



## Charles University Prague

**2017-2018**

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	At first I thought the application process would be quiet difficult. I thought you had to fill in a lot of documents, get a lot of signatures etc. But it all was explained really clearly and the International Office was really helpful in my opinion. Every time I had questions or needed signatures, they were always available to help me and explain what was necessary to do. And most of the time the university website of the UU was sufficient enough to help me go throug the application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	As I mentioned above, the counselling and support at UU was really helpful and clear. Mails with questions were always replied to quickly and if needed you could always stop by at their 'office' for help. Most of the time the website and pages concerning the Erasmus Exchange programm was really helpful.
academic preparation	
	I did not do really much for academic preparation. I noticed from other people's experience and stories who went to Prague that the academic level was not that much higher in Prague, so that the academic I had from the UU was enough.
language preparation	
	When I signed up for the Erasmus programm, I got a mail from OLS which told I had to do an English language test in order to determine what my level of English was. Since I only needed to be able to speak, read and write English for my stay in Prague, this was all the preparation I did and needed for my stay there.
finances	
	I read from other people's experiences that life in Prague was not that expensive, so with my finances I used in Utrecht I knew I had enough to hold up in Prague. That in combination with some savings I had I was able to do some extra stuff like little trips to other countries and/or citites.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	My study programm in Prague consisted out of courses that had to be law courses 55% (if I remember correctly). The other courses were free to pick. For example, I chose a course called Cybersecurity and I followed a Czech language course. The courses whe could choose were all part of the Erasmus Programm they hade made for international students. Organisational-wise the Charles University had an International Office that was very helpful and coordinated all the incoming Erasmus students really well.
academic quality of education activities	
	In my opinion, the academic quality of the courses were okay, but the teachers were not that good at English. The things they were teaching us were from a decent academic level but how they were teaching it was not that high of an academic level if you ask me.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	As I said the counselling and support at the receiving university (Charles University) was good. They handled the incoming students really well and it was clear what we had to do. They were helpful with choosing our courses



and making sure all the documents that had to be signed and send to our home universities were fine.

transfer of credits

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome was quiet formal but it was okay. It was short introduction and it was mainly about some explanation of the student systems from the university we had to use. There was a so called 'buddy programm' which I did not signed up for, but I think some people really enjoyed that.

accommodation

I searched for a room myself with a friend and did not use the possibility to sleep at the dorms. Before I went to Prague I read that the dorms were not that nice and they advised to look for a room yourself more in the city centre. I fiex a room via an student agency with provided me and my friend of a really nice apartment for four people in the middle of the city (Prague 1). I really enjoyed living there and the agency was was fine to work with.

leisure & culture

Prague has a lot to offer when it comes to leisure and culture. First of all it is a beautiful city with a lot to see and a lot of interesting culture. And what I also enjoyed it the position Prague has in Europe. It is really easy to go from prague by bus to other cities and countries like Poland (Warsaw, Wroclaw), Berlin, but also smaller towns nearby like Karlovy Vary and Cesky Krumlov.

suggestions/tips

I suggest other people who go to Prague to search for a room yourself in like Prague 1, 2 or 3 and not use the dorms. That way you will experience the city way better and it is more fun for yourself because for example you do not have to travel half an hour or more to go to the city center.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

My expectations of Prague were high but it was even beter that I expected. The city is, in my opinion, one of the best cities in Europe and the Charles University is a really nice university with interesting courses and helpful people who really love having international students.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

## 2016-2017

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

In preparation for my application I started with searching for possible destinations on the website of Utrecht University. When something caught my eye I read through the reports of other students to see if I was interested. I considered various things like the distance, the costs of living, the language of the courses thought and just my own feeling.



