

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

**Gastland: Tschechische Republik**

**Gastinstitution: Prague University of Economics and Business**

### **1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen Erfahrungsbericht an?**

Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

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

The planning of the semester abroad did not pose any problems for me. The organization on the part of the VSE International Exchange Office was very good. Their web page is very well-organized and informative (<https://exchange.vse.cz/>). Additionally, they organized several interactive online information sessions before and at the beginning of the semester, that answered all my questions in advance. The Exchange Office was always quick and helpful in answering any questions. The Semester started in the middle of September.

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

I used my car to get to Prague, as it is only a three-hour drive. The route on the highway is usually free of traffic, but the centre of Prague is usually quite busy, especially around 4 to 6 pm. However, there is also a direct connection from Nürnberg to Prague with Flixbus, which is an inexpensive option when booked some time in advance. To get around Prague I used public transportation or bolt cars. For public transportation, they have the app "pid litacka". After receiving the student card (ISIC Card) there are student discounts on public transportation (3 months cost 360czk= 14,47€).

### **4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)**

I stayed in the student dormitories, particularly in the Thalerova dormitory. The application process was simple in an online platform. However, the number of single rooms is limited. If one is not fast enough on the day of choosing a room, the alternative is a four-person apartment with a shared bathroom and kitchen and two small bedrooms, each with two roommates. The building had 12 stories and the general condition was not the greatest, there was quite a lot of construction noise at the beginning of the semester and the elevator broke frequently. Additionally, my apartment was dirty when I first arrived, so it depends on your luck of who lived there before you. What was great is, that the tram (line 9) in front of the dormitory goes directly to the university (15 min) and the city centre (20/25 min).

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

The VSE in Prague operates differently compared to the WISO. Firstly, they have courses of 3, 4, 5, and 6 ECTS. Another difference is that students have to register for all courses in two rounds and courses have

limited capacities. I did end up getting into all the courses that I had pre-registered for, however, I know of people who did not. Courses could be changed until the first week of classes was over. This was great as some course descriptions or examination requirements did not match the online description. In general, as it is a business school, the University offers a wide variety of business-related courses. Important to note is that many courses at VSE have mandatory attendance that is tracked, to what extent depends on the course. I had courses where I could only miss two lectures, one with 50% attendance and one where attendance was not tracked at all. I took the courses, Intercultural Communication in Tourism and Hospitality Industry, International Business Negotiation and Protocol, Introduction to Game Theory, Introduction to China's History and Culture, Personnel Management 1, and World Economy - for exchange students. As assessment methods, most of the courses I took each included a midterm, a presentation, a term paper and the final exam. Some also had mandatory homework throughout the semester. From my experience with the courses I took, the workload at the VSE is higher compared to FAU, but the overall degree of difficulty and expectation is slightly lower.

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

The International Exchange Office provides a lot of clearly structured information on its website, organises information sessions and is quick to answer emails. They also are quick with providing the necessary documents for Erasmus.

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

The use of the library requires a very small fee and includes study areas. However, they also have an online library. The university campus includes four buildings that are all connected, some are more modern than others. Almost all lecture halls and seminar rooms had an electricity outlet for each seat, which was great.

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

Generally, Prague is a very beautiful city, especially the centre, considering the architecture, monuments and the river. Prague offers a great variety of activities for any interest. One can visit many cultural sights, like the Charles Bridge, the castle and the whole Old Town. In the summertime, I would also recommend booking a nice tour on a boat to see the city and its most famous monuments from a different perspective. The beer culture and nightlife are also very popular there. The Czech Republic uses Czech crowns as currency. In my experience exchanging money is not necessary, as paying by card is accepted almost everywhere. In my whole time there I only once went to a traditional Czech restaurant outside the city centre that did not accept card payment. When exchanging money, however, it is important to look up reviews online and the exchange rate. My bank in Germany does not collect any fee when using a credit card in the Czech Republic, but that might be different for others. As I started working in Prague however, I had to open a Czech bank account and for that one must go to a bank where they have English-speaking employees (which not all do). The one I can recommend is Česká spořitelna (Na Příkopě 584/29, 110 00 Staré Město, Prague).

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

As the Czech Republic is part of the EU, one receives money from Erasmus. The Czech Republic is categorized into the group of countries with low costs of living and one therefore receives a lower rate. However, as it is the capital the housing prices/ rents are not low and the prices in the supermarkets and stores are either the same as in Germany or higher. I did not receive any additional top-ups (additional payments) and therefore can not inform about this process. The Erasmus rate almost covered the university dormitory rent, however, my room was more expensive as I had no roommate, so one should even have money left when taking a shared room.

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

Overall, I really enjoyed the semester abroad in Prague. The city is beautiful and as the temperatures were still warm in September and October it was possible to explore the city and visit restaurants and cafés with great sunny weather. The winter and Christmas time in Prague was also amazing, as there was snow, Christmas markets, ice skating rinks, decorations, etc. The university is different from WISO as all courses have to be registered for, attendance is usually mandatory and they have midterms, term papers, presentations and homework in most courses.

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

Incoming Exchange Office:

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<https://exchange.vse.cz/>

Fact sheet: <https://exchange.vse.cz/wp-content/uploads/ERASMUExchange-Factsheet.pdf>