EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Arts  
Major/Minor: International Studies/Communications

Host university: Charles University  
Host Country: Czech Republic

Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 09/15 to (month/year) 12/15

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1700

Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $60 for transit for the semester

Do you have a recommended routing or airline?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, please describe: KLM is great and I found stopping in Amsterdam was the cheapest option

VISAS

What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) Canadian

Did you need a student visa/permit?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes: What was the cost? $125

If yes, what documentation was needed? Proof of enrollment and housing and a visa application

Did you need a visitor visa/permit?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes: What was the cost? __________________

If yes, what documentation was needed?

Where was your immigration documentation processed? Ottawa

How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? Two months

Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

If yes, please comment: I got the Youth Mobility Visa - much easier than a residency permit

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

Please comment: I was met by relatives but the host university did offer transportation

What is the closest airport to the host university?  
Vaclav Havel Airport

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

Was there a cost for the orientation session?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes, how much? __________________

If yes, do you recommend that future students participate?  
☐ No  ☐ Yes

Please comment: Orientation was a great time to meet everyone in the program, although it didn't involve any local students.
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

If yes, how long is it?  
- Two weeks beforehand and an optional semester-long course

Is there an additional cost for language training?  
- [ ] No  
- [ ] Yes: How much?

Please comment:  
I would HIGHLY recommend the semester-long class, or really any attempt to learn more Czech on your own.

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**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

If yes, please describe:  
Kolej Komenskeho

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation?  
$500 CAD

Is there a meal plan?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes: How much is it?

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus?  
Twenty minutes by transit

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

There was only wifi in the common spaces (community room, study room) but ethernet connections available in every room. Each room has a landline but I'm not sure if they can be used to call outside of the building.

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this?

Is off-campus housing easily available?  
- [ ] No  
- [X] Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:

Renting an apartment is quite cheap and some other students did this. I haven't looked into it, though, so I'm not sure how easy the process is.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals?  
$600

Any other comments on accommodation:
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)
It’s easy to exchange Canadian money, however I prefer withdrawing Czech korun from ATMs to avoid potentially getting scammed (this happened to a few friends of mine). However, most Canadian banks will charge you $5 per withdrawal.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card
Please comment:

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:
You login to the ECES website and select your courses. Some fill up very quickly, but there’s an add/drop period during the first week of the semester when it’s possible to change your schedule

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? History/Sociology
What is the language of instruction in your courses? English
If not English, are English-taught courses available? 

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.
The organization of classes varied a lot by professor. Most were small (my largest class was thirty people but that was the exception) and lecture-based but with a lot of time for questions and class discussion. Classes are taught either once a week for 3 hours or twice a week for 1.5 hours (and you’re able to miss 3 hours per class without any change to your grade).

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?
I learned about global historical events (like the Cold War) from a different perspective, and got to witness firsthand the effects of these phenomena on the countries where they took place. Being in a classroom with students and teachers from different countries also made me appreciate their points of view. I feel I will approach my studies from a more well-rounded perspective from now on.

Submission Instructions:
1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.