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CZECH MOBILITY CENTRE
ČESKÉ CENTRUM PRO MOBILITU



The foreign Researcher's Guide to the

CZECH REPUBLIC

Introduction



This guide is aimed to help researches from all over the world planning on moving or living in the Czech Republic to work or study here.

The guide was published by the Mobility Centre of the Czech Republic with the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Its aim is to make researchers' mobility easier, providing them with necessary information in order to arrange formalities and deal with everyday life situations.

The Czech national portal **www.euraxess.cz** provides updated information on the topics mentioned above.

CZECH MOBILITY CENTRE
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Country Profile



The Czech Republic is situated in the heart of Central Europe, 326 km from the Baltic and 322 km from the Adriatic seas. It borders with Germany, Poland, Austria and Slovakia.

Geography

The total area of 78,886 km^2 is comparable to that of Austria or Ireland and comprises 2 percent of the area of the European Union.



The Czech Republic does not have access to any sea, but its rivers Labe (Elbe, 358,3 km), Vltava (433 km), Morava (284 km), Dyje (Thaya, 306 km), Odra (Oder, 136 km) carry their waters into the North: Baltic and Black seas.

Mountain ranges surround the country on almost all sides and have served as a natural border in past. The Bohemian Massif is the easternmost extension of the Hercynian Platform. It includes mountain ranges of Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory, and Jeseníky. The Beskydy Mountains lie in the eastern part of the country.

The highest point of elevation is the peak of Mt. Sněžka (1602 m above sea level) and the lowest point is near Hřensko where the River Labe leaves the Czech territory (117 m under sea level)

Climate
The Czech Republic as a landlocked country has moderate climate with four seasons corresponding to the temperate climate zone, which is characterized by cool summers and cold, cloudy and humid winters. The climate varies markedly among the various regions of the Czech Republic, and throughout year.

The average temperature in January, the coldest winter month is -5 degrees Centigrade. Summer weather can be very warm with temperatures around +23 degrees Centigrade in July.



A nice time of the year to visit the Czech Republic is spring (mid-May to mid-June) and fall (September to mid-October); when the weather can be quite pleasant, although it can also be unpredictable. The best chance of warm and dry summer weather is from mid-July to mid-August.

Time
GMT + 1, as in Western Europe. Daylight Saving starts last Sunday in March and ends last Sunday in October.

Nature
Nature in the Czech Republic and its forests and mountains were inhabited and cultivated since the ancient times. In spite of it there are still beautiful untouched wild places, unique for their scenery and formations. In these areas, animals roam freely, including the wildcat, the lynx, the big bustard and the grouse.

Administration
The Czech Republic is divided into 14 local administrative units (the Capital City of Prague being one of them), controlled by regional administrations.

The largest cities besides Prague are Plzeň, Brno, Liberec and Ostrava.

History

Czechs are West Slavs, as are Poles and Slovaks. The Capital City, Prague, is often called The Heart of Europe.

History of the Kingdoms
Before the arrival of Slavs in the 6th century, the territory had been inhabited by Germanic and Celtic tribes. A lot of rulers and kings ruled the people in Bohemia from the 7th to 19th centuries.
Let us mention two of them: Emperor Charles IV and Emperor Rudolf II. During the reign of Charles IV (1346 – 1378) Prague grew into one of the largest cities in Europe. It acquired its Gothic face and landmarks including Charles University, Charles Bridge and St. Vitus Cathedral.
In the second half of the 16th century, the city experienced great prosperity under Emperor Rudolf II. He established a great collection of art; renowned artists and scholars were invited to his court.

History of the Republic
At the beginning of the 20th century, Bohemia was a part of the Austrian Empire. After World War I, in 1918, Czechoslovakia declared its independence so the new Republic had three parts: Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. The first president was T. G. Masaryk.



In March 1939, Germany occupied Bohemia and Moravia. After World War II, in 1945, Czechoslovakia was re-established as an independent state.

In 1948, the Communists staged a coup d'état and Czechoslovakia became a communist country. The communist government resigned in November 1989 after a week of demonstrations known as the Velvet Revolution. The popular Vaclav Havel was elected president of the Republic. In 1993, Czechoslovakia split into Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. This peaceful splitting is called the Velvet Divorce.

On May 1, 2004, Czech Republic became a part of the European Union.



History

Some famous Czechs in the history: (Sovereigns, thinkers, musicians, artists, sportsmen, inventors, pioneers)

Saint Wenceslas (?907 – 28.9.929)
Premyslid Prince, Patron of Bohemia



Cosmas (1316 – 1378)
The first Czech historian, author of Cosmas Bohemian Chronicle

Charles IV (1316 – 1378)
Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor, one of the most significant Czech sovereigns, founder of the Charles University in Prague (in 1348)

Jan Hus (1369/70 – 1415)
Burned at the stake for criticizing clerical customs of his day

Jehuda Liva ben Becalel (Rabbi Low, died 1609)
Talmudic teacher and alleged creator of Golem

Johan Amos Comenius (1592 – 1670)
Author of the modern concept of pedagogy and education

Bedřich Smetana (1824 – 1884)

Antonín Dvořák (1841 – 1904)



Leoš Janáček (1854 – 1928)

Bohuslav Martinů (1890 – 1959)
Composers

Ema Destinová (1878 – 1930)
Opera interpreter who also performed with Enrico Caruso

Božena Němcová (1820 – 1862)
Writer of short stories, fairy tales and novels

Franz Kafka (1883 – 1924)
Writer of German-Jewish origin, author of short stories Metamorphosis and The Trial

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850 – 1937)
Philosopher, the first president of Czechoslovakia

Jan Patočka (1907 – 1977)
Philosopher and spokesman of Charter 77

Emil Zátopek (1922 – 2000)
Quadruple Olympic winner in long-distance running

Dana Zátopková (*1922)
Javelin thrower who topped the Czechoslovak record 17 times

Karel Čapek (1890 – 1938)
Writer and philosopher

Josef Čapek (1887 – 1948)
Poet, playwright, and illustrator, inventor of the word „robot" for his brother's drama entitled R.U.R.

František Drtikol (1883 – 1961)
Representative of modern photography

Josef Sudek (1896 – 1976)
Founder of Czech modern photography

History

Jiří Trnka (1912 – 1969)

Jiří Voskovec (1905 – 1981)

Jan Werich (1905 – 1980)

Jaroslav Ježek (1906 – 1942)
Star and music composer of the avant-garde Liberated Theatre

Jaroslav Seifert (1901 – 1986)
Winner of Nobel Prize for Literature in 1984

Bohumil Hrabal (1914 – 1997)
Author of prose poetry with characters of grotesque fate

Inventors and pioneers:

Jan Jessenius (1566 – 1621)
Executor of the first public autopsy of the human body

Prokop Diviš (1698 – 1765)
Inventor of electropathy and the lightning conductor

Josef Ressel (1793 – 1857)
Inventor of the screw propeller

Johan Gregor Mendel (1822 – 1884)
Founder of genetics

Jan Evangelista Purkyně (1787 – 1869)
Author of cell theory

Emil Škoda (1839 – 1900)
Founder of Škoda works, one of the most significant plants in country

Ernst Mach (1838 – 1916)
Theoretically deduced and experimentally proved the existence of shock waves

Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939)
Inventor of deep psychology

Jaroslav Heyrovský (1890 – 1967)
Founder of the Czech polarography school

Otto Wichterle (1913 – 1998)
Inventor of silon (Czechoslovak version of nylon) and contact lenses

Population

Total population is 10.4 million.

National minorities:

Poles:	21 092
Russians:	24 549
Slovaks:	71 591
Ukrainians:	126 613

Rate of unemployment:
5% (30. 6. 2008)

Occupation:
agriculture 3.8 %, industry 40 %, services 56.2 %

Age structure:
0 – 14 years 16 %, 15 – 64 years 70 %, 65+ years 14 %

Life expectancy:
male 72.03 years, female 78.51 years

Largest cities:
Praha (capital), Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Olomouc, Liberec, Hradec Králové



Religions & Culture and Media

Roman Catholic 26,8 %, Protestant 2,1 %, atheists 59 %, other 3,3 %

Many cultural events take place in the Czech Republic, such as music and movie festivals, concerts, theatrical performances, exhibitions of art and many others.



Television
Czech national television currently broadcasts on four channels. Two are classic analogue channels (ČT1 and ČT2), two new channels are digital (news channel ČT24 and sports channels ČT4 Sport), and two private analogue channels, TV Prima and Nova TV.

For more information see:
http://www.nova.cz/ http://www.ct1.cz/

Radio
Seven broadcasting radio stations currently operate in the Czech Republic. The broadcasting radio stations are:
ČRo1 – Radiožurnál (Czech Radio news-politics station)
ČRo2 – Praha (Czech Radio family station)
ČRo2 – Praha (Czech Radio cultural station)
ČRo6 – Praha (Czech Radio political analysis station)



Evropa 2 (commercial station; contemporary music and entertainment)
Frekvence 1 (commercial station; classic music and entertainment)
Radio Impuls (information and music radio station)

Daily press
Many periodical and non-periodical titles are published. Four main serious newspaper titles compete for the attention of the readers: MF Dnes and Lidové noviny, owned by MAFRA publishing company; Právo of the Borgis Company, and Hospodářské noviny, owned by the Economia Company. The newspapers with a smaller circulation are Bohemian and Moravian daily papers owned by Vltava-Labe-Press, Sport, owned by Ringier, and Haló noviny, owned by Futura.

The most successful tabloid newspaper on the market is Blesk (www.blesk.cz), owned by Ringier, Šíp (http://sip.denik.cz/), owned by Vltava-Labe-Press, and Aha! (www.ahaonline.cz), owned by Ringier.
MF Dnes and Blesk have the largest regular circulation.

Magazines
A wide range of magazines for all readers groups is published as both original Czech titles and licensed foreign magazines. The social weekly press includes popular Reflex, Týden, MF Plus, and Instinkt. The news weekly press in the CR is Reflex.

Internet
Several internet engines compete on the market; the most frequently visited are:
Seznam http://www.seznam.cz/
Centrum http://www.centrum.cz/
Atlas http://www.atlas.cz/
iDnes http://www.idnes.cz/
Volný http://www.volny.cz/
Tiscali http://www.tiscali.cz/
Justice.CZ http://www.justice.cz/
Top 100 Events in 2008 can be found at:
http://kalendar.czechtourism.cz/
For events in Prague, see http://www.pragueexperience.

Language & Political system

Official language – Czech

The Czech language belongs to the group of Slavic languages. From another perspective, Czech is an inflectional language, which means that the words „inflect" (their endings change). The meaning a given word has in a sentence is primarily determined by this inflection.

The Czech constitutional order equally divides powers: legislative, executive, and judiciary.

According to the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the legislature is represented by the Parliament. It consists of two chambers: the lower (the Chamber of Deputies; 200 seats, members are elected by popular vote to serve four--year terms), and upper (the Senate; 81 seats, members are elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms, one--third elected every two years).

The executive in the Czech Republic is represented by President and Government consisting of Prime Minister and Ministers, and is the supreme branch.

Members of Government are heading the following ministries: Transport, Finance, Culture, Defence, Labour and Social Affairs, Regional Development, Industry and Trade, Justice, Education, Youth and Sports, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture and Environment.

Next to the legislative and executive powers, the judicial power is the third separated pillar of power. Judicial power is, on behalf of the Republic, executed by independent courts. Impartiality and independence of judges must not be jeopardized in any way.

President Vaclav KLAUS (since February 2008) was elected by the Parliament for his second five-year term. (The Czech Republic's first president, Vaclav HAVEL, stepped down from office on 2nd February 2003 having served exactly 10 years.)

