
International iForum - Charles University International News Bureau

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International iForum was created as a joint effort of the European Office of Charles University, the Press Department of Charles University and the Erasmus Club of Faculty of Arts at Charles University. The project brings together international students of Charles University as journalists and photojournalists plus their Czech (or Czech-speaking) peers as their interpreters and coordinating assistants of the project.

The members of Charles University International News Bureau are composed of 15-20 directly involved students in one semester, who are regularly reporting on the key events at Charles University in Prague, including that of the Erasmus, international and local Czech communities. The project primarily aims at crossing the borders between the international and Czech (local) groups of students by opening up their events to each other.

The idea to regularly involve students as reporters at Charles University came about on the Erasmus programme's 25th anniversary in 2012. A series of 25 anniversary articles was initiated by the European Office of Charles University and written and/or edited by the Erasmus students who studied at Charles University in 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years. After the batch of Erasmus anniversary articles was published, closing with the last pieces in January 2013, the general consensus was to continue with the successful International News Bureau project in the future. Since then, the members of the Charles University International News Bureau are enriching the English issue of the iForum journal on a regular basis.



Queralt Morros Baró is for a semester at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Charles University, Prague. Born near Barcelona, she is in her last year studying for a BA in Journalism at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Interested in literature, culture and society, iForum is for her the perfect way to practice journalism skills in a foreigner country and learning about the experience of working abroad.



Sarah Bunce is a student of Literature from Trinity College Dublin, currently studying at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. She enjoys the experience of studying in a foreign city, with people of different nationalities and cultural experiences. As a student of Literature, she also likes the experience of studying with people whose first language is not English, and who bring a different set of cultural experiences to their understanding of literature. For iForum, she writes on literature and theatre.



Morgan Brooks is a second year student of a BA in Politics at the University of Nottingham in the UK. At present, he is studying Political Science for 1 semester at the Faculty of Social Science in Charles University, Prague. He is interested in political economy, international politics and digital media and technology. He joined iForum to gain experience in journalism and the opportunity to gain work experience in another country.



Poppy Gerrard-Abbott is an Erasmus student studying BA Humanities at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University and her home university is the University of Essex in England. She chose to write for the iForum to build on her journalism skills and meet other aspiring journalists; to grow closer to the social and creative life of Charles University and to learn more about Czech culture and life in Prague through attending local events and researching Czech issues and current affairs.

Poppy saw the iForum as an exciting opportunity to pursue her interests in politics, culture and history whilst meeting other Erasmus students. She thinks it's a very worthwhile and fun experience that has brought some exciting

opportunities her way, extended her writing skills and her knowledge of the Czech Republic, and hopes Charles University continues to offer such placements to future students.



Keziah Garratt-Smithson is a second year student currently on an ERASMUS placement at Charles University in Prague. At home Keziah attends Aberystwyth University, where she studies medieval and early modern history. In her spare time she is a keen reader, loves films, and enjoys horse riding. She chose to write for the iForum because it was a great way to meet like minded individuals, whilst having fun and gaining useful work experience.



William Francis Hannell is an Erasmus student from Britain (home university: Aberystwyth University), studying History and English Literature at the Faculty of Arts in Charles University.



Ivana Herglová has been Erasmus incoming coordinator at the central level of Charles University, the European Office, since 2007. She is a doctoral student in Medieval History in the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. She has always been interested in the international cooperation and was at one point considering journalistic career. Being active as

one of the coordinators of the International iForum project offers to her the opportunity to join her two interests and be in personal contact with the international students at Charles University.



Helena Hradilová is a student of Translation and Interpreting (Czech, English and German) at the Institute of Translation Studies of Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague. She is very fond of languages, meeting new people and getting to know other cultures, which is one of the reason she became a tutor of the Erasmus Club of Faculty of Arts at Charles University. To further support Erasmus students in exploring the Czech culture and student life at Charles University, she joined also iForum, which she sees as a great opportunity to maintain contact between students of different cultures and as a possibility to improve their journalism and communication skills.



Natalie James is an undergraduate history student at University College London, currently studying at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague. Her interests include history, literature, politics, and current affairs. She joined the online magazine iForum to become more aware of and involved in student life at Charles University in Prague, and also to meet other likeminded Erasmus students.



Claire O'Brien Kelly's home university is University College Cork. At Charles University in Prague she studies at the Faculty of Law. She would like to gain international experience from both her study stay abroad as well as her internship in the International iForum.



Petra Köpplová (Press Department) is Editor in Chief of the University online Journal iForum. Working together on one project with the Erasmus students gives her an exciting opportunity to involve international students in to the student life of Charles University. The project is an amazing chance for students, who are immersed into a trully international cooperation.

Marita Moloney is a third year Law International student at University College Cork, and is currently on Erasmus studying at the Faculty of Law in Charles University. She has a vast array of interests, ranging from art and culture to current affairs and literature. She decided to write for iForum as she believed it would be an excellent opportunity to continue developing her journalistic skills, gain valuable work experience and meet other Erasmus students with the same interests.



Elan Grug Muse is in her second year studying for a BA in Politics at the University of Nottingham, and is studying for a year at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Charles University, Prague. She is interested in international politics, music and literature, and was motivated to write for iForum because it offered a good opportunity to improve her journalism skills.



Sam Pepper is interested in meeting and discussing culture between people from other nationalities. This, he says is one of his favourite hobbies, which led him to great personal development during his Erasmus study period in Prague. He also offers simple English lessons to other European students to gain understanding of other cultures and help others improve with their language skills.

By initially learning meeting people of other European cultures at his home University at Essex, whilst living with French, Swedish and Norwegian people, he says that he has become fascinated in European attitudes, comparing similarities and differences in European politics, popular culture and ways of life. He has always taken a firm interest in current affairs and hot topics in world politics, therefore relished the opportunity to write about subjects such as disparity in East Asia, European Union immigration and a European multinational MA programme. These opportunities have not only developed his interest in international affairs, but also it has shown him the value of being a European student in the Czech Republic.



Jan Szyszko studies Geography at Trinity College Dublin. Originally coming from Poland and living in Western Europe (Luxembourg and Ireland) for 9 years, he thought he would profit from going back to live in his home region again. He enjoys studying in Prague and experiencing life in a new city and at a new university which he learns also through the internship with iForum.



Kimberly Townend studies a double degree in Law and Criminology at the University of Valencia, Spain. She decided to join the iForum since she saw it as a great opportunity to take an active part in the events organised by her host university. An aspiring writer since a very young age, she felt that it could be a good way to enjoy her favourite hobby during her stay in Prague.



Edvinas Vensas is a 3rd year BA student in Physical Education from Lithuania currently studying for 1 semester at Charles University, Prague. He enjoys various physical activity, travelling, learning new things and challenging experiences. Edvinas is aiming to write articles about physical activity and has decided to join iForum because he wants to gain journalistic skills.



David Williams is a third year student studying a BA in Music from University College Dublin, and is studying here on Erasmus for one year with the Faculty of Education in Charles University. David is focusing on his love for music with his Violin and Conducting ambitions. David was keen to write for the iForum as his ideal job would be related with media, radio and performance.