinator and the international student club.

2. Anreise / Visum

Since Czech Republic is an EU and a neighboring country, it's rather easy to arrange the trip. I went to Prague by bus (FLIXBus: ~5 hours and 15€) or by car (no more than 3 hours from Nürnberg). Visa is not required for EU citizens, so I did not have to arrange anything more about that. People from non EU countries should probably find out more information about that.

3. Unterkunft (Wohnheim, privat)

I did apply for a dormitory room. The application for a dormitory room takes place during summer, it is recommended to apply directly after you received an official acceptance letter from the University. So I did apply for a dormitory room, in the portal you can specify the dormitories of preference. In the middle of August the decision about the room allocation was taken. I did receive a place which should be paid directly, deadline 4/5 days after the allocation. I finally did not take the dormitory room, but I preferred the option of a shared flat, but only due to the fact that I already knew the flatmates. Dormitories are very cheap, ~110€ per month, but rather basic and usually shared. Flats are harder to find, but I knew some more Erasmus students living in WGs in Prague, then the cost rises in around ~300€ per month.

4. Studium an der Gastuniversität (Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan)

The courses are easy to find online, the portal shows all offered courses in English from all the faculties. One can register in any course he/she likes independent from the faculty he belongs. That is great because then the choice of courses is quite large, while the courses offered are from both bachelor and masters level. One can therefore subscribe in courses of any level independent from his program of studies. All in all, there are no restrictions about the chosen courses in the university. Most courses require physical presence, as well as a fair amount of work every week. There was no course that just had exams in the end, all had a combination of presentations, exercises and papers to be written during the semester. There were courses offering from 2 until 6 ECTS. There is also an interesting examination system, giving more flexibility regarding the examination date. For my courses there was usually an exam date in the beginning of January and one middle of February, and everyone can choose the date that fits him the best. There is an online system

similar to the FAU mein campus, in which the students can organize their studies, each course of mine also had an online site with credentials where all important information could be found (dates, news, study material). The study materials were provided like in FAU online, while there is also a university-book shop where the recommended books from the professors can be bought. I did not buy any books, I thought that the presentation materials were enough for successfully completing the courses.

5. Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office und Fachbereich)

The responsible contact person in the university is Ms. Bilova. Especially before the beginning of the semester, she sent quite a load of e-mails with all needed information. Every time I went to her office, my issue was directly solved. She is also there most of the time, so although she expresses her unfriendly political views, she is there to help and get rid of you. There is also an orientation week organized from the international student club CTU, during which all organizational issues are fairly covered. The students of the international student club are also a great help. I had a buddy whom I could always ask for info or help. Moreover the international student club has created a group in facebook in which everybody can ask any kind of information and the members of the international student club are answering directly. All in all, it was never hard to find all information needed.

6. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)

The CVUT offers Czech language courses for free, a registration was mandatory and I heard that the courses were pretty fast full, thus, a quick registration is recommended. I did not take the course so I don't have more information about that.

7. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)

The CVUT is in a campus ,it takes around 15min with the metro from the center of Prague. Some of the buildings are old but all in all in a good condition. There is also a new Bibliothek building, pretty big, cozy and with a large book selection. WiFi and PCs in the university are also pretty good. All in all, I was very satisfied with the offered conditions. In the campus there is a cafeteria as well as mensa, while all different faculties are on foot distance. While there is no parking lot, there are plenty of places for parking close to the Uni. I had also some courses in another building in the center of Prague, which also had WiFi / PCs.

8. Alltag & Finanzielles & Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Lebenshaltungskosten, Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobs)

The student life in Prague offers a lot and it is also not expensive. The international student club organizes also many events during the semester (parties, cinema, bowling, country presentations etc.), as well as 2-3 days tours all over the Czech Republic. Of course, Prague as a capital is also full of cultural events, concerts and lots of bars/clubs. The food is great and also quite cheap, meal with drinks for 5€ is a totally normal price. I have heard from other students that the city can become stressy during summertime with all the tourists, but I was during the winter semester and then the city is quiet and nice.

9. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)

The semester is pretty compact, courses start in the beginning of October and finish one week after Christmas holidays ~3 months, which I did not like that much cause the semester

abroad finishes really fast, before you even realized it started. Moreover, a disadvantage of the university for me as an IIS student, is that the courses offered although relevant to my studies, there is not that much of a match with my curriculum. There were for example no database relevant courses offered during the winter semester. In the winter semester there were not more than 10ECTS that could be directly matched with courses of my IIS curriculum. Nevertheless, due to the large variety and the interesting courses, it does worth it, especially if you want to become more IT-savvy as the courses are very technical. Apart from that I did not have any bad experience.

Positive points: Prague as a city is fantastic, and there are really hundreds of students all over the world, so it is rather easy to socialize and have a good time.

10.Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links

Contact Person for Incoming Erasmus+ and Exchange Students: Lucie Bílová.

<https://usermap.cvut.cz/profile/bilovluc/?jsessionid=82134A9BA523F7363DAAB1DF0AEAB10A>

International student club: <https://www.isc.cvut.cz/>