

From Monterrey To Prague
A lifetime experience.

The year of 2014 was running and a 5th year medical student halfway across the world was finishing his midterm exams. Summer was coming and along with it came the opportunity to do a Medical Exchange. As many other Young medical students I was thinking on not just do a clinical clerkship, but do it with quality, intercultural learning, good curriculum reference and with students in the same situation as me.

After being elected in my Local Committee and NMO to make a clerkship, Czech Republic came into mind. Great universities, central location, important history and of course great medicine. The Card of Acceptance arrived for Prague at the Thomayerova Hospital at the Department of Urology.

I had the opportunity to rotate with the Surgical Unit. One of the shocking parts on an Exchange is the language barrier, but it became an opportunity to meet people and learn more from the doctors and patients. Surgeons at Thomayerova Hospital quickly became comfortable with the Exchange students and allow us to help at very important procedures. Being able to learn the fundamental parts of laparoscopic, endoscopic, and open procedures in Urology, reaffirmed my willing on becoming a surgeon.

One of the main objectives of the Professional Exchange in IFMSA is to be an integral experience. Social program in Prague LC became the cherry on the pie. Outdoor activities, city sightseeings, and of course team building activities with the Exchange students made the Exchange more fulfilling. Walking through Charles Bridge at night listening to an old music quartet, watching the clock change at Staromestska, going to legendary Reduta Jazz club and visiting the Prague Castle was an incredible experience. Accommodation was really great on a student facility near Chodov. Blanice pub became a reference to all the Exchange students to plan the next adventure.

Me and my friends at July 2014 Summer Exchange are thankful to the Contact persons, Local Committee and NMO for a beautiful experience. It became my first and unfortunately my last opportunity to do a clinical clerkship with IFMSA, but I can highly recommend it and encourage students to do it with IFMSA. Special thanks to Dr. Zachoval, Zalezky, Viktor and Jaroslav Jarabak and all the surgical team at Thomayerova. Looking back to memories, I can only conclude that IFMSA Exchange provided my medical education a better perspective of what medicine is, and what we are looking for as doctors. It definitely made me want to be a better and responsible doctor with an IFMSA vision and mission to improve our world. I can only conclude that, it was a lifetime experience.

Carlos Morales/IFMSA-México/Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León