



# ERASMUS

# BROCHURE



BROCHURE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS



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**Literary Academy**

**Literární akademie**

**(Soukromá vysoká škola Josefa Škvoreckého)**

**Seat and address:**

Na Pankráci 54  
140 00 Praha 4  
Czech Republic

**Tel.:** (+420) 272 773 045

**E-mail:** lit-akad@lit-akad.cz

**Internet:** <http://www.literarniakademie.cz>

**Type of school:** private university

**Annual tuition fees:** from 45,000 CZK (1,850 Euro)

The Literary Academy was founded in 2000 as one of the first Czech private universities, and its curricula, which blend artistic, scholarly, and practical components, remain unique in the Czech university system. The Literary Academy offers 3-year BA programmes and 2-year MA programmes in Creative Writing and in Media Communication. Theoretical subjects include history of literature or media, literary or media theory, philosophy, cultural history, linguistics and psychology. In addition, all students are required to study English along with Anglo-American culture and literature or media. The teaching staff comprises prominent Czech writers, journalists, translators, filmmakers and other professionals, as well as leading scholars (literary critics, linguists, philosophers and historians). The Literary Academy has organized four international conferences, and hosted numerous visiting teachers in various lines of international cooperation (European Association of Creative Writing Programmes, Erasmus, Literature Across Frontiers, Fulbright). The current Rector of the Literary Academy is Doc. MgA. Martin Štoll, Ph.D., a film director, screenwriter and publisher.

Josef Škvorecký (1924), the patron of Literary Academy, is one of the most prominent Czech post-war writers. After the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia (1968), Škvorecký left for Canada, where he founded the important publishing house Sixty-Eight Publishers which focused on Czech and Slovak underground and émigré literature.

## **Study programmes**

Literary Academy offers the following programmes:

### **Bachelor programmes (3 years)**

- Creative Writing and Journalism
- Media Communication

### **Master programmes (2 years)**

- Creative Writing
- Editing
- Creative Non-fiction
- Media Communication

## **Selected activities**

### **Official Erasmus partners**

Bangor University (UK)

University of Jyväskylä (Finland)

Volda University College (Norway)

Pan-European University (Slovakia)

### **European Network of Creative Writing Programmes**

The highly successful International Congress of Creative Writing Programs, organized by the German Literary Institute Leipzig in March 2005, showed both the need and the desire for international cooperation in this area to be established in continental Europe. Literary Academy therefore initiated the launching of the European Network of Creative Writing Programmes (ENCWP), coordinated its activities for four years, and organized its first five Symposiums (2005–2009). In 2005, the Literary Academy initiated the establishment of the European Network of Creative Writing Programmes and coordinated it until 2009, hosting five ENCWP Symposiums. Literary Academy remains an active member of the follow-up organization: the European Association of Creative Writing Programmes (EACWP).

### **Partnership with Literature Across Frontiers**

An EU-funded programme of literary exchange and policy debate operating through partnership with European organisations engaged in the international promotion of literature and support for literary translation. Literary Academy is an official partner.

### **Partners in the Czech Republic**

*BookWorld* – the largest Czech book fair and a major literary festival (Literary Academy is involved in organizing the support programme)

*Café Fra* – literary café where regular readings of LA students and teachers take place

### **International Conferences**

*Conference on Creative Writing* (2002), proceedings published in 2002

*Conference on the Life and Work of Josef Škvorecký* (2004), proceedings published in 2005

*Labyrinth of Female Writing* (2007), proceedings published in 2008

*The Prague Spring 1968: Literature – Film – Media* (2008), proceedings published in 2009

### **Series Prvotiny (First Works)**

In this series, Literary Academy publishes selected writings of its students. 27 First Works have been published since 2002, comprising prose, poetry and non-fiction. The graphic design of the series was created by Petr Babák; the 2005 set of eight First Works received the prestigious Most Beautiful Book of the Year award.

## **Foreign guests at LA**

### **Guest teachers (Erasmus programme)**

- Risto Niemi-Pynttäre, University of Jyväskylä, Finland (November 2009)
- Juri Joensuu, University of Jyväskylä, Finland (November 2010)
- Zoë Skoulding, Wales (March 2011)

### **Fulbright scholar**

- Barth Healey, The New York Times, USA (summer term 2003)

### **Fulbright lectures**

- Alan Yaffe, US (2006)
- Holly Tavel, USA (2009)
- Randall Roorda, USA (2009)
- Susan Opt, USA (2009)
- John T. Matthews, USA (2010)

### **Creative writing classes**

- Krzysztof Zanussi, Poland (2001)
- Arnošt Lustig, USA (2001, 2002)
- Alessandro Baricco, Italy (2002)
- Christian Ide Hintze, Austria (2005)
- Fiona Sampson, UK (2005)
- Daniel Rothenbühler, Switzerland (2006)
- Amir Or, Israel (2006)
- Reijo Virtanen, Finland (2006)

- Margaret Anne Clarke, UK (2008)
- Risto Ahti, Finland (2008)
- Patrick McGuinness, UK (2008)
- Harri István Mäki, Finland (2009, 2010, 2011)
- Brad Vice, USA (2010)

