

Czech Universities for External Students

- *Czechschool*
- *Czechwork*
- *Czechliving*



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1.0. Basic Information About the Czech Republic

1.1. Selected information

Czech Republic is a high developed industrial country, which “goes with time”. Constructive foreign economic politics has brought a big amount of foreign investments to the country, thanks to them the economy is being developed all the time. A lot indicates, that the Czech Republic will become one of the most developed European country in a near future.

The Czech Republic lies in the heart of Europe, in the valley of the Elbe and its tributary the Vltava river. It’s considered one of the most beautiful places of Europe. Though not being very large (area of 78 864 km², approximately 10 million inhabitants), it is visited by tourists from all over the world. The country attracts them not only with amount of historical, cultural and natural landmarks, but also with hospitality of its inhabitants.

Before the Second World War the Czechia (that time together with Slovakia – Czechoslovakia) belonged among 10 richest countries in the world (adjustment on one person). The Second World War hadn’t caused us so many losses and damages as it had in other European countries, so we had all anticipations to extraordinary economic growth. But meanwhile a period of “construction of developed socialism” has come, economy started to degenerate and the Czech republic became one of the poorest European country.

At present, the Czech Republic began to flourish again. Modern educational system, fast adaptation of managers’ know-how, wild participation of external capital... above all great freedom, thanks to everybody can maximalize and use his/her abilities in the best way. These and other changes caused, that the Czech Republic grows again and aims to a high living standard. This all on a background of rich history, which is a base of stability and greatness in the future. And in a beautiful countryside, that ameliorates mood and adds optimism. You will appreciate order in the streets, possibility to walk alone through dark nooks without any fear, you will appreciate order in work, where you don’t have to be worry, that you won’t ever see your salary.

Also foreign citizens can make use of this all. Demographic decrease in number of inhabitants leads the Czech Republic to open its gates to people from all over the world – of course if they accept local life style and are not afraid of work.

And in addition – EU accession opens whole Middle and Western Europe to you.

1.2. Basic Information about Czech Language

Czech language is of Slavic origin. Interestingly enough one can find many words that have their roots in other than Slavic languages (such as German, due to close proximity to Czech Republic, and lately also English). People speaking another Slavic language as their mother tongue (Belarussians, Bulgarians, Russians, Ukrainians, etc.) are usually able to conduct basic conversation within a month or so. However this basic knowledge is not enough in order to be accepted to an university. There must be much deeper knowledge of grammar and vocabulary to pass the Czech grammar test.

Experience has shown that Slavic people coming to the Czech Republic without any previous experience of spoken Czech are able to learn Czech language in three months well enough to communicate with locals on basic level. That is usually close enough to pass acceptance test to some private colleges (tests for private colleges are usually easier than those to public universities). If you are accepted to an university without any exam (that is theoretically possible even to some of the public universities) this basic knowledge might be enough to start your studies.

However we do recommend 4 to 5 months of an extensive language study. This achieved language knowledge should make you feel confident. You should be on a good understanding level that should help you to pass other acceptance tests such as math, physics, biology etc. In other words, one semester of intense language study, will help you to pass any acceptance exams to any university.

Some universities, among others the most popular University of Economics (VSE), require special acceptance exam from the Czech language. In this case you need even deeper knowledge and understanding of the language. Experience has proven that the nine months class (one full year) is the most effective.

2.0. Czech Open Institute

Czech Open Institute has been established in 1992 as an education institute for the Czech Information Center for Integration of Foreigners REK. The foremost goal of this institute was to help foreign citizens to overcome the language and intercultural barrier.

Opening of the country unfortunately brought some negative sides as well. In Czech we could witness different groups that started making money on foreigners who weren't familiar with Czech laws, traditions, prices and so on. Usually these firms were established by immigrants that started offering their services to their own country men.

Too often, foreigner ended up paying far more than necessary. Even worse after his/her arrival in the Czech Republic he or she found himself/ herself completely without help and in very difficult situation.

Typical problems occurring:

- Provider accepted money, never provided any service and disappeared.
- The services were partial (especially those with "higher level of customer service", for example establishing corporation with limited liability or securing free college education).
- The services were illegal (this is specially true in the case of work permitting when a foreigner was promised work without the knowledge and approval of the Social Employment Services).

Our institute reacted sensitively to those with unfortunate situations. Problem solving of similar issues soon became the biggest part of our services and little was left for our other service.

So we celebrated 10 years of our existence under these circumstances. We were forced to analyze our new position on the market and decided to change our objectives. No longer are we going to solve problems caused by others, instead we are going to offer these services ourselves (guaranteeing quality, fast service and affordable prices). This way we should be able to eliminate bad competition and low quality services on the Czech market.

Czech Open Institute opened three integrated programs of customer service to foreigners:

- **czechschooL.** The goal of this program is to make our prestige and high quality university education available to talented people, either for free or affordably. This programme has several alternatives to serve your specific needs.
- **czechwork.** The objective of this branch is to help competent people to access legal work opportunity or to help to establish their own company. (Successful attendees of our previous programs can be put together for future business projects.)
- **czechliving.** The goal here, is to find accommodation for our customers, ranging anywhere between inexpensive to superb quality, depending on what your request may be.

3.0. University Education With the Support of the Czech Open Institute

3.1. The Basic Laws

This publication is regarding our first program – **czechschool**. The uniqueness of the Czech Open Institute is given by our ability not only to help you access free university education in the Czech Republic but at the same time we can provide accommodation for you for the length of your study as well as to create part time or full time job opportunity while attending university. We can help you to get student aid or scholarship and we even help you to build your future after your successful graduation.

Basic laws, that established education and work relation of foreigners in the Czech Republic:

- 326/1999 (Law establishing)
- 111/1998 (The college Education Law)
- 513/1991 (The Business Law)
- 9/1991 (The Employment Law)
- 455/1991 (The Small Business Law or Guidelines for Small Business)
- 117/1995 (The Government Social Support Law)
- 6/1991 (The General Health Insurance Law)

There are about another 50 special laws, paragraphs and government policies.

There are over 50 different universities (with close to 100 different schools) in the Czech Republic. You can choose from over 4000 different degrees and graduation programs. (Art and religious colleges are not included in this number, because we do not have professional relations with these.)

In conclusion we can summarize this into:

- Everybody has the right to achieve education that is necessary for the work he or she intend to do. And if one school cannot satisfy one needs, solution can be found in combining different schools and programs.
- Opportunities are endless and without qualified adviser it is almost impossible to make the right choice. (It is not by mistake that each high school in the Czech Republic has an educational advisor to help to choose the right graduation program or to find the perfect job sector.)

