	EXCHANGE REPORT	Name	Year and term for exchange
		Jeff Ranara	2020 Fall Semester
	Exchange university		
	Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (UMPRUM)		
	Degree programme		
	Master of Architecture		

Despite the Covid19 pandemic, an enriching experience.

Before departure

I had heard from a Czech exchange student at KTH about Studio 3 in architecture, which had a profile exploring digitalization in architecture, one of my interests. There wasn't a particular studio at KTH at the time that had this focus, so I decided to apply for an exchange semester. Being an EU citizen, the preparations were mostl focused on the formalia of the Erasmus+ exchange program itself. I also was interested in learning Czech, as an asset for possible future work in the Czech Republic, and spent time on self-study, as well as on the OLS system.

Upon arrival

I traveled on Aug. 15, 2020 as planned. This was shortly after the Swedish Foreigh Minstry lifted the advisory against travel to the Czech Republic, and I took immediate advantage of the window of opportunity. I wanted to be immersed in the language and also begin to explore Czech architecture. I was certainly immersed in the language. I was also able to attend Czech Open House, an event where buildings not usually open to the public are opened for tours – quite rewarding! The introduction for the exchange students didn't actually take place until the end of September. But in the meantime I was able to attend the end-of-semester presentations of the UMPRUM students since they had been postponed to the fall from the original end of spring semester dates due to the Covid19 pandemic.

Financials

I received an Erasmus+ stipend, and also availed of the travel grant for travel (home) by train. There were no unexpected fees or mandatory student union fees. To save money, my best tip is to shop at for groceries at the large supermarkets (Lidl, Billa) rather than at the neighbourhood groceries. However, if you can afford it, the neighborhood groceries are pleasanter, and deserve the support.

Accommodation

I applied early for accommodation at the UMPRUM dorm, which ordinarily is a hostel for tourists during the summer. The standard is middling, but the prices were reasonable. It was a 20 minute tram ride from the university, and between two large urban parks with outdoor gym facilities so it was a great location.

University and studies

I would describe UMPRUM as a small, cozy university, with a focus on Applied Arts – for example, I registered for courses in Clay Modeling, Figure Drawing, Bookbinding, Linotype, but unfortunately had to drop these due to Covid19 shutdowns that didn't permit physical classes. Instead I focused on the courses that were more suited to the online, distance education format that was forced upon all universities in the Czech Republic by the Covid19 shutdowns – History of Design, Czech Architecture

of the 20th Century, Computational Design, Generative Design, as well as my architectural studio work of course.

Courses

This was my original learning agreement:

Table A Before the mobility	Component code (if any)	Component title at the Receiving Institution (as indicated in the course catalogue[7])	Semester	Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent)[8] to be awarded by the Receiving Institution upon successful completion
	tba	Main Course Studio – Architecture III	Fall 2020	13
	tba	Final Semestral Project Klausura	Fall 2020	7
	F0003	Individual Workshop Practice	Fall 2020	2
	F0042	Generative Design and Computer Drafting	Fall 2020	2
	F0001	Computational Design Seminar	Fall 2020	2
	F0040	History of Design of the 20th Century	Fall 2020	2
	F0012	Graphic Design in Context	Fall 2020	2
				Total: 30

Study Programme at the Receiving Institution. Planned period of the mobility: from [month/year] ....15/08/2020...... to [month/year] ....31/01/2021......

Web link to the course catalogue at the Receiving Institution describing the learning outcomes: https://www.umprum.cz/web/en/course-offer

This are my revised courses and credits, revised due to the pandemic, which curtailed all physical meetings.

Table A Before the mobility	Component code (if any)	Component title at the Receiving Institution (as indicated in the course catalogue[7])	Semester	Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent)[8] to be awarded by the Receiving Institution upon successful completion
	FA3S1	Main Course Studio – Architecture III	Fall 2020	13
	tba	Personal Project in the Studio – Architecture III	Fall 2020	5
	F0049	Czech Architecture of the 20th Century	Fall 2020	3
	F0042	Generative Design and Computer Drafting	Fall 2020	3
	F0001	Computational Design Seminar	Fall 2020	3
	F0040	History of Design of the 20th Century	Fall 2020	3
	F0005	Prague Architecture – Introductory Lectured Tour	Fall 2020	1
	F0004	Czech Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture 1	Fall 2020	2
				Total: 33

Study Programme at the Receiving Institution. Planned period of the mobility: from [month/year] ......15/08/2020.......... to [month/year] ......31/01/2021.........

City and country

Having invested in learning the language definitely made a difference. Prague is a of course a cosmopolitan city, with many different nationalities, and I felt quite at home. Those who can are happy to speak English with you and those who can't appreciate one's own efforts to speak their language.

Leisure and social activities

Pre-pandemic lockdown, I made full use of the urban parks close to the dormitory where I was staying for walks and exercise. The outdoor gyms are great places to make friends, it's a natural place to strike up a conversation. Pretty much all other activities were curtailed by the lockdown, and with the weather getting colder and rainier, the outdoor gyms weren't as tempting. The lockdown of course contributed to my decision to return to Stockholm earlier than planned and finish the semester with distance education. The revised courses above reflect this.

Other recommendations and observations

Hopefully future exchange students will not have to deal with a pandemic during their exchange period. I would of course have had an even more enriching experience had it not been for the pandemic. I would definitely recommend investing in learning the language. Getting out of Prague proper, to the outlying areas further enriches the experience.