counselling & support at Utrecht University
In preparation for the application I had one appointment with a counselor of Utrecht University to ask about their expectations of my application, to let them check if my documents were sufficient and for other small questions. While filling in the documents I sometimes emailed the counselor with small questions. They were always very quick to answer and very helpful.
academic preparation
I didn't do much academic preparation except for the Legal English course I will describe at language preparation.
language preparation
I knew my English would be sufficient for my stay abroad but since I only had one course on the last part of the year before my exchange I decided to participate in the Babel Course - Legal english for Academic Purposes. It is not mandatory to take an English or Czech course for the Charles University in Prague but the course did help me to get familiar with legal jargon in English. Since most of my studies in Utrecht were in Dutch and all the courses in Prague were taught in English this was pretty helpful. It is however not necessary, since the English of most Dutch students is well over the level that is required here.
finances
Because I have had a job since I was 15 and never spent money too excessive I had quite a lot of money saved. And since the living costs in the Czech Republic are relatively low this with my scholarship was sufficient.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
Charles University provides international students with a special programme that is only available for international students. It is a shame that we are not mixed with the Czech students so we never really get in contact with them, however, with all the international students together it is easier to make new friends in the classes with people who are there the same experience as you. Most courses were courses containing introductions to various aspects of Czech law. The courses I took were: Introduction to Czech Private Law, Introduction to the Central European Judicial Culture, Introduction to Public International Law, International Protection of Human Rights, Czech Legal History, Introduction to Czech Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property Law and Basics of Czech Language. I didn't really have any big organisational issues.
academic quality of education activities
The level of education was lower and the education was less structured than I was used to in Utrecht. I did do more courses though (8 courses - 32 ECTS) so I had quite a lot of contact hours and enough reading to do. Everything was in English but for the average Dutch student this shouldn't be a problem.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
While in the Netherlands we already started to receive e-mails from Mrs. Maresova. She is the international officer at the Law Faculty of Charles University. She provided us with frequent e-mails about what was expected of us and with instructions about things we had to do, for example registration for courses. We could always e-mail her with questions and she usually answered within 24 hours. Besides that she has office hours every day from 9-11 and when she wasn't available for a day she would always inform us in advance by e-mails. When we had specific questions about a course we could usually also e-mail the professors directly.
transfer of credits
I am currently working on my transfer of credits so I am not sure how this will end up. However everyone involved is always very helpful so I don't expect any problems in this department.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The law faculty of Charles University doesn't have a specific welcome and orientation programme. However most of the other faculties do have a joint programme and law students can also subscribe for the different activities. I received an e-mail about the different activities and links to subscribe. Besides this there are a lot of Facebookpages you can join (for example: Studentzone). They organize a lot of different activities throughout the whole semester and especially in the beginning of the semester to meet people.

### accommodation

I started out in one of the dormitories of the university (Hostivar). My plan was to see if I liked it and then if I didn't I would just find a place and move. I ended up living there for almost two weeks but I did not liked it there. The rooms are shared so it could also really depend on your roommate but for me it didn't really feel like a home and it was too far from the city centre. Luckily I found a place pretty quick through one of the Facebookpages that you can join where landlords and other students post rooms and appartments. It is pretty easy to find a good place for around 300-500, the proces vary a lot depending on the area/location, the landlords, and the accomodation.

### leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Prague. I could never describe everything I did there. It is a good city to do cultural stuff, to party, to have various daytrips etc. etc. Restaurants are cheap, beer is around 40 czk per 0,5 liter (that is around €1,50). Because of the location of Prague in the centre of Eastern Europe there are also a lot of trips to make to other cities or nature. For example I went to: Budapest, Dresden, Bratislava, Krakow and different other cities in Czech Republic. But you don't have to leave the city if you don't want to cause there are so many things to see and experience in the city itself. So many bars, restaurants, pretty buildings etc. Especially around christmas time the city turns into this beautiful place with christmas markets and lights everywhere. Prague does not feel very Eastern European as some people think. It is an international city. It is an old city, you can see that especially in the Old Town area but everything is very modern.

### suggestions/tips

Most will show itself when you arrive. You just really have to get out there and meet people. At first that can be a bit scary but it is definitely worth it. I found my closest group of friend by literally going to a hangout meeting in a parc all by myself, I was a bit scared at first but it also feels very good afterwards when you managed to find yourself amazing friends and you did it all by yourself by just putting yourself out there.