3.2. General Information about University Education in the Czech Republic

More and more young people from all over the world are trying to study abroad. Czech Republic is a country with one of the most advantages for fulfilling such a dream. All the perfect circumstances have been met:

- Czech culture and education have exceptional tradition dating back in history (The Charles University has been established in 1348 and is the oldest university not only in the Czech Republic but in the world)
- Educational System in the Czech Republic follows the rules of ISCED (international classification norms in education)
- University education accomplished in the Czech Republic follows all the norms of European Union and your diploma from Czech university will be accepted in most countries of the world.
- There is already functioning system of study abroad and work experience abroad
- Students are in charge of choosing their own schedule. Your presence in the classroom is not mandatory. Special instruction classes must be attended at least half the time.
- Education in all public and state universities is free for foreigners as long as the classes are taken in Czech language. (Most likely in the future this will be paid, but not till few years from now.) However if a student chooses to study in other language than Czech (usually English), the classes must be paid – anywhere from 3000 to 10000 Euros, depending on name of the school or your graduating program.
- There is also a net of private colleges that usually offer education in business, economics, law and banking. Even though these colleges are paid (1000 – 2500 Euros yearly, set up as separate semester payments) they

are very popular. These private colleges give their students individual attention. Mandatory one semester internship is part of the educational program. This internship has proven to help better prepare students for their career which attracts many employees (therefore the chances of finding the right job are up).

Combining all these factors together we have a package that makes Czech educational system one of the best ones in Europe. Education in the Czech Republic is not only inexpensive but has a high value and prestige.

3.3. Why Do More and More Students Decide to Study in the Czech Republic?

Vet yourself::

Pluses:

- eminent reputation of some universities, which diplomas are accepted without any restrictions in the most countries of the world;
- quite easy admission process;
- low costs on education (including possibility to study free);
- cheap accommodation and catering
- flexible discount system
- a chance to choose from a wide supply of specializations and courses
- good accessories of the universities with educational and technical devices
- possibility of work experience during the studies, thanks which you can obtain work references during your study
- student government help (but the truth is, that for external students it is more difficult to obtain it).

Minuses:

some specializations are overcrowded (there are more people interested than the capacity allows; this also complicates finding a good job after finishing the school);

there are specializations, that don't give to external students a lot of chances to future job, because besides diploma, follow-up work experience is required or you have to do another exams (e.g. in the case of advocates, doctors, notaries, etc.);

almost no knowledge control during the year requires high personal discipline and will to study more and amuse less.

So, if you find these information interesting and you have decided to get:

- free academic education of a high quality,
- diploma accepted all around the world,
- prestigious, good payed, fully satisfactory job with the possibility of fast career growth,
- help and support of skilled consultants during the study,
- good starting conditions for emigration to Western or Middle Europe,
- new friends or simply interesting people,

our **Czechschool** programme is here for you!

Specialists from Czech Open Institute are prepared to help you with the choice of your future profession and specialization. Gates of the Czech universities are always opened for energetic, confident and ambitious young people!

3.4. Requirements for Admission to the Czech Universities

Czechia – one of few countries, that accepts so-called secondary education gained in Russia or similar countries.

We can say, that in our country foreigners are regarded as if they were Czechs. For Czechs, the school-leaving exam (graduation) from the secondary school and passing entrance exams on required level is enough to be admitted to an university (you have to pay tuition fees on private schools). Exactly the same is applied in the case of foreigners. But a foreigner...

Firstly, has to have a document of achieved education (graduation or diploma). Withal achieved education abroad has to respond to similar education in the Czech Republic. This is necessary to prove. Above all it is usually necessary to do following steps:

1. to verify graduation report or a diploma (to provide it with internationally accepted declaration of a competent body, that the following document is valid in the country where it was issued)
2. the translation of the report (diploma) to the Czech language and let it confirm by officially appointed expert
3. to receive a confirmation of a report or diploma from the competent body of the Czech Republic, that the given report (diploma) corresponds to certain Czech report (diploma) and it's therefore valid in the Czechia.

It is usually necessary to pass enough tough exam as well, and on its basis the commission will compare achieved education with the level of correspondent education in the Czech Republic and will issue a confirmation about it. In some cases it is easier, because there are international agreements about mutual consents of acceptance of education. In this case the exam is not required, the nostrification is automatic. This involves e.g. students from former Soviet Union, where there are agreements on acceptance of secondary education (academic education is not involved).

Consultants from Czech Open Institute will check up, if the school you have chosen requires nostrification of the secondary education (some of the schools don't). Where there is the nostrification necessary or when it's your wish to do it, Czech Open Institute will assure the second step (verified translation of the final report or diploma) and, in case of a student who comes from the country where there is an acceptance agreement, in addition the third step (issuing the "Czech" final report).

Secondly, it is necessary to pass the exam from subjects determined for the particular university. And because an external high school graduate is considered as to be a Czech graduate, that means that he/she has to pass the exam in Czech language (over and above a good number of universities requires passing exam also from the Czech language – usually there, where Czechs sit an examination from foreign languages). Because most of the external high school graduates don't speak Czech, Czech Open Institute offeres special courses of the Czech language.

Experience shows, that the level of knowledge of school leavers from some countries is lower than is required by the exam. Involving students from Belarus, Russia or Ukraine. It arises out of the fact, that for achieving secondary education a Czech student has to fulfil 9 years of compulsory primary education and 4 years of secondary education (together 13 years), while in mentioned countries the secondary education is few years shorter. To this fact we have to add the various level of education in different schools but one country... That's why intra some preliminary courses lectors of Czech Open Institute lay down individually with each student his/her level of knowledge in subjects, from which exams will be sitted and will give advices how to settle up the differences.

This problem is of course inessential when you choose a university, where the entrance exams are very easy or are replaced by selection interview. This problem is of course inessential in the case when you satisfy all the conditions for acceptance without any exam too.

3.5. The Variants of Education

3.5.1. Selection of Specialization

As it was already said in the Czechia at present there are over 50 universities (approximately 100 faculties), which offer more than 4000 different specializations and branches (artistic and theologian universities are not included, because we don't cooperate with them).

To choose optimum school and faculty is difficult even for Czechs. Therefore there is a special consultant at each secondary school for the choice of academic studies or joining the working process. For you, specialists from Czech Open Institute are ready to help you.

To give you quality advice is possible only when we know really a lot about you:

- your level of knowledge in different subjects and your ability to study them,
- your financial possibilities,
- your intentions after leaving school, ...

On the Internet or on phone similar questions is possible to justice only on general level. That's why free consultations are provided to every participant of our preliminary courses. During these we'll assess all details, so you could make the right choice of the branche and the university.

3.5.2. The Choice of the Level: Bachelor, Master, Doctor

At present the Czech educational system offers three levels of academic education: Bachelor, Master, Doctor.

