

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
ERASMUS Report 2016/17

Personal Information	
Surname, First name:	Promyshlyanska Viktoriya
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Host university:	VSE
Host country:	Czech Republic
Study programme at host university:	-
Duration in semester (WS, SS or whole year):	SS
May the report be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) YES
If yes, may name and e-mail be published?	(Delete what is <b>NOT</b> applicable) YES to both

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

The preparation phase was organized pretty well. Basically I did not have to search for anything myself. Starting circa from October I received emails from the host university clearly guiding through the process. It was necessary to fill in an application form at the VSE Information System website (which was clear and intuitive, did not face any problems with this). Besides, VSE offers dormitory rooms for all international students. You just have to fill in an application form on their accommodation website. I have decided for this option because I did not want to search for a flat myself, and I was very happy with my choice.

## 2. Arrival / Visa (flight, train)

As I am not a citizen of a EU country, but of Ukraine, I needed a long-term study visa for my semester abroad. This was the most complicated and time-consuming point of preparation. I had to travel to Berlin to apply for the visa, then wait around 1 month (official term was up to 60 days) and then travel again to pick up the visa. There were no problems with documents or anything else, but traveling and waiting was quite exhausting. Arrival to Prague from Nuremberg was no problem at all as it is just around 300 km away. I went by car to be able to take all the necessary stuff with me.

## 3. Accommodation (student residence hall, private apartment)

I decided to stay in the student dormitory, which was kindly provided by the hosting university. The first advantage was that I did not have to search for anything myself. Besides, it was possible to get a single room in a two-bedroom block. I have never lived in a dormitory before and was a bit scared to be honest, but it appeared to be just fine. I think it was even better to live in a dorm than to rent a flat or a room

somewhere else, since most of the international students lived in dorm and all the events and parties took place there. The dorm itself was quite fine and the room as well. At the moment they are renovating the rooms so I suppose it will get even better. Was also quite cheap – around 200 euro per month for a single room in a two-room unit. Location was just perfect. Two minutes to a tram stop, 15 minutes tram ride to the university and 20 minutes tram ride to the city centrum. There were pretty decent small shops 2 minutes walk from the dorm, and Kaufland and Lidl around 15 minutes walk (or two tram stops). Right at the dorm was a nice park, suitable for jogging.

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

The course portfolio of VSE was quite nice. I was able to choose courses in English suitable for my study program and they were mostly ok. You can notice though that the teaching is quite different from the German one, but it is interesting to experience something else. I have studied Enterprise Information Modeling (we learned modeling techniques and made a project of modeling IS of an enterprise in a group of 15), Web 2.0 and Social Network Services (the aim of the course was to create and promote your own website) and New Media and Social Network Services (we learned about the specifics of new media and made a social networks based research in a group. For example, my group researched how Facebook users' activity on a movie's Facebook page correlates with the movie's revenue). The only problem I faced was that I needed some ECTS in informatics. I guess in general it is not a drawback for an economical university to not have too many courses in informatics – it is just logical – but for me it was a pity. There were just two informatics courses in English, or more precisely – stated to be in English. I have chosen Computational Finance, but in reality it appeared to be mostly in Czech... Nevertheless, International Office took care of this issue, and in the end it was kind of fine. I have taken two language courses: Basic Czech for foreigners A1 and Culture and History of German-Speaking Countries (German C1). I did not need foreign language ECTS – have just taken these courses for self-development. Basic Czech was very good – it was not too difficult or tenses, but I really learned some basics. German course was also just perfect to keep my German on a good level and to learn something about Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The format of the course was quite interesting – we mixed different activities, like watching videos, reading, discussing, playing games, making presentations. I would like to mention the Information System of VSE (<https://isis.vse.cz/>), which was very nice and convenient (maybe FAU could take a look at it ☺).

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

International Office was very nice. The orientation week was totally cool. There were many events like team game around the campus, excursion, and a welcoming ceremony with a buffet and traditional Czech dancing ☺ Was really cool. Also Buddysystem of VSE is great. They organized lots of trips and events like ice breaking weekend, international dinner, lasertag, country presentations, trampoline jumping, climbing, skiing... and of course Nation 2 Nation parties – every Tuesday night in a different club.

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

The university is decently equipped and at the moment they are renovating the oldest part. The canteens at the university are really nice. There are three of them: Italian one (with 4 different kinds of pizza every day and 2 kinds of pasta, price for a big pizza is around 2 euro), the one with healthy food and a “normal” one. Italian one was my favorite. There was also a decent canteen right at the dorm with 4 different menus offered every day. A menu consisting of a soup, second dish of your choice, unlimited bread and tea costs around 1,70 euro.

7. Spare time activities (sight seeking, bank, mobile phone, jobs)

Prague is a totally beautiful city. It has a lot of architectural and cultural sights as well as lots of beautiful parks and gardens. I have not been able to see everything in 4 months. It is really really beautiful. There are also lots of cafes and restaurants. Prague is just perfect for going out. There are lots of clubs, mostly open every weekday. The entrance and drinks are really cheap compared to Germany. Transportation system of Prague is just fabulous. The ticket for three month costs around 25 euro, and there are connections for every destination. The best point is that the night trams and buses are driving every night, around every half an hour. Also Uber is very popular. Mobile phone was also quite cheap and fine – around 5 euro pro month for unlimited sms and 500 GB of Internet (which was honestly not enough, so I might have spent around 10 euro pro month all in all). The operator I used was Vodaphone Czech. On the first day of orientation week guys from Buddysystem were selling special offer simcards. Probably the biggest problem I faced in Prague was getting cash from my German EC card. It was only possible with some unreasonable commission. Also paying by card was associated with 1,50 euro commission every time. Thus, I would definitely recommend everyone to get a special credit card suitable for beneficial withdrawal of different currencies. The currency in Czech Republic is Czech Crown (1 EUR = 27 KC).

8. Finances (cost of living, grant)

Living in Prague is cheap. Cheaper than in Nuremberg for sure. I would say it is possible to live for 400 euro pro month without trying to save money (with trying you could most probably get it cheaper).

9. Conclusion (best and worse experience)

It was beautiful time in Prague. Everything was organized very well, so I did not have to worry basically about anything. VSE welcomed around 400 international students this SS, so it was very exciting. The dorm was fine, university was fine, there were a lot of interesting events, lots of interesting people. Prague is a beautiful city and it's perfect for going out. The only possible difficulties are those connected with money withdrawal and also with the fact that not everyone in Czech Republic speaks and understands English. I would totally recommend choosing VSE Prague for semester abroad to everyone 😊 Here you can make sure they don't lie, when they say semester abroad is the best time of your life 😊

10. Important contact persons and links

You will receive all the necessary information and contacts in the information email from VSE.