**Lectures, discussions (selection)**

- Helena Kosková, Sweden (2003)
- Oleg Malevitch, Russia (2003)
- Brian Keenan, Ireland (2004)
- Sjarhej Smatrychenko, Belarus (2004)
- Robert Fulghum, US (2005)
- Israel Horovitz, US (2006)
- Danièle Boone, France (2006)
- Martin Kralovský, Slovakia (2006)
- Mark Davidov, US (2007)
- Amanda Hopkinson, UK (2007)
- Joseph Grim Feinberg, USA (2007)
- Liana Langa, Latvia (2010)
- Sarah Waters, UK (2010)
- Tadeusz Dąbrowski, Poland (2010)
- Julia Fiedorczuk, Poland (2011)
- Sabine Scholl, Austria (2011)
- Josef Haslinger, Austria (2011)

# Basic facts about Czech Republic

## History

Czechs are West Slavs, the same as Slovaks or Poles. The capital city of Prague is sometimes called The Heart of Europe because of its ideal central position on the continent. The Czech Republic has over 10 million inhabitants, out of which about 1,3 million live in Prague. Western part of the Czech Republic is called Bohemia, eastern Moravia.

The Czech history can be divided into several periods: the Great Moravian Empire (9th century), the Premyslide Dynasty (9th century - 1306), the Luxembourg Dynasty (1310 - 1437), the Hussite Revolution (1419 - 1436), The Jagellon Dynasty (1471 - 1526), the Habsburg Dynasty (1526 - 1918), the foundation of the modern Czech nation and Independent state (from 1918).

**And here is the brief outline.**

In the end of the 5th and beginning of the 6th century **Slavs** arrived and settled in the territory of Bohemia and Moravia. Before that, the area was populated by Celts (the Celtic Boii tribe gave the country its Latin name – Boiohaemum, i.e. Bohemia).

The **Great Moravian Empire** that formed in the area of Moravia and Slovakia in the last two thirds of the 9th century influenced the development of culture and Christian religion here.

During the reign of the native **Premyslide dynasty**, the Czech state gradually grew in strength and succeeded in preserving its sovereignty. Under the reign of the powerful king Premysl Otakar II the state expanded greatly.

The second and most famous **Luxembourg** on the Czech throne was **Charles IV**, the king of Bohemia and Holy Roman emperor. Prague grew into one of the largest cities in Europe under his reign. It acquired its fine Gothic face and landmarks including Charles University and Charles Bridge. St. Vitus Cathedral began to be built at that time too.

Economic and political crisis during the reign of Charles IV's son, Wenceslas IV, as well and criticism of the Church in the whole Europe at that time led to the creation of the **Hussite reform movement**. It was inspired by the ideas of Master Jan Hus, a preacher who was burnt at the stake in 1415 at Constance. The Hussites were only defeated in 1434. And, their revolution changed the structure of society in many ways. It created religious dualism for the first time in Christian Europe. It also changed the perception of the Czechs who became the "rebellious nation" in the eyes of the rest of Europe.

During the reigns of the **Jagellons** the royal power weakened in favour of the power of the Estates.

After the Jagellon line had died out, the **Habsburgs** of Austria succeeded to the throne. They included the Crownlands of Bohemia into their monarchy. Together with the Habsbourg rule came Roman Catholic faith enforcement, centralization and multi-national monarchy. The Czech lands remained a part of the Habsburg empire until 1918. One of the emperors most important especially for Prague was Rudolf II (on the throne 1576-1611). The city experienced great prosperity under his reign and was made the seat of the whole Habsburg Empire. Rudolf II established great collections of art and renowned artists and scholars were invited to his court.

After World War I in 1918 Czechoslovakia declared its independence. The new republic had three parts: Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. The popular Tomas Garigue Masaryk became the first president.

The new republic did not last long - in October 1938 the Nazis occupied the Sudetenland, with the approval of Britain and France, after the infamous Munich Agreement. In March 1939 Germany occupied Bohemia and Moravia. Slovakia proclaimed independence as a Nazi state.

After World War II Czechoslovakia was re-established. In the 1946 elections, the Communists became the largest party and took over after coup d'état in 1948. Czechoslovakia became a communist country. In the 1960s Czechoslovakia enjoyed a gradual liberalization until the Soviet invasion in August 1968.

The communist government resigned in November 1989, after the demonstrations known as the Velvet Revolution (originally started by students). The popular Vaclav Havel was elected president. In 1992 Czechoslovakia peacefully split into Czech Republic (Bohemia and Moravia) and Slovak Republic (Slovakia). Since 2004 the country is an EU member state.

## **Important info and secret tips**

And here is a brief survivor guide with the most useful first-hand tips.

### **Get a map**

You can walk everywhere and a map can be its own guide to Prague. Moreover, Prague's centre is very compact. Most historical points and sights are close to each other. You can buy a map in a bookshop or in one the Info Centres you will find in the city centre.

Also, many guidebooks to Prague use English-language names for sights around town. This can be confusing because maps and street signs use the Czech spellings. Here are the most common translations you will see:

Old Town = Stare Mesto

Prague Castle = Hradcany

Charles Bridge = Karluv most

National Theatre = Narodni divadlo  
Main Station = Hlavni nadrazi (hl.n.)  
Wenceslas Square = Vaclavske namesti  
Old Town Square = Staromestske namesti  
Lesser Town = Mala Strana

### **Getting information**

As mentioned above, use the helpful Info Centres as a guide. There are lots of things to do in Prague and they will give you up-to-date info about events, concert suggestions, etc. You can find one office on the ground floor of Old Town Hall on the Old Town Square.