Bachelor Degree

After successful ending of this level, absolvents can use the degree „Bachelor“. For this they have to pass state bachelor exams. Now they can terminate the education or continue on a higher level with resume master degree.

Regular time of studying bachelor programme - 3 years.

This level of academic education is not very popular, it's considered too short and tends more to qualified worker professions. Bachelors find their places on the middle management positions or in technical branches. We can say, that who has the abilities tries not to stay on this level but continues in studying.

Resume Master Degree

After reaching Bachelor level, it's possible to continue in studying Master programmes. Withal it's easy to change the university, faculty, even a branche. For admission on Master programme it's required to pass an exam from 2 – 3 sectional subjects. But number of universities accept bachelors on resume master degree without any exam, as long as they gained certain number of credits during Bachelor degree.

Because it is possible to enlist the resume master degree in different branche, faculty or university, also foreign students, who reached imperfect academic education abroad, can enlist this programme.

Regular time of studying resume master degree : 2 – 3 years.

After successful ending of this level, absolvents can use the degree MSc. (Master of Sciences), Master or in some cases Doctor (all cases represent the same level – master).

Master Degree

Sooner it was the most widespread form of academical education, but now it's rarer. It's a separate programme, which unifies previous two, without any unnecessary change-over. Regular time of duration is 5 or 5,5 years. After successful ending absolvent reach the degree MSc. (Master of Sciences), Master or in some cases Doctor (all cases represent the same level – master).

It can be said that the Czechs consider only Master level to be „complete“ academical education and Masters have the best chances to make advantages of thier education even on the most ambitious level.

Doctoral Degree

Students, who are interensted in thesis, can continue in studying doctoral programmes. Regular time of duration is 2-3 years, study is finished by passing doctoral (rigorous) exam and advocacy of doctoral thesis. Successful absolvents use the degree Doctor of Science. In the Czechia this is the highest achievable level of education.

Student on doctoral study have the possibility to work in the school, especially to conduct seminars with students of lower grade (form).

3.5.3. Choice of the Duration of Study

At the Czech universities there is no strict regime of study. To reach desired level of education, a student has to pass required exams during the study and obtain required number of credits. The time, at which student manages to finish the school depends on his/her chosen load and planned schedule. Of course, there is minimum of credits required to move ahead to the next grade and to be admitted to final exams.

That means that a student can study however long he/she wishes. But of course there are some restrictions in how long can a student study free. Usually it is allowed to repeat two grades. Overstepping of the norm doesn't mean ending study but duty to pay the study.

This system is very tempting for students as they can plan their study and freetime individually. In the case of responsible students this can lead to more effective study, but in the case of less responsible students it leads to immoderate prolongation and making study more expensive.

The recommended duration of study:

- Bachelor degree (from the 1st grade) 3 – 4 years
- Master degree (from the 1st grade) 5 – 7 years
- Resume Master degree (after Bachelor degree) 2 – 3 years
- Doctor degree 2 – 3 years

3.6. Organisation of the Studying Process

Academical year in the Czech Republic is divided into two semesters (terms). Winter one from the end of September (or October) to January, summer one from February to June. Exact dates are set by each university individually. At the end of each term there are usually four weeks for individual study and passing exams.

The schools usually admit to pass exams before the finals term (usually one or two months before the finals term starts), or vice versa later (exams from the winter term could be passed during the summer term and exams from summer term are possible to pass during holidays). At a lot of universities specialized practice, external residency or elaboration of a diploma work are planned on the summer holidays. To be admitted to the next grade there is a duty to obtain certain number of credits. Unsuccessful students have to repeat the grade.

For passing an exam there are three attempts. Lectors announce several dates of exams in advance. Student has the possibility to choose the most suitable date and so to plan optimal distance between exams from different subjects.

Academical education is usually divided into two periods. In the first period (usually 1 – 2 years) students get a wide outlook on their branches and their theoretical bases. In the second period students specialize themselves and study special chosen subject to the details. This mechanism is sometimes connected with difficulties, in the beginning of study a student can choose only general branch and after two years he/she chooses particular specialization. But the number of places in the specializations is limited, so it could happen, that a student won't get to the specialization he/she has chosen. In this case a student usually repeats the grade to have one more chance or decides to study at some other university. But because the system of study is elastic, a lot of students put a good face on the specialization where there is a free place for them and additionally they enter subject from the branch that they are more interested in. It is also possible to settle on individual studying plan with the school and so modify the education.

The teaching has usually two forms – lectures and seminars.

Lecture – a classical form of education at a university. Lectors explain their subject by word of mouth completing some notes on the board. Students have the possibility to ask questions. Lectures are usually not compulsory.

Seminar – teaching in a small groups lead by a lector. Knowledge from the lectures is practised to the details and students are lead to practical exercise of the knowledge on examples and exercises. And so they gain practical habits, learn to search for interesting, often untraditional solutions of exercises by themselves, they adopt the teamwork, so as technical or scientific work. Attendance on the seminars is compulsory. During the seminar students usually work on elaboration of written seminar work. Results of the work are never being marked, they are usually being counted in the form of credit. Without a credit, student is not admitted to the exam.

In the beginning of each term, students usually receive outline of the subject and a list of recommended literature, which would help them to adopt the study.

4.0. Questions of everyday life

4.1. Accommodation and Catering for Students

Students of the public universities can ask their schools for accommodation at a student hostel (halls). Although the probability of getting the hostel is quite high, students can't rely on it. The price for one month on a student hostel fluctuates between 20 to 100 Euros.

If you are a student of a private university or you didn't get a place on a student hostel, you can approach private hostel or boarding house or take the opportunity of lodging by private persons. A lot of students prefer to rent a flat together. That's easily possible in any town, where the university is. Depending on the town and required level of accommodation, the costs fluctuate between 50 – 200 Euros per month.

Participants of preliminary courses can await help from Czech Open Institute with the choice of accommodation. The Institute will help you to submit an application for the accommodation at a university or we'll provide individual or common accommodation according to your wishes. If you are interested in staying in the Czech Republic for a longer period of time, you can take advantage of our project **Czechliving!**

During the preliminary courses everything is easier, because accommodation on the hostel level is provided to all participants automatically.

Students board in the university canteens. That's the most advantageous way of boarding, because of the quality food which is thanks to subsidies from state cheaper than if you cooked it by yourself in the kitchen of a student hostel. Usually two dishes a day are provided for favoured prices. In some towns canteens are unfortunately far from the school or from student hostels, so it's sometimes necessary to cook the meal on your own or to board in a restaurant or a public canteen. A lot of students will soon prefer the „American“ way of eating, they'll eat „fast food“. There are different kinds of kiosks with typical assortment of hamburgers, hot-dogs and pommes frites. According to your requirements you will need 70 – 150 Euros on catering for a month.

