Czech Higher Education

System
Institutions
International cooperation
Czechia Alumni
Research

STUDYIN.CZ
Content

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LANGUAGE
Czech

POPULATION
10.88 million

POLITICAL SYSTEM
parliamentary republic

EU MEMBER STATE SINCE
2004

CURRENCY
Czech crown / CZK

CAPITAL
Praha (Prague)

CLIMATE
seasonal variations (warm summers, mild autumns and cold winters)

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES
January -1 °C / July 24 °C

Tuition fees for degree programmes provided in foreign languages (2023):
94% of tuition fees range from 0 – 6,000 EUR/year
Fees for art or medicine studies may range from 8,500 – 19,000 EUR/year

At public and state higher education institutions, education in the Czech language is free of charge for citizens of all nationalities.

# STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (2023)
26 public
2 state
26 private

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (2023)
308,640

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STUDENT LIVING COSTS (2023)
Housing prices
190 EUR per month for a student dorm
290 EUR per month for a room in a shared flat

Food & drink prices
4 EUR lunch in a canteen
8 EUR lunch in a restaurant
3 EUR cup of coffee in a café

Public transport prices
1 EUR one-way ticket (local transport)
8 EUR monthly student ticket

1 Source: STUDY In portal of Czech universities and programmes at studyin.cz
Foreword

With its nearly 700 years of academic tradition, the Czech higher education system has experienced deep, dynamic changes and extensive development in recent decades. International cooperation within Europe and beyond has been gaining ground in Czechia and particularly in Czech schools since 1989, when fundamental socio-political changes took place. In 1995, Czechia became involved in the European Communities’ educational programmes, now known as Erasmus+. In 2004, Czechia joined the European Union and is now also a member of UNESCO, the Council of Europe, OECD, and the Visegrad Group. All these changes have made Czechia your smart-choice destination and respected partner in the field of international education.

Today, Czechia is an attractive destination with progressively increasing popularity for international students. In 2023, there were around 55,000 international students enrolled in full degree programmes. Before the pandemic, about 15,000 students chose to study in Czechia for exchange, or short-term study programmes every year. International degree-seeking students can choose from over 1,000 diverse, accredited Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral programmes in English and other foreign languages. More than 150 programmes on offer are joint or double degree.

Czechia has gained international renown in areas ranging from Egyptology to high-tech fields such as non-woven nanofibers; also achieving successes in e.g., new treatments for cancer and haematological and urological diseases. The country’s university-based research focuses on the development of laser systems, biomedical and materials science, energy research and complex mathematical modelling in the natural, medical and technical sciences.

Czech higher education institutions rank amongst the top universities in the region of East Central Europe—17 universities are included in the QS World University Ranking for 2024. Higher education institutions enjoy a high degree of autonomy. Currently, there are over 300,000 students at public, state and private higher education institutions. Roughly 90% of students attend public higher education institutions. Business is the most popular field, followed by engineering, health and welfare and education. Every year, about 7,000 new, skilled master’s-level engineers and experts in natural sciences enter the labour market, together with over 1,000 Ph.D. graduates in the same fields.

The Strategic Plan of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for Higher Education for the period from 2021 currently focuses on developing competencies directly relevant to life and practice in the 21st century and improving the availability and relevance of flexible forms of education, as well as efficiency and quality of doctoral studies. The Ministry also intends to strengthen strategic management and the effective use of capacities in research and development.

The overall Strategic Plan is also complemented by the Strategy for Internationalisation of Higher Education as a separate document. The vision of the national internationalisation strategy declares that Czech universities are preparing their graduates for leading roles in the global knowledge society, due to the institutions’ international dimension and high quality of education, research and the third role. As you can see, Czech universities are contributing to the prosperity and sustainable development of communities at home and abroad.

