

Personal Report

Czech Technical University in Prague, SoSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB3 – International Finance - Bachelor

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

The classes were in English but I got to know people from different countries and therefore, I learned a little Spanish, Czech and Mandarin. Mostly, I communicated with everyone in English.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could very well follow the classes. The university provided language classes during the semester.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, they provided dormitories and the quality was very good.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

1055€

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

I did not use the accommodation provided by the host university and rented a private apartment that was closer to the town centre. It took me 30-40 minutes to reach my campus but the infrastructure of their public transport was very good so I did not have any trouble commuting.

Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

Flatio

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

I lived in Prague 2, near the train station I.P. Pavlova. It was 10 minutes away from the town centre and had a good connection to public transport.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The arrival time that they provide on the university website is perfect as there are a few social events taking place after where you can get to know new people.

How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?

My parents drove me to my apartment a few days before the recommended arrival date so I could settle in. The orientation program was fun and great as they were always connected with social events. Everything was explained well and questions were answered sufficiently.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

It was less than the costs in Frankfurt. I can recommend the supermarkets Billa and Tesco, which were not necessarily cheap but they were close, convenient and had a great variety. Mini markets are a good idea for cheap drinks/water and snacks. Other than food, most of my expenses were due to travelling.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

With RegioJet, the trips to Budapest or Vienna are very cheap and the food on the train is insanely cheap (drinks like coffee and water are free!). The public transport ticket was valid for all of Prague.

Off-campus life was fun as Prague offers a great nightlife, whether it is clubs, bars or boat parties. The ISC would try to organise fun events every now and then, such as culture evenings or lasertag. The cafeteria has great and cheap food with one vegetarian option. The library was well equipped with computers and quiet areas. There were also separate rooms for groups or single students and study rooms available during the whole night. Wi-Fi was available in every facility and worked well.

There were a lot of different sports programs available but you had to be quick to sign up for a PE course of your choice that did not collide with any lecture or seminar.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A bit less challenging.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

I liked how the professors tried to make the content practical and relatable with examples. It was very easy to understand the concept of what they are teaching this way.

How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

The students are included in the lecture with exercises or presentations. One should be prepared to do a lot of presentations of previous work or specific topics. They tried to mix up Erasmus students with locals which was partially good but sometimes, those groups spoke their local language which made it harder to work in groups. Although, it was never bad enough to report it.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

It is definitely an unforgettable experience and I would recommend staying at the dorms. Try to travel and take part in the social events as much as you can and plan ahead as the semester goes by much faster than you can think. The semester abroad will improve your English skills but also teach you other languages as you will meet people from all over the world there. I got to experience the uni life that I had missed out on due to COVID. Going to classes was actually fun and the learning atmosphere is so welcoming and relaxing. The library and library café are a great place to study at, at any time of the day. I made some great friends that I will definitely stay in contact with and I got along very well with the professors, too.