For the students of Czech Open Institute preliminary courses all-day catering is provided (complete meals three times a day and free access to beverages).

4.2. Work During Academic Study

During the academic study you of course have to cover ordinary expenses, like accommodation, catering, amusement, clothes, different every-day peanuts, transport, health insurance, textbooks, etc. According to the town and your needs, the necessary amount of money lies between 120 and 300 Euros for a month. That's why a lot of Czech students make some money during the study. Usual wage is 1 to 3 Euros per hour. With the searching of a job there are various working agencies to help the students, that have direct contact on the employers. There is usually not as much work as the interest would be.

For foreign students there is usually no right for working in the Czechia (an exception would be scientific practice managed by an university or a short-term temporary work, which are firmly restricted – maximum is 7 subsequent days or 30 days a year). If foreigners would like to work more, they have to get working permission and new (working, no student) visa.

Nevertheless a lot of external students earn money. Above mentioned working agencies evade the restrictions. But in most regions, there is not enough work and students even can't make the money whenever they wished.

Our clients, if we make agreement in time, can become members of educational cooperation or partners of one of our companies. So they gain the statutes of entrepreneur and can get business visa. Now they can work without any permission of Employment Office or without any restriction in the cooperation whose members are or work in a company whose partners are. But this is no restriction, because according to manager's instruction you'll do the work connected with realization the cooperation's or company's customers orders...

This joins together one more example of unique access of Czech Open Institute, because students who work in related cooperation or company get the most advantageous health insurance that's possible (as they were Czech citizens).

Most of the Czech universities have established professional orientated centres, which for older students organise meetings with top management of large companies. A lot of students exploit the meetings in making contacts with companies they are interested in and they find exercise there after ending the study. Very often they for example consult the diploma work and they pick up a topic which is interesting for the particular company. Everyone is satisfied: the company learns future employee comfortably and gets the result of the diploma work

and the student receives scholarship from the company and for the university, there is no duty to find a topic for diploma work and to find its leader.

4.3. Grants and Supports

Czech universities generally don't provide grants. Some of the students have claim to not very high social support, but to get this support means to get a large number of documents and fillig complicated formulars. If you belong among people who have this right, we will of course help you to get the support. Social support can even reach several tens of Euros per month.

Some of the students can obtain grants from different companies. This is qualified by closing a deal between the student and the firm. The most important part of such agreement is the student's undertake, that after finishing the school he/she will work for the firm at least 5 years. By default the student usually has to give received grant back and pay back other losts that appeared in consequence of default.

Students, who fire with their knowledge companies or foundations up, can reach a grant, that would cover all their costs for education, accommodation and catering and there will even be not small remaining pocket-money. But such a grant is in the Czech Republic given only to individuals.

Czech Open Institute is ready to help these prominent students in getting such a grant. Besides this grant, students obtain a lot of other advantages: They will soon lear „their“ company (though they will work many years for them), they'll gain education converted according to the necessities of the firm and a good role plays the fact, that after finishing school they'll start their working activity on a higher possition and with higher income.

4.4. Health Insurance

Czech students have the duty of ful heath insurance; which is to the certain age paid by the state.

While entering the Czech Republic, foreigners have to have health insurance, which will guarantee them health care on necessary level during the whole stay. External students usually effect long-term health insurance (one year) in their country. In any case we recommend to compare the price and the scope of such insurance bought in your country with privat insurance effected with some specialized Czech insurance company. This insurence can be cheaper than the yours. But the main advantage of Czech insurance lies in the fact, that insurance from the Czech insurance company will be accepted without any problems and you'll be treated completely free. In the case of insurance effected abroad, you usually have to pay the treatment in cash and the bills will be paid back by your insurance company retrospective.

Absolutely the best version of the Czech health insurance offers to their students Czech Open Institute, in the case that students will become members of educational cooperation or partners of other companies joined to Czech Open Institute. If you fulfil these conditions, the insurance will be refered to you as if you were an employee. This kind of insurance is even multiply advantageous than the private insurance of the foreigners.

We are ready to help our clients in the case of insurance event, including securing quick health care and hospitalization. Czech Open Institute co-operates with all czech insurance companies. We will help the students to get reimbursement of the treatment from the insurance and with searching hospitals and doctors working for external insurance companies.

4.5. External Residency and Gainings

Almost every Czech university operates on the international level. The exchange of lectors and external residency for students are being realized almost every day.

You of course can taky part of the external residency in the same scale as the Czech students. It can be said, that a Czech student, who hasn't been at least one term on the external residency is „powerless“. But sometimes problems with obtaining visa to the host country appears. The residency of course has to be in accordance with the law of the inviting country.

During the summer holidays, Czech students like to earn some money in tne Western Europe or in the USA. They take advantages from the help of specialized agencies, that operate in the Czechia in sufficient amount. In consequence of visa problems, they provide help usually only to the Czech citizens.

To take part in an external residency or temporary work is for foreign students difficult. However there are positive examples too, where for example a Russian student studying at a Czech university took part in such an external residency. This means, that with some effort it can be possible also for you.

4.6. And one More Trifle... for Young Heroes

The Czech Republic belongs among the countries that have accepted opinion of most inhabitants which says, that compulsory military service is in conflict with the common right on free life. Consequent Czechia abolished compulsory military service (now the work in army is job as each other – on the base of free choice).

We of course can't change the law of the country you come from. But we know, that in every country where there is compulsory military service, there are also a lot of young men, who don't want to serve in the army. Some of them are even ready to pay bribe for the possibility of avoiding this duty; the bribe is sometimes similar to the price of our preliminary courses. In this case, co-operation with Czech Open Institute should be for sure very interesting.

When you study in our country, when you reach the permission to permanent stay and when you plan some next steps properly, then you'll probably avoid the duty to compulsory military service forever (you'll be released from it in your country and in Czechia you'll be never drafted). And the extra years that you'll gain compared to the peers in your country can be effectively used for yourself, e.g. for improvement of your material situation.

It's necessary to say, that this isn't a service on which you should rely for 100%. In every case it is necessary to proceed strictly individually a search for such a solution, that's in accordance with the law of your country and the Czech law. We can't guarantee the success, but experience shows, that yet none of our clients has to serve in the army.

Of course we do realize, that avoiding service in the army shouldn't be the main reason why it's advantageous for you to co-operate with Czech Open Institute. But if it's even a small impulse on the behalf of such co-operation, it wouldn't be good to be silent about it.

5.0. Process Plan

5.1. First Questions

Although it looks more or less strange, while calling education in Czechia in question, we can't start in the beginning from the branch choice. It's necessary to start from the end...

