



Fall 2018-2019

Exchange Report

University of Economics, Prague

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System





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Part I: Monthly Activity Log

September 2018

I arrived Prague on 5th September, 2018, a week before the Winter semester in VSE started a week later. My buddy is Lukas and he is very accommodating that he gave me a ride from the airport to Jarov III. F Dormitory. Before the semester started, I explored Prague and visited some historical sites. I traveled to Český Krumlov and Karlovy Vary with my friends. Český Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, while Karlovy Vary is well-known for spa and drinkable spring water. During the Orientation Week, VSE offered basic Czech language courses and introduced the history of Czech Republic being the center of Europe.



October 2018

I went to some hiking trips to explore the beauty of nature in Europe. The most unforgettable experience was that spending 4 hours to climb on the mountain in Tatra Mountains National Park with my friends.



November 2018

It was a busy month which was filled with projects and term paper. Most of the time, I was working with my group mates. My group mates were came from different parts of Europe and I learned more about their culture. I also went to Amsterdam and visited my previous exchange buddy in HKUST.



December 2018

After the semester ended, I traveled to Paris and Rome for sightseeing. There was an unpleasant event that my belongings were stolen during the travel and I had to call the police. Fortunately, I got my friends' support and help. I spent my Christmas in Prague and it was fun. The Old Town Square has put a large Christmas tree and there were lots of booths selling Christmas decorations. I also learnt how to skate with my friends.





Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

1. Send an email to Czech Embassy for a letter of applying non-criminal record from Hong Kong Police Force.
2. Go to the Police Force Headquarter in Wan Chai for the application. The police will send the record directly to the Embassy.
3. Make an appointment for the application of visa after receiving the confirmation email from the Czech Embassy that they have received your non-criminal record.
4. Prepare related documents for the application. A financial proof of HKD\$30000 is needed for proving your financial ability.
5. Buy an insurance once you receive the email from the Czech Embassy that they approve your application.
6. Bring the insurance certificate and collect your visa.

Orientation Activities

The orientation week take places in early September, which is a week before the semester starts. VSE offers basic Czech language course and introduces history of Prague. The school offers a package with SIM card, ENS card, and its own buddy system events bundle. There are also some ice-breaking events and city tours organized by the buddy system. You can meet some new friends and learn more about Prague.



International Service and Activities

The Buddy System holds different sightseeing and language activities for the exchange students. You can also go to the N2N parties at bars for every Tuesday.

Accommodation

Thearov III. F Dormitory is around 20 minutes away by tram from the campus and 5 minutes away by tram from the supermarket. VSE will send you an email for dormitory application while a CZK 5000 deposit is needed. Basic furniture are provided and the heater is automatically switched on in winter.

Course Registration

The course registration procedures in VSE is similar to HKUST. Check which courses are available to exchange students and check the teaching medium of the course you register. The Add-Drop Period lasts for a week. If you cannot get enrolled to the course, you can send an email to both the professor and the exchange office asking for extra places.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

2PL392 Corporate Social Responsibility: Theory and Practice

This course focuses on in-class discussion and has 1 final. The workload of this course is light. Make sure you finish the pre-class question about some ethical concepts because it helps you better apply the theories.

Assessment methods and criteria:

Lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation: 40 %

Presentation: 20 %

Final test: 30 %

Homework Assignments: 10 %

3SG205 Foundations of Business Strategy

This course has 1 group project and 1 final exam. The project is about writing a term paper to analyze a company by applying the concepts you learned in class and make recommendations. There is peer evaluation and you should start your work earlier.

Assessment methods and criteria:

Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation: 20 %

Term paper: 20 %

Presentation: 10 %

Final test: 50 %

Teaching & Assessment Methods

3MA643 Globalization and its economic and social aspects

This course has 1 midterm and 1 final exam. You also have to write a term paper on assigned topic while attendance is checked by roll call.

The format of the test is multiple choice questions.

Assessment methods and criteria:

Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation: 10 %

Term paper: 20 %

Presentation: 20 %

Mid-term test: 20 %

Final test: 30 %

4SA613 Information Systems Audit

The course has 1 final exam and 1 group project. A group term paper is required while the topic is not limited. Case study is conducted during seminars.

Assessment methods and criteria:

Term paper: 30 %

Final test: 40 %

Case studies: 30 %

Teaching & Assessment Methods

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This course has 1 midterm and 1 final exam. You also have to write a term paper on assigned topic while attendance is checked by roll call. The format of the test is multiple choice questions.

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Sports & Recreation Facilities

You can use the gym rooms in the dormitory and rent the ball game courts by making a reservation at the dormitory reception. Balls and related equipment can also be rent.

Finance and Banking

I brought Euro to Prague and changed it into Czech crown in Prague. Credit card and debit card can also be used for payment. As other European countries mainly use Euro as their currency, it is better to bring Euro with you.

Health and Safety

Be beware of pickpockets in tourist attractions, for example Charles Bridge, large shopping mall and Old Town Square. If you have to call the Police to report a case, you should find a police station with translation help.

Food

The food in Prague is mouthwatering, especially the dessert. A piece of cake is just around HKD 20.

Transportation

Before you arrive, VSE will send you a email about how to apply a transportation card in Prague. Bus, Metro and tram are the most common public transport, which can be paid by the transportation card. Most of the time, I took Tram No.9 go to school and go to the city center.



Climate

The climate in Prague in Fall is similar to Hong Kong, which is around 18 degrees. For winter, the temperature can drop below 0 degree and it may snow. Students should bring enough winter clothing to keep yourselves warm.

Communication

VSE offers a package with SIM card, ENS card, and its own buddy system events bundle, which is available during the Orientation week. You should top up the SIM card every month in order to enjoy the bundle discount. For verbal communication, although middle-age local cannot speak English, they will try to help as much as possible. Finding young adult for help will be better.

Cautionary Measures

It is better to buy your own traveling insurance in case you lose your luggage or you have other emergency situation.

Part III: Items to Bring

- HKID card, HKUST student ID card, passport
- Passport-sized photos
- Laptop, stationary, calculator, and other study materials
- Camera, SD card, card reader
- Winter clothes e.g. scarf, gloves, jacket
- Adaptors and other necessary plug

Part IV: Useful Links and Contacts

School & Dorm

- <https://www.vse.cz/english/>
- www.insis.cz
- <https://iskam-web.vse.cz/>

Travel

- www.skyscanner.net
- www.flixbus.com
- www.regiojet.com
- www.booking.com

Part V: Best Practices of Host University

Being open-minded and stepping out of your comfort zone is very important. Try to make new friends from other countries and you will learn a lot from them. Prague is a beautiful city with many historical buildings. Just wander around in this fairytale-liked city and you will fall in love with Prague.