### **Getting around**

Prague transportation is easy to use, accessible and reliable. You can find more info in the transportation section. Metro is better for longer distances (like to get to our school), trams are more flexible. See more information in the Transportation section.

### **Weather**

Four real seasons are typical for the Czech Republic. In spring you can expect flowers and mild temperatures, summers are quite warm and green, autumn can be nice and sunny in the beginning but also quite cool and cloudy, winter brings occasional snow and freezing weather and can also be quite wet and dark.

### **Mind the ticket dispensers**

When dealing with public authorities (post office, foreign police, etc.) always look for a ticket dispenser. By pressing the appropriate field you will get your ticket with a number that tells you your position in the line.

### **Take your shoes off**

If you get invited to a Czech family, do not forget to take your shoes off. Take them off even when your host tells you to keep them on. The Czech people always take their shoes off at the door and expect others to do the same no matter what. It will save you a lot of later embarrassment.

### **Food**

Czech cuisine is no diet food, the national dish being roast pork, dumplings and sauerkraut. Foreigners usually find Czech food a bit too salty and heavy, but tasty. Even if you do not take to the national specialties, Prague offers a taste of all kinds of food.

## Holidays

Here is a list of the national holidays observed in the Czech Republic. Offices, businesses, schools and local shops are usually closed and public transport timetables follow the Sunday schedule.

- 1) January 1 - New Year's Day
- 2) Easter Monday (variable)
- 3) May 1 – May Day (Labour Day)
- 4) May 8 – National Holiday - Day of Liberation from Fascism
- 5) June 5 - National Holiday - Day of Slav Missionaries Cyril and Methodius
- 6) June 6 - National Holiday - John Huss's Day
- 7) September 28 – St. Wenceslaw's Day/ Czech Statehood day
- 8) October 28 - Independence Day
- 9) November 17 – Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day
- 10) December 24 - Christmas Eve
- 11) December 25 and 26 - Christmas Holidays

## Warnings

### 1) PICKPOCKETS

Beware of pickpockets! Especially if you travel by public transport.

We recommend to follow a few precautions:

- Don't have all of your money in one place.
- Watch your things.
- Keep your bags and handbags always closed.
- Don't leave your wallet or important documents on the top of your bag.
- Be cautious when in a crowd of people.

### 2) POLICY ABOUT SMOKING AND DRINKING

Drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes is illegal before the age of 18 in the Czech Republic. There is no problem with drinking alcohol or smoking cigarettes in the streets but it is not allowed to do so in public buildings like hospitals, government offices or railway stations.

Most of restaurants have special non-smoking areas. The rule is that if you have an ashtray on the table, you can smoke there.

### **3) TIPS**

It is a common practice to give tips, especially in restaurants (but also in other services). Current rate is about 7-10 % from the total bill but if you are really happy with the service, you can give more of course.

## **Accommodation**

### **ČVUT Dorms**

If you don't mind a simple student accommodation, you can stay at the ČVUT dorms (koleje ČVUT). To get a room you have to apply for it, which means filling in a form that you can find on the following site: <http://www.suz.cvut.cz/koleje/informace-adokumenty>.

Some info is also in English there. This type of accommodation is highly recommended for noisy company seekers. If that is you, you will surely find your stay in Prague enjoying.

**Luckily, there are also options for others:**

### **Renting a flat**

It depends how much money you have. Of course you can rent a flat. You can find a place for a price starting at about 8.000 CZK.

You can also share a flat – see: <http://www.spolubydlici.cz/en/>. A room usually costs about 5000 CZK. You can also find a place to stay on <http://www.annonce.cz/>. Unfortunately, this site is in Czech only. But nice offers. <http://prague.craigslist.cz/> also works.

### **Hostels & Hotels**

Check <http://www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/czech-republic/prague/> for a long list of hostels in Prague. There really are many, so if you want to spend your time in a hostel, go ahead!

Tip: based on personal experience, you can choose <http://www.travellers.cz/cz/dlouha-pension-hostel-prague.php>.

## **Internet connection**

- In the Czech Republic you can connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi, ADSL, mobile access and high-speed cable.
- At Literary academy you can use one of the computers on the last floor of the building.
- If you are going to occupy a room in Podolí College, the internet connection should be included in room price so bring your notebook if you have one.
- Electricity AC in the Czech Republic is 230 volts. Plug socket sizes are not the same around the world so if you discover that your electrical device has a different plug from those used in this country, just go to the first electronics shop you see and buy an adapter.
- There is also an ever growing number of restaurants and cafes with free Wi-Fi connection.
- You can also ask your Czech telephone operator to make you an offer for a mobile internet which is cheaper than normal internet connection and you can use it anywhere.

## **Travelling**

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

#### **OPENCARD**

- <http://opencard.praha.eu>
- This site is available in English.
- The card is the best for travelling around Prague. You can also use it as an access card to the Municipal Library. This card offers reduced fare too (for three months it is 720 CZK for students till 26 years, standard fare for adults is 1.480 CZK).
- What will you need? A certificate confirming your student status from our school (LA), photo 3,5 x 4,5 cm and passport. Then fill in the requested form and wait about one week. You can choose to receive it on the contact address or pick it up personally.
- It's possible to arrange everything via internet, too!

