

# Czech technical university in Prague

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I study in the Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences majoring in the Web Technologies, Applications and Science track. For my exchange period I visited the Czech Republic and Czech technical university in Prague for the spring semester. I decided to go to the Czech Republic because I wanted to go to somewhere in the Central Europe so that I could also visit the neighboring countries and The Alps for skiing. I also heard some recommendations from my friends who were also there during their exchange period. I wanted to go in the spring because I had the chance to go skiing and it is nice to get to experience the first spring days and the great weather of the early summer.

The semester started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2018. The first week was an orientation week to get us new students familiar with the university and the culture. There were happenings every day. The week started with more formal stuff and continued with getting to know each other and Prague. We visited many places, experienced the culture and there was the possibility to sign up for various trips around the Czech Republic that were a bit later in the spring. The trips were quite cheap and I went on a couple of them and they were great. You could take trips to see the nature, towns, old castles, churches and breweries. The university courses were interesting and good lectures as the professors were really interested in their area. I learned new skills from computer networks, mobile networks and web technologies. Web data mining was probably my favorite course with very interesting topics and tasks.

Prague was a beautiful city with (mostly) vibrant colors and a beautiful river running through the middle dividing the city into two parts. There is the quite nice path leading from the Old Town Square through Charles Bridge to the Prague Castle that was usually crowded with tourists. I preferred exploring the more calm parts of the city like the less touristy Vyšehrad Castle and places around the riverbank. Also the multiple hills and parks (on hills) were my favorite places to spend an afternoon. It was quite easy to find cheap and good pubs or restaurants even near so called tourist areas. There were a lot of opportunities for hiking and enjoying the nature as well with natural parks scattered in the borders of Prague and smaller parks around the city. There are even a couple of zoos which were great and take a whole (preferably) sunny day to go through. If you're looking for tips on where to go I recommend checking the Honest Guide YouTube channel.

I went and saw a couple of local football league matches. The Czech people seem to be more enthusiastic about football than the Finnish so the atmosphere was fantastic. We also saw a volley ball match between Finland and the Czech Republic. It was quite entertaining and there were surprisingly many Finnish people in the audience. The sports events in the Czech Republic are quite cheap so I recommend going to see at least some of them. I regret that I missed the opportunity to go see local ice hockey matches which I heard were also great.

Prague and the Czech technical university in Prague were great experiences that gave me new insight on other cultures and the Central Europe. I met people from different countries and continents from all over the world. In the university I got to experience the courses and student life in another country. I

will definitely visit Czech Republic again and I'm hoping to see the people I met again in the future.



*Skyline of Prague. Picture taken from Petřín Lookout Tower.*