It's necessary to ask questions like: What do I want to do after finishing school? In what country do I want to live and work? And additionally you'll add more and more questions. It could happen that a variant your thinking of will mislead you into cul-de-sac and you'll have to start again from the beginning. Here are some of the „dangerous“ questions:

- In what country do you want to work? In the Czech Republic, in other EU country? In the USA? Or you want to return home with prestigious education? Do you presume, that you'd live and work for a long time in one country or you'd change the countries more often? The answers to these questions help in choosing the suitable visa.
- If you would like to stay in Czechia, how fast do you want to get permission to permanent stay? Or you want to gain Czech nationality, which would allow you not only to free movement through the countries of EU, but also to sufficient movement through other world countries? To the aim, do you want to subordinate your working life or even your personal life? Minimum standard time for getting Czech citizenship – 15 years after finishing the university. Czech Open Institute will shorten this time to 8 – 10 years after finishing the school. But if you want to subordinate to the aim even your personal life and you would get married to a Czech citizen, you'd shorten the time to only 5 years after the marriage.
- What kind of work would you like to get (presumed position, company, salary)? Answer to this question tells you which level of education do you need to reach your aims (Bachelor, Master), which university to choose (maybe your chosen specialization is taught at more universities, which has the same fame, but offer different possibility of co-operation with companies in the region e.g. on diploma work, they require different tuition fee).
- Are you prepared to conclude a contract which would reduce your future possibility of free choice? For example to conclude a contract with a firm which would say, that you'd have to work for the company for certain number of years after finishing the school? Instead of the contract you'd get grant for education or another advantages that you'd agree on.
- What kind of requirements do you have on the level of accommodation? Do you have the chance to get a place on a student hostel of a public university or do you want to have more comfortable accommodation? Or do you prefer the services of Czech Open Institute? This question plays role while thinking about the costs on livelihood during the study.
- How high amount of money are you prepared to spend on livelihood (accommodation, catering and other costs)? Can you rely on money from your family or would you have to earn some extra money? Answer on these questions influence the choice of visa and the choice of the university.
- What money are available for you to cover the educational costs? Do you want to study free in a public school or can you afford individual attitude of a private school? This influences the entering exams (maybe you will have to pass difficult exams at profile subjects, another time selection interview would be enough, sometimes you'd have to pass difficult exam from the Czech language). Basically – the less money you have, the more you should pay for quality preliminary course... so you save the highest amount of money, because you'll study at prestigious universities, which are free.
- What level of preliminary courses do you need? The answer arise from the requirements of chosen university. Is a summer course, one term, two terms enough for you? This indicates not only the course price but also the choice of visa. For example in the case of short courses you need different kind of visa (e.g. two short-terms for three month and then one student visa for one year), you'll of course feel it on your wallet. Besides it is necessary to get your first visa on the Czech consulate abroad, that means in your country or in near consulates in Katowice, Bratislava or Wien (in the Czech republic you can only prolong long-term visas).
- Do you feel like starting your own business or at least joining the educational cooperation or some company, established by the Czech Open Institute? It can significantly shorten the time period for getting permission for permanent stay or for getting citizenship, you'll earn money during the study easier or it will help in getting more advantageous health insurance.

- Are you healthy? Some universities or some specializations require tough health.
- But these are not all the questions...

5.2. General Possibilities

Previous questions signify, that this all is very complicated. But it's not true!

In fact it only shows that there is always other version which would satisfy your wishes, needs and possibilities. In this Czech Open Institute varies from other mediators, who offer only education in the Czech Republic.

We offer a wide spectrum of different kinds of co-operation. Our services don't finish with getting student visa. We'll help you during the study, even during your first steps in your own life.

There are really a lot of possibilities, we'll perform two of them – the simplest and the most complicated:

1. You want to reach free academical education in the Czech Republic and you want to come back home. Your attention is on studying not on earning some extra money.
 - The simplest way.
 - You can reach free academical education at random Czech university assuming, that you pass the entrance exams and assuming, that you'll study in the Czech language.
 - Intra the Czech Open Institute preliminary course you'll get all other necessary services.
 - We'll help to judge your specialization, fame of the school, the town (it determines the price for accommodation and catering) etc.
 - You only need the „student“ visa.
2. You want to reach free academical education in the Czech Republic and then live in the Czechia or in other EU country. You want to earn some extra money during the study.
 - The most complicated way
 - You can reach free academical education at random Czech university assuming, that you pass the entrance exams and assuming, that you'll study in the Czech language. You have to assess not only the specialization, school fame and the town (it determines the price for accommodation and catering), but also the perspective of your future job in the Czech Republic or other EU country.
 - Intra the Czech Open Institute preliminary course you'll get all other necessary services.
 - You need to get such a visa, which allows you to earn money (student visa allows it only with restrictions).
 - Student visa is not suitable for getting fast the permission for permanent stay or even reaching citizenship, because after its validity ends, countdown for reaching necessary years to get permission for permanent stay begins from zero. More suitable is to get working or business visa (the first one if the Czech Republic inserts you into a new programme for foreigners – see the next sections).

5.3. Choice of Specialization and University

Due to enormous number of branches available to study in the Czech Republic, a basic question appears before the secondary-school graduate: What to choose?

There are very popular faculties (medical, economic, law) so the admission is very difficult. There are branches not being so popular (technical, pedagogical) where the chance for admission is much higher.

Nevertheless this isn't important for your choice, the most important is to assess how you'll apply reached education, whether is your future job well-paid, would it bring feeling of satisfaction and would you assert yourself in the Czech Republic or other EU country (if you'd wish to change the place of living). You can't accede to the choice of branche without any thinking out. Czech Open Institute will help you with such a choice.

High qualified specialists from the Czech Open Institute will discuss and judge with you your possibilities in choosing university and specialization. You of course don't have to follow our recommendation, the final decision depends only on you.

By the choice we think out for example these factors:

- Your interests, possibilities and abilities.
- Level of your secondary or academical education (if you have such education).
- The difficulty of study.
- Availability of the study (demand, probability of acceptance, school prestige).
- Price for the study (at private and public universities).
- Type and duration of the study (number of terms).
- Perspective of using reached education in the Czech Republic or in other EU country (due to your wish).
- Possibility of earning some extra money during the study, availability of working places in the place of study.
- Availability of accommodation and its price, probability of getting cheap accommodation.
- Possibilities to have a rest in your free time.
- And of course other of your wishes.

This all means that the right choice is not possible to make through the Internet. We admit that our external consultants do not know these details, they are specialized on proper filling of the documents in your country.

If it is your wish, you can meet our consultants in advance – e.g. during your holiday visit of the Czech Republic. But there are a lot of individual consultations in our preliminary courses. Thanks to them you'll manage to pick up your branch and your university in time, so you'll manage to apply for the study in time too.

This doesn't involve people, who would choose the shortest preliminary course, that is usually connected with subsequent study at some private university. This case is necessary to solve in advance by personal meeting, on the phone or with the help of Internet.