#### **TICKETS**

- Another possibility is to use a single ticket. Beginning July 2011 it costs 32 CZK. It is valid for 90 min in P zones (town centre and most parts of the town). You can use this ticket for a bus, tram, metro (underground), the Petřín funicular, ferries and selected Czech Railway (ČD) line segments. But for some trains, ferries and suburban zones you have to buy a special ticket.
- There are also 1 day-, 3 days-, 5 days-tickets available. For more details check the website <http://www.dpp.cz/> (it is available in English too.)

- Where to buy a ticket? At ticket vending machines, metro sales spots or at most tobacco shops.

### **SMS TICKET**

If you have a Czech SIM card in your cell phone, you can also buy the 32-CZK-ticket via SMS. But you have to pay 32 CZK + the costs for SMS according to your mobile operator's fees.

### **NIGHT TRANSPORT**

- Use the trams with numbers over 50 and the buses with numbers over 500.
- On week days, the metro is closed from 00:30 a.m. till 5 a.m., at weekends (Friday and Saturday's nights) it runs till 1:30 a.m.
- You can find more details and the maps of night lines on the website above (dpp.cz)

### **CONNECTION TO THE AIRPORT**

<http://www.dpp.cz/en/public-transit-to-ruzyne-airport/> - Here you can find the connection to the airport with detailed time schedules.

### **TIPS FOR TRAVELLING**

!!!Watch out for the „request stops“. You have to wave your hand at the driver to stop the bus.

!!!Read the schedules, changes are possible.

### **Travelling by Car**

If you go to Prague or around Prague by a car, you should be careful.

### **Parking**

- You are not allowed to park in the places marked with blue line unless you have a special parking card! The blue line zones can be found mostly downtown, and for example in Žižkov or Holešovice, too. As far as wrong parking is concerned, the police are incredibly quick here!
- Parking spaces in the centre are mostly full and paid, so it is better to use public transport there.

### **Renting a car**

Websites offering car rental:

<http://www.travelcar.cz/en/>

<http://www.rentcarprague.com/?lang=UK>

<http://www.e-autopujcovna.com/en/>

and many many others

## Taxi

- Mostly given advice: DO NOT ASK THE TAXI DRIVER IF HE IS A THIEF. You can watch the consequences in the Czech movie Samotáři (Loners).
- If you catch a taxi on the street, you will probably pay more than if you call a taxi company directly.
- But if you don't have any other choice, say where you are going first and always ask about the price in advance! It can easily happen that you pay a huge amount for just a few kilometres!!!
- You can't go wrong with these companies:  
<http://www.taxiprovas.cz>  
<http://www.kuryr-taxi.cz>  
<http://www.sedop.cz>  
<http://www.aataxi.cz>  
<http://www.modryandel.cz/>

## Shopping

Shopping in Prague is easy, there are many shopping centres. Arkády Pankrác is the closest one to Literary Academy, it is just one stop by underground/metro (Pankrác stop) and is open all week 9-21 hours. Shopping centres include all kind of shops (clothing, shoes, electronics, music, groceries) and many of them also restaurants and cinemas.

### LIST OF SHOPPING CENTRES:

Name of shopping centre	Station of underground	Opening hours
Arkády Pankrác	Pankrác (c/ red line)	Mo-Su 9-21h
Centrum Chodov	Chodov (c/ red line)	Mo-Su 9-21h
Galerie Butovice	Nové Butovice (b/ yellow line)	Mo-Su 9-21h
Metropole Zličín + IKEA	Zličín (b/yellow line)	Mo-Su 9-21h (cinema 24h)
Nákupní centrum Šestka	Dejvická (a/ green line) + bus (it's closed to airport)	Mo-Su 9-21h
Nákupní centrum Letňany	Letňany (c/ red line) + bus (for free, 5 minutes long way)	Mo-Su 10-22h (cinema 24h)
Novodvorská Plaza	Kačerov (c/red line) + bus	Mo-Su 9-21h

Nákupní centrum Nový Smíchov	Anděl (b/ yellow line)	Mo-Su 9-21h (cinema 1AM)
Obchodní centrum Černý Most + IKEA	Černý most (b/ yellow line)	Mo-Su 9-21h
Palác Flora + IMAX cinema	Flora (a / green line)	Mo-Su 8-24h
Palladium	Náměstí republiky (b/ yellow line)	Mo-Su 9-21 (restaurants 23h)

- If you need to buy just some food, do not be afraid to buy things in small shops on the street (like the one in front of the school).
- You can also enjoy sales in Prague! Sales on clothes and shoes take usually place after Christmas and continue until February. Another sales season is in summer holidays.
- Sales, which you should avoid, are sales on food – you should check the expiration date before you buy it. And beware of cheap meat (like a discount on meat), it always means something wrong!

### Useful vocabulary:

Supermarket	Supermarket
Ovoce zelenina	Shop selling fruit and vegetables
Nápoje	Shop selling just drinks (alcoholic and non alcoholic)
Pekařství	Bakery
Potraviny	Grocery
Drogerie	Chemist's (drugstore)
Lékarna	Pharmacy
Trafika	Newsagent
Sleva	Sale/ Discount
Akce	Promotional event – actions like two for one etc.

