

**2016-2017**

**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	History

destination city & country	Olomouc, Czech Republic
name university abroad	Palacký University Olomouc
start date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 06 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>The application process went quit smooth actually. I decided to go on an exchange after the original deadline so I could only choose destinations that were not filled yet. Once I picked a leftover destination everything that was needed from my side was clear and structured.</p> <p>The information and process on the palacky university side was clear as well. You just need to fill in a couple of forms and you're good to go.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	No complaints whatsoever. The information that is provided is very clear and they are also clear in their expectations from you.
academic preparation	none
language preparation	none.
finances	Czech Republic has a low cost of living. I decided to live in a dormitory (request to get in Envelopa dormitory if you want to live near the center and bassicly go everywhere on foot) and paid around 130 euro's a month. A meal at a regular restaurant costs about 7/8 euro's and half a liter of beer is around 1.10 euro's . Supermarketets are also relatively cheap, but be carefull sometimes with what you buy, things can be expensive. one can live carefree with around 400 euro's a month (excluding traveling).

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Because i used my 'free points' for my exchange I could practicly choose every course they offered. And the university offers a lot of courses to exchange students throughout all faculties and departments. I ended up

doing courses at the Law, political science and sociology departments. This was mainly because some of the courses i picked before my mobility didn't exist anymore. They use a system called STAGG where you can search and enroll for courses.

The first two weeks of the semester are for trying courses before definetly picking them. Prepare yourself for changing your courses after you arrive because they vary every semester.

**IMPORTANT:** make sure you only pick courses with EXAM and not courses with COLLOQUIUM because they will not be graded and you might not get your points from the university. Also make sure when you attend a class in the first two weeks you ask the lecturer if they will give an exam and what kind of exam (paper, presentation, written exam, oral exam) so you can decide if you want to enroll.

#### academic quality of education activities

Academic quality is quite high. teachers and staff are knowledgeable and lectures are often quit interesting. The expetance of (erasmus) students is quit low though. I didn't need to prepare readings for lectures, and the exams weren't demanding as well. You will need to study though, don't expect to do nothing and pass.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

No complaints and overall great support. It can be sometimes a bit bureaucratic (mainly paperwork) and there are a lot of persons who you will visit to arrange something (department coordinator, faculty coordinators (two) and a overall coordinator).

#### transfer of credits

Palacký uses ECTS and a letter system for grading (A-F). Only F means you didn't pass the course so it is hard to fail.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

There is a orientation week where the university and the local ESN create a program together for all incoming students (around 200 per semester). You will get introduced to the university and student life and all that comes with it. Beside that there is a possibility to take a 'czech survival course' to get introduced to the language. I would recommend doing that because Slavic languages usually makes no sense to us.

#### accommodation

The university offers dormitory accomodation to every exchange student. I decided to go for that instead of trying to search for a room in the city. It is common to share a room in a dormitory in Czech Republic, so prepare for that. They have two main locations for dormitories in Olomouc: Envelopa and Neredin. Envelopa is the closest to the center so I would recommend to request to get into that dormitory.

#### leisure & culture

Olmouc is a nice historic, pitoresque city with a laid back vibe. There are lots of restaurants, bars and clubs to go to and the local ESN also organizes events every week. In the weekend the town is usually very quit so make sure you plan some trips during the weekends.

#### suggestions/tips

request if you can get a single room (if you want to) if you apply for the dormitory, it worked for me.

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes. For me it was a great half year well spent. Although Czech Republic and especially Olomouc isn't the first destination people think of, it turned out to be a great choice. Accademically it is not the most challenging destination, but socially it was a rewarding experience.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't prepare to much because things will never go as you planned, this espacially holds true for czech republic.