EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Arts
Major/Minor: Political Science Major
Host university: Charles University
Host Country: Czech Republic
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) 2/2016 to (month/year) 5/2016

TRAVEL

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1200
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $60 (Student Fare: Public Transit)
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? No Yes
If yes, please describe: Lufthansa offers an amazingly comfortable transatlantic flight.

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? Visa application, Proof of enrolment and housing.
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: (Make sure to apply for the Youth Mobility Visa)

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: The university offers airport pick-up on the official arrival day. Public transit is very easy to navigate in Prague as well, even from the airport.

What is the closest airport to the host university? Vaclav Havel International 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: The orientation is an amazing opportunity for incoming students to meet people and learn how to navigate the city. With all the winding streets in Old Town, you’ll be happy you met friends to go on adventures with. Additionally, the orientation featured a city-wide scavenger hunt with a student guide. It was a fantastic way to find the important sights in Prague.
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term? □ No □ Yes

If yes, how long is it? **Mandatory Two-week Czech language intensive. Optional semester-long course.**

Is there an additional cost for language training? □ No □ Yes: How much?

Please comment: The two-week intensive is offered as a pass/fail course as well as a graded course, so don't worry. The semester-long course is amazing though. It gives you a real opportunity to immerse in the language if that's one of your goals. Locals appreciate it when you speak Czech with them, even if it's with a terrible accent.

**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available? □ No □ Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory? □ No □ Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? □ No □ Yes

If yes, please describe: Although I didn't live there, Kolej Komenskeho was the best dorm.

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? __________________

Is there a meal plan? □ No □ Yes: How much is it? __________________

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? □ No □ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus? 20 minutes from the university's main building.

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:

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Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival? □ No □ Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this?

Is off-campus housing easily available? □ No □ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:

Living in an apartment is a unique experience. Depending on the websites you're looking through, you can find everything from whole apartments to private rooms in shared apartment. I chose the former, but it's really just preference. I used Airbnb to find my place. It offered accountability and reliability from my landlord, and it seemed far less expensive than other options. Living in an apartment is a tradeoff. I discovered way more of the city and the culture than some, but I don't see my dorm friends as much as they see each other. It's something you'll want to think carefully about

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals: $750

Any other comments on accommodation:

Give yourself as many options as you can when it comes to your accommodations. Prague gives you many options, almost too many. If you save enough money, you'll find yourself with more options for accommodations, and that can make your Prague experience that much more amazing.
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?

I couldn't find enough incentives to open a local bank account. Just bring your credit and debit cards. A credit card will work anywhere with a merchant machine, but Prague is a very cash-oriented city. Debit cards are handy at ATMs, which in Prague offer reasonable exchange rates, even if you're not taking out a lot of cash at once.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers' cheques, local currency)?

Buy some Czech Korun before leaving, just enough to get through your first week. You can also bring Canadian cash and exchange it at any currency exchange to get you through your first days.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? [ ] Cash [ ] Debit [ ] Credit card

Please comment: While larger stores will take cards, many restaurants and almost every pub, bar and cafe will only accept cash.

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

Please describe the course registration procedure:

The registration process is similar to Simon Fraser. You'll have your registration day, so make sure you know what you want to take before then. The major difference is that the ECES course selection has a "sign in" button beside the course title. Simply click that, and if there's a spot open, you're in.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? ____________________________________________

Political Science/ History

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.

All of my professors at Charles University were passionate about what they taught and professional in how they taught it. Charles University is quite prestigious in Central Europe and I'm not surprised the professors lived up to the expectations that I had.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

Being in political science, an opportunity to learn political theories and histories in the Czech Republic has been an tremendously valuable experience. I am a much more well-rounded student because of it and I can't imagine having this experience anywhere else.

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.