Economy

The Czech Republic is one of the most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states of Central and Eastern Europe.

Growth in 2000-08 was supported by exports to the EU, primarily to Germany, and a strong recovery of foreign and domestic investment. Domestic demand is playing an ever more important role in undergirding growth as interest rates drop and the availability of credit cards and mortgages increases. Current account deficits of around 5% of GDP are beginning to decline as demand for Czech products in the European Union increases. Inflation is under control. Recent accession to the EU gives further impetus and direction to structural reform. Privatization of state-owned telecommunications firm Cesky Telecom took place in 2005. Intensified restructuring among large enterprises, improvements in the financial sector, and effective use of available EU funds should further strengthen the output growth.



Economy

Economic structure

Agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing	4.23 %
Mining and quarrying	1.55 %
Manufacturing	34.73 %
Electricity, gas and water supply	2.94%
Construction	6.38 %
Wholesale and retail trade	7.7 %
Accommodation and boarding	1.25 %
Transport, storage, communication	8.73 %
Financial intermediation	2.43 %
Education	8.17 %
Health care, social work and veterinary activities	7.34 %
Other	14.57 %



Agricultural products: wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, fruit, pigs, poultry

Industries: metallurgy, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, glass, armaments

Natural resources: hard coal, soft coal, clay, graphite, timber

Land use

arable land	41 %
permanent crops	2 %
permanent pastures	11 %
forests and woodland	34 %
other	12 %



Traditional Czech products

Czech industrial production has a long tradition and many products are known and respected worldwide. As there are several tens of thousand of products made in the Czech Republic, the following selection represents the most interesting products.

Glass
The most renowned Czech glass comes from Jablonec na Nisou and Nový Bor. Glass products are prized on the world market and come in a wide range of varieties, Christmas ornaments, domestic glass and chandeliers.

Lead crystal
Lead crystal is more sparkly, resonant and resistant than any other type of glass. Manufacturing methods also affect the quality of crystal. A typical Czech decor is the so-called lace decor, which perfectly represents the Czech lapidary school.

Cut glass
For more than 140 years, the Moser glass-making factory has produced luxury table and decorative glass products of the 19th century by glasscutter Ludvig Moser. The assortment of Moser Glassworks contains also a type of glass that deviates somewhat in style from the type „dancing glasses". Using a glass formula known only to Moser, the stem has a unique flexing quality, enabling specific shape of the snifters, and special attention was given to the optimum position of the centre of gravity.

Economy

Porcelain
The best-known products include onion-pattern porcelain and the Thun-branded porcelain made in Karlovy Vary. Approximately 70 % are exported to more than 90 countries on five continents.

Bohemian garnet
This feature of garnet can be found only in the Czech Republic. Bohemian garnet jewels are known to have adorned the dresses of Russian tsarinas at the Vienna congress after the fall of Napoleon in 1815. Nowadays, Granat Trutnov manufacturing plant continues the tradition and distributes garnet abroad. You can see samples of Bohemian garnet jewellery all over the world.

Beer
Czech beer is one of the most requested beers worldwide. The biggest Czech brewers include: Plzeňský Prazdroj, Pivovary Staropramen, Budvar, Bernard, PMS Přerov, Drinks Union, and Starobrno. There are many other smaller breweries, which are mostly operated in combination with a restaurant, where you can sample the local beer on spot. Most breweries offer guided tours, usually giving you the chance to taste their beer while you are there.

Automobiles
Only four car manufacturers in the world can boast more than 100 years of tradition. One of these is ŠKODA. It was founded as a family business Laurin and Klement in 1895. In 1991, Škoda Auto became the fourth make of the VW group. It presently employs about 20,000 people and produces around half a million cars per year for both the domestic and foreign markets.

Other Czech products are:
Becherovka; Mineral water (Mattoni, Korunní, Bonaqua, Magnesia); Olomouc curd cheese; Tramcars; Military equipment: radar, surveillance and defence systems, Parachute gliders; Petrof pianos; Baťa shoes



Transport

International rail crossings outnumber international airports by 18 to 1 (The Prague airport), but both are exceeded by the 30-plus international road crossings.

Plane
Scheduled international flights arrive predominately at Prague – the Ruzyně Airport (PRG), which is connected worldwide by at least two dozen international carriers, including the state-run airline ČSA (Czech Airlines).

The country is connected through three more international airports: Karlovy Vary (KLV), Brno Tuřany (BRQ), and Ostrava Mošnov (OSR). Prague is the central hub airport for the low-cost airline Smart Wings. Buying tickets in the CR will not save you much money, so if you are only going to one destination, take advantage of the lower cost of a return ticket bought at home.

Train
Consider arriving by train, as it is the easiest (if not the cheapest) way to get from the West to the CR. There are some 18 rail-crossings into the Republic.

Car
By road, visitors can enter the CR at over 30 points, and the list is growing continuously. Currently there are 7 highways crossing the country and more are being constructed.



Speed limits
On a motorway 130 km/h (80 mph)
On an open road 90 km/h (56 mph)
In residential areas 50 km/h (31 mph)



Motorways and high-speed roads can only by used by a motor vehicle or an articulated vehicle with at least four wheels, upon payment of a fee for use of motorways and high-speed roads.

The fee is paid prior to using a motorway or high-speed road by a motor vehicle.

Points of sale are identified by stickers, and coupons may only be sold at nominal prices, set by a Government Directive.

Coupons can be purchased at all post offices (Česká pošta, a.s.), from contractual vendors at fuel stations, primarily in the network of toll motorways and high-speed roads, and at connectors to these roads. They can also be obtained at border crossings (D 5 – Rozvadov and D 2 – Břeclav) and at other places serving motorists. All vendors must be equipped with information materials, i.e. with a sticker marking the point of sale, price-list, and information leaflets in four language versions.

Note: It is recommended that drivers, in their own best interest, make sure when purchasing short-term coupons (month, seven-day, one-day) that the vendor has marked the beginning of their validity correctly, before they attach them.



The fee for use of motorways and high-speed roads by road motor vehicles (hereinafter referred to as a „motor vehicles") with at least four wheels, or by an articulated vehicle for one calendar year is:

	one-year	**one-month**	**seven-day**	**one-day**
X< 3,5 t	1000 Kč	330 Kč	220 Kč	-
3,5 t < 12 t	8000 Kč	2200 Kč	750 Kč	-
X > 12 t	toll	toll	toll	toll

In case of emergency
ABA (www.aba.cz), tel: 1240
Road assistance service can be reached at
+420 800 124 000. Operates 24 hours a day.

In a traffic accident
After a traffic accident involving a foreign national or his/her vehicle, the police officer will ask for the insurance document. The driver is obliged to have such a document on him/her.

If a foreign vehicle is damaged and it proves necessary to interfere with the load due to the traffic accident, the relevant customs office will be informed.

If the foreigner shows an international insurance card, the police officer will verify its validity in the Czech Republic. He will make take notes of the name, validity and number of insurance document in the record of road accidents.

Transport

The confirmation document should include:
- Date and place the document was issued
- Date, time and place of traffic accident
- Make and registration number of vehicle, name and address of owner of vehicle, name and address of driver of vehicle at the time of the accident
- Detailed description of the damaged parts of the vehicle
- Stamp of the Police Force unit, which verified the accident and signature of the police officer who issued the confirmation and his/her identification number

Car rental
See the booking engine for the CR and Europe http://www.myczechrepublic.com/car-rental/.
For planning your car route try: www.mapy.cz

Public Transport
You can look up the schedules and connections for Prague public transport, public transport in other Czech cities, and trains and buses in the Czech Republic and Europe at http://jizdnirady.atlas.cz .

Trains
Trains in the Czech Republic are operated by České dráhy (Czech Railways, www.cd.cz). The train is a commonly used means of transport in the Czech Republic. All Czech cities, towns and many municipalities have their train stations and are interconnected well enough to make train travel a convenient way of getting from one place to another.



Cheaper Fare?
- discounts on group tickets (at least two people travelling together)
- return journey reduction (return within 24 hours)
- „customers card": Z-Card (karta Z) provides discounts on regular fares - anyone can buy it at any train station ticket counter with a passport-sized photo (35 x 45 mm), an ID and CZK 200.
- Prepaid card is sold for CZK 1400 and gives you 2000 km of train travel, expires six months from the date of first use.

Online schedules and connections for the Czech Republic and Europe can be found at www.idos.cz. Visit also the Czech Railways website www.cd.cz/static/eng for a complete up-to-date price list of international fares.

Coaches, Buses
Travelling by coach is often the quickest and most direct way to get from one Czech town to another. There are many private bus companies that operate regular services. Almost no Czech buses are equipped with toilets and bathroom breaks are only made on long-distance trips, approximately every three hours.

Tickets can be bought when boarding, or at main bus stations together with the seat reservation. For schedules see www.idos.cz.



Prague
Larger cities have an advanced public transport system. In Prague, you can easily get around by buses and trams and also by Metro (subway). For travelling to the remote parts of Prague you can use buses or trains within the Prague Integrated Transport System. More information, maps and timetables are available at the Public Transport website: www.dpp.cz.

Public Holidays & Other significant days

In total, there are seven bank and public holidays in the Czech Republic.



The Day of Recovery of the Independent Czech State – January 1
Liberation Day – May 8
The Day of Slavonic Apostles Cyril and Methodius – July 5
Jan Hus Day – July 5
Day of Czech Statehood – September 28
The Day of Establishment of the Original Independent Czechoslovak Republic – October 28
Day of Student's Fight for Freedom and Democracy – November 17

Other significant days

Easter Monday
Christmas Day – December 24
First Christmas feast – December 25
Second Christmas feast – December 26

For further information regarding the traditional Czech customs see: http://www.czech.cz.



Research and development



The „National Research and Development Policy of the Czech Republic“ was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic on 5th January 2000.

Research and development

The R&D policy is a statement for the EU and OECD bodies showing the full readiness of the R&D authorities, organizations, and workplaces in the Czech Republic to join the international co-operation in gaining new R&D knowledge, its utilisation and expansion under the conditions of observing all standards, processes, and traditions applicable in these communities (protection of intellectual and industrial rights, etc.).



The main goal of the R&D policy is to better the results and efficiency of R&D in the Czech Republic, to ensure a flexible renewal of capacities, including development of active human potential within and to put these resources in resolving the future needs of citizens, society and economy in the Czech Republic.

Preparation of the National Research Programme I (hereinafter referred to as „NRP I") was based upon the National Research and Development Policy of the CR (NR&DP). The original document was harmonised with newly adopted laws and regulations and assumed international commitments such as the Czech Republic joining the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities for 2007 – 2013.



The National Research Programme is a set of programmes tackling issues of both basic and applied research through projects. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) is responsible for preparation and implementation of research priorities within this national programme.b

Main objectives of the National Research Programme II were defined as follows:

I. to improve performance and efficiency of Czech research;
II. to ensure a dynamic renewal and development of research capacities in the CR using all opportunities for international cooperation in research;
III. to strengthen and advance ties between research and development and the community and relieve community fears, if any, about the undesirable impact of research and development;
IV. to improve professionalism of research work and ncrease applicability of research results in practice.

National Research Programme (NRP) Council is composed of representatives of ministries and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (AS CR) acting in their role as providers, the advisory body to the Government (R&DC) and professional public.