Following this strategy, Czech higher education institutions are expected to expand the range of opportunities for strategic international cooperation, partnerships, mobility, and capacity building. As active members of the international organizations and consortia of universities, Czech universities should be involved in activities contributing to the development of the European Higher Education Area and cooperation with countries both within and outside the EU.
We are the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (dzs.cz). We believe that foreign experience changes the world and society for the better. That is why we represent and develop educational programmes in Czechia, thanks to which everyone can get involved in international events – from students, through pedagogues, youth workers and the youth themselves, to adult educators and the professional public. We bring opportunities for international education and cooperation to all regions of Czechia. We motivate institutions and individuals to get involved and help them get information and financial support to realize their plans. We provide first-hand opportunities for Czech scientists to collaborate in research at the international level. CZELO, our Czech liaison office in Brussels, helps us with this.

In addition to leading the Study in Czechia initiative, which promotes studying at Czech universities among international students, we take care of another 20 European programmes and networks. Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are among the largest. We also take care of spreading awareness about results and outputs from the field of international research and inform the professional and lay public about current trends in education.

Czechia Alumni is a national programme for all international alumni who studied at a Czech higher education institution. The programme is closely linked with the Study in Czechia initiative as it also strives to increase awareness of Czechia as a provider of quality higher education. The official website czechialumni.cz describes the goals and activities of the programme in greater detail.

supports Czech institutions in intense participation in EU programmes for research and education. The CZELO office (dzs.cz/czeło) provides information, consultations and guidance, and assists institutions in organizing meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, conventions, and other means of international cooperation in Brussels.

Czechia Alumni

STUDY IN CZECHIA

is your official English-language information source when choosing a university and study programme in Czechia. We are here to help international students at the beginning of their university journey. International students can reach us through social media, use our website studyin.cz or take advantage of the interactive portal portal.studyin.cz and find the perfect university programme. Study in Czechia (STUDY IN) is an initiative of the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS), established by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

CZECH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Your Guide Through International Education
Higher education forms the highest level of the Czech education system. It is legally regulated by the Higher Education Act. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports oversees the public and private higher education institutions, while relevant ministries are responsible for the state institutions (the University of Defence and the Police Academy).

In terms of the study programmes they offer, higher education institutions may be of a university or non-university type. Universities may offer all types of study programmes (i.e. bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programmes) and carry out associated activities in science and research, development and innovation, as well as artistic or other creative activities. Non-university institutions offer mainly bachelor’s study programmes. They can also offer master’s programmes but not doctoral ones.

**DEGREE SYSTEM AND FORM OF STUDIES**

Higher education is provided through accredited study programmes following the relevant curricula and forms of studies. Degree programmes most often take the form of on-site and combined (i.e., combination of an on-site and a distance form) courses.

**BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES** represent the first cycle of higher education, focus on preparing students for continuation to master’s degree programmes or for future employment. The standard length of these programmes is 3 to 4 years. Their completion is viewed as a full higher education degree.

**MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES** are focused on theoretical knowledge, its application and on the development of creative skills. In artistic disciplines, the focus is on the development of creativity and talents. The standard length of master’s degree programmes following bachelor’s degree programmes is 1 to 3 years. The “long” non-structured master’s degree programmes usually last 5 years in certain fields (e.g., law, several artistic and theological fields) or 6 years in medicine and veterinary programmes.

**DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES** are designed for master’s degree holders and focus on scientific research and independent creative activities in research and development and in artistic disciplines. The standard length of study is 3 to 4 years for an on-site course form.

Study outcomes at higher education institutions are assessed mainly by a system of credits. Most HEIs use the ECTS CREDIT SYSTEM (European Credit Transfer System), where each course is assessed by a quantity of credits which reflect the course’s demands. This system allows credit transfer among HEIs and enables students to study and gather credits at various institutions.
By successfully completing a degree programme, the graduate receives an academic title.

In bachelor’s degree programmes, the title received is Bachelor (Bc.) or Bachelor of Art (BcA.).