## Average prices

Compared to most European capitals, Prague still remains fairly inexpensive as far as cost of living is concerned. The exchange rates calculated: EUR = 25.00 CZK, USD = 18.00 CZK

	CZK	EUR	USD
<b>Restaurants</b>			
Large Sausage from Wenceslas Square	50,-	2,-	2.80
Lunch for one in a pub	130,-	5.20	7.30
Lunch for one in a sandwich bar	70,-	2.80	3.90
Common meal with soup in student restaurant	50,-	2,-	2.80
Combo meal at KFC or McDonald's	105,-	4.20	5.90
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	35,-	1.40	2.00
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	35,-	1.40	2.00
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	35,-	1.40	2.00
<b>Supermarkets</b>			
Milk (1 liter)	15,-	0,60	0,80
Loaf of Fresh Bread	21,-	0,84	1,20
Eggs (10)	20,-	0,80	1,10
Cheese (100g) – Eidam	15,-	0,60	0,80
1kg Apples (Granny Smith)	30,-	1,20	1,70
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	10,-	0,40	0,60
Bottle of Czech Wine	75,-	3,00	4,20
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	11,-	0,40	0,60
<b>Transportation</b>			
One-means-of-transport Limited Ticket (20/30 min.)	18,-	0,70	1,00
Full Ticket	26,-	1,00	1,50
Month Pass, Student	260,-	10,50	14,50
Taxi (airport to center)	500,-	20,-	28,-
Taxi (within center)	200,-	8,00	11,20

## Libraries

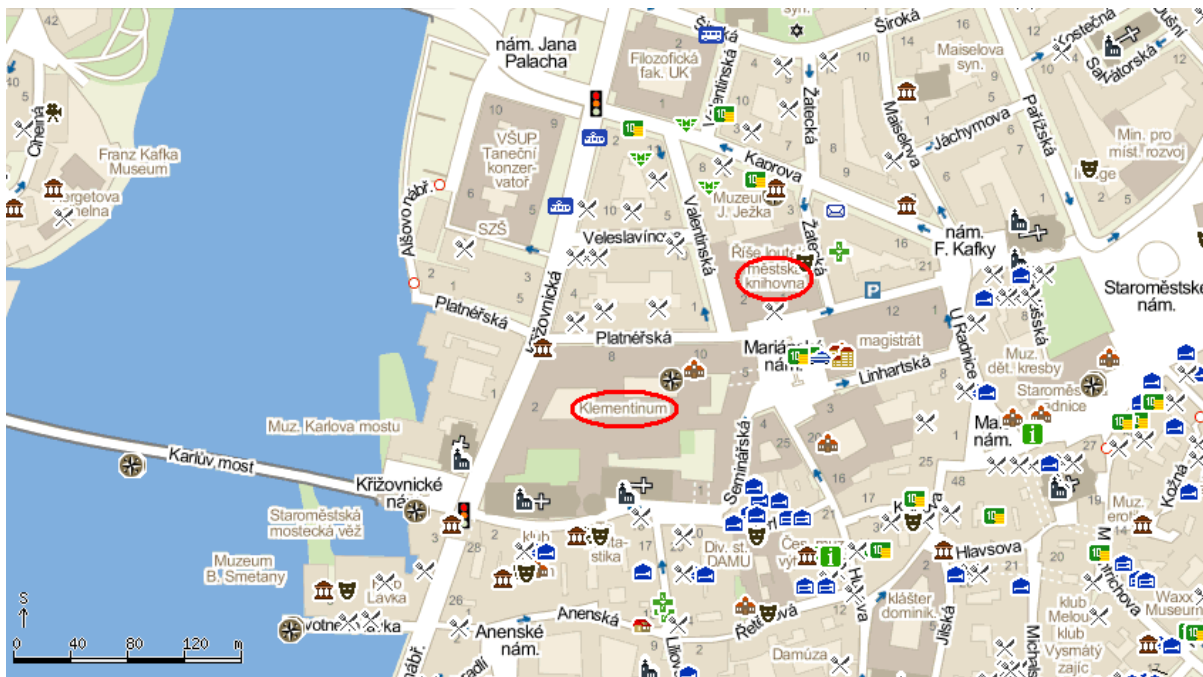
In Prague you can find many libraries, for example university libraries, municipal libraries, scientific libraries...The following shows a list of three, where you can find a lot of English books. In addition, if you're not an avid reader, but you still need internet connection, the library is just the place for you.

### **MUNICIPAL LIBRARY**

**Mariánské nám. 1, 115 72 Praha 1**

[www.mlp.cz](http://www.mlp.cz)

- The main Municipal Library is in the centre of the city. It is a nice old building near the New City Hall.
- It has 41 branches across Prague which are interlinked with each other. It is a public library providing services to users of all ages, professions and social groups.
- You have to be a member if you want to use services of the Municipal Library. The registration process is simple and you can borrow books from most of the libraries in the network. For registration you need an identification card, i.e. a passport or some other license with a photograph, and an official proof of your long-term or permanent residence.
- Furthermore, you have to pay a yearly membership fee (80 CZK only).
- Registration is easier if you have a Prague convenience card – Opencard - that is valid for Prague transport as well.
- As soon as you are a member, you can borrow books, CDs, maps, cassettes, music scores or paintings (the library specialized in art is located in Prague – Opatov).
- Magazines or newspapers can be read only inside, they are not for borrowing. However, selection is wide.
- There's also internet connection here. If you don't have your own notebook, you can use one of the library PCs.
- The library also holds many courses, concerts and exhibitions every month.
- The electronic database with remote access is a big innovation. You can find many significant works by Czech artists there.
- Have you been in the library for a long time and you are hungry now? No problem. There is a cafe right next to the library where you can have a snack.
- Opening hours of the main library are between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- All municipal libraries are closed on Sunday and Monday.
- Special opening hours are in summer.