Providers
Ministry of Health (MoH)
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Ministry of Environment (MoE)
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (AS CR)
Ministry of Transport (MoT)
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA)
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS)

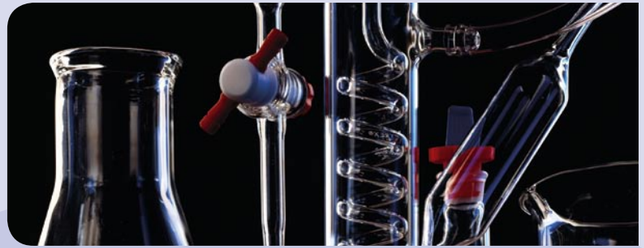
Programmes to support science and research

http://www.czech.cz/en/economy-business-science/science/support-of--science/programmes-to-support-science-and-research/

The list of subsidies and grants for programmes supporting science can be found on the website of the official portal for business and export Businessinfo (http://www.businessinfo.cz/en/) and on the website of the Academy of Sciences.

The Grant Agency of the Czech Republic – Czech Science Foundation
The GACR was formed in 1992 as an independent institution to support fundamental scientific research in the Czech Republic. The Agency's task is the provision of grants to the best projects from all scientific disciplines, which are selected every year through a public competition in research and development.

Grant projects
The Grant Agency of the CR announces a public competition for solution of grant projects of fundamental research in specified disciplines and approved programmes. The announcement is published in the Commercial Journal and in the information system of research and development; currently announced competitions are also available on the Grant Agency's website (http://www.gacr.cz).
E-mail: grantcr@gacr.cas.cz or info@gacr.cas.cz
Information regarding the public competition, competition documentation and rules can be obtained in the GA CR Office at: Národní 3, Prague 1, 110 00, on business days between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. during the competition period.



Research centres

There is a wide range of research centres in the Czech Republic, many of which operate within the frame of international cooperation.

Some of the most significant research centres are under the umbrella of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (AS CR); others are parts of universities or operate on a more or less independent basis.

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
http://www.avcr.cz

(AS CR) is organised as a complex of 54 public research institutions with the Academy Head Office as an internal organizational unit. The Academy employs about 7,000 employees of whom more than half are researchers with university degrees.

List of all institutes of the Academy of Sciences, including contacts, can be found at: http://www.cas.cz/en/institutes.php

The primary mission of AS CR and its institutes is to conduct fundamental research in a broad spectrum of the natural, technical, and social sciences and the humanities.



Research centres

This research, whether highly specialised or interdisciplinary in nature, aims at advancing development in scientific knowledge at the international level, while also taking into account the specific needs of both the Czech society and national culture. Scientists of the Academy institutes also participate in education, particularly through doctoral study programmes for young researchers and by teaching at universities as well.



The Academy also fosters collaboration between applied research and industry. The integration of Czech science into the international context is being promoted by means of numerous joint international research projects and through exchange of scientists with counterpart institutions abroad.

The Academy of Sciences is financed primarily from the state budget. The pattern of research funding at the Academy conforms to current international standards. In addition to basic institutional financing of research objectives of Academy institutes, target-oriented financing is being more widely practiced to carry out research projects and grants selected on the basis of public competition. AS CR was the first institution in the Czech Republic to establish its own ***Grant Agency*** (http://www.gaav.cz), which financially supports research projects selected through a peer-review procedure involving reviewers from abroad. Individual Academy institutes obtain additional financial resources by participating in national as well as international research programmes.

The Academy has also been assigned financial responsibility for 71 specialised Czech scientific societies associated with the Council of Scientific Societies.



Cooperation with universities takes place mainly within joint research projects whose number has reached 600. Approximately one-third of projects supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic are assignments realised in cooperation with Institutes of the Academy and universities. More than 40 joint research units for long-term cooperation have been established.

In an effort to speed up the process of transformation of scientific knowledge into practice, the Academy has opened ***The Programme of Targeted Research and Development.***

The Technology Centre of the AS CR (http://www.tc.cz/) is also involved in this area, as it contributes to cooperation with industry mainly through its activities in technology transfers, search for industry partners for research and development projects and support of formation and development of small innovative companies in the area of business. The Technology Centre of the ASCR serves as the National Information Centre for European Research: it provides information and advisory services related to the EU Framework Programmes (http://www.cordis.lu/), monitors Czech participation in international research cooperation programmes, and coordinates and manages methodically the national information network (NINET). The Technology Centre has designed, together with several Academy departments, the project of the ***Scientific Park of the ASCR***, whose concept is based on a successful model implemented in EU countries.

Most Czech research organisations (including the Institutes of the Academy of Sciences CR) were put in the register of public research institutions as of 1st January 2007. During the second quarter of 2007 at the latest, all Academy Institutes began to function properly as public research institutions in compliance with the applicable laws as well as the Statutes of the ASCR.

Research centres

Research is taking place for example at the following universities:
Czech Technical University in Prague
(http://www.cvut.cz)
Czech University of Agriculture in Prague
(http://www.czu.cz)
Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno
(http://www.mendelu.cz)
Charles University in Prague
(http://www.cuni.cz)
Institute of Chemical Technology Prague
(http://www.vscht.cz)
University of Economics Prague
(http://www.vse.cz)
Masaryk University in Brno
(http://www.muni.cz)
University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice
(http://www.jcu.cz)
Technical University in Ostrava
(http://www.vsb.cz)
Palacký University Olomouc
(http://www.upol.cz/en)
University of West Bohemia in Plzeň
(http://www.zcu.cz)
University of Pardubice
(http://www.upce.cz)
Brno University of Technology
(http://www.vutbr.cz)
University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno (http://www.vfu.cz)
University of J. E. Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem
(http://www.ujep.cz)



Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín
(http://www.utb.cz)
University Hradec Králové
(http://www.uhk.cz)
Silesian University in Opava
(http://www.slu.cz)
Technical University in Liberec
(http://www.tul.cz)
Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design
(http://www.vsup.cz)
Polytechnical University Jihlava
(http://www.vspji.cz)

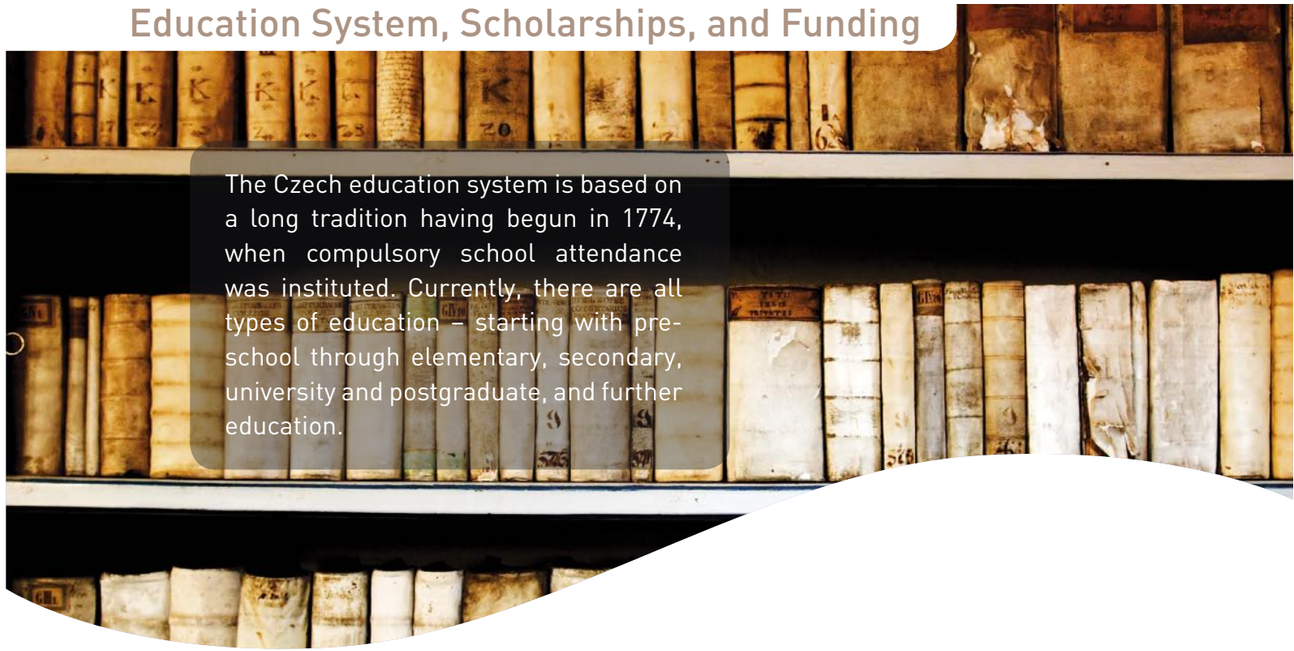
Research is taking place in many other institutes, such as ***Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague***
(http://www.ikem.cz),
Research Institute of Biopharmacy and Veterinary Drugs
(http://www.biopharm-research-institute.cz/),
Veterinary Research Institute Brno
(http://www.vri.cz/),
General Teaching Hospital in Prague
(http://www.vfn.cz/),
City Hospital in Čáslav, Prague Psychiatric Centre, Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography in Zdiby, and others.



Scientific programmes have also been announced by individual ministries of the Czech government from their budgets in areas within their competence.

The European Union
Czech scientists are also involved in scientific programmes organised by the EU, of which the Czech Republic became a member state in 2004. Programmes are announced within the 7th **Framework Programme for International Cooperation in Research and Development** for the years 2007-12.

Education System, Scholarships, and Funding



The Czech education system is based on a long tradition having begun in 1774, when compulsory school attendance was instituted. Currently, there are all types of education – starting with pre-school through elementary, secondary, university and postgraduate, and further education.

Education System, Scholarships, and Funding

About 4 million people have complete secondary education and 0.5 million university education.



Preschool education is offered at créches and nursery schools as a complement to family-based education.

Elementary education – nine-year school attendance is compulsory from the age of 6 till the age of 15. Since the school year 2004/05, also Waldorf schools, Montessori nursery and elementary schools and Montessori elementary schools level II have been established as alternative education programmes for a trial period.

Secondary education
Pupils who have fulfilled their nine-year compulsory school attendance can apply for study at secondary schools. Secondary education can be achieved by students also in their eighth class level or, more precisely, six-year grammar schools at which they have already completed several classes of elementary education.

Tertiary education
Tertiary education is included in studies following a completed secondary education with a leaving exam. Tertiary education includes advanced vocational and university education. The teaching system is almost identical with the system at the college or vocational college; however, certain rules of secondary education apply (holidays, fixed timetables, etc.). Higher vocational education deepens upon general and professional knowledge and takes three years in the daily form, hands-on training included, and three and a half years for medicine and certain other fields of study. Studies are completed with a certificate, a specific exam on selected subjects, a practical exam and the defence of a graduate examination paper. Of course, everything in relation to the subject studied. Together with the certificate, students are awarded the title of certified specialist (the abbreviation Dis. is added after a surname).



At vocational colleges, students must pay ***tuition fees.*** These tuition fees range from several thousand Czech crowns per year to several tens of thousands.

University education is available to all applicants with completed secondary education (i.e. leaving exam), who successfully pass the entrance exam. The system of entrance exams is specified individually by each college, and serves for testing the knowledge and skills of applicants.

Most universities have the following accredited degree programmes:

Bachelor's: Usually a three-year course of study in which students receive an elementary overview of highly specialized areas. Students can either leave their studies after these three years, or they can complete it by means of a leaving exam including defence of a bachelor's thesis, or may continue into the master's programme, where they can achieve a narrower specialization.

Education System, Scholarships, and Funding

Master's: Operates either as a five-year (or, more precisely, six-year), or two-year programme following bachelor studies. During the course, students gain both a basic overview of highly specialized subjects and a certain level of specialization. The programme culminates with students taking required state leaving exams and defending their diploma theses.

Engineering: Relates to technical and economic fields.

After students pass these types of university study, some continue in their specialization through ***doctoral programmes***. Passing these programmes is often conditioned on certain publication work and sometimes also by training.

