

Ronja Neitenbach  
University of Economics, Prague, HT16

For my exchange semester abroad, I knew I wanted to go to Prague. It was my first choice, and I am so happy it worked out for me. I had never been there before, but some friends have visited and the city looked so beautiful in pictures. I had only heard of good things about my friends' experiences there, so I felt that it would be a great option. I also liked that Prague is very central in Europe, so it was easy to travel around central and Eastern Europe from there. Another great part of Prague was its affordability, especially compared to Stockholm and Sweden in general.

### **School and Education**

The school system is different at the University compared to SU. I took 6 classes, worth 30 ECTS credits. Each class is at the same time every week, so you have to balance your work in each. They were not too difficult though, so you had plenty of time to socialize with your friends. There is an option to take "intensive" courses, which only last a few days in a week or two, and I did not take any but I wish I would have, so I recommend taking one or two if you have the option. Overall, I really liked the courses, and about half were more focused on case studies which I think is a better way to learn than theoretical knowledge. There is a week of finals only for exchange students, so we could finish the semester earlier than actual VSE students do (so we could be home before the holidays). If you want to take the exams in January however, you are allowed to take them then. Tuesday night is the night when students go out, so I highly recommend not having a class Wednesday mornings.

The University is good at letting students know all the information. We knew when all the deadlines were for signing up for classes, dorms, "Learning agreements", and the list goes on. They were pretty flexible and helpful with any questions or concerns.

### **Accommodation**

The school provides dormitories for all students and especially exchange students. I decided to stay in Jarov III. F and am so happy I did. All my friends lived there and it was only a 15 minute tram ride from the University. There is a Lidl and two other big grocery stores down the street. I was a little worried about the condition of the dorms from online searches, but they were much more modern than I was expecting. They have been renovated recently so they were not too bad.

I had a shared room, and there are 2 rooms in each apartment so 4 of us lived in one. In the kitchen there is one mini-fridge and 2 stoves and a few cabinets, so it is a little cramped. Some rooms had no pots and pans or forks and knives, etc, but we luckily did so we did not have to go buy them. The bathroom is big, and it is no problem with 4 girls sharing one. Sheets are included there, and can be changed often. Also a desk, drawers, and a closet is included. There is also the option to have a single room, and it is more expensive. I am really glad I lived at the dorms! (My room below)



### **Prague Overall**

I highly recommend a semester here! I met so many people from around the world, the city is beautiful and affordable, and it is fast and easy to go travel from Prague. Since I was there for the fall semester, when I arrived it was still very warm weather and all the exchange students would go to the bar Juve next door. I think it was good to arrive the first day you could move in, because a lot of people came then and met everyone else there. Don't be shy because everyone else is nervous too, so just go out and meet as many people as you can the first few weeks. I also recommend participating in the Buddy activities the first few weeks, like the "Ice Breaking Weekend"; I met my closest friends at these activities, and you get to see a lot of Prague and surrounding areas.

If you want to travel around, I found it better to go with my friends rather than a student organization because we could see more things we wanted to by ourselves. It is easy to travel by bus or train; I visited 6 different locations in the Czech Republic and the countries around it.

The semester goes by really quickly, so take every chance you can to go out with your friends and see Prague. It is a great city, and I definitely want to go back soon.