source: [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz)

## **NATIONAL LIBRARY**

**Klementinum 190, 110 00 Praha 1**

[www.nkp.cz](http://www.nkp.cz)

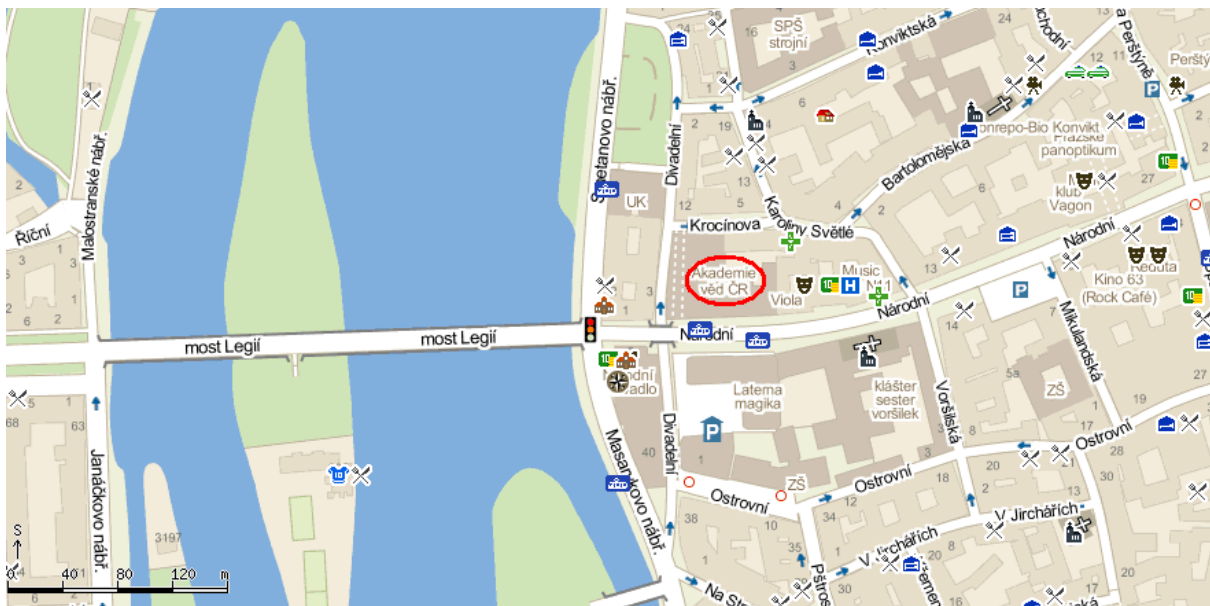
- The National Library has the largest book collection of all the libraries in the Czech Republic. It is one of the most important European and world libraries. The English fiction collection here is big.
- The library has its seat in the Baroque complex near the Charles Bridge. It is also close to the Municipal Library - just across the square.
- Registration requirements are similar to the Municipal Library (additionally, you must be over 15 years). However, the rules are stricter. For example, you have to report all books in your handbag and security monitors your arrival and departure. These are the rules for the use of study rooms.
- The rules in the main hall are not as strict. Unfortunately, many books are just in the study rooms. One good advice: it is a good idea to visit the National Library Book Search engine first, find the book in the internet database and order it. Delivery from storage rooms may take several hours.
- The library offers internet connection and access to internet, you can use library PCs. Most library services operate from Monday to Saturday between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

## ACADEMY OF SCIENCES LIBRARY

Národní 3, 115 22 Praha 1

[www.lib.cas.cz](http://www.lib.cas.cz)

- It is a public research institution, where you can find specialized publications and fiction.
- Registration requirements are similar to the National Library. It is a very nice library.
- You can read a great selection of English-language encyclopaedias, art, politics, science and history books here.
- Opening hours are from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



source: [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz)

If you still cannot find your book in the above institutions, look for them on [www.jib.cz](http://www.jib.cz). It is a database of all books in the Czech libraries. You can also try the site [www.ptejteseknihovny.cz](http://www.ptejteseknihovny.cz). Librarians will answer your questions within 48 hours here.

## BOOKSTORES

In Prague there are also many bookstores. You can find some of the biggest ones directly in the centre, on Václavské náměstí (Wenceslas Square: Kanzelsberger, Neoluxor, Academia and Levné knihy. Each of them specializes in different literature.

### Academia

<http://www.academiaknihy.cz/>

Václavské náměstí 34, 110 00 Praha 1

- Academia Bookstore is run by a publisher of the same name.
- It is a part of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.
- Academia publishes mainly scientific publications, educational literature, nonfiction, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, language textbooks, manuals and college textbooks, but also Czech and foreign fiction.
- Opening hours:
 

Monday – Friday	9.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.
Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.
Sunday	9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

### **Neoluxor**

<http://neoluxor.cz/>

Václavské náměstí 41, 110 00 Praha 1

- Luxor Book Palace is the largest bookstore in the Czech Republic. In its four floors, you can find over 60 thousand books: fiction, children's literature, textbooks and Czech or foreign periodicals.
- Opening hours:
 

Monday – Friday	8.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Saturday	9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.
Sunday	10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

### **Kanzelsberger**

<http://kanzelsberger.cz/>

Václavské náměstí 42, 110 00 Praha 1

- This bookstore offers more than 56.000 daily updated records of books of all genres: fiction, children's books, dictionaries, professional and technical literature, textbooks, history books, encyclopaedias, music, maps and atlases.
- Opening hours:
 

Monday – Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.