What I would suggest is to do some research before arriving about the area where you wanna live and what kind of accomodation you would like to stay in. Looking back I would have tried to find an accomodation while I still was in the Netherlands because I found out that most people already did that and when I arrived most good appartments were already taken. I ended up in a great one but more expensive then I would have wanted. Ofcourse you have to be careful with getting in apartment in advance for people who try to rip you off but there are usually a lot of red flags you will notice before that happens and actually none of the people I know got scammed while getting in apartment in Prague.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I definitely would. Prague is an amazing city and the Czech Republic is a great country in Central Europe with so many cities close to see. If you really want to go for academic purposes then Charles University is not the best option because the level of education is much lower then in Utrecht. But if you wanna go on exchange for the experience and to develop yourself as a person Prague is the perfect place. I loved my time there and I don't regret anything.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?



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## 2015-2016

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	
	This is a long and somewhat complicated process. A lot of paperwork and deadlines are involved in this. Luckily, the international office is very helpful. For me the most frustrating was waiting for the Erasmus office in Prague to approve my learning agreement. They were late with their response which prompted me to ask the international office in Utrecht to ask for an extension of the deadline. This was luckily not an issue and easy to achieve. The best advice I can give is to start working on your preparation as soon as you know what you want to do.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Preparing all the paperwork is a lot of work and keeping an eye on the deadlines despite all the other things that are going on in your life can be difficult at times. You will have to do the work alone, but in my experience the international office was always ready to help me if I encountered a problem.
academic preparation	
	I did not take any classes or partake in any special academic preparation for my study in Prague.
language preparation	
	All the courses given in Prague are in English and are easy to follow. I did not take any extra English test for my Erasmus period. The English you've been taught in high school should be sufficient to understand everything and everyone.
finances	
	Your student grant, Erasmus grant and the extra OV money provide for a solid basis to have a comfortable life here in Prague. It doesn't hurt to have a little extra money saved up though, because Prague can be an expensive city. For me money was never an issue here. I stayed in one of the dorms and quickly learnt where all the cheap student places are. In general the cost of living is a lot lower than in the Netherlands.
<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	The study programme is very clear. There are a limited number of courses they offer to Erasmus students. In the beginning of the semester there is a period of three weeks where you can join any class to see whether or not you like it. Before the end of this period you have to select which subjects you want to follow in the online Student Information System the university uses. This is an easy process and it will be explained during the orientation meeting. Other than that you don't have to organise anything. The faculty of law is well-used to receiving Erasmus students, so there aren't any organisational issues, at least, that I can think of.
academic quality of education activities	
	The quality of a course really depends on the teacher. If the teacher can speak English very well, then the course will be interesting to follow. If not, then it will be harder to learn anything. One or two teachers couldn't speak very well during my stay. In general the courses aren't that difficult. If you can handle the courses at your home university, then you should have no problem passing the courses here in Prague.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Like I said, the faculty of law here in Prague is well-used to receiving Erasmus students. They are familiar with



the documents you bring to them and never have any problems signing them. I did not require any support or counselling so I don't have that much to tell about this subject. Only problem I encountered was that not every Erasmus coordinator spoke English that well, but this problem can be circumvented by just asking them questions via email.

#### transfer of credits

Your Transcript of Records will be completely handled by the faculty. They will make sure everything is on there and that it arrives to your university in time.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme

The faculty of law does not have a welcome/orientation week, but you can join the one organised by the faculty of social sciences. I arrived a week too late so I didn't have the chance to participate. From what I've heard this program is a very good way to get to know the city and some students, so arriving in Prague a week before the start of the official semester is not a bad idea. The faculty of law only organises an obligatory orientation meeting where they will hand out the schedules and give some basic information.

