

CZECH IIR INTERN EXPANDS HER INTERNATIONAL NETWORK, MAKES NEW FRIENDS

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Adéla Habartová had wanted to apply for an internship at the Institute of International Relations in Prague long before she did in 2019. However, the Czech native waited until returning from South Korea, where she earned a certificate and an award in public diplomacy from Sookmyung Women's University, to finally apply.



ADÉLA HABARTOVÁ

"I wanted to gain relevant academic experience and learn how this prestigious institution actually works," she says. "I also wanted to meet interesting people, develop my education, and get contacts that I could use for my future career."

Adéla earned her bachelor's degree in International Relations and European Studies from Metropolitan University Prague and finished her master's degree in Asian Studies and International Relations while she was interning at IIR. In addition to her studies, Adéla was chosen by the Association of International Affairs to participate in their lecture series for those interested in Asia called ALYAS, which aims to nurture long-term cooperation among professionals, experts and those in the field. She also studied in Vancouver and Toronto for a year.

FRIENDLY AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR INTERNS

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One of the first things Adéla noticed about working at IIR was its friendly atmosphere. "My first day as an intern was great," she remembers. *"I met the staff who were very welcoming, and I made new friends."*

IIR's informal and casual work environment surprised her. Researchers and staff were very accessible and willing to share tips and advice with interns just starting out in their careers. At the end of her three months, Adéla left not only with more professional contacts, but also a new group of friends.

She also appreciated IIR's international diversity. Speakers, researchers, and interns come from every corner of the globe to participate in the institution's events.

“One has a great chance to meet many interesting people from all over the world and actively speak foreign languages,” she says. “This kind of work is definitely not stereotypical.”

While this did present some challenges, Adéla believes it helped develop both her personal and professional skills when it comes to teamwork and communication. She can imagine herself working in an environment similar to IIR in the future.

“I think that just working with other trainees who come from different countries is very rewarding and you will make many friends,” she says. “I have made many wonderful friends with whom I am still in active contact despite the fact that we do not work at the Institute anymore.”

EXPERT OPINIONS

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During her time at IIR, Adéla worked several events, from intimate panel discussions to large-scale conferences, including the Prague European Summit. *“Thanks to cooperation on various projects, which were held not only at IIR but also at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was able to attend very interesting lectures from leading experts and politicians,”* she says.

Adéla was particularly happy to meet Jakub Eberle, an expert in German foreign policy, and Mark Galeotti, who gave a lecture on his newest book *We Need to Talk about Putin* that Adéla refers to as “very interesting and inspiring.”



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These conversations helped her better understand the importance of purposeful research that has a clear objective in mind.

"It was a very eye-opening, motivational and priceless experience for me," she says.

Adéla encourages those who are interested in current affairs and want to make good international contacts to apply for the internship program at IIR.

"Do not hesitate at all!" she says. "If you want to expand your knowledge, meet lots of interesting people and attend inspiring events, be sure to try this internship!"