## Levné knihy

<http://www.levneknihy.cz/?sr=1170>

Vestibule of Museum metro station

- This bookstore offers books in many different genres for a low price. You can choose here from many CD too.
- Opening hours:  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



source: [www.mapy.cz](http://www.mapy.cz)

## **Tourist information**

### **SIGHTSEEING TOURS**

- Prague is a very popular destination for tourists from all around the world so there are many possibilities for you if you want to explore Prague and its historical sights.
- You can choose from one of the companies specialized in sightseeing tours which usually cost around CZK 400 (with student discount). The guided sightseeing tours are usually made by bus, on foot or as a combination of both.
- A very unique experience (though a little more expensive) are the boat trips on the Vltava River (count with approx. CZK 900,- per ticket).
- Another and definitely more pleasant possibility is to ask one of your classmates to show you round Prague. They will surely help.
- You can also visit the many Prague museums (e.g. National Museum, National Technical Museum, Czech Museum of Music, Museum of Communism etc.). You can enjoy each museum for free every first Monday of the month or you can ask for a student discount.
- More information in the Culture section.

### **MONEY AND EXCHANGE OFFICES**

- The official currency used in the Czech Republic is the Czech crown (which has the Czech abbreviation Kč, inter-bank symbol is CZK).
- The smallest denomination of a coin is the 1 crown piece. The other coins you will find in the Czech Republic are worth 2 Kč, 5 Kč, 10 Kč, 20 Kč and 50 Kč. Banknotes come in the following denominations: 50 Kč, 100 Kč, 200 Kč, 500 Kč, 1000 Kč, 2000 Kč and 5000 Kč.
- If you want to pay by a credit card, look for the picture of your card type (Visa, Mastercard etc.) in the windows of the shop/restaurant/etc. you are entering or ask whether your card will be accepted before you purchase anything.
- The Czech Republic has been a member of the EU since 2004 so there are some places where your payment can be made also in Euros (retail chains, electronic shops, petrol stations and also some of the restaurants) so do not be afraid to ask.
- However, it is likely that the price in euros will be slightly higher than its equivalent in Czech crowns. Therefore, to have Czech crowns at hand is recommendable.
- There are exchange offices on literally every corner in larger Czech towns but never try to exchange money on the street. You should receive around 24 Kč for 1 euro but the exchange rates are changing constantly.
- At the exchange offices in banks you will normally pay 2% of the total sum in commission. In privately run exchange offices always ask for the exact sum you will receive for your money before the transaction. You can also exchange your money in some retail stores.
- Banks are usually open from Monday till Friday, usually from 9AM until 5PM but sometimes the opening hours differ from place to place. ATMs (cash machines) can be accessed 24 hours a day.

## **BASIC TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- The most important emergency services have three-digit numbers, which you should always have with you.
- These numbers can be called free of charge from your mobile phone even without a SIM card inserted:
  - **112** – General emergency number
  - 155 – Ambulance
  - 158 – Police
  - 156 – Municipal Police
  - 150 – Fire brigade
- However, English is not likely to be spoken at these numbers, and there are no equivalent numbers for English speakers. To reach the foreigners' medical clinic, call **5292-2146** days or **5292-2191** nights (4 pm-7 am). The service operates 24 hours a day, and English-speaking staff are usually on duty.

## **TELEPHONES AND MOBILE OPERATORS**

- The international dialling code for the Czech Republic is +420 (or 00420). When you are calling from abroad this must be dialled first, followed by the 9-digit number.
- In the Czech Republic there are three mobile phone operators providing mobile services. The network uses the GSM 900 and 1800 system, which should be compatible with the rest of Europe. Problems can arise with mobile phones from North America and Japan.
- If you are not planning to use your mobile phone during your studies you can do with just activating the roaming service provided by your current operator. But if you want to activate your Czech phone number you should contact one of these telephone operators:
  - O2: [www.cz.o2.com](http://www.cz.o2.com), 800 02 02 02
  - T-Mobile: [www.t-mobile.cz](http://www.t-mobile.cz), 603 603 603
  - Vodafone: [www.vodafone.cz](http://www.vodafone.cz), 800 777 777
- All these operators have English-friendly websites and info lines so it should not be a problem to find a solution you will be happy with. Each of them also sells pay-as-you-go SIM cards charged with a certain amount of prepaid credit which are useful on medium length visits. In order to use a Czech SIM card you will need to have a telephone, which has not been blocked by your operator.

## **STUDENT DISCOUNTS**

- You can use your internationally recognized student card like Isic or Euro<26 to gain discounts in many different areas so do not be afraid to ask every time you go shopping for student discounts.
- If you do not have a student card from your university, you can have one from Literary Academy. Just go to our secretariat and ask. It will help you save some money on textbooks, tickets, travelling...