At college, students can study either in ***attendance form*** (formerly daily study), ***distance*** form (formerly extramural studies), or ***combine*** both forms of study (combined study).

Besides standard types of study, colleges offer also other forms of education: retraining study, third age university, studies oriented toward pedagogical qualification, etc.

Some schools in the CR provide study programmes leading to the degree of ***Master's of Business Administration (MBA).***

Further education
Within the frame of ongoing education programmes, universities implement a variety of courses intended e.g. for those who are interested in study, university graduates, seniors, and also students and employees interested in studies. The courses focus either on learning a skill or trade, or on the study of areas of interest. In addition, some universities organize so-called Third age universities. This is intended for seniors who are interested in gaining new knowledge in selected areas of study, and is usually free.



How to study in the CR as a foreigner

www.czech.cz

General admission requirements
Foreign students who meet certain basic requirements can attend Czech universities and also secondary and primary schools. Except for specialized schools, most institutions require knowledge of the Czech language.

Primary school education
Foreign children completing their compulsory education at primary or special schools receive their education for free as Czech citizens do. Admission of a foreigner eligible for compulsory education is subject to presentation of a Czech residency permit.

Classes in primary schools are taught in Czech. Education at primary and secondary schools can be also in a foreign language, but only with the permission of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Citizens of EU member states may require free tutoring including Czech classes; this option is not available to citizens of other countries. In addition, children of asylum-seekers are entitled to Czech classes.

In addition to schools with extensive foreign-language programmes, there are also schools where ***all subjects are taught in a foreign language.*** These are usually private schools that require the children's parents to pay appropriate school tuitions.



How to study in the CR as a foreigner

Secondary school education
If the student proves during the admission proceedings that he/she is able to study in the Czech language, his/her education is free of charge. The admission of a foreign student is subject to presenting a certificate of legal residence in the Czech Republic. An applicant having completed his/her primary education at a school abroad must present a certificate of attestation equality issued by the school abroad or a certificate of education attesting a recognition clause.



The scores achieved by foreign students in the subject of Czech language and literature will be assessed in light of the student's grasp of the Czech language. Language insufficiencies are deemed an objective reason for failing to classify the student in the first year of his/her secondary school studies.

University education
Foreign students study at tertiary schools under the same conditions as Czech citizens, provided that they are ***able to communicate and study in Czech.*** Therefore, since Czech students are not required to pay for their studies, the same conditions apply to foreign students.

Foreign students wishing to study at a Czech tertiary school in another language than Czech ***must pay tuition.*** At private tertiary schools, all students are required to pay tuition; the same conditions apply to Czech citizens and foreigners alike.
If students are unable to pay for their studies and living expenses, they can apply for some of the ***scholarship programmes.***

Admission for study at a tertiary school is subject to completion of a ***full secondary or full secondary vocational education.***



More information about the education system is available from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports www.msmt.cz/education), www.czech.cz/en/work-study/

The EXPATS.cz portal provides links to a wide range of educational institutions: http://www.expats.cz/directory/

Some international schools in the CR:

British International School, The (BISP Founded in 1992 to serve both the Czech and international communities.
BISP Main Office, K lesu 2 , Prague 4
Christian International School of Prague
Perunova 6, Prague 3
Global Concepts Montessori International School
For children from 1.5 till 6 years in diverse, family-like environment.
Nad Zelivkou 598, Prague 6
International Montessori School of Prague
Hrudickova 2107, Prague 4 – Roztyly
International School of Music and Fine Arts Prague
The Academy of Performing Arts, a state university, ranks among the best music and arts institutions in the world.
Prague 1, 4 & 6
NestLingue
Offering children a motivating environment for their natural development in order to discover the surrounding world.
V Parku 2308/8, Prague 4 – Chodov
Panda Learning Center
English preschool, after school and Saturday programmes for children aged 1.5 to 8. Čerchovska 4, Prague 2

How to study in the CR as a foreigner

Prague College
A complete range of diploma and degree programmes in business, computing, interactive media and graphic design.
Polska 10, Prague 2 – Vinohrady
Riverside School
An international approach to education based on the British National Curriculum. Roztocka 9, Prague 6 - Sedlec
The English College in Prague, o.p.s.
Offers a British-style education in English with an international dimension for 320 boys and girls aged 13 to 19.
Sokolovska 320, Prague 9 - Vysocany
The English International School, Prague (EISP)
Following Early Learning Goals, Foundation and Key Stage components of the National Curriculum of England and Wales.
Na Okruhu 395, Prague 4
University of Northern Virginia
Business Administration, International Relations, Public Relations, Tourism & Hospitality, and Management Systems.
Na Porici 12 , Prague 1
Metropolitan University Prague, o.p.s. (www.mup.cz)
International Relations and European studies
Dubečská 900/10, Praha 10 - Strašnice
Meridian International School-MIS
International education, from kindergarten to high.
Frydlantska 1350/1, Prague 8
The Little Prince Day Care Center
English speaking day care available Mon.-Fri. from 7:30-6:00pm for children aged 2 to 6. Severovýchodní IV/25, Prague 4 – Sporilov
CMC Graduate School of Business (www.cmc.cz)
Náměstí 5.května 2, 250 88 Čelákovice
Diamond Forest Independent School
Education for British A Levels and GCSEs. Rekreacni Stredisko Jestrebi, Czech Republic
International School of Olomouc
Founded in 2000 as an independent satellite campus of the International School of Prague. Rooseveltova 101, Olomouc



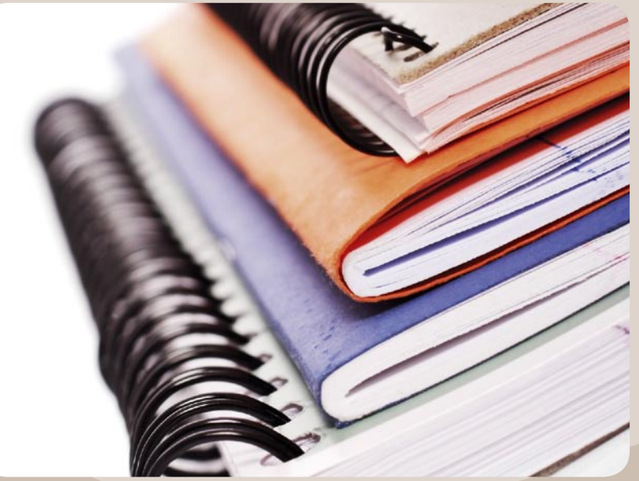
Recognition of Equality and Nostrification of Certificates Issued by Schools Abroad

A certificate recognizing the equality of a foreign school credentials is issued by the department of education of the MHMP (Municipal Council of the Capital City of Prague) in cases, where the Czech Republic has international agreements regarding equality of educational documents with the country where the school is established and recognized. If a foreign school certificate does not clearly show the subjects studied, the applicant shall provide a document stating the content and scope of programmes he/she studied.

http://en.domavcr.cz



Recognition of Equality and Nostrification of Certificates Issued by Schools Abroad



How to find a place for your internship or work experience

If you want to serve an internship or acquire your work experience in the Czech Republic, there are several possibilities for finding the right employer.

Contact the employer directly - you could for example choose from the Czech Top 100 http://www.czechtop100.cz/ or find a company in your country that does business in the Czech Republic. Your application should include a CV, together with a list of persons to provide references, and an accompanying letter stating what you would like to learn.

Contact ***IAESTE*** (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) www.iaeste.org in your country, if it has its branch there. IAESTE is an international, non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization that brings together young people regardless of their religion, race or sex. Its main activity is the organization of internship postings abroad. If you like you can get in touch with IAESTE CR and seek help in arranging your internship.



Contact ***AIESEC*** (http://www.aiesec.org/) in your country. This international student organization also operates in the CR and is active at approximately 750 colleges and universities of economics in more than 83 countries. The idea behind its foundation was the education of young people and its main scope of activity is the arrangement of internship postings abroad. Students may do their work experience in any country where AIESEC is active, and it always comes down to the specific requirements of the company and the student's expectations of their work experience.

Contact the ***National Fund of Education in the Czech Republic*** (http://www.nvf.cz/) Founded in 1994 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR with the support of the European Commission. The NFE's mission is primarily the promotion of the competitiveness of Czech companies and increasing employment through the improvement of the qualification of labour and the development of life-long education.

For example, the NFE coordinates the EU's ***Leonardo da Vinci programme***. The Leonardo programme includes all 27 EU member states plus Norway, Lichtenstein, Iceland and Turkey. Several internship and exchange projects run within the framework of the Leonardo programme. You can find information about the programme on the website of the European Commission.

The NFE in the Czech Republic coordinates other programmes that arrange exchanges and provide grants (apart from the Leonardo programme, these include the Erasmus, Socrates and Tempus programmes) operating in European countries. You can find information about who to contact, how to apply for a grant, etc., on the ***PLOTEUS portal*** (Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space: http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/).
http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz; http://www.hotjobs.cz

Scholarship for foreign students

During the academic year 2006 - 2007, there were 24 641 foreign students studying in the Czech Republic. To finance their studies and support, these students often utilize scholarship programmes offered by specific universities in the Czech Republic or their home country.

Scholarship based on international conventions
The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic also awards scholarships in accordance with international conventions that are binding for the Czech Republic:

- Implementation programmes for so-called cultural agreements
- Departmental contracts agreed with partner ministries abroad
- Agreements approved by documents on education

An updated list of scholarships offered on the basis of international agreements is published by the ***Academic Information Agency*** at (http://www.dzs.cz), one of the organizations directly controlled by the ministry



Programmes of the European Union
In November 2006, the European Parliament together with the Council adopted a ***Lifelong Learning Programme*** for the period from 1.1.2007 till 31.12.2013, which includes all the educational activities supported by the European Union:

- ***Erasmus*** for higher education
- ***Leonardo da Vinci*** for vocational training
- ***Comenius*** for school education
- ***Grundtvig*** for adult education
- ***Transversal Programme***
- ***Jean Monnet*** for European Integration

Leonardo da Vinci
This programme is focused similarly on the support of quality, innovation and a European dimension of professional education. An important part is cooperation on many levels: training centres, vocational schools, universities, enterprises, economic chambers and many others. The objective is to increase mobility and stimulate innovation and quality.

Cooperation within the programme is set up on a ***project basis.***



Other programmes engaged in mobility within the European Union are:

- ***Youth*** focuses on the support of enlightenment of the youth, including informal aspects
- ***European Voluntary Service*** enables those who are interested to work as volunteers in a foreign country for a period up to one year
- ***eLearning*** seeks effective incorporation of information and communication technologies (ICT) in systems of education and professional training in Europe

Scholarship for foreign students

Scholarship granted by universities
Students of Czech universities may receive scholarships from state grants:
1) for excellent study results
2) for excellent scientific, investigative, development, artistic or other creative results that contribute to increasing knowledge
3) in case of difficult social circumstances of a student
4) in cases of deserving special consideration



Scholarships are granted and paid to students by university or faculty, depending on the specific scholarship regulations.

Besides scholarship paid from state grants, a school can award a scholarship from other sources (e.g. from a scholarship fund).

Philosophical Faculty of Masaryk University
The Dean of the Philosophical Faculty of Masaryk University (http://www.muni.cz/) and the Institute for Czech Language grant scholarships effective from October till December to those who study Czech language, literature and culture. The applicants must prove good knowledge of the Czech language to be able to attend lectures and seminars held in Czech. The scholarship does not include health insurance. Applications for scholarships for the following academic year should be submitted no later than April 30.

Additional information can be found on the website of the Centre for Higher Education System (http://www.csvs.cz)



State scholarships supporting foreign growth
Every year, around 250 students from East European countries, Asia, Near East, North and Sub-Sahara Africa and Latin America are admitted to receive a scholarship.

