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Report of my Study at the Masaryk University

Krisztina Deák, University of Szeged

During the Master program my aim was to take as many semesters as possible abroad. After participating in the Erasmus program at the Cardiff University, I had the opportunity to apply for a CEEPUS scholarship at the Masaryk University. My stay in Brno, later on, has been extended by another scholarship (CEEPUS Freemover), and hence, I could spend two whole semesters at the Department for the Study of Religions in this exciting city, in the Czech Republic.

I have awarded the scholarships for the autumn and spring semesters in the 2013/2014 academic year and quickly had to realise that coming here to study in Brno was a brilliant idea. I found what I was looking for: a department with that specialised field of study which I am particularly interested in; maximal professional support from the department; active university and student life.

The vital professional environment has provided me with a broad perspective on my study field. One of my greatest pleasures has certainly been the opportunity to work on my own research with the help of an international research team (LEVYNA). This was not an option at my home university, due to the different specialisation of the Hungarian department. It was pretty useful and inspiring as well that I could attend lectures by such a great scholar like Professor Lawson. I was also amazed by the intellectual vibrancy of students attending the courses. Even Bachelor students have seemed to me to be talented and very determined



to make progress on their professional way. I have not experienced such an enthusiasm and purposefulness among young students.

The possibilities at the university were pleasant discoveries for me. The lovely buildings, modern and well-equipped lecture rooms, and the Information System of the university have made my stay even more comfortable and delightful. Although the limited English literature in the library made the information gathering harder than I expected, with the help of my lecturers and friends it was manageable in the end.

As most of the exchange students do not speak Czech, the need of locals' help is quite understandable. I could not be more grateful for the tutorial-help system managed by the International Student Office. This has helped to make friends not only with international students but also with locals.

My study period in Brno has passed by quickly, all the experiences, productive professional discussions, even in cafés and pubs, events and crazy parties organised by the Erasmus society made this time memorable. Getting experienced in an international environment is, in many respects, one of the best things that could happen to youngsters. I am certainly glad that I could broaden my perspectives and experiences at the Czech department, in Brno.