If you don't decide to use services of a specialist from Czech Open Institute and you'll choose the town, university and branch by yourself, you can find answers to your questions at the particular university. Ask for the section for external students (it exists in all public schools). You'll find a lot of answers on the web-pages of the certain university too.

Even so we recommend you to ask the specialists from Czech Open Institute...

5.4. Your Future in the Czech Republic and Its Influence on the Choice of Visa

All the graduates with the diploma from a Czech university and good knowledge of Czech language have a good chance to get a perspective working place in the Czech Republic.

But you have to expect the problem with transit from student visa on working or business visa. We recommend to think about it as soon as possible, even before being accepted at a university. Some companies that facilitate education in Czechia don't even speak about this problem or they make it more easier than it really is. That's why we attach basic information:

To become a citizen of the Czech Republic, a foreigner usually has to :

1. live in the Czech Republic constantly for at least 10 years on the basis of one reason (one reason responds to one kind of visa) and after they can request the permission to permanent stay
2. with this permission you have to live in Czechia another at least 5 years
3. then you can request for Czech citizenship (after 15 years spent in the Czech Republic)

According to the Czech laws, visa is given to you only on one year and can be prolonged for another year at the outside two times (so you can get the visa maximum for three years). Then you have no right for getting working visa for one year. This way you're not able to get permission for permanent stay because after interruption of the visa, the countdown starts from zero again.

Besides, to get working visa is very complicated, while you have to get permission from the Employment Office. Such a permission you'll get only in case that on free working place, there is no Czech citizen found. (there are exceptions such as the director of a company, but these are really only exceptions).

From this results that:

- Time of the stay in the Czech Republic on the base of student visa isn't counted to the time for getting permission for permanent stay. So the reached academical study could open all opportunities of working in Czechia or other EU country to you only if you convert the student visa into working or business visa as soon as possible.
- Working visa itself doesn't solve the problem either. But at present, state started with programme for „getting foreigners“. Programme is designated to people who speak good Czech, who pass quite difficult exam and who will live in the Czech Republic on the base of working visa. Every year, public organs will announce certain number of foreigners, to whom will permit obtaining permission for permanent stay after 3 years of stay in the country (in 2003 programme was tested on 300 aspirants from Belarus, Kasakhstan and Croatia, the results have shown that the conditions are quite firm, because approximately only 200 aspirants passed). Number of foreigners and a list of countries is announced by the Foreign Office on its web-sites every year.
- A lot of foreigners try to solve the problem by marriage. For the first look this is the easiest and fastest solution, because you'll get the permission immediately after the marriage (there are no 10 years on the base of three-year visas or 3 years in the case of the state programme for getting foreigners). Next plus is that the surrounding is adopted much faster. But other problems arise, e.g. with divorce, with questions connected with alimony or heritage. Problems grow in the case of fictive marriages. That's why the Czech Republic adopted such mechanisms, according to we recommend you – marriage is a great event, when you really love your partner, but it is a huge mistake when it is the way how to shorten waiting for the permission for permanent stay.

Czech Open Institute knows all of these complications and knows the solutions. Qualified lawyers will help you to solve eventual problems. As we have shown before, our clients can become a part of our educational cooperation or partners of some of our companies. They reach the entrepreneur statute and can get business visa very quickly.

Reaching Czech nationality or working permission is not very easy, but foreigners who know all the connected information (again Czech Open Institute will help you), they'll plan all the necessary steps that are required to full life in Czechia. Among other things, they'll get interesting job in modern Czech or foreign firms, that accept qualified academical educated external specialists with enthusiasm.

Prominent students who make it to speak excellent Czech during the study and vindicate their diploma work will find well paid job without any problem. Czech Open Institute can offer a working place in some connected company.

5.5. List of Documents

In principle you'll need 3 or 4 groups of documents:

For applying at a university

- properly filled printed form of an application (in the Czech language).
- List of marks you've got during the secondary education (or for last four years of such an education in the case that in your country primary and secondary education is not divided) and list of marks from your leaving exam, including average mark (also in the Czech language). Some of the universities don't require it.
- Confirmation about your health ability to study.
- Nostrification of your leaving exam (first step: you have to let your document confirm in your country; second step: official translation of the document to the Czech language; third step: nostrification itself, or direct acceptance of the education concerning student from countries where exist contract on acceptance the education with the Czech Republic). Some of the universities don't require it.

- While starting your study, you'll need 4 – 8 copies of your picture.

For getting visa

- it depends on what kind of visa do you want to get
- in the most complicated case: statement from criminal record in the Czech Republic, statement from criminal records in your country, bank statement that proves enough money, documents proving the reason for the stay in the Czech Republic (study at a university, participation on courses, establishment of a company etc.), documents about accommodation in the Czech Republic, photographs, properly filled printed version of application for getting visa. Document have to be officially translated into Czech language.
- With our help you'll get confirmation about admission to the university (you are e.g. admitted without any entrance exams), or a document that you are a member of our educational cooperation or partner of one of our firms); in some cases the documents have to be checked up either in Czechia or in the Czech consulate abroad. As long as you participate our preliminary courses, accommodation plus documents about it will be provided to you.
- In connection with necessity of getting documents from the bank about enough amount of money on your account (the high of amount is available at consulates or in the Institute), we recommend you to deposit cash on your account before paying our services and so getting required documents.

For the health insurance

- The kind of insurance depends on if you're only going to study, or you want to earn some extra money or you want to start your own business.
- Personal documentary.
- Insurance from foreign insurance companies is possible too, if it covers the risks in required range.

Facultatively: For the case you want to become a member of our educational cooperation or a partner of one of our firms, etc.

- Personal documentary.
- Document about not being a Czech Republic obliger (issues Financial Office, for your request we'll supply it for you).
- Statement from criminal record in the Czech Republic and in your country.
- Signed partnership contract, document about paying membership fee etc. commensurate with the chosen version.

6.0. Your Support from Czech Open Institute

Czech Open Institute offers complete package of services, starting with counseling to help you to choose the right school for you, ending with our support while you are establishing independent life after graduation...

Range of our services is very wide.

The foundation of all our services is in orientation classes. Here we solve most of your questions that may occur- visas and necessary documents you need to obtain, choosing the right school and graduation programme, how to apply for such a school, your health insurance and so on.

Experience has shown that level of education achieved in high schools in other countries may be lower than what is expected at the acceptance exam for Czech universities. Therefore we also offer preparation courses and trainings in those subjects that you will need to get in to university

6.1. Preparation Courses (for students that speak another Slavic language)

6.1.1. Full Course

This course will give you a full understanding of the Czech language to pass an acceptance test from the Czech language. Without saying it means this level of knowledge of the Czech language will be enough to pass acceptance tests form other subjects such as math, physics, chemistry, history and so on, depending on the school requirements. In the course of the language classes we will give you individual counseling concerning these other subjects, to fully prepare you for the acceptance exam.