#### accommodation

When you apply for the Charles University they will ask if you want to live in a dorm. I chose to live in the Hostivar dorm. You can also try to get private accommodation, but that is more expensive. The Hostivar dorm is very cheap (about 100 Euro per month). However, it is very basic. There are only double bedrooms and you share a small kitchen (with no oven or microwave) with the rest of the floor (around 12 people). A bathroom is included into the room, so you only have to share that with your roommate. The Hostivar dorm is also located somewhat far from the city centre. It takes about 35-40 minutes to get there by tram, metro or bus. Now, before you decide to arrange your own private accommodation, there is one thing that makes up for all of it. In this dorm you will live with loads and loads of other Erasmus students from all over Europe. You will make so many friends here and learn so much about other cultures that you won't even notice all of the downsides of this dorm. If you encounter a problem you can always ask for help from your fellow dormmates. I can really recommend living here!

#### leisure & culture

Now to the important part. When it comes to leisure and culture Prague has everything to offer. The Czech Republic has an even higher beer consumption than Germany, so you can expect that there are loads of bars and clubs here. Beer is served only per half a litre and is usually cheaper than water. There are lots of different bars and clubs, each with their own style and music. Each night Prague has something to offer for each person, no matter how eccentric. It is important to note that some places in Prague are very expensive and others very cheap. This mostly depends on the location. The city centre tends to be a more expensive. Apart from a bustling night life there are also plenty of museums, nice parks to hang-out in, a big zoo, beautiful opera's, and of course ice hockey matches to see. The Czechs are very fanatic when it comes to hockey. I can really recommend to at least once go to a match and see them go crazy (good kind of crazy). Prague is best explored on foot, but if you get tired the public transportation system is very good too. I recommend buying a 5 month ticket so you don't have to worry about having change with you to constantly buy tickets with. If you need a break from Prague, you could always go on a hiking trip to national parks such as the Bohemia-Switzerland park. Other than that you can of course visit other cities, like Budapest, Krakow, Dresden, Karlovy Vary, or Vienna. The bus is a cheap and quick way to get there. The university has an International Club which organises trips, bbq's, walking tours, and other social events for students of each faculty. There are also other organisations, like Student Zone Prague, which organise various parties and trips to other cities that are a lot of fun. In short, there is always something to do in and around Prague and there are plenty of students here to have an awesome time with!

#### suggestions/tips



It might be easier to make a lot of new friends quickly if you arrive in the first semester, since everyone here will be new to the place. This is not a big issue though, because everyone here has the same kind of party mindset and fitting in is really easy.

## CONCLUSIONS

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

A thousand times yes! I've had the time of my life here. Academically I may not have learnt that much here, but the experience of living in another country, away from your old life, and among different people from all over Europe and the rest of the world will teach you things no university or school could ever teach you. My Erasmus stay here showed me that the world is filled with awesome people. Even if you decide not to go to Prague I can highly recommend to at least make use of the Erasmus programme and have an amazing experience you will never forget for the rest of your life!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do/make all the paperwork/preparatoinas as soon as possible, don't wait until the last moment. Sometimes some issues may pop up unexpectedly and you don't want to deal with them when you have almost no time left.

## 2014-2015

## PREPARATION

exchange application process

For the application process it is necessary to start in time. In the end you need a lot of forms and signatures and information from your home university and host university and it takes some time to collect everything. This year the Charles University had a new record of amount of Erasmus applicants and that ended in some chaotic communication. This was sometimes a bit stressful, but it all worked out and they have a really helpful international office for general questions in Prague.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I experienced the counselling and support of the international office in Utrecht as helpful and really friendly. The only problem that I've experienced was the limited opening hours. So again, start in time with collecting all the forms and signatures because of that.

academic preparation

I didn't do any special academic preparation since I was already almost finished with my bachelor and there are no special academic requirements for Charles University.

language preparation

I didn't do any extra language preparation. It depends on your English but in general Dutch students have a pretty good level of speaking and writing and you'll improve your English so fast when you actually are in Prague. Beside of that, a lot of my friends in Prague took an intensive Czech language course of 2 weeks, which is offered by the University and for free. I would really recommend that because it's really fun to understand at least some words Czech in daily life and the course is a really good way to already meet a lot of people. The courses are always the 2 or 3 weeks before the semester officially starts, so you have to be earlier in Prague if you want to attend one of them. Unfortunately I was not in Prague yet at that time, so I couldn't attend.

finances

I didn't save a lot of money for Prague in advance, because the daily life is way cheaper there and beside of that I had the Erasmus grant, the normal 'studiefinanciering' and 'ov-vergoeding'.



## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I studied law at the Charles University in the first semester. The amount of erasmus law students is an average of 150 every semester. There were some general meetings where you get all your information and schedules and it's important to go there. Unfortunately there is no introduction week for the law students. I decided to join some introduction activities of other faculties, to get to know the city and to meet some new people. Beside of that there is an active student society (the common law society) that organises a lot of drinks and parties in the beginning of the semester, and if you want to get to know your other erasmuscolleagues better, I would recommend that!

### academic quality of education activities

The academic level is fine but it is not as challenging as the level of our home university in Utrecht. All the classes are in English and only for the Erasmusprogram. Its mainly 'passive' lectures in English where you just have to listen and make notes. The good thing about this is that for most of the courses there is not a lot of take home exercises and that means more time to enjoy Prague! Of course you have to study in the end for your exams, but if you just take that seriously, you don't have to worry about passing the exams. There were some interesting courses and I would really recommend to take the course 'emerging legal disciplines - sports law, it law and medical law'. However you don't have to study a lot at home, you are still often in University. This is because Utrecht University obligates you to take at least 22,5 ECTS and the courses in Prague are divided in 6 and 3 ECTS courses, so of course you have to enroll for more classes than you would do at home. I had for example 6 courses at the same time in one semester. Beside of the normal semester program, the Charles University and the Student Associations organise several debates and guest lectures in English for which you are more than welcome to attend.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There is an erasmuscoordinator at the Faculty that you can ask for help with everything that is related to your studies. I didn't have a lot of questions or request, but in general I think that everybody was really positive about that. Beside that there is a general international office and you can contact them about everything that has to do with your stay abroad and they will provide you with a lot of information about for example health care and accommodation.

### transfer of credits

You have to pick up your Transcript of Records yourself in Prague and otherwise they will send it to your home university. So far I didn't have any troubles with that. And in the end they will transfer your credits into 'passed/non-passed' instead of actually transferring it into our grading system.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

As I said before, there is no introduction week for the erasmus law students. But try to attend a language course if you arrive earlier or try to attend introductionweeks of other faculties. During the semester there will be activities organised by the student association as parties, icehockeymatches etc etc.

### accommodation

I found a really nice flat in the centre of Prague with 3 other girls (Danish, German, Belgium) that I've met over Facebook. I would really recommend to do that. Its so incredibly nice to live with people of different countries and I would really recommend to find private accommodation in the city centre because then its so easy to go wherever you want and its relatively cheap to rent something if you compare it to the prices in the Netherlands. If you don't want to have private accommodation, the Charles University provides you with the option to live in one of the dormitories. You will be placed in either Troja or Hostivar. You always share a room



with a roommate, so you have to think about that. Most of the students are living in Hostivar. Living in dormitories is also a nice way to meet people. The accomodation itself looks not that good and the facilities (kitchen, laundry) are bad, and it takes you 40 minutes to be in the city centre. But if you want to live in dormitories i would still recommend Hostivar instead of Troja (however the facilities are way better there), because there is less international students in Troja.

#### leisure & culture

Prague life is awesome! There is a lot of culture and the city is so beautiful! Half a liter of beer is 1 euro and there is a lot of cool bars to enjoy that! Prague is a really central city in middle and eastern Europe and because of that there is a lot of good and cheap bus and train connections to other cities. I did a lot of trips inside Czech Republic (Cesky Krumlov, Kutna Hora, Brno, Castlevillages) but also outside of the Czech Republic (Vienna, Bratislava, Krakow, Auschwitz, Budapest, Munich). There is a lot of student organisations that offer you trips to places like that, but its also really easy to organise it on your own.

