

This summer, I had the privilege of studying at the prestigious Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) through the Emerson College Prague Program, made possible by the financial aid I received from the Let's Go Fund.

Contrary to the belief that careers in the arts are easy and glamorous, this program reminded me of the dedication and demands that filmmaking requires. By the second week of the program, we had already finished writing and pre-producing our original short films while simultaneously attending 2-3 classes a day, along with filmmaking demonstrations and screenings. The pace was relentless, but it gave me a new sense of resilience and adaptability.

I am especially proud of the production aspect of the program. We had just 12 hours to film our movies, and after wrapping our own sets, we immediately helped our peers with theirs. Personally, I contributed to five sets over four days. After filming, we had only two days to edit before the final screening. These weeks were intense and overwhelming, but they undoubtedly made me a better filmmaker. I can confidently say that I've become a better problem-solver, listener, and artist as a result of the Prague Program.

Even with the rigorous schedule, my time in Prague was amazing. With just 23 students in the program, we became a very tight-knit group, exploring the city, visiting museums and cultural sites, and supporting one another. The connection I feel with the other participants is unlike any I have with my other friends. What we accomplished together—from navigating a new city to creating art with such limited time—was truly incredible. I am deeply grateful to have shared this experience with such kind and inspiring artists.

With all the opportunities and amenities that the Prague Program provides, it is understandably expensive. Thankfully, the Let's Go Fund scholarship made it possible for me to attend. The scholarship covered a significant amount of my tuition and travel expenses, easing financial stress and allowing me to focus on the program. Because of this scholarship, I was able to study at one of the oldest and best filmmaking schools in the world, attend the Karlovy Vary Film Festival with the program, and work with industry professionals. This experience was unforgettable, and I will forever be grateful for being able to attend Emerson's Prague Program.