First of all, foreign applicants for the Czech state grant for study at a university in the Czech Republic are awarded scholarships to graduate in ***two-semester language and professional training***, during which students get familiar with the spoken and technical Czech language. They must successfully pass the entrance exam at university, on the basis of which they are awarded a scholarship as one of 170 students for study in a bachelor's (standard period of study is three to four years), or master's (four to six years) study programme, and 80 students are awarded scholarships for study in medical study programme (three years). Graduates are awarded academic titles.

For a standard period of the free-of-charge study, a student is granted a ***monthly scholarship***, which covers necessary costs of living and studying in the Czech Republic. In addition, ***health insurance*** is provided to the same extent as to those students with permanent residence in the Czech Republic.

Students' travelling expenses to the Czech Republic and back to their homelands after the end of studies, regardless of the reason for which study was terminated, is not paid by the Czech side, but by the side that proposed the student's study in the Czech Republic, or the student him/herself using his own financial resources.

The deadline for applications is always between the 15th and the 31st of January. Applications are accepted and more information on the scholarship places offered for the respective academic year is available at the Czech Embassy in the country of origin.

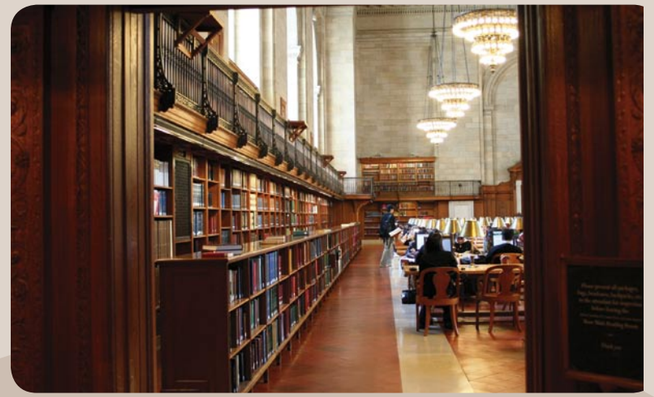
Scholarship for foreign students

International Association of Universities (IAU)
IAU (http://www.unesco.org/iau/association/index.html) is a worldwide organization with member states in 150 countries that co-operates with a number of international, regional and national institutions. Membership may be obtained from any higher education institution and associated membership appertains to other international and national university organizations.

The ***International Universities Bureau***, with its seat in UNESCO, Paris, provides a wide palette of services to member institutions and international communities of higher education.

As a cooperating and pro-services oriented organization, the IAU concentrates exclusively on the exchange of information, experience and ideas, simplification of academic mobility and international cooperation of universities, and contributes through research and meetings to the discussion on educational policy.

Among IAU member states are:
- ***Univerzita Karlova v Praze*** (Charles University in Prague, http://www.cuni.cz/)
- ***České vysoké učení technické*** (Czech Technical University, http://www.cvut.cz/)
- ***Masarykova univerzita*** (Masaryk University, http://www.muni.cz/)
- ***Vysoká škola báňská Technická univerzita Ostrava*** (Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in Ostrava, http://www.vsb.cz/)



Fellowships and Awards of the Academy of Sciences of the CR

The Fellowship of the AS CR for Foreign Specialists engaged in Bohemistic Studies (Czech language and literature, history, culture, ethnology, etc.)
http://www.avcr.cz/en/ostatni.php?ID=107&m=6

The Fellowship seeks to encourage and support research in the Czech cultural heritage and promote its wider awareness in the world, the Fellowship is designed to provide funds for study stays and research work to Bohemistic scholars from abroad.

The J. E. Purkyně Fellowship
http://www.avcr.cz/ostatni.php?m=4-10&ID=4-10-04-00
The objective of the J. E. Purkyně Fellowship is to attract outstanding creative scientists from abroad to work in research institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, both scientists of Czech descent working abroad for an extended period of time and top-ranking scientists from abroad, who generally are younger than 40 years of age, and to ensure an adequate salary package for them at Academy institutes. The Fellowship is granted for a maximum of five years.

It is anticipated that these scientists will become inspiring leaders in newly formed or already existing working research teams at Academy institutes where they will work.

The Fellowship was named after J. E. Purkyně as a reminder that this outstanding 19th century physiologist of Czech origin worked abroad till he was 62 because he had not been given adequate employment in his home country.



Fellowships and Awards of the Academy of Sciences of the CR

Otto Wichterle Award
http://www.cas.cz/en/wichterleaward.php
The Otto Wichterle Award is an honour given by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic to stimulate and encourage selected exceptionally outstanding promising young scientists at the Academy of Sciences AS CR and to recognise their remarkable contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge in a given area of science. Nominees with scientific degrees (CSc, Dr, Ph.D., DrSc) are eligible provided that they are not older than 35 in the calendar year when the nominations are submitted.

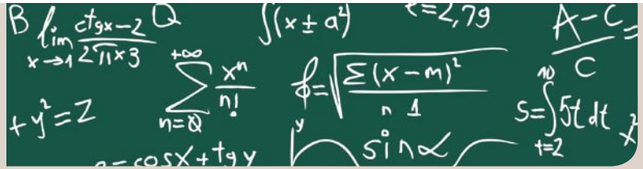
NATO Programme for Security through Science
http://www.nato.int/science/index.html
(Programme Science for peace and security) http://www.czelo.cz/detail_/?news=108 (Programme Security through Science)
The Security through Science Programme offers grants to scientists in NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries to collaborate on priority research topics. Grants are also offered to assist the academic community in Partner countries to set up basic computer networking infrastructure.
The collaborative grants are offered for topics in priority research areas of Defence against Terrorism or Countering Other Threats to Security and/or in Partner-Country Priorities.

International Visegrad Fund
http://www.visegradfund.org
Promotes regional cooperation among the V4 countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary)

The purpose of the Fund is to promote development of closer cooperation between the V4 countries through supporting common cultural, scientific and educational projects, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation and tourism promotion.

Priorities for the Visegrad Strategic Programme for the year 2008
1. Creating Better Conditions for Scientific Research
2. European Integration Process Sharing V4 Know–How with Neighbouring Regions
3. Good Governance in the Public Sector
4. V4 Promotion: Modern Approaches to Raising Awareness of Visegrad Cooperation

The International Visegrad Fund offers ***Master's and Post-Graduate (Post-Master's) Scholarships*** for study/research projects of 1 to 4 semesters.



Scholars from the following countries can apply for 1- to 4-semester Master's scholarships or 1- or 2-semester Post-Graduate scholarships at any accredited public or private universities in the Visegrad Group countries:
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

Scholars from the Visegrad Group countries can apply for 1- or 2-semester scholarships to all accredited universities in V4 countries others than those of their citizenship and permanent residence and to the non-V4 countries listed above.

The Fulbright Fellowship Programme
http://www.fulbright.cz
Provides U.S. citizens and Czech citizens - selected for their academic merit and abilities - an opportunity to study, teach, or research in the Czech Republic and in the United States.

The main aim of the Fulbright Programme in the Czech Republic is to increase understanding between the people of the United States and the Czech Republic through educational exchanges that allow an exchange of thoughts, opinions and mutual knowledge about cultures and institutions.

More information about the Fulbright Programme worldwide is available on website of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

A bilateral agreement between the governments of the United States and the Czech Republic established Fulbright Commission as an administrative body for the Fulbright Programme in the Czech Republic.

Applicants may usually apply in all fields (with certain exemptions for some programmes, e.g., MBA programmes and clinical medicine are excluded for programme for graduate studies).

J.W. Fulbright Commission
Taboritska 23, 130 87 Prague 3
E-mail: fulbright@fulbright.cz

Entry Formalities (Residence, Visa)



The conditions regulating the residence of foreigners in the Czech Republic, the entry in and exit from the Czech Republic are set out in the Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreigners in the Czech Republic.

Entry Formalities (Residence, Visa) & Types of residence in the Czech Republic

Under this Act, a foreigner is deemed to be a person other than a citizen of the Czech Republic (including non-EU, EU and EEC citizens).



The governmental authorities of the Czech Republic exercising powers related to the residence of foreigners in the Czech Republic include, in particular, the Foreign Police and the Border Police, the Czech Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the individual diplomatic and consular offices abroad.

Types of residence in the Czech Republic

Temporary residence
Permanent residence

Temporary residence

Are you a European Union, European Economy Area or Swiss citizen?

YES

free movement of persons

valid Identity Card needed

over 30-day stay:
Register your place of residence at Aliens Police CR

duration of stay up to 3 months

no residence permit needed

duration of stay over 3 months

entitlement (not duty) to apply for confirmation of temporary residence or permanent residence permit

process may take up to 60 day

NO

visa needed

duration of stay up to 90 days

duration of stay over 90 days certificate confirming perpose of stay in CR to be submitted with the visa application

apply for a visa at Czech diplomatic representation abroad

short-term visa

process may take up to 30 days

long-term visa

process may take up to 120 days

for study, teaching, research, process may take up to 60 days

Temporary residence

Stays without a visa:
- on the basis of the Council's Regulation 539/2001;
- citizens of the EU;
- family members of EU citizens – holders of temporary or permanent residence permits in any other EU country;
- holders of permanent or long-term residence permits of another state belonging to the Schengen area

Types of short-term and long-term visas:
- airport visa - A
- transit visa – B
- visa up to 90 days – C
- national visa - D
- Schengen visa – D+C

Visa up to 90 days (short-term visa)
- the application goes through the representative body of the Czech Republic abroad, which has the right to decide in these cases
- validity up to 2 years
- period of stay up to 3 months
- 1 entry, 2 entries or multiple

Visa for a period over 90 days (long-term visa):
- the application has to be submitted to the representative body of the Czech Republic abroad
- the Foreign Police Department of the Czech Rep. decides about the application
- deadline for processing the application is 90 days (in some cases 120 days)
- validity of the visa is 1 year



Long-term residence permits:
- in general it is consequential to the visa for a period over 90 days – application is submitted on the territory of the Foreign Police
- exceptions: family, studies (some cases), resident of another EU member state, researchers – it is possible to apply at the representative body without a previous stay
- validity up to 2 years
- possibility of extension when keeping the same purpose of stay
- possibility of changing the purpose of stay

Visa fees:
- application for a visa up to 90 days – EUR 60
- application for a visa over 90 days – CZK 2500 (type D), CZK 2800 (type D+C)
- permission for a long-term stay and its extension – CZK 1000



Temporary residence

Residence permits for the purpose of scientific research
With regard to foreign researchers, recently there has been a change in the legal system dealing with the stay of foreign researchers in the Czech Republic (Act No. 379/2007 Coll.) This amendment facilitates the process of application for long-term permits for the purpose of scientific research.



Nowadays, the researchers can apply for long-term residence permit for the purpose of scientific research (instead of the visa for the period of over 90 days).

- The application form has to be submitted by the foreigner at the representative body of the Czech Republic in the country of his/her residence

- On the territory of the Czech Republic (Foreign Police Department) the foreigner is allowed to apply for long -term residence permit for the purpose of scientific re search only if the residence visa for over 90 days or the long-term residence permit for another purpose was already granted

- On the territory of the Czech Republic, it is ***not*** possible to apply for a long-term residence permit if the foreigner is a holder of a tourist visa for a stay of up to 90 days

Along with the application form for the long-term residence permit, it is necessary to submit:
- Hosting agreement
- Written obligation of the research organisation
- Travel document (passport)
- 2 photographs



- ***On request,*** a document equivalent to the extract from the Penal Register from the country of which the foreigner is a citizen (eventually from other countries where the foreigner stayed in the last 3 years over 6 months)
- ***On request,*** a medical report

Prior to receiving the long-term residence permit, the applicant has to submit the ***travel medical insurance*** document for the period starting with the entry day to the Czech Republic until the applicant is insured according to a special legal regulation.