This level of knowledge of the language will be enough to pass acceptance tests to any university in the Czech Republic you should choose. We recommend this course especially if you intend to apply to the most prestige and free economic university in Czech – to the University of Economics in Prague (economics, management, etc.).

Intensive daily study.

Length: 9 months (2 semesters)

Student requirements: The contract needs to be signed three months before each course begins (this way the probability of receiving small business visa is high, otherwise you will need to apply for short term three months visa and during that period you will need to apply for one year business visa). You can also apply for the short term visas repeatedly.

6.1.2. Short Course

The short course will give you basic understanding of the Czech language that will be enough to pass acceptance exam from the key subjects (math, physics, chemistry, history, etc., depending on the school requirements)

You will be also given individual counseling in the key subjects to fully prepare you for the exam.

This course should be enough to help you to pass acceptance exam to any university of technical character and most private colleges.

Basic option

Intensive daily study.

Length: 4,5 months (1 semester)

Student requirements:

- If you intent to apply to free public universities, the contract needs to be signed three months before each course begins (this way the probability of receiving small business visa is high, otherwise you will need to apply for short term three months visa and during that period you will need to apply for one year business visa). You can also apply for the short term visas repeatedly.

- If you anticipate to continue schooling after the course with student visa, then 2 continuous short term visa is satisfying.

Economic option

Night class. Student can work during the day and lower his/hers expenses.

Length: 9 months (2 semesters)

Student requirements: The contract needs to be signed three months before each course begins (this way the probability of receiving small business visa is high, otherwise you will need to apply for short term three months visa and during that period you will need to apply for one year business visa).

6.1.3. Express course

This express or crash course of the Czech language will put you on a level where you can understand the Czech environment. It will be enough to get to some private universities. This course is also necessary, if a state university accepted you without a test and you don't speak Czech at all.

Summer course option

Your study at university will continuously begin at the end of this course.

Intense daily study.

Length: 3 months

Student requirements:

- If you wish to receive a small business visa, the contract needs to be signed three months before each course begins (this way the probability of receiving small business visa is high, otherwise you will need to apply for short term three months visa and during that period you will need to apply for one year business visa). You can also apply for the short term visas repeatedly.
- If you anticipate continuing schooling after the course with student visa, then one short term visa is satisfying.

Winter course option

The course starts in the beginning of September and continues till beginning of March (if a group is formed). The objective of this course is the same as its summer alternative. Upon finishing this course, student returns home and continues in individual Czech study over the internet. During this course we will offer one counseling session to clarify your knowledge in the key subjects from which you will also have to pass acceptance exam to an university.

This course is recommended to everyone who would like to get acquainted with the Czech Republic, the life here and conditions of education.

Student requirements: Short term three months visa.

6.2. Preparation Courses (for non-Slavic speaking students)

The general rule of thumb is that you will need one level higher course than that would be recommended to students of Slavic origin.

Due to the fact that our classes entail students with one of the Slavic language as their mother tongue, we recommend to our non Slavic speaking students two months of individual lectures of the Czech language with private teacher that is fluent in your language (especially English).

Duration and prices of these individual lessons will be settled after discussing your needs and possibilities.

Private lessons will require extra time to file for all the paperwork.

6.3. Advice in choosing the right course

Following advices are general and are intended for students with mother tongue of Slavic origin.

In the past we have seen that our clients make their decisions way too late and lose many advantages that come with applying early. In many cases they do not have enough time to apply for long term visa and they have to substitute with short term visas. When you add it up it is more expensive than just applying for one long term visa.

All short term visas and new long term visas must be applied for in this country, or at least in some consulate of the Czech Republic located close by. You must include transportation expenses to your consulate (Katowice in Poland, Bratislava in Slovakia, Wien in Austria) and one week stay in hotel during the waiting period, while calculating your fees.

6.3.1. After graduation from university you would like to work outside the European Union and during your studies you anticipate to work just part time

After graduation from university you would like to return to your country or to live outside the European Union and/or if you plan to work only part time during your studies, your student visa should be enough.

- If you make your decision regarding which private university you would like to attend in time (schools can be researched on the internet), we recommend for you attend our short version of classes.
- If you are completely positive that school you picked will accept you without acceptance exam, we still recommend for you to attend our short version of preparation class

6.3.2. After Graduation you Plan to Live in the Czech Republic or Another Country of the European Union and/or you Plan to Work Full Time During your Studies

If you decided to stay and work after your graduation in the Czech Republic or another country of the EU or if you plan on working full time during your studies at the university you will be required to obtain long term visa or business visa. There is no such a thing as working or business visa from the law aspect, therefore it is always called long term visa. We do not use the official terminology in this publication. We decided to use the term “business” visa, because it summarizes conditions under which you can such visa obtain. Here we need to specify some details.

There are several laws in the Czech Republic that will allow you to stay and work here. Each law has its advantages and disadvantages.

- Under the Work Code– employee has more assurance, but in the case of foreigner it will not give you much chances in receiving permanent resident status or citizenship (with the exception of government program work for foreigners).
- Under the small Business law – you can own a business as a private person. You risk your property in case you bankrupt. You will have to pay your debts to the state, bank, customers or importers out of your own pocket. Health insurance rises dramatically in case of independent business foreigners in comparison to being employee following the work law. The advantage of this is that you do not need a permit from the Employment Office and you are independent and free.
- Under the author law. The conditions are similar to the business law. In this case you do not need to employ a Czech speaking person that would guarantee correctness of your business.
- Under the Business law. You can become co owner of právnické osoby (for example member of small corporation or co owner in company with limited liability). This option is used the most for our program **czechwork**. We have established relations with companies that will make you their member or co owners. (These companies are under full control of Czech Open Institute.) We provide this services for free to students already enrolled in our classes.

We can make you a member of some small corporation or co owner of company with limited liability in the first phase of your stay and study in the Czech Republic, in case you are interested. You will fully encounter the Czech environment during your study. After, you can decide if you wish to open your own small business or if you would prefer to be employed in a company. Perhaps you will wish to stay put as a member or co owner in the firm you originally started with.

If you decide to use this service, you can choose an course you wish. Your decision should be based on which school you wish to attend and if you are planning to work along.

