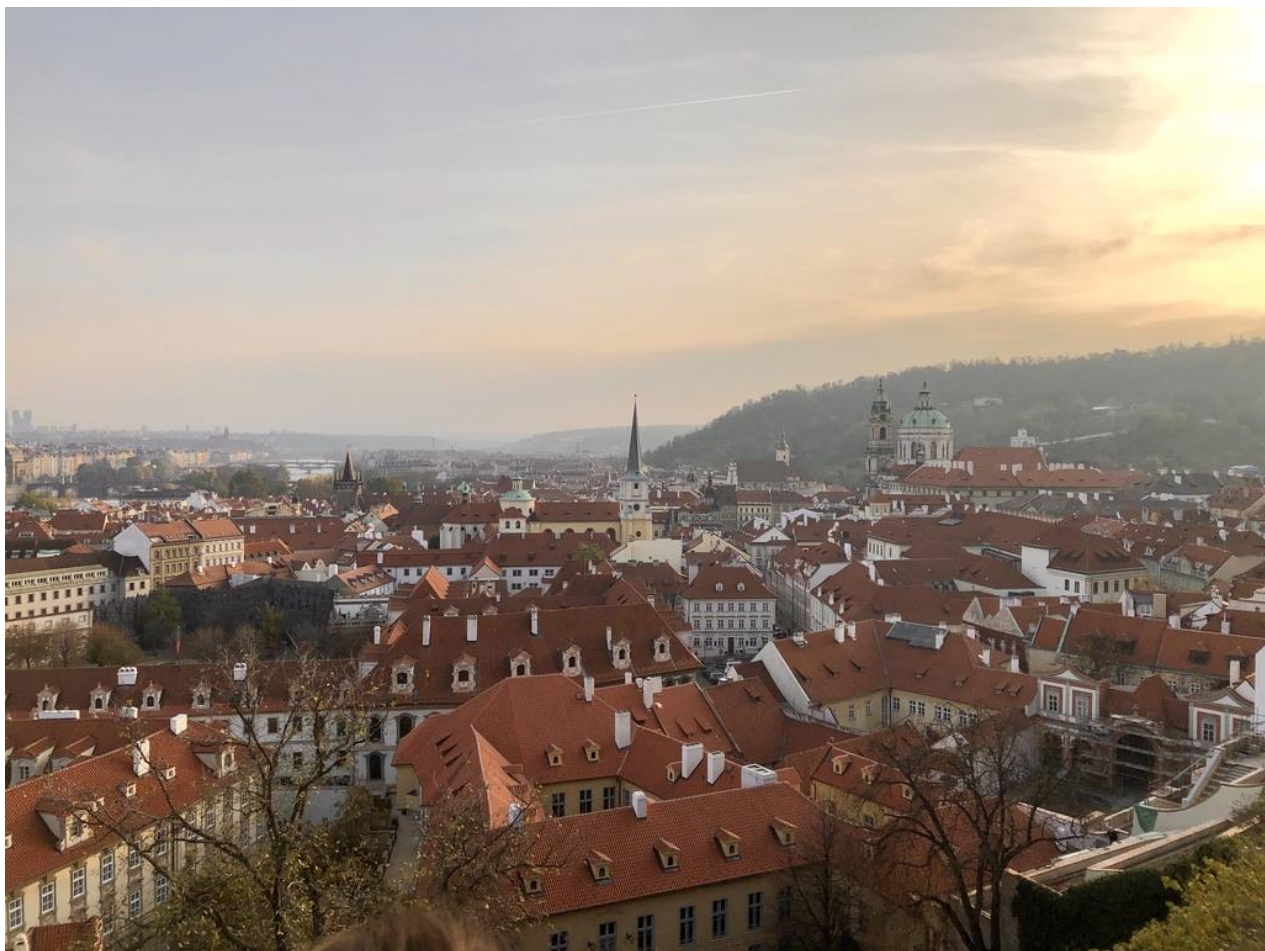


EXCHANGE REPORT 2019-2020 FALL

University of Economics, Prague

Lee Sin Tung (IS & MARK)



TOC

Monthly Log

General Exchange Information

Checklist

Useful Links & Contacts

Final Words

Monthly Log

September

I arrived at Prague on 2nd September after a flight from Hong Kong, with a 3-hour layover in Helsinki. My buddy, Hanna, picked me up from the airport and brought me back to the student accommodation, Jarov III. F. There was an Orientation Week from 6th to 13th where the school offered introductory courses to Czech language and culture. I spent the most of September travelling outside of the Czech Republic, including Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany.



October

This month was packed with mid-terms and presentations, so I dedicated most of my time preparing for them. In late October, I had my 3-day intensive course on "Migration in International Relations" where I had my final on the last day. October was definitely the busiest month throughout my entire exchange period but I still managed to take a short trip to the Netherlands 😊.



November

The International Fair was held on 5th November. My friends and I decided to represent our home universities and participated in this event. We set our stands in the atrium. Small refreshment and tools such as scissors and cardboard were provided. With lighter workload, I also travelled to Austria and Poland.



December

Exchange students have the privilege to opt to take their exams in December. Students have to register for their exams via INSIS. I took 3 finals during regular class hours. Christmas markets in Prague are some of the best in all of Europe. There are wooden chalets, Christmas trees and live shows on different major squares. I travelled to France and Switzerland, where I celebrated Christmas on the Glacier Express. Spending 8 hours from Zermatt to St. Moritz, the train crossed 291 bridges and passes through 91 tunnels. The Swiss alps were absolutely amazing.



