

Visit Us:
College Hall, First Floor
Amherst College
Amherst MA 01002
www.amherst.edu/~careers



Contact Us:
Tel: 413-542-2265
Fax: 413-542-5790
Box 5000 / AC# 2210
careers@amherst.edu

CZECH REPUBLIC | FALL 2006 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION

FIRST: Mark
LAST: Rapisarda
CLASS: 2008
ACBOX#: 1699
EMAIL: mrapisarda08@amherst.edu
TEL: 917-691-5635
MAJOR1: Political Science
MAJOR2: Select second major--
MAJOR3: Select third major--
ABROAD: Fall 2006

PROGRAM: NYU

COURSES: Program

COMBO_EXPLAINED:

COURSE_EVAL: Course work is generally very light. Although there are finals and midterms you don't see very much work in between. Class sizes range from 5 to 20 students. The grading system is also pretty lenient, and as long as you go to the classes and do the minimum amount of work you won't see anything below a B-grade. Classes often consist of work out of the classroom; there are a lot of field trips exploring Prague and the Czech lands.

CLASS_COMP: All students of American Universities.

TEACHING_EVAL: The teachers are all respected Czech scholars and officials however, they are not easily available outside of the allotted class times.

ACADEMIC_PREP: No previous knowledge of the Czech language is needed.

HOUSING_MEALS: Meals are not provided for. There are 3 dorms in which all of the student body is placed. Machova is by far and away the best of those 3 dorms; it houses the majority of the student body and is in a much nicer neighborhood which is also closer to classes and the social/commercial centers of Prague. The other two dorms are about a 40 minute tram ride away from classes, in more run down neighborhoods.

HOUSE_HELP: No.

LIVING_COSTS: 3000 USD

MEDICAL: Yes

CZECH REPUBLIC | FALL 2006 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION

PROG_SERVICES: There is a week long orientation to get students accustomed to the area as well as a crash course in the Czech language. Throughout the year various events are offered to the students at discount prices (trips to rural Czech lands, hockey games, concerts, etc).

LEARN_HOST_COUNTRY: Just be friendly and respectful of the Czech customs; go to orientation to find out what that means!

DISCRIMINATION: No, however Prague is a huge center for tourism and as such the natives are at first turned off by foreigners; at the same time it is very easy to meet other international students and travelers in the area.

TRAVEL: Both, there are no classes on Fridays and many students do not have Thursday classes either so there is a lot of time to travel.

RECOMMENDATION: Yes I would. It is by far the best program in Prague in terms of student body and academics. Although the housing is questionable as long as you get into Machova you will be fine. Prague is an awesome place that offers just as much culturally as other European cities at much cheaper prices!

SUMMARY: Studying abroad gave me a new perspective on American culture and I am sure that I will go back to Amherst refreshed and more appreciative and eager to take advantage of its opportunities.



Visit Us:
College Hall, First Floor
Amherst College
Amherst MA 01002
www.amherst.edu/~careers



Contact Us:
Tel: 413-542-2265
Fax: 413-542-5790
Box 5000 / AC# 2210
careers@amherst.edu

CZECH REPUBLIC | FALL 2006 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM EVALUATION

FIRST: Virginia
LAST: Kitchell
CLASS: 2008
ACBOX#: 1580
EMAIL: vkitchell08@amherst.edu TEL: 206-818-5202
MAJOR1: Sociology
ABROAD: Fall 2006

PROGRAM: New York University

COURSES: Program

COURSE_EVAL: Class sizes were very small; one of my classes, Art in Czech Lands, only had two students in it. The others had between 10 and 15 students each. The work load was small relative to Amherst. Teachers were very understanding of student's missing a class or two to travel. Classes didn't meet on Fridays. There were midterms and final exams. Most of my workload was concentrated during finals period: one final exam, a few presentations, and a few papers. I had one midterm exam and a few small papers distributed throughout the semester.

CLASS_COMP: the student body was mostly American. There was one Czech student in one of my classes. She was only in the course because she was a law student at the university our professor worked at and wanted more exposure to English, i think.

TEACHING_EVAL: Although my classes were less difficult than those I've taken at Amherst, the quality was very high. Most of the teachers were exceptionally important Czech people. Many of the politics teachers were involved in the drafting of the new Czech constitution in the early 90's. My Reporting the Arts teacher was not only one of the most renowned journalists in the Czech Republic, but was also the youngest member of the most famous Czech band of all time that was popular before the velvet revolution and was at the forefront of dissident culture. The teachers are accessible enough although all of them work at least one other university and have a non-teaching career as well, so they are pretty busy. You do have to plan ahead if you want to meet with them.

ACADEMIC_PREP: No language proficiency or any other type of preparation are necessary.

HOUSING_MEALS: No meals were provided. All students lived in one of three dormitories: Machova, Jaurisova, and Osadni. I lived in Machova which houses the most students and is in the best location (closest to stare mesto, the center of town and the NYU center where all classes are held). I think Osadni has the best rooms, but its all the way across the river.

HOUSE_HELP: Yes, the NYU study abroad center sent me tons of emails. They're really helpful if you call them to.

LIVING_COSTS: 150 dollars a week for food, going out etc. plus traveling

MEDICAL: yes

PROG_SERVICES: we had an orientation at the beginning; I'm not sure what else was available

LEARN_HOST_COUNTRY: You can attend the NYU trips to other areas of the Czech Republic and use guide books to explore Prague.

DISCRIMINATION: sexual, racial, and gender discrimination certainly exists in Czech culture, but it didn't effect anyone on the program, at least it never presented danger to anyone.

TRAVEL: Yes, I traveled a ton. I visited 6 or 7 other countries. We also had a week off to travel in October.

RECOMMENDATION: Absolutely, Prague is a fun and beautiful history with a very interesting recent past that continues to affect the culture today. The program itself is wonderful. All of my classes were fascinating and I learned a ton, plus I had so much fun in the city with people on my program.

SUMMARY: My abroad experience had definitely changed me in many ways. I have a new interest in Eastern European art, literature, and political culture. My time abroad has also opened up the idea of perhaps living outside of the US later in life. I feel that my time in Prague and Europe in general has given me a lot of new perspective on American culture and has added to my "global comprehension".