The deadline for disposal of the long-term residence permit for the purpose of scientific research is 60 days starting from the day when the application was submitted.

Foreigners residing in the Czech Republic based on long--term residence visa issued for up to 90 days or based on long-term residence visa are required to report the beginning, the place and the expected duration of stay to the Foreign Police within ***3 days*** upon entering the Czech Republic.

http://www.en.domavcr.cz

Permanent residence

A foreigner may permanently reside in the Czech Republic:
• On the basis of having stayed in the Czech Republic for 5 consequent years on the basis of long-term visa (then he/she may apply for a permanent residence permit).
• On the basis of a decision by the respective state institution on special child care.

Residence of EU Citizens and their families in the Czech Republic
The residence of EU citizens in the Czech Republic is governed by other rules than those governing the residence of third country foreigners. The following text contains some basic information on permanent or temporary residence permits and on the procedures that must be completed to acquire these permits.

The residence of EU citizens and their families in the Czech Republic is governed by special provisions of the Alien Registration Law.
Under the law, the members of an EU citizen's family include his/her husband or wife, children under 21 years of age and direct relatives (children, parents) no provided for or relatives of the EU citizen's husband or wife. Applications for the issue of a residence permit are filed either at a Czech diplomatic mission or at the local office of the Foreign Police.

Temporary Residence Permit
EU citizens may apply for a temporary residence permit if they intend to stay in the Czech Republic for more than three months.

A member of the EU citizen's family may apply for a temporary residence permit under similar conditions if the EU citizen has already filed his/her application or if he/she resides in the Czech Republic under a temporary residence permit.



Permanent Residence Permit
EU citizens will be granted a permanent residence permit by the Foreign Police upon the citizen's application, in cases stipulated by the law. The permit will be issued if the EU citizen:
• is employed in the Czech Republic and stays here for at least 4 continuous years
• exercises the powers of a legal entity's corporate body in the Czech Republic
• pursues business in the Czech Republic
• has reached retirement age and had carried out any one of the activities listed above at least 12 months before he/she filed the permanent residence permit application

The law further provides for other specific cases allowing EU citizens to apply for a permanent residence permit.

The police will issue a permanent residence permit to the EU citizen's relative upon the relative's request, provided that the application has been filed by his/her relative – an EU citizen, or by a surviving relative of an EU citizen who had been employed in the Czech Republic, having exercised the powers of a legal entity's corporate body or having pursued business in the Czech Republic, with a certificate confirming that all other statutory conditions have been met.



Validity of Residence Permit Certificates
Temporary residence permit certificates are issued for various periods depending on the validity of the purpose, for which the temporary residence permit is issued, the duration of this period ranging from several months (the minimum period) to five years. The validity of the permit may be extended repeatedly.

Permanent residence permit certificates are issued for a period of ten years; the validity of these permits may be, again, extended repeatedly.

Generally, the period of validity for residence permit certificates issued to family members corresponds to that of permits issued to the EU citizens who have a residence permit certificate.

Work, Wages, and Taxation



Advice for Living in the Czech Republic – Employment

Profitable activities conducted by a foreign national in the Czech Republic may take two forms: the foreign national may either be employed by a legal entity or by a person, or he/she may do business in the Czech Republic (see Doing Business in the Czech Republic). Foreign nationals who are holders of permanent residency permits, asylum seekers, EU citizens, members of their families, and other eligible persons (see below) are not required to apply for a work permit in the Czech Republic.

Most job vacancies can be found through the Job Centres of the Labour Office. Employers are obliged to report any open positions. Job seekers can come to Job Centres with the assistance of agents.

Job vacancies can also be found through the information system EURES, European portal of working mobility, which offers easy access to information on job vacancies and educational opportunities within the European Union.

Essential information and available positions in the Czech research area can be found at http://www.euraxess.cz -The Researcher's Mobility Portal of the Czech Republic.

The list of main Czech web portals:
http://www.hotjobs.cz/
http://www.jobs.cz/ http://www.prace.cz/
http://www.jobmaster.cz/
http:/www.joblist.cz/
http:/www.qjobs.cz/
http://www.volna-mista.cz/
http://www.inzerce.idnes.cz
http://www.cvonline.cz
http://www.ejob.cz
http://online.idg.cz/computerworld/kariera/
http://www.prilezitosti.cz

Salaries

Employees carrying out the same work or work of the same value are entitled to the same salary, and the salary conditions must be equal for men and women.



Average salary
In 2007, the average gross salary of Czech employees was nearly CZK 21.692. Employees in technical fields and financial business have the highest salaries; workers in the textile industries have the lowest. Detailed statistics show that two thirds of employees don't reach the average salary.

Minimum salary
An employer is obliged to pay at least the minimum salary to an employee for his/her work: CZK 48.10 for each hour of the employee's work, CZK 7,955 per month payable to employees remunerated on a monthly basis.

Working hours
Under the Labour Code, weekly working hours may not exceed 40 hours (i.e. 42.5 hours, including mandatory half-hour lunch breaks, which cannot be provided at the beginning or end of working hours).

Taxes

Every tax resident with a legal residence permit in the CR must pay income tax and health insurance from their salary.



Income tax for employees and businessmen
All citizens residing in the CR or usually dwelling there (hereinafter referred to as the "payers") must pay income tax. Payers have a tax duty that covers both their income generated from sources in the CR and income generated from sources abroad.

Payers not mentioned above or those named in international treaties have a duty to pay tax on income generated from sources in the CR. Payers staying in the CR for the purpose of studies or medical treatment only have the obligation to pay tax on income generated from sources in the CR ("tax non-residents") with restricted duty to pay tax on selected income only.

Payers dwelling in the Czech Republic are persons usually staying there for at least 183 days in the relevant calendar year, regardless of whether in one sequence or in several periods of the year. For the purpose of the Act on Taxes, residence is deemed to be the place of the payer's permanent residence, under circumstances that indicate his or her intention to remain in this residence.

Tax is paid on the following:
1. income from employment (i.e. wages, salary or compensation for work) and functional benefits (remuneration for the execution of an office);
2. income from business and other self-employment activities;
3. income from capital;
4. income from rentals and leases;
5. other income.

Taxation of income generated by foreign nationals is subject to international treaties banning double taxation.

Tax rate
Tax in the Czech Republic was unified = 15% from the so-called super gross salary. The gross salary is increased by 35%, which creates the super gross salary. From this increase the 15% flat tax is paid.

Example:

Gross Salary	Super Gross Salary	Flat Tax 15%
20 000	27 000	4 050
60 000	81 000	12 150
100 000	135 000	20 250

Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Nationals of EU Member States, EEA Countries and Switzerland

Application procedure for recognition of professional qualifications

The web site of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports contains information for nationals of the EU member states, the Czech Republic, the European Economic Area countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland who wish to practice a regulated profession or professional activity in the Czech Republic. http://www.msmt.cz/uok

Social Security and Pension Rights



Pension Insurance

Along with the sickness insurance premium and contributions to the state's unemployment policy, pension insurance forms a part of social security premiums. Under the Act on Pension Insurance, participants in the pension insurance scheme are provided for in various life situations to which the policyholder is entitled.



In addition, some terms and conditions of participation in the pension insurance scheme (including payment of pension insurance benefits) may be governed by bilateral international treaties on social security.

Participants in the Czech pension insurance scheme include foreign nationals having their permanent or temporary residence in the Czech Republic (including persons who obtained asylum) having established an employment or similar relationship with an employer based in the CR (including students of daily studies at colleges or universities with their permanent residence in the CR) and self-employed foreign nationals in the CR. Foreign nationals working in the CR for an employer that does not have its registered office in the CR are subject to legal rules and regulations of the country where the employer has its registered office (this also applies to social security).

Pension Insurance & Sickness Insurance

Types of Pension Insurance:

1. retirement pension,
2. full disability pension,
3. partial disability pension,
4. widow's and widower's annuity,
5. orphan's pension.

Note! Persons without permanent residence in the CR or persons who do not usually reside in the CR (i.e. persons staying abroad for at least 270 days in a calendar year) are entitled to a pension in the amount corresponding to the time of their insurance and the substitute time of insurance acquired in the Czech Republic (under Section 66 of Act No. 155/1955 Coll.). In this context, the substitute time of insurance corresponds, for instance, to the period when the policyholder was receiving sickness benefits, etc., in the CR.

Subsistence minimum

The subsistence minimum is the socially recognized minimum level of income to avoid material poverty. The subsistence minimum defines the amount of funds necessary for a household to provide for the temporary essentials of life of the household's members, at a very modest level.

Sickness insurance

Sickness insurance is paid to provide for situations when an adult is temporarily incapable of work due to sickness, pregnancy, maternal responsibilities, or when the adult must take care of his/her family member etc. In these situations, the adult receives sickness benefits. Participation in the sickness insurance system is mandatory for both Czech citizens and foreign nationals. Foreign nationals are required to pay sickness insurance premiums regardless of whether their residence in the Czech Republic is permanent or temporary.

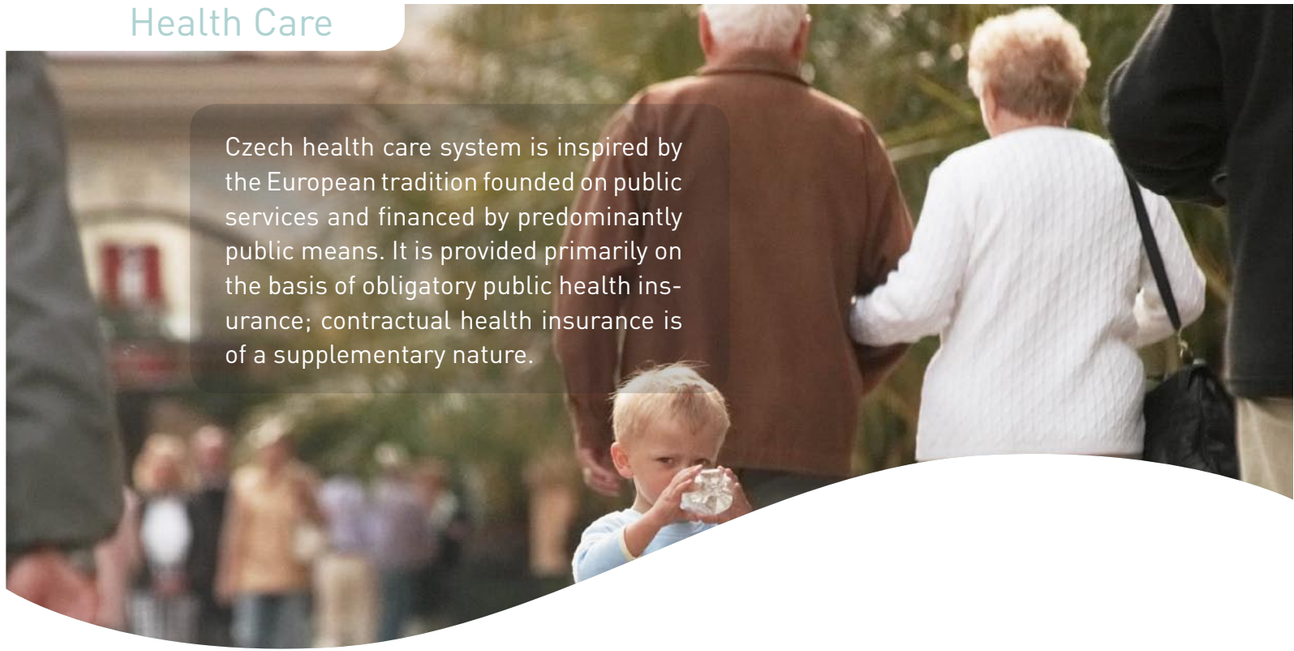
Four types of benefits are provided for employees under the sickness insurance system:

- sickness benefits,
- assistance in taking care of a family member,
- compensating benefit in pregnancy and maternity,
- monetary aid in maternity.