## HEALTH CARE

- The majority of Czech healthcare facilities provide patients with healthcare which is free at the point of delivery. Since mid 2004 citizens from the individual EU member states who travel temporarily to another EU member state and hold an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) are automatically insured.
- All healthcare providers in the EU must accept patients from the EU who possess an EHIC. If you are from a country outside the EU, you should take out health insurance before leaving home. If you fail to do so, then you are liable to pay for treatment at the point of delivery. You will find more information on health insurance in the Czech Republic on the Centre for International reimbursements website ([www.cmu.cz](http://www.cmu.cz)).
- Pharmacies in the Czech Republic give out medicines and other materials necessary for treatment and healthcare mainly (but not always) on doctors' prescriptions. Prescription medicines are given out free of charge or for a small fee if the patient's health insurance does not cover the full amount. Some must be paid for in full by the patient.
- Sudden illness, injury and other emergency situations are dealt with by the Accident and Emergency department in a special area of the hospital. If a life-threatening situation arises, you should dial 112 to call up paramedic.
- You can find the list of English-friendly hospitals (and many more useful tips and information) on English speaking community sites like <http://www.expats.cz>.

## EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES

In difficult situations you can access assistance from your country's embassy. Embassies are located in Prague and a complete list can be found on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs website ([www.mzv.cz](http://www.mzv.cz)). Some countries do not have an embassy in the Czech Republic but are represented by a consulate.

## LANGUAGE

Many people in Prague speak English. Many older Czechs also speak German. Speaking foreign languages, however, is not so common as in Western Europe or Scandinavia. Czech is the official language here and it is good to know at least the greeting - **Dobrý den**. This is the first thing to be said to anyone you do not know very well - i.e. entering a store, greeting a cashier, waiter in a restaurant, etc.

## USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Dobrý den [dobree den] *Hello (formal)*

Ahoj [ahoi] *Hello and goodbye (informal)*

Na shledanou [naskhledanow] *Goodbye (formal)*

Dobrou noc [dobrow nots] *Good night*

Ano [ano] *Yes*

Ne [neh] *No*

Děkuji (Díky) [dyekuyi] *Thank you*

Prosím [proseem] *Please*  
Pomozte mi, prosím [pomozteh mi proseem] *Help me, please*  
Promiňte / S dovolením [prominyteh / sdovolenyeem] *Excuse me*  
Mluvíte anglicky? [mluveeteh anglitsky] *Do you speak English?*  
Nemluví Česky [nemluveem cheski] *I don't speak Czech*  
Nerozumím [nerozumeem] *I don't understand*  
Ztratil jsem se [stratyil sem seh] *I'm lost*  
Potřebuji doktora! [potrshebunyi doctora] *I need a doctor*  
Potřebuji si zavolat [potrshebunyi si zavolat] *I need to make a phone call*  
Zavolejte policii [zavoleyteh policiyi] *Call the police*  
Hledám nemocnici [hledam nemocnitsi] *I'm looking for the hospital*  
Kde je... [gdeh ye] *Where is...?*  
Je to daleko? [ye to daleko] *Is it far?*  
Vchod [fkhot] *Entrance*  
Východ [veekhot] *Exit*  
Informační centrum [informachnyee tsentrum] *Information Centre*  
Toalety [toaleti] *Toilets*  
Muži (Páni) [muzhi] *Men*  
Ženy (Dámy) [zheni] *Women*  
Kolik je hodin? [kolik ye hodyin] *What's the time?*  
Otevřeno [otevrsheno] *Open*  
Zavřeno [zavrsheno] *Closed*  
Potraviny [potravini] *Grocer's*  
Kolik to stojí? [kolik stoyee] *How much is it?*  
Voda [voda] *Water*  
Pivo [pivo] *Beer*  
Víno [veeno] *Wine*  
Mléko [mlehko] *Milk*  
Chléb [khlehb] *Bread*  
Maso [maso] *Meat*  
Dobrou chuť [dobrow khutch] *Bon appetite*

## **Traditions and events in Prague**

### **MUSIC**

May- Folk Song Festival- Prague

May- Mozart`s Prague- Prague

12th May – 4th June- Prague Spring International Music Festival- Prague

June- United Islands of Prague- Prague

July- Rock for People- Prague

September-December- The Strings of Autumn Festival- Prague

October- Prague International Jazz Festival- Prague

November-December- Festival Alternativa- Prague

### **FILM**

March- Febiofest- Prague

March- Days of European Film- Prague

March- One World International Film Festival- Prague

July- Karlovy Vary Film Festival- Karlovy Vary

May- International Television Festival Golden Prague- Prague

### **THEATRE**

May-June- World Festival of Puppet Art- Prague

June-September - Summer Shakespeare Festival- Prague

### **LITERATURE**

May- Book World Prague- Prague

June- Prague Writers' Festival- Prague

### **SPORT**

May- Prague International Marathon- Prague

Second Sunday in October- The great Pardubice Steeplechase (Velká pardubická in Czech) -  
Pardubice

### **TRADITIONAL**

February-March- The St Matthew's Fair (Matějská pouť in Czech)- Prague

30th April: Burning of Witches- (Pálení čarodějnic in Czech)- all over the country

15th August- 30th November- Festival of New Wine – Burtchak and Beaujolais- all over the  
country

September- Saint Wenceslas Festivities- all over the country

5th December- St Nicholas's Eve-all over the country

### **OTHERS**

May-June- Fringe Festival Praha- Prague

June -Festival Mitte Europa- Czech/German border regions

July- Retro Prague (Vintage Cars)- Prague

August- Brno Grand Prix- Brno

October- Four Days Festival- Prague

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