

CET Prague, Fall 2023 | Anonymous

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Who are the intended audience(s) of your Perspective Piece? "Double major students, students nearing graduation, and people wondering about the day-to-day school experience."

Exploring New Academic Interests in Prague

I joined the CET study abroad program as a senior shortly after picking up a double major in history. I come from a massive state school and was nervous to take on a new major in a different program and foreign country. This choice to branch out and explore new subjects ended up being one of the most exciting and impactful elements that added so much value to my experience abroad.

I learned quickly that the school here is different than what I had experienced before. Classes are smaller and taught as seminars rather than lectures. The program and teachers put a lot of focus on letting our voices be heard and creating engaging experiences outside of the classroom too. The community is tight-knit and is geared to help you integrate into the country and succeed in classes.

In theory, I could have learned about the history of Central Eastern Europe from the comfort of my college in America, but the classroom and real-world experience abroad helped shape my learning more than only a book or a lecture could. After learning about the history of Czech kings and queens, I was able to walk the halls of the castle and witness all the royal family crests. For every patron saint, there is a statue, or a dozen statues, commemorating their historical influence. Most interesting of all, I was able to learn from the city of Prague itself.

The CET course on art and architecture opened my eyes to the fact that the evidence of history is all around us. I became able to observe when a street was developed by the style of windows it had. I was surprised these lessons sharpened my academic skills of observance, retention, and application in my day-to-day life.

Studying abroad is a truly unique experience that means something different to everybody. No matter what year you are in your education or what your major or special interest may be, there is much to learn from immersing yourself in another country's history and culture.