Benefits provided to self-employers:

- sickness benefits,
- monetary aid in maternity.

Health Care



Czech health care system is inspired by the European tradition founded on public services and financed by predominantly public means. It is provided primarily on the basis of obligatory public health insurance; contractual health insurance is of a supplementary nature.

Health Care



Differences between public and private health insurance:
The legal right to public health insurance is established by law for anyone with permanent residency in the Czech Republic and those who, though they do not have permanent residency, are employed by employers based in this country. Those not fulfilling the conditions for public health insurance can arrange for private contractual health insurance.

Significant differences are
- in the scope of health care covered by public and contractual health insurance
- in the event of the inception, termination and duration of these types of insurance.

You can find more information about the health care system in the Czech Republic at: http://www.vzp.cz/cms/internet/en/Vseobecne/information/pojisteni_cizincu/

Health insurance

The public health insurance system in the Czech Republic is based on mutually binding relationships: the insured – health-care providers – health insurers.

Foreign nationals in the CR are required to have health insurance.
EU nationals are entitled to health care under the same conditions as the nationals of the CR.



They must present appropriate E- forms of their home health insurance company or the European Health Insurance Card to the health care provider. Dependents of the EU nationals coming to stay in the CR should register at a Czech health insurance company and have a Czech insurance card. EU nationals employed in the CR who do not regularly return to their home country other than the CR, are entitled to comprehensive health care in their home country as well as in the CR.

What scope of health care are a foreign worker and his/her dependents not provided for entitled to and who covers it?
Workers have their full health care paid by the Czech health insurance company where they have effected insurance for their stay in the CR. Dependants not provided for are entitled to full health care both in the EU country of their permanent residence and in the country where the worker is employed (CR). Health care rendered to workers' dependents not provided for is covered by the Czech health insurance company where the worker is insured.

Health insurance

How to proceed properly?

- a worker shall contact a selected Czech health insurance company in the place where he/she works and this insurance company will issue a form on which the place of his/her permanent residence shall be documented (for example information from your passport etc.),
- worker's dependents not provided for will be listed in the form,
- this form must be confirmed by a health insurance ompany in the place of permanent residence (for example Austria),
- the selected Czech health insurance company shall always be informed about all potential changes which are important for entitlement to relevant material benefits within 8 days.

To forestall the situation of not being insured on the way to the CR a foreigner can take out a short-term contractual health insurance. This insurance also covers necessary and urgent health care during the transit to the CR. You can arrange insurance through your representative in the CR prior to the arrival.

If you come to the CR for work purposes, employers based in the CR pay premiums on your behalf and the insurance relationship starts with the commencement of your employment. If your employer employs you in the CR, but is based elsewhere, find out from them about the conditions of your health insurance on the territory of the CR.



If you come to the CR with a visa for ***residence over 90 days*** and for another purpose than employment, you are required to take out contractual health insurance. In this case, health insurance is provided solely by the General Health Insurance Company of the CR (VZP CR). Visit one of their local branches or call VZP Assistance, telephone number: +420-221-752-121, +420-602-268902, e-mail: asistence@cvzp.cz , Orlická 4/2020, 130 00 Prague 3.

Health insurers:
Public health insurance in the Czech Republic is currently provided by public health insurers. The largest of the public health insurers is the ***General Health Insurance Company of the Czech Republic*** (Všeobecná zdravotní pojišťovna ČR – hereinafter VZP). http://www.pvzp.cz/

Apart from it there are other insurers, e.g.
Health Insurance Company of the Ministry of Interior of the CR (http://www.zpmvcr.cz),
Metal Alliance Health Insurance Company (http://www.zpma.cz),
Czech National Health Insurance Company (http://www.cnzp.cz),
Industrial Health Insurance Company for employees of banks and insurance companies (www.ozp.cz),
Slavia Insurance Company (www.pojistovna-slavia.cz)



Organisation of Czech Health Care Provision System

Both state and private medical facilities exist in the CR. Almost all facilities have executed contracts for the provision and payment of health care with health insurers and provide health care to patients insured with the relevant health insurers without direct payment.



If your state of health requires specialist care, which your registered general practitioner cannot provide, the latter recommends you ***relevant specialised medical facilities*** which have contracts with your health insurer. Even in this case you have the right of free choice of healthcare facility and doctor. The registered doctor issues a recommendation for specialist care or treatment in hospital, or directly arranges for this admission. Patients can visit specialists in the CR without a recommendation from their primary care doctor.

Pharmacies issue patients with medicaments on the basis of prescriptions either without charge or for a charge corresponding to the part of the price covered by the insurer. The validity of medical prescriptions may differ from 24 hours (for prescriptions from the emergency service) to one week.

For urgent medical assistance call 155 - emergency services. If you don't speak Czech call the emergency number



112, where the English and German speaking operators will connect to line 155 themselves and communicate your problem. Every health-care facility is required to treat you in the case of acute, urgent care.

If your need is not acute get help from a medical facility which is under contract with your insurer. Health care will be provided without direct payment in such facilities, to the extent of the given type of your health insurance (public health insurance or long-term contractual health insurance).

With short-term contractual health insurance it is necessary to turn to state-owned medical facilities (e.g. hospitals). Only necessary and urgent care is covered by this insurance.

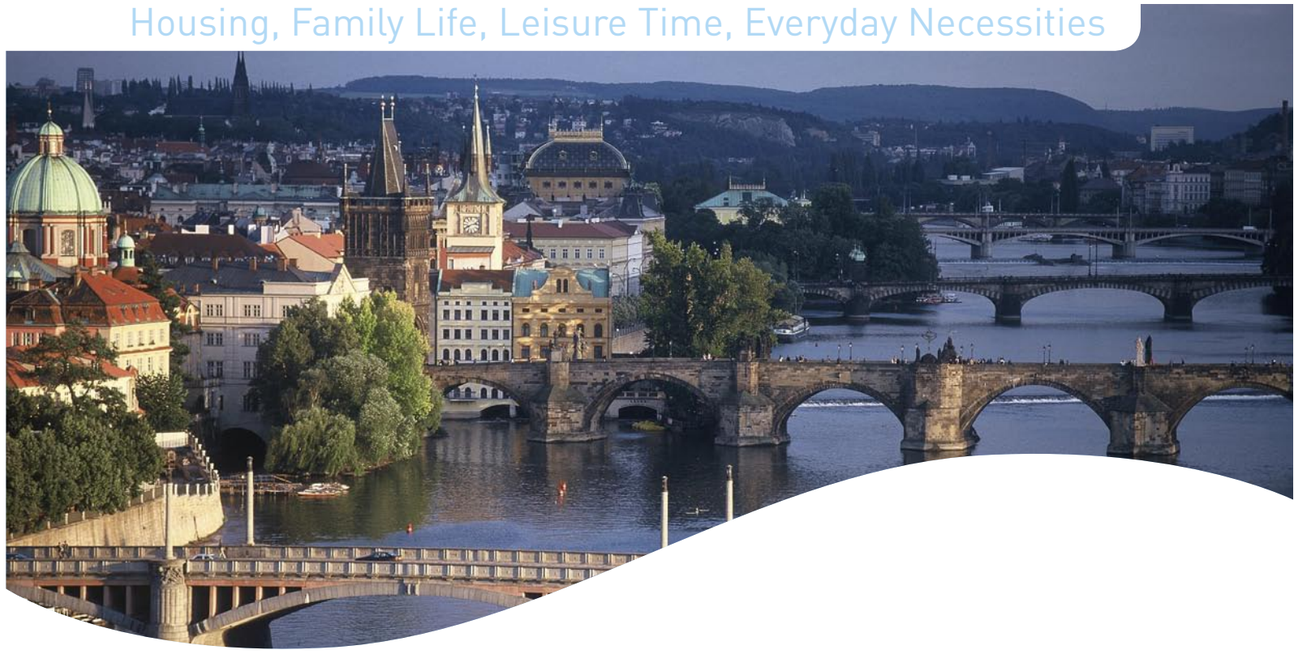
Note! Charges: 30 CZK at the doctor, not including preventive medical examination; 30 CZK for prescription at the pharmacy, 60 CZK for one day in the hospital and 90 CZK for emergency services.

How to find a doctor who speaks your language?
When entering into contracts on contractual health insurance, it is possible to get contact information on facilities where foreign languages are spoken. It is possible to solve problems quickly with VZP CR Assistance services.

Medical Information Centre known as H.E.L.P. provides information on private doctors, hospitals, pharmacists, health resorts, private clinics, sanatoria and all other medical facilities operating in the Czech Republic.

Free information telephone line: +420 296 212
Email:info@help-lic.cz
Address: Lékařské informační centrum, Lékařský dům, Sokolská 31, 120 21 Praha 2
Full catalogue located at www.kataloglekaru.cz or www.doctorhelp.cz or www.help-lic.cz

Housing, Family Life, Leisure Time, Everyday Necessities



Houses and flats

Flats may be owned by municipalities/towns, housing cooperatives, individuals and legal entities.

Municipal flats are always rented flats – people who live in them have concluded an occupational lease with the municipality, and they pay rent.

A housing cooperative (hereinafter only referred to as "cooperative") is a legal entity formed by members that has its own rules and governing bodies. The cooperative is the owner of the building, and flats are rented to members of the cooperative.



Renting a house or a flat
How Do I Rent A Flat (Apartment) in the Czech Republic?
http://www.czechpoint101.com/renting.html
Currently, tenants pay for one of two rental types.

When renting a house or apartment on the free market, you can only arrange a "***contractual rent.***" This is based on mutual agreement between the owner of the building and the tenant.

The country's most expensive housing is in Prague, where the average price for a square meter is 30% above the country's average. The average in Prague is approximately CZK 55,000 per square meter.

A standard housing unit has a water supply, proper bathroom facilities or at least a shower and proper toilet facilities. Currently, more than four-fifths of housing units have ***central heating***, are connected to the ***sewer system*** and almost two-thirds have a ***gas supply***.

Child Care

http://www.expats.cz/prague/article/parents-kids/child-care-in-prague

Babysitting
Budget: In-home sitters generally charge from CZK 90 to 140 an hour, with most agencies charging at least CZK 110 an hour for experienced sitters. Private nurseries vary widely in how much they charge: anywhere from around CZK 7,000 per month for a few days a week of half-day care to upwards of CZK 15,000 per month for full-time care.



Types of Care
In-Home Babysitting Prague has both agencies and independent sitters. Agencies have several advantages: they are licensed and insured (as are their sitters), they can find a replacement if the sitter is sick, and they pre-screen their sitters. Expat parents have found mediocre sitters at "good" agencies and great nannies at average agencies.

The ***expats discussion forum*** (http://www.expats.cz/prague/whats_new.php) frequently lists postings by and for sitters, as does the list serve for members of the ***International Women Association of Prague (IWAP)*** http://www.expats.cz/prague/czech/ community/iwap/.

Nurseries
New childcare facilities appear regularly in Prague. For children at least 6 months of age, most options are state nurseries. Your local town hall will have a list of these facilities under nursery ("jesle" in Czech). For children 12 months and up, some state nurseries offer babysitting facilities, such as cr che ("dětské jesle" in Czech) also accepts one-year-olds and older children.

Tourism

Since time immemorial, the Czech lands have been the crossroads of European cultures. The cultural character of Czech cities, villages and spa towns has always been a source of inspiration to visitors and guests who come here from all corners of the world. The tourist regions are dotted with charming towns, castles and chateaux (the most per square mile of any country in the world!), ancient villages and, of course, many spas, all waiting to be discovered.