Depending on the field of study there are several titles graduates can receive in master’s degree programmes. In engineering and technology and economic fields, it is the title Engineer (Ing.); Engineer of Architecture (Ing. arch.) in architecture. In other fields, the title is Master (Mgr.) or Master of Art (Mg.A.), MUDr. in medicine, MDDr. in dentistry and MVDr. in veterinary medicine.

Graduates of doctoral programmes are awarded the academic title Doctor (Ph.D.).
## Bachelor's Study Programmes

- **Programme Title**: completed with final state examination
- **Abbreviation**: Bc.
- **Bachelor's Thesis**: bakalářská práce

## Master's Study Programmes

- **Programme Title**: completed with final state examination
- **Abbreviation**: BcA.
- **Bachelor's Thesis**: bakalář umění

## Doctoral Study Programmes

- **Programme Title**: completed with final doctoral examination
- **Abbreviation**: Ph.D.
- **Doctoral Thesis**: disertační práce

## Post-Master's Exam: Rigorosum

- **Programme Title**: in humanities, education and social sciences
- **Abbreviation**: PhDr.
- **Thesis**: rigorózní práce

In certain fields, master's degree holders also have the opportunity to take the post-master's exam: rigorosum which can be passed without further attendance of any formal study programme. One part of the examination is the defence of a thesis (rigorózní práce). The titles awarded are: PhDr. (in humanities, education and social sciences), JUDr. (in law), ThLic. / ThDr. (in theology), RNDr. (in sciences), PharmDr. (in pharmacy).
The main language of study is Czech; however, the range of study programmes delivered in foreign languages (especially in English) is expanding in order to cater to international students. Currently, more than 1,000 degree programmes are offered in English by Czech higher education institutions. Many Czech HEIs offer preparatory courses that can help students master the Czech language and prepare them for university studies.

TUITION FEES
At public and state higher education institutions, the education in the Czech language is, apart from fees for the administration of admission proceedings, free of charge for citizens of all nationalities. Tuition fees for studying in a foreign language mostly range from 0 – 6,000 EUR per academic year. Fees for art or medicine studies may range from 8,500 – 19,000 EUR/year. If your duration of study is extended beyond the set limit, paying a fee is also required.

At private institutions of higher education, all students are required to pay tuition fees and the amount depends on the relevant institution and study programme.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Higher education institutions offer scholarships under the same conditions as they do for Czech students, some also offer scholarships under Erasmus+ or bilateral university agreements. You can get more details from the international relations office of the relevant university. Government scholarships are offered to students from selected developing countries for full master’s and doctoral degree programmes, both in the Czech and English language. Furthermore, based on bilateral international treaties with 30 countries, international students can receive scholarships for short-term non-graduate studies, doctoral studies or research activities. Information about these scholarships is available at Czech diplomatic missions abroad. Students can also take advantage of a number of mobility and scholarship programmes and funds (e.g., Aktion, CEEPUS, Visegrad Fund, Fulbright Program).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
The academic year is usually divided into two semesters – a winter semester, starting in October, and a summer semester, starting in February. A semester normally consists of 15 weeks of teaching, followed by an examination period.

ADMISSION
Higher education is available to all applicants with a completed upper secondary education and admission is also based on the fulfilment of entry requirements set by the given higher education institution.

You have access to bachelor’s and “long” non-structured master’s studies if you have completed upper secondary education with a Maturita certificate (i.e. the kind of school-leaving certificate entitling holders to continue studying at the tertiary level of education). In the case of follow-up master’s degree programmes stemming from bachelor’s programmes, applicants who have completed the respective bachelor’s degree courses or hold equivalent qualifications are considered. The prerequisite for admission to a doctoral degree programme is the completion of an appropriate master’s degree programme or an equivalent qualification.

Any further requirements regarding the knowledge, abilities or talents, and educational achievements of applicants depend on the higher education institutions themselves.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY
If you want to study a degree programme, you should first check the specific entry requirements on the website of the higher education institution of your choice and then apply to the institution accordingly. The deadline for submitting applications is usually at the end of February or March, but there may be some later deadlines as well. Applications normally include a completed electronic application form, copies of relevant diplomas and scores from a language proficiency test.