#### suggestions/tips

## CONCLUSIONS

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

What you learn the most about going abroad is the social and cultural experiences. Prague and Charles University itself are the best place to do that. The city offers you so much possibilites to explore culture in and outside Prague, there is an awesome and cheap nightlife, there is really a lot of international students and international people in general so you will meet for sure a lot of interesting people and maybe just like me, friends for life. The University offers you some interesting courses of a basic level and you can extend your academical experiences with extracurricular activities if you want so.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Please go to Prague and enjoy every single moment, because before you know it is over..:)

## 2012-2013

### preparation

exchange/placement application process

After writing a motivation letter, a financial plan, and a study plan, I was selected to study at Charles University in Prague for the summer semester of 2013. Please keep in mind that there is a lot of formal paper work involved when you want to study abroad, so it's sensible to start on time organizing all of it.

counselling/support at home university

The pre-departure meeting is very useful and it's helpful to attend it. The international office gives you tips of all kind. A disadvantage was that it's usually busy there so it can take some time before your forms are signed and your questions are answered. So start on time!

academic preparation

I was well informed about the courses and possibilities in Prague. There was one course



which was enrolled in the program which I didn't find on the internet, but that was because it was a last-minute decision. Besides that one subject, everything was pretty clear. Except for the fact that on the internet is said that the semester in Prague ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, which is not true. I had my last exam on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, and there are retakes in June but usually nobody fails so some people are already leaving in the end of May, which is a pity.

In Prague, the semester starts in the second half of February which is very convenient since the exams in Utrecht last usually until the end of January/beginning of February. You can finish your first semester in Utrecht and get ready for your departure. I found out that I was placed for my choice in March 2012, and in December 2012 I received the official letter of acceptance from Charles University. This package contained, besides the letter of acceptance, tips and tricks, a city plan, the accommodation voucher for the dormitories, a brochure about the faculty of law, a metro and a tram map, etcetera. It was very handy.

#### language preparation

My English was already pretty decent before I went there. If your English is not, it's sensible to take a language course or to take the subject Legal English for Academic Purposes (or something like that). I have to admit I didn't learn that much of the Czech language. I know a few basic words which are essential, but I can't understand a conversation. I couldn't do the EILC course, because I still had classes in Utrecht, and the Czech language course that is offered in the program is found to be a bit boring. You don't get credits for it either, so not many people attend the course. You usually spend most of your time with international students anyway, so your Czech doesn't improve that much.

#### finances

Prague is very financially convenient. If you stay in the Halls of Residence (dormitories), your monthly rent is about 150€. Also, life in Prague is cheaper than in The Netherlands. You can go out for dinner from 5-9€ and a beer in pubs and clubs costs about 80 eurocent to 2€ for half a liter, dependent on where you go obviously. We only had to buy a book for one of the courses we attended in Prague. For the rest of the courses the faculty provided us with the literature. Public transport costs about 10 euro per month. You do have to take into account that you're doing loads of trips, excursions, dinners, parties, etc, so you do spend much money in the end if you want to have a great time. You can make it as cheap as you want it!

#### **study/placement abroad period**

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

What I liked about Prague was that there were many civil law courses available. There are not that many subjects offered, and since the amount of credits you receive for them are lower than in Utrecht (differs from 3 – 6 ECTS), you have to take nearly all the classes



available to receive 30 ECTS for one semester. I took 7 out of 9 courses. Another good thing is that you can attend all courses the first two weeks, and you only need to make your final decision on which subjects you are going to take then. You have the chance to see if it's interesting for you first. I didn't spend too much time studying, besides the two weeks of exam period, so I had time to do other things, such as travelling, sight-seeing, eating out, going out, hanging out in the park, etcetera. On the websites of Charles University is said that the semester ends on the 30th of June. This is not true, I had my last exam on the 27th of May. There are retakes during June. You have 2 or 3 chances for every course, and it is very hard to fail, so your summer holidays will probably start in the end of May. This is a good thing because that is very early, so you have time to relax or travel, but it also is a pity that some people are already leaving in the end of May. The faculty of law is situated on a beautiful spot at the river, and it is in the city center of Prague.