Golden Prague
The magical city of bridges, cathedrals, gold-tipped towers and church domes, whose image has been mirrored in the surface of the Vltava river, for more than ten centuries. Prague is also a modern European metropolis full of energy, music, and art. It's a city of contrasts: serene green isles in the river and peaceful parks draping the city's seven hills are just steps away from the architectural treasures and bustling street life of the city centre. It's a place where differing architectural styles stand cheek by jowl, creating an atmosphere that's both intimate and romantic, and quite impossible to forget once you visit.

Spa towns
There are numerous mineral springs on the Czech territory, which have been used for medicinal purposes since the early 15th century. Located in picturesque natural landscapes, Czech spa towns are attractive for both their urban layout and their unique spa architecture. Some spa houses even boast elaborate original furnishings.



The magic castles and châteaux
The Czech lands boast an extraordinarily high number of cultural monuments. Over 2,000 preserved castles and chateaux represent an important part of the national cultural heritage, both in terms of their number and in terms of their historical and artistic value; their significance transcends national borders, an more than a few of these structures are important even in the global cultural context.

Religious sites
Religious sites and places of pilgrimage are a great part of architectural heritage of the Czech Republic. Although most of the churches, monasteries, chapels and pilgrimage places are Roman-Catholic, there are also many Jewish and Orthodox Christian sites. Religious architecture has gone through more than a thousand years of development.

Active Holidays
The Czech Republic is an ideal country for active holidays where you can relax as well as improve your physical condition. In case you opt for relaxation, you have a choice of various wellness centres. Lovers of "adrenaline" sports will be pleased by wide possibilities of bungee jumping. For more information see http:// www.czechtourism.com



Communications and Post Offices

Privatisation and modernisation of the Czech telecommunication system got a late start but is advancing steadily; growth in the use of mobile cellular telephones is particularly vigorous.



The international country code is 420.
Internet country code: .cz
Internet users: 4.8 million, Internet hosts: 819,773 (2007)

Couriers & Forwarders

http://www.businessinfo.cz/en/articles/couriers-for warders/1001078/

Major courier and forwarding service providers in the Czech Republic render delivery services within, from and to the CR. Most of the logistics companies provide also moving and relocation services that might be of use to expatriates considering relocation to or from the Czech Republic.



Association of Forwarding and Logistics – www.sslczech.cz
Czech Logistics Association – www.logistika.cz
DHL – www.dhl.cz
FedEx – www.inspekta.cz
UPS – www.ups.com
TNT – www.tnt.com
Maurice Ward & Co. – www.mauriceward.com
Čechofracht – www.cechofracht.cz
Birkart – www.birkart.cz
Schenker – www.schenker.cz
Cargo-Partner – www.cargo-partner.com

Currency

Currency code: CZK
The official currency of the Czech Republic is the ***Czech Crown*** (koruna), abbreviated as Kč, with the international abbreviation CZK. The approximate value of 100 CZK is 4 EUR/6 USD.
Coins: 1 Kč, 2 Kč, 5 Kč, 10 Kč, 20 Kč, 50 Kč
Banknotes: 50 Kč, 100 Kč, 200 Kč, 500 Kč, 1000 Kč, 2000 Kč, 5000 Kč

Check out the exchange rates updated daily by Czech National Bank (CNB) http://www.cnb.cz/en/index.html

Currencies Accepted:
Czech Republic is not yet a part of the European Union's Euro Zone and therefore paying in EUR is possible rather exceptionally (in some hotels, restaurants or stores mainly in Prague and other large cities).

Money Tips for Travellers
Always change money in a bank or take cash out of ATM machines, which are plentiful in Prague and every larger town. ATM machines are a very convenient way to get Czech crowns. You can also use your card to make payments. Major credit cards are accepted in major locations. The change you receive will be in Czech crowns.

Shopping basket
Czech TV's regular programme Here in Europe airs a survey of prices across various states of the European Union. It shows, for example, that the prices of groceries in the Czech Republic are nearly the same as prices elsewhere in Central Europe – mainly those in Poland and Hungary; however, they are considerably lower for example than in the United Kingdom or Belgium.



Living Costs

http://www.expats.cz/prague/article/prague-relocation/cost-ofliving/

The following should give you some idea of the average prices for living in Czech Republic:

RESTAURANTS	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	130	5.65	4.48	8.97
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant	600	26.09	20.69	41.38
Combo Meal at KFC/McDonald's	100	4.35	3.45	6.90
Sausage at Wenceslas Sq.	30	1.30	1.03	2.07
Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught)	25	1.09	0.86	1.72
Imported Beer (0.33 litre bottle)	55	2.39	1.90	3.79
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle)	28	1.22	0.97	1.93
Water (0.33 litre bottle)	28	1.22	0.97	1.93

MARKETS	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Milk (1 litre)	16	0.70	0.55	1.10
Loaf of Fresh Bread	24	1.04	0.83	1.66
French Baguette	19	0.83	0.66	1.31
Eggs (10)	24	1.04	0.83	1.66
Cheese (100g)	20	0.87	0.69	1.38
Water (1.5 litre bottle)	12	0.52	0.41	0.83
Bottle of Czech Wine	80	3.48	2.76	5.52
Domestic Beer (0.5 litre bottle)	12	0.52	0.41	0.83
Imported Beer (0.33 litre bottle)	30	1.30	1.03	2.07
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	60	2.61	2.07	4.14
Pack of Cigarettes - Czech Brand	40	1.74	1.38	2.76

TRANSPORTATION	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
One-way Ticket	18	0.78	0.62	1.24
Transfer Ticket	26	1.13	0.90	1.79
24-hour Pass	100	4.35	3.45	6.90
Monthly Pass	550	23.91	18.97	37.93
Annual Pass	4,750	206.52	163.79	327.59
Taxi (airport to centre)	500	21.74	17.24	34.48
Taxi (within centre)	150	6.52	5.17	10.34



Living Costs

ACCOMODATION (Monthly)	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Single Room in Prague 1/2	9,000	391.30	310.34	620.69
Single Room Outside of Centre	6,000	260.87	206.90	413.79
Apartment (1+1) in Prague 1/2	16,000	783.61	620.69	1241.38
Apartment (1+1) Outside of Centre	12,000	521.74	413.79	827.59
Apartment (2+1) in Prague 1/2	22,000	1043.48	827.59	1655.17
Apartment (2+1) Outside of Centre	15,000	652.17	517.24	1034.48



UTILITIES, ETC. (Monthly)	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Basic (Gas, Electricity, etc.)	2,500	108.70	86.21	172.41
Phone (Land Line)	500	21.74	17.24	34.48
Mobile Phone	700	30.43	24.14	48.28
Internet (512 kbps ADSL)	600	26.09	20.69	41.38

(Note: prices and exchange rates updated for August, 2008)

Exchange rates:
USD 1 = CZK 14.50
GBP 1 = CZK 29.00
EUR 1 = CZK 23.00

All prices are, of course, variable. Most prices will vary by 20% in both directions, depending on where you shop/eat/live, and the quality of the goods or services. Especially prices for accommodation and utilities will fluctuate. All prices include taxes – a 19% VAT (value-added tax) in most cases. Prices for groceries include a 9% tax.

Banks

Opening hours:
Monday to Friday usually from 8 AM to 5 PM, some branch offices are open on Saturdays as well.

All banks provide foreign exchange operations and offer an entire range of banking services:



Citibank
http://www.citibank.com/czech/homepage/index.htm
CSOB (Czech and Slovak Commercial Bank)
http://www.csob.cz/bankcz/en/
eBanka (merged with Raiffeisen bank)
www.rb.cz
HVB Bank Czech Republic
http://www.hvb.cz/en/index.asp
Komerční banka
http://www.kb.cz/en/index.shtml
Živnostenská banka
http://www1.zivnobanka.cz/zbapp/homepage/homepage_en.jsp
Czech Export Bank
http://www.ceb.cz
Czech National Bank – http://www.cnb.cz/en/index.html
Provides the official data and information on financial and economic situation of the Czech Republic, as well analytical reports and financial statistics. Issues daily official exchange rate of the Czech crown (Czech national currency) to other currencies.
Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank
http://www.cmzrb.cz/app/en/
- provides assistance to small- and medium- sized enterprises

Cuisine

The Czech Republic does not have access to any sea, but its rivers Labe (Elbe, 358,3 km), Vltava (433 km), Morava (284 km), http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_cuisine.html

Although Czech cuisine is not the best choice for vegetarians, everybody will most likely find at least a couple of meals "to die for". It may be the potato soup, the traditional roast pork with dumplings and sauerkraut, the fruit-filled dumplings, or the apple strudel. Czech cooking and eating habits have been shifting in the general direction of a healthier lifestyle, but traditional Czech recipes are still extremely popular - and those tend to be high in calories, fat and sugar. Sauces and condiments are popular. A Czech meal is often accompanied by the national beverage, which is beer.

For restaurants in Prague see: http://www.pragueexperience.com/restaurants/restaurants.asp



Transporting Animals and Plants, Pets

Veterinary doctors can be found at the Zlaté stránky directory
http://en.zlatestranky.cz/

The ***non-commercial transfer of animals*** in the EU in cases where these animals are used for special breeding purposes (dogs, cats, and ferrets) is possible between EU Member States or from a third country to the EU only if:

- the transported animals do not show any signs of disease;
- they are tattooed accordingly or have had a microchip nserted for purposes of identification;
- they are vaccinated against rabies, and revaccinated every year;
- they have been vaccinated against distemper (this applies to dogs only);
- they are accompanied by an individual certificate which enables them to be clearly identified.

Transported animals under three months old must not show any signs of disease, must be accompanied by an individual certificate attesting to their clear identification.

They must not be a breed, which is subject to measures restricting their movement.

Flora and Fauna
The import, export and re-export of protected species of flora and fauna, both living and dead, is only possible on the basis of an authorisation given by the Ministry of the Environment CR.
(http://www.env.cz)



Czech Mobility Centre

The project „Czech Mobility Centre" was put in place in order to reach the goal of an expanding and flourishing European Research Area (ERA). The ERA should be one of the pillars helping Europe to become one of the most competitive economies in the world by 2010.

The Czech Mobility Centre belongs to the European Services Network - EURAXESS - consisting of more than 200 Services Centres in 35 European countries.

The Czech Mobility Centre together with its Local Contact Points (LCPs) offers:

- information about jobs and funding opportunities in the Czech Republic,
- advice on ‚reintegration' of researchers in their home country,
- help with entry conditions, i.e. visas and other legal requirements,
- information and advice on social security, health care - how to ensure adequate social security, health and pension coverage,
- assistance in understanding taxation issues, insurance possibilities
- information and assistance on everyday life matters in the Czech Republic, i.e. housing, language courses, cultural activities,
- family support - practical and legal assistance for researchers and their family members, i.e. schooling, child care

Besides the LCPs, the Mobility Centre cooperates also with governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations (i.e. MEYS, Ministry of Finance, Employment and Social Issues, Foreign Police Office, Czech Social Security Administration, etc.). The CMC releases and updates several informative and promotional materials in a printed as well as in electronic format.

euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

www.euraxess.cz

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How to get here

Metro
Line A – stop Můstek

Tram
Numbers 3, 9, 14, 24 – stop Václavské náměstí



Contact

Services Centers in the Czech Republic
(Regional cooperating points)

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Disclaimer: This guide is an informative publication on some procedures in the Czech Republic. The recommendations in this publication do not substitute the official information sources and give no right for claims or legitimate expectations of any kind. Information given by official administrations should be taken into account.

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