

## Experience Report

### Erasmus Study Abroad Semester in Brno

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**Home University:** Hochschule Trier

**Host University:** Brno University of Technology (BUT / VUT)

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business and Management (FBM)

**Semester:** Winter Semester 2025/26

### General Information

During the Winter Semester 2025/26, I participated in the Erasmus+ exchange program at **Brno University of Technology (BUT / VUT)** in the Czech Republic. I studied at the **Faculty of Business and Management (FBM)**, while my home university was **Hochschule Trier**.

Brno is the second-largest city in the Czech Republic and is well known for its large student population and international atmosphere. Its central location in Europe makes it an ideal place for cultural exchange and traveling, which was one of the main reasons I chose Brno as my Erasmus destination.

### Courses and Lectures

During my Erasmus semester, I attended several courses at the Faculty of Business and Management.

The course **Economics of Company** focused on essential factors that influence companies, how business can be managed effectively, and how a company should be run. It covered fundamental concepts of company economics and management. I would highly recommend this course, as it teaches core business knowledge in a clear way. The professor was very friendly and competent, which made the lectures engaging and easy to follow.

**Trade and Sales Promotion** concentrated on the marketing mix, different business models, and strategies to support and increase sales. The role of promotions in sales processes was also discussed. Overall, this was a solid course. The project component was particularly interesting, as it allowed students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical context.

The **Market Economy** course mainly dealt with supply and demand, the factors influencing them, and how these forces interact in real-life market situations. I strongly recommend this course, as it establishes a strong understanding of basic market economics. The professor was very knowledgeable, and the course content was well explained.

The **E-Commerce** course focused on establishing an online business model. Students worked on building a mock online business while considering strategic and digital aspects. I would recommend this course, as it offered a modern and practical learning experience.

The course **Logistics** covered the main aspects and factors of logistics and supply chain management. The content was acceptable, and the professor was very friendly and idealistic, which created a positive learning atmosphere.

**Project Management** focused on developing project ideas and on how to formulate, plan, and implement projects. I would recommend this course, as it was well structured and provided useful knowledge that can be applied in both academic and professional contexts.

## **Application and Preparation**

The application process for the Erasmus semester was relatively easy and did not take much time. The required documents in my case were the **Learning Agreement**, a **copy of German residence permit**, and a **passport copy**.

No visa was required for studying in the Czech Republic. Overall, the preparation process was straightforward and well organized.

## **Accommodation**

I lived in a **student dormitory provided by the university**. The accommodation was good, especially considering the price-performance ratio. The monthly rent was approximately **215 euros**.

The accommodation was arranged directly through the university, which made the process simple and reliable. Living in the dormitory was a very positive experience, as most Erasmus students lived there. This made socializing very easy and offered many opportunities to meet people and build friendships.

There was a minor issue regarding different expectations about house rules with a roommate, which led to some confrontation. However, the situation was resolved, and overall, the experience remained very positive.

## **Costs of Living**

There were **no tuition fees**, as expected within the Erasmus program.

The approximate monthly costs were around **215 euros for rent** and **150–200 euros for groceries**. Public transportation was very affordable, costing **27 euros for three months** with a student discount. Leisure activities and socializing were generally cheaper compared to Trier.

Overall, Brno is more affordable than Germany. Eating out and social activities are noticeably cheaper, while grocery prices are slightly lower. However, private accommodation in Brno can be relatively expensive compared to student dormitories.

## **Study Life and Leisure Activities**

Compared to Hochschule Trier, studying in Brno involved more **presentations and group work**. I did not find the academic level particularly difficult and felt well prepared by my studies in Trier.

The international atmosphere was excellent. There were many Erasmus students from different countries, and people were very open and friendly. The **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** organized numerous events and offered great support, which helped international students integrate quickly.

Brno also offers many travel opportunities. Cities such as **Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, and Prague** are easily accessible, and travel costs are affordable. An **ISIC card** is highly recommended, as it provides many discounts.

The nightlife in Brno is good, although many students also travel to Prague for parties. I especially enjoyed Brno's strong **café culture**, with many unique and cozy cafés. Ice hockey is very popular in the Czech Republic, and attending games was a new and interesting experience for me.

Additionally, the university offers various sports courses. I participated in a **futsal course**, which was both fun and a great way to stay active.

## **Overall Experience**

One of the biggest advantages of studying in Brno is its **central location in Europe**, close to major airports such as Vienna, Budapest, and Prague. The large international student

community and the wide range of Erasmus events create a dynamic and welcoming environment.

I did not experience any major negative aspects during my stay. Overall, the balance between academic responsibilities and social life was very good.

The experience helped me grow personally, meet amazing people, make close friends, and step outside my comfort zone.

### **Recommendations**

My main recommendation for future Erasmus students is to **keep an open mind**. Be willing to try new activities, meet people from different backgrounds, and give yourself the chance to step outside your comfort zone.

I would highly recommend Brno to students who want to explore **Central Europe**, enjoy a lively yet manageable city, and appreciate a strong café culture and international student life.

### **Contact Information**

If prospective students have further questions, they are welcome to contact me via e-mail:

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