#### academic quality of education/placement activities

The courses weren't that hard, but some teachers don't speak English that well so sometimes it was hard to follow. It also makes some courses not too interesting. But there were also very capable teachers. The quality of the teachers and the courses really differed per course. Sometimes you also had several teachers for one course. The exams weren't hard either, but you have to learn very much by heart since you usually can't use any law books or jurisprudence, which I didn't like because we are university students and we are used to being able to look up basic definitions during the exam. It wasn't hard to pass though, the grades differ from A – F, and only if you receive an F you fail. It's very hard to fail a course, even if your answers are poor you will probably receive a D or an E. Overall I am satisfied with the courses. Most of them were in the light of international and/or European law, which is interesting because it is useful for The Netherlands of well, and nearly all of them also provided a small introduction in the Czech law. I liked that international aspect and it was fascinating to get an introduction in the Czech law.

#### counselling/support at host institution/organisation

There are two international office ladies at the faculty of law, who are very nice and help you. They have only few opening hours, so you have to go there in the morning, but they try to help you with everything. You can also send them an e-mail anytime.

#### transfer of credits

The courses I took are supposed to be worth either 3 or 6 credits, dependent on the course. I haven't heard back from the 'Examencommissie' but I'm expecting all of them to be transferred. You have to be careful the courses aren't overlapping courses you have already taken in Utrecht, because there might be a change you won't get credits for it.

#### student life

welcome/orientation programme



Other faculties in Prague had a whole orientation week, which lacked at the faculty of law. We only had an information meeting which took about half an hour, and we were informed about the basic things and courses and we received our ISIC card.

#### accommodation

The accommodation I stayed in, Hostivar Halls of Residence, isn't too great, but it's only 150E per month so there is not that much to expect. It is pretty far from the city center, about 30-45 minutes by tram/subway, and you have to share your room with another student. The kitchen is about the size of a toilet, and you have to buy pans and pots yourself, so I cooked about 6 times in 5 months. Fortunately the eating out is incredibly cheap so that compensates for it. The people who work in Hostivar are not friendly at all and don't expect them to help you with anything. On the other hand, you meet people very easily in the dorm, it is fun that you are staying with many other international students, so you are never alone and you can always travel together with someone. There is also a great park with a lake near the Halls, which was awesome, especially in the summer. We spend days laying in the grass or on the beach and swimming in the lake.

#### leisure/culture

Prague is a great city, there's always something to do and you will never be bored. There are many sights, view-points, restaurants, clubs, and the river is beautiful. Also, there are many Erasmus students which is an advantage in my opinion.

#### suggestions/tips

You can go to the opera or the ballet for 2E with your ISIC card, which is a beautiful experience and you definitely should do this. Cinemas are less expensive than the Netherlands as well, about 5E per movie. Also, the geographic place of Prague is very convenient. I hadn't been to Eastern Europe that much before, so I profited of my position here. I did trips to Dresden, Vienna, Bratislava, Krakow, Warsaw, and Budapest. There are cheap buses going to these destinations from Prague, for example try the companies Student Agency and Orange Ways. There are also very cute (little) cities and villages in the Czech Republic, such as Cesky Krumlov, Kutna Hora, Karlovy Vary, Brno, and Plzen. These cities and villages are very nice to visit. Because there is another currency in Czech Republic, the Czech Crown, the life is cheaper than in the Netherlands so you can spend more money on fun things instead of food, rent, or public transport.

#### conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

From the moment I made my decision until now I am incredibly happy with my choice for Prague. It's an amazing city, with lots of opportunities. It's beautiful, there are many sights, restaurants, pubs and clubs, culture and there is lots of stuff to do. It's nice to live



on the campus with other students, and it's good for your personal development to live in another country and explore a whole new city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I had an incredible time in Prague. I will always remember it and look back at it very positively. I met many international students, made great friends from all over the world, enjoyed my big amount of free time, partied much, did cultural and historical stuff and ate out about 4 times a week. I would recommend anyone to go here on exchange.