January

I celebrated the New Year's countdown in London, before my 5-day trip to Iceland.



General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

1. Send an email to Czech Embassy for a letter of non-criminal record application from Hong Kong Police Force
2. Collect the letter and go to the Police Force Headquarter located in Wan Chai, where the police will send the record directly to the Embassy
3. The Czech Embassy will notify you once they receive the record, you shall make an appointment for visa application
4. Prepare all the documents listed on the website for the application, which includes a financial proof of HKD30000
5. Once your visa application is approved, buy an insurance recommended by the Czech Embassy
6. Bring the insurance certificate and collect your visa 😊

Orientation Activities

The Orientation Week takes place a week before the semester starts. The school offers introduction lectures and school visits. You may purchase the welcome package with SIM card (Vodafone CZ), ENS card, N2N card. There will also be a host of activities/ ice-breaking events you can sign up for in the Buddy System.

International Services & Activities

HKUST has partnered with International SOS, which will provide exchange students pre-trip advisory. A 24-hour hotline is also offered in case of emergency.

Accommodation

The Jarov III. F dormitory is quite convenient. The closest tram station is Chmelnice. The building is approximately 20 minutes away by tram 9 from the campus and 5 minutes away by tram 1/9/11 from the supermarket Kaufland. You will be informed about the dormitory application through email while a deposit of

5000CZK is required. I spent 41396CZK for a single room. Basic furniture is provided. Free bed linen exchange is available. You can also access to the laundry and dryer machines at O/F after making a reservation on ISKAM.

Courses Registration

Check which courses are available to exchange students through the link you receive from VSE. To ensure credit transfer on your return, pick courses according to the HKUST transfer credit equivalence database and hand in the assessment form to ARO. The course registration procedures is quite similar to the one in HKUST, with a week of Drop-Add period.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

2AJ419 Introduction to China's History and Culture (3 ECTS)

This course focuses the social and political arrangement, religious traditions, system of values, geography, ethnic composition, and the conception of arts and literature in both traditional and modern China.

Attendance: 20%

Activity during the class: 20%

Weekly quizzes: 60%

2PL392 Corporate Social Responsibility: Theory and Practice (3 ECTS)

This course focuses on in-class discussion and the group project.

Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation: 40%

Case studies: 30%

Project: 20%

Homework assignments: 10%

2SM309 Migration in International Relations (3 ECTS)

This is a 3-day intensive course. Various aspects of international migration will be covered, such as the basic terms and theories, development under different context, and migration and EU.

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

Final test: 90%

4IT531 Business Process Engineering (6 ECTS)

This course focuses on business processes and business systems modelling.

Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation: 25%

Term paper: 25%

Final test: 25%

Presentation & defense of the term paper: 25%

4SA613 Information Systems Audit (6 ECTS)

This course focuses on the development, content, tools, and problems of the implementation of information systems audit and its linkages to financial audits. Different standards and COBIT support will also be addressed.

Term paper: 30%

Final test: 40%

Case studies: 30%

Final test: 90%

5HD280 From Kafka to Havel: Introduction into the History and Culture of Czech Lands (3 ECTS)

This course is an introduction to the history and culture of the Czech lands. The topics, such as the beer culture, cuisine and eating customs, local brands, music and literature, are very interesting.

Mid-term test(s): 40%

Final test: 60%

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are gym rooms in the dormitory. You can also make reservation for the ball courts via ISKAM.

Finance & Banking

I bought Euro and changed them into CZK in Prague. Credit card and debit card can also be used for payment. Transaction fee is pretty high so try not to withdraw money at the ATMs.

Round Trip Flight (Finnair)	~8000HKD
Insurance	~1000HKD
ISIC card	~100HKD
Transportation in Prague	~500HKD
Mobile Data Plan	~650HKD
Accommodation	~14000HKD
Living and Travel Expenses	~50000HKD

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

The Buddy System holds different activities for exchange students on a regular basis. Parties will be organized by the ERASMUS VSE organization every Tuesday. Remember to bring your N2N card!

Health & Safety

Beware of pickpockets! In case of emergency, you may dial: 112 (European emergency number), 155 (emergency medical service), 158 (police), 150 (fire), 156 (municipal police), 12 444 (Prague contact center—tourist information).

Food

Prague has the best and cheapest gelato! Angelato, Crème de la Crème, Amorino are my favorite gelato shops.

Transportation

You have to apply for a transportation card in Prague at the airport, bus, tram and metro. However, if to buy a monthly ticket, you must go to the counter at the main train station.

Climate

The climate in fall is similar to Hong Kong. The temperature drops sharply in winter. There will have some snowfall starting from December.

Communication

Czechs are usually perceived to be friendly but closed. However, some of them do not speak English

Cautionary Measures

Remember to check-in for flights and follow the baggage allowances.

Checklist

- HKID card, passport, HKUST student card
- Cash & credit card
- Passport-sized photos
- Laptop, stationary, paper, calculator
- Adaptors and extension cord
- Spare phone
- Hair dryer and kettle
- Winter clothes

Useful Links & Contacts

School & Dormitory

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

Travel

- <https://www.omio.cz>
- <https://www.regiojet.com>
- <https://www.flixbus.cz>

Final Words

LIFE BEGINS AT THE END OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE. ALWAYS SAY YES TO NEW ADVENTURES. ☺