Depending on the specific programme and the higher education institution, you may also be required to take entrance examinations. For specific fields (e.g. art), passing an aptitude test and providing additional documents or materials is essential. The entrance examinations are mostly held between June and September (or earlier for art studies).

If you are an international student wishing to study in CzeChia as an exchange student, you have a great number of possibilities to choose from. These include study stays within the framework of various European and non-European mobility programmes, tailored-made study-abroad programmes, cooperation agreements between higher education institution networks, summer schools and so on.

Source: STUDY In portal of Czech universities and programmes at studyin.cz
DIVISION OF STUDENTS ACCORDING TO THE FIELDS OF STUDY

Currently, there are approximately 300,000 students at public, state and private higher education institutions. Roughly 90% of them attend public higher education institutions. International degree students make up over 17% of the student body.

Graduates of degree programmes at foreign HEIs wishing to obtain recognition in Czechia are required to submit a written application to a relevant public higher education institution, providing a document of a completed study programme similar in its contents to a Czech study programme. You may use the original diploma directly if this type of document is listed in an international agreement, however, you can still ask for the recognition, if you wish to do so.

In the case of refugees and displaced persons, the documents required may be replaced by an affidavit.

The complex and comprehensive guide about the process of the recognition of foreign education and/or qualification is included in the brochure “Recognition of Foreign Education and Qualifications in the Czech Republic”. The Czech National Academic Recognition Information Centre (msmt.cz) provides information on the recognition of qualifications in Czechia.

For a more detailed description on the higher education system (as well as other educational levels) in Czechia, see the National Education Systems, a database administered by Eurydice, the European information network: eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu

Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (2023)
Czech higher education institutions develop international cooperation by supporting international mobility of students and staff, as well as through joint educational and scientific projects.

International cooperation in higher education mainly occurs through:
- direct cooperation between universities or faculties;
- European programmes (Erasmus+);
- bilateral and multilateral programmes (Aktion Czech Republic – Austria, CEEPUS, Barrande Fellowship, EEA Grants, Fulbright, and others);
- intergovernmental agreements and scholarships.
INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS
Higher education institutions independently negotiate a wide range of cooperation agreements with their foreign counterparts. Institutions from at least 120 countries have an agreement with Czech public higher education institutions. The largest number of agreements are with institutions from the USA, Poland, Slovakia, China, Ukraine and Taiwan.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME
Czech institutions joined the Erasmus programme in 1998. Since then, over 320,000 students from Czech universities participated in Erasmus+ mobility. In general, the vision of the Erasmus+ programme is to equip participants with new skills and to improve their chances on the labour market.

The new Programme for 2021-2027 strongly builds on four priorities: participation, inclusion, sustainability, and digitalisation. It strives to promote a higher number of equal opportunities for a wider range of organisations and participants. Also, it strives towards environmental sustainability and eco-friendly travel. Moreover, the new programme contributes to a more digitally fit society via digital transformation of administration and education. Together with friendship and motivation for active citizenship and further development, these four priorities aspire to become the most welcome side effects of the new Erasmus+ mobilities.

Higher education institutions and other organisations can take part in a wide range of projects, such as Erasmus Mundus Joint Higher education institutions and other organisations can take part in a wide range of projects, such as Erasmus Mundus Joint

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Based on international agreements, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides scholarships to international students. Also, the Ministry supports Czech language courses for Czech compatriots living abroad and Czech teachers are sent to Czech communities abroad through the Programme to support Czech cultural heritage abroad. Every year, several public higher education institutions organise the Summer School of Slavonic Studies.

During the first year of the new programme Erasmus+ for 2021-2027, a total of 54 institutions (all Czech public and state higher institutions, about a half of the private higher education institutions and part of the tertiary professional schools) participated in student and staff mobility programmes and 14 Cooperation partnership projects were approved.

