

My Summer at Masaryk University in Brno with LŠSS Program

By Nanci Clifton, Sokol San Francisco, August 2026

This year I was so fortunate to receive a scholarship to the Summer School of Slavonic Studies program at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, the city where my father was born in 1922. I picked Brno as my first choice not knowing that, of all 6 universities in CZ offering this program it is known to have the most comprehensive and intensive language program.

(I'm seated, second from the right in the white t-shirt and grey shorts)



Almost 100 students from over 35 countries gathered here for four weeks, attending daily classes, afternoon lectures, evening films and afternoon and weekend excursions. In addition to intense grammar and vocabulary lessons, we learned traditional folk songs, and learned how to dance the polka. We visited breweries, castles, caves and museums, farmer's markets, sang karaoke, attended music festivals, and shared many beers.

I particularly enjoyed discovering places in Brno where my father's family lived and worked. Spending time in these places gave me a more personal connection to the city and helped me understand more about the history, politics, and culture of the region my family came from.

One of the highlights for me was meeting so many bright and ambitious students from Mongolia, Estonia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Ukraine, Taiwan, Korea, and many other countries. They each brought their unique perspective of the world while uniting in a desire to learn more about Slavonic languages and culture.

It was a memorable (and very hot!) experience. I'm so grateful to have been able to spend such meaningful time in my family's land.





Images:

My class and me || Singing Lessons || View from stará radnice (old town hall) || Me at cathedral || Whole School

