

## **Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)**

Gastland: Tschechische Republik  
Gastinstitution: Masarykova Univerzita v Brne

- 1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen Erfahrungsbericht an?**  
Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

- 2. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasteinrichtung)**

When preparing, I simply followed the instructions I received from the host university. The only important thing is to keep an eye on the deadlines. The international office at Masaryk University took care of this and gave us an overview of what we should do and when.

- 3. An- und Einreise (Visum, Flug/Bahn/Bus)**

I took a bus from Nürnberg to Brno, which was very convenient as it's a direct connection to the city, and you do not need to change transport. It is also much cheaper compared to travelling by train. The journey takes around 6-7 hours. As I am a European citizen, I did not need a visa. However, a very important document is the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The university will ask for it because you are required to get register at the local health institution in case you need to go to the hospital.

- 4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)**

Masaryk University has a lot of dorms but getting into the nicest ones is a challenge because of the competition. The Vinarská dorm has been renovated and usually, most students try to find a place there. The advantage of living there is definitely the proximity to the Faculty of Economics and the canteen. There are also convenient transport lines (trolley, tram, bus) to the centre, and you can get to the heart of the city in about 10 minutes from this dormitory. However, one big downside of the university dorms is that you live with one other person in a room and in some dorms, you share the bathroom with three more people. I think a room in the student halls is around 250 euros. Because I was not sure whether I will get accommodation from the university, I reserved a room in a shared apartment. It is a bit more expensive compared to the university dorms since I pay around 400 euros (<http://www.abctudenthome.cz/en/>). I would suggest selecting an apartment at Plevova, rather than at Tyršova because the facilities there are better. Usually, many Erasmus students choose this accommodation, so it is easy to find other international friends while living with locals. My area (Královo Pole) is nice and there are a few nice small restaurants nearby.

- 5. Fachlicher Aufenthalt an der Gasteinrichtung (Lehrveranstaltungen, Praktikumsinhalte und -aufgaben, Sprachkurse, Stundenplan, Prüfungen, Abschlussarbeit)**

A benefit of this university is that it offers a wide range of courses taught in English. Lecturers here expect the students to actively participate in classes in order to earn points for the final grade. Attendance at some lectures is compulsory. Additionally, all courses have either midterms or assignments. So, if you plan to travel more, you should keep in mind that you will need more time to study and prepare the coursework. But on the other hand, the final grade does not depend entirely on the exam. In my opinion, the teachers are skilled, and you can learn a lot from them. The classes are usually small, around 20–30 people, which enables you to have a better relationship with the lecturers. I know there are a few language courses that are offered by the university, but I did not take part in any. It is possible to also help or teach a language course, if you speak, for example, German or Spanish as a mother tongue. Lectures at the Faculty of Economics start in the middle of September and end a week before Christmas. There is also a reading week in the middle of the semester when you can catch up on university work. Exams are typically in January, but all lecturers also offer them in December, so you do not have to come back after the holidays.

**6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikumsbetreuung**

The international office is very helpful and responds quickly. They provided us with a lot of useful information upon arrival, for example, a checklist with all the important deadlines and the things we needed to do. I have not really been in contact with the coordinator at the Faculty of Economics. I usually emailed the main Erasmus coordinator - Veronika Chylíková.

**7. Ausstattung der Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume, Laboratorien, Unterrichts- und Arbeitsräume etc.)**

The library in the Faculty of Economics is a bit small, but it has computers and a few study rooms where you can have meetings with other students for projects, or even study together. In general, the university is modern, and the rooms look very nice on the inside. There are also many other libraries in the city, like the one at the Faculty of Art, which was my favourite.

**8. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld abheben, Handy, Jobs)**

Despite being a relatively small city, Brno offers plenty of sightseeing opportunities. There are museums, castles, and churches. Also, a big beer producer is based here, and you can have an organised tour around the brewery with included beer tasting. The area around the city is perfect for hikes. Travelling to Vienna is cheap - 30 euros back and forth by train (around 1 hour and 30 mins). Other possible destinations are of course Prague, Olomouc, Bratislava, and Kraków. I did not open a Czech bank account but if you want to receive the accommodation scholarship that they give to Erasmus students, you will need to find someone who has one. That could be either a flatmate or the ESN buddy. Since I had issues with my mobile provider, I got a Czech prepaid card from Vodafone. If you sign up for the ESN card, you get the prepaid card I already mentioned. The plan included 6 GB mobile data for around 7-8 euros which was perfect for me. Unfortunately, I could not find any weekend jobs for English-speaking students. ESN organizes many events during the semester like tram and boat parties, international evenings, yoga classes, hikes, and trips, so pretty much there is a lot that you can do. I suggest you buy the ESN card because you also get discounts from FlixBus and you also pay less for the events that they organise. Brno is often quite lively at night because there are concerts or bazaars at the centre. Overall, there is always something going on.

#### **9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Gasteinrichtung)**

Overall, my costs here were not very high. The grant covered my rent as well as some shopping expenses. Transportation is cheap. A student card that covers the two zones in the city, 100 and 101, is 10 euros per month. There are many nice restaurants where you can order good food and nice beer for around 10-15 euros. As I already mentioned, there is an accommodation grant given to Erasmus students, which is around 100 euros.

#### **10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)**

I definitely enjoyed my time here in Brno and at Masaryk University. I did not have troubles with anything related to the university, but the accommodation could be an issue if you prefer to live on your own. People here are nice and welcoming, you can often get around speaking only English and there is always something to do.

#### **11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links**

An important contact is the international office coordinator - Veronika Chylíková (chylíkova@czs.muni.cz).