Czech involvement in the first years of the new Erasmus+ Programme (2021, 2022):
— Mobility between Programme countries: 62 institutions and 11,852 participants;
— Cooperation Projects: 14 Czech coordinators’ projects;
— Mobility between Programme and Partner Countries: starting Call 2022;
— Erasmus+ Sport: starting Call 2023.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES
Czech higher education institutions cooperate with institutions from abroad also through other regional or bilateral programmes.

In 2023
— 23 Czech universities participated in the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS),
— a total of 26 Czech-Austrian projects were funded by the AKTION Czech Republic-Austria programme, which, in addition to institutional cooperation projects, also supports student and staff mobility through scholarships,
— 18 PhD students were awarded grants from the Barrande Fellowship Programme to develop their research projects in cooperation with French partners, while 9 Ph.D. students from France were funded to undertake their research stay in Czechia,
— 22 projects were funded through the EEA Grants Education programme between Czechia and Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

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The new Programme for 2021-2027 strongly builds on four priorities: participation, inclusion, sustainability, and digitalisation. It strives to promote a higher number of equal opportunities for a wider range of organisations and participants. Also, it strives towards environmental sustainability and eco-friendly travel. Moreover, the new programme contributes to a more digitally fit society via digital transformation of administration and education. Together with friendship and motivation for active citizenship and further development, these four priorities aspire to become the most welcome side effects of the new Erasmus+ mobilities.

Higher education institutions and other organisations can take part in a wide range of projects, such as Erasmus Mundus Joint

masters. These are highly integrated international study pro-

grammes provided by consortiums of universities, international partnerships and other programmes aimed at developing programmes provided by consortiums of universities, international

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Czechia Alumni programme promotes a good image of Czechia and its higher education abroad through the organization of events and other networking and professional opportunities for international alumni of Czech higher education institutions. It also strives to inform international alumni about the Czech labour market, offers career development opportunities and supports Czech higher education institutions in developing their international alumni communities.

The programme is open to alumni of all kinds of Czech higher education programmes including:
- Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degree programmes;
- Erasmus+ and other scholarship programmes (e.g., government scholarships, CEEPUS, AKTION);
- summer schools and short-term programmes.

Members of the programme can:
- CONNECT – join the community and find their alma mater;
- INSPIRE – share their story and accomplishments;
- KEEP IN TOUCH – sign up for a regular newsletter;
- ENGAGE – be part of alumni events.

Alumni interested in joining the programme can register through the website czechialumni.cz, follow the activities of the programme on Facebook and LinkedIn or contact alumni@studyin.cz.

Source: Survey among international alumni of Czech universities (2022)

97% of international alumni would recommend studying in Czechia
90% of international alumni stated that studying in Czechia has contributed to improving their careers
87% of short-term programmes graduates reported an improved relationship with Czechia after their stay in the country
Public higher education institutions play an important role in research development and innovation. Their success in this field can be seen, for example, in R&D results in new treatments for cancer as well as haematological and urological diseases; the development of new construction technologies and advanced materials; and broad cooperation in international projects (e.g., in collaboration with CERN and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna).

Czechia has achieved international renown in areas ranging from Egyptology to high-tech fields such as non-woven nanofibers. European Union funds are continuously helpful in developing higher education research infrastructures, significant support is also being granted to excellent international research teams. A new approach to doctoral study programs is to be implemented in order to generate high-quality human resources for R&D and also in order to attract perspective candidates from abroad. Czech higher education institutions have been actively involved in H2020 and Horizon Europe projects as well as the European Universities initiative, building partnerships with other European partners from the public and private sectors.

Top-notch education and research

Best-ranked universities in Central Europe

46 Large research infrastructures

222 Regional research centres

54 Research institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences

1/ Source: QS World University Rankings, The Times Higher Education World University Rankings
2/ Source: vyzkumne-infrastruktury.cz
3/ Source: czso.cz
4/ Source: Czech Academy of Sciences
CZECH HIGHER EDUCATION

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