- If you wish to attend university, where acceptance exam from the Czech language is needed, then we recommend only the full course.
- If you wish to attend university, where acceptance exam from the Czech language is not necessary, however you need to pass an exam in Czech from the key subjects, we recommend the full course or short course. We do recommend the full course to young men from some countries. They might be called to serve in the army before our short course classes begin.
- If you are not afraid of physical work, than you might be a good candidate for the short course in economic option. Unfortunately these courses have limited space. Sometimes it is quite difficult to run a short course with the economic option. We are depending on finding accommodation, classrooms and employees in one town. Only very talented applicants are chosen for these courses. Applicants that would not be able to attend university in the Czech Republic otherwise due to their complicated family situation.

7.0. Advantages from Working with the Czech Open Institute

Czech Open Institute offers complete package of services in the program of **czechschool** (free university education in the Czech Republic). We handle all necessary documents needed for university, foreign citizen police office, embassy and other government offices. We give our clients support and help during their stay in the Czech Republic.

It takes time, knowledge and good contacts to make the right decision regarding your university education. Our counselors offer fast , quality service with many advantages.

It is extremely difficult to manage all the paperwork regarding application to university on your own. The filing process of all documents is prolonging and not easy to handle while residing outside the Czech Republic. You loose a lot of time while communicating with universities via mail and while translating all documents and so on. Besides, administering of some documents requires your presence in your country but also in the Czech Republic. Highly qualified counselors of our institute will be able to help you to deal with these situations.

Our support continues during your whole stay. We will help you to solve situations as they may come. Our clients are welcome to integrate into program of **czechwork** that will help you to find work or business opportunity. Program **czechliving** is here to assist you in finding accommodation anywhere from low-cost to luxurious.

1. Thanks to our work experience with universities in the Czech Republic and due to our skill to consider your work ability, we will help you to make the right choice of university and area of expertise of your study.
2. We act fast in response to potential extra requests from the universities, foreign police office, bank or other government offices.
3. We will help you to manage the Czech language. It is the most important survival skill for the life in the Czech Republic particularly if you wish to study at local universities for free.
4. If essential, we will prepare you to pass the State Language Exam from the Czech language. This exam will open the door to any university of your choice without additional testing from the Czech language.
5. We will help you to file all the documents necessary for obtaining a visa.
6. We will protect your rights. We will help you to deal with police if such a situation should occur.
7. We will find medical help for you in case of emergency. If you have health insurance, we co operate with all health insurances in the Czech Republic.
8. We will advice you and help you with any question or problem that may come up during your stay and study in the Czech Republic.
9. We will find quality accommodation and rations for the best prices. We will help you to receive social security, if you should be given one. We will help you to get scholarship. If you wish to switch your student visa to a work or business visa, we will assist you with that as well. We can find a job for you or a long term work relationship with Czech company or small business.

All important documents, files and consultations are available at:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. electronic mail info@czechschool.com2. over the phone +420 608 364 445 (in Russian)3. over the phone +420 777 176 516 (in English)4. mail Czech Open Institute, Sv. Čecha 413, 250 01 Stará Boleslav, Czech Republic |
|--|

Our delegates will give you first and basic information and offer help also in some other countries. Their list can be found on the web www.czechschool.com.

8.0 Questions and Answers

8.1. Can I study any specialty or area of expertise?

Answer: Yes.

However due to some of our previous problems we cannot help you if you choose to study:

- Any art university (these schools set up different dates for the acceptance exams and do not give us enough time to finish our classes).
- Any religious seminars (your religion is your private decision, however we do not have a counselor in this area of expertise to offer you professional advice).

We offer our services to all international students apart from which university they might choose (with the exception listed above). Nevertheless we do recommend to not fully rely on the School of Medicine or the Law School. Even though if you get accepted to these schools and successfully graduate, you may not find work for you in the Czech Republic. These two disciplines are completely full of experts.

8.2. How can I find accommodation in the Czech Republic?

Answer: Very easily.

Students of free public universities can apply for a dorm room. Prices of this accommodation range between 20 – 100 Euros monthly.

If you do not get the dorm room or if you are studying in a private university you can find a private housing. Good option is to look for ads for private person housing. These ads can be found in local papers or sometimes directly at your school. Sometimes students decide to rent together one apartment. That can be easily done in a town where university is located.

Czech Open Institute can also help you with finding accommodation. We will assist you with filing for a dorm room, or we can recommend individual living. Anything you may wish. And if you believe you are going to live in the Czech Republic long term, you can be part of our program **Czechliving!**

8.3. How much do students make in the Czech Republic?

Students can make 1-3 Euros per hour. Students usually find some sort of assistance work at big companies, unloading goods in supermarkets, house cleaning, flyers distribution and so on. The amount on your paycheck directly depends on your abilities and knowledge and ability to communicate in the Czech language. You can work only limited amount of hours during your studies and only several days during one semester.

Students that will be members of our corporation or those who become co owners of some of our firms will have better chance to make extra money.

8.4. When studying in Czech can I bring my spouse along?

Answer: Yes

The only condition is that your spouse must be legal here in the Czech Republic. Your spouse can apply for the same student visa, become employee with working visa, or apply for small business visa. Another option for your spouse is to stay in Czech as a tourist on tourist visa.

You are welcome to use our services to solve these issues. Your spouse can join our programs together with you. Although we cannot guarantee you that your family will be sharing the same room with you. Of course you can stay together for extra charge in a hotel room.

Your spouse can also come visit you, based on an invitation letter (maximum stay is 3 months). Your parents and friends can visit too.

8.5. Does it make sense to finish school in my country and after graduation and with my university diploma, start studying all over at Czech university? Or is it better not to lose time and start right away in the Czech Republic? Can I transfer during studies in my country into university in the Czech Republic and get credit for my classes?

If you are already studying at university in your country, but you intend to get your university education in the Czech Republic, then our advice to you, is to start preparing for your study in the Czech Republic as soon as possible. Every year of prolonging means that you are spending your money and time on accommodation and food that does not have to be spent. You are losing even more if you are currently paying for your university education.

Nevertheless even if you finish university in your country, you can still choose new area of expertise in which you wish to receive diploma. (Under some conditions you can start your study with magistraturou)

There is also a possibility to get your doctorate degree. The truth is thought, it is very difficult and we don't have any successful example.

And here is one more useful advice. Sometimes it is possible to parallel study at university in your country and at university in the Czech Republic. In this case we recommend independent study at one university and daily study at the other and switch the next year the other way around. The biggest advantage is that you are exposed to two different environments and you establish two different network groups. That is specially good experience if you wish to study management. Some problems may occur if communication between both schools is weak, you may have to pass the same exams twice.

8.6. What is nostrification of high school or university education?

Generally we can say, that nostrification is a very complicated process. Graduate must prove that knowledge he/she has responds to comparable local education. For example a student asking for nostrification of secondary education has to prove that his/her knowledge responds to the Czech secondary education.

In the case of students coming from countries which have concluded with the Czech Republic a contract about accepting secondary education, the process is easier, in the base it's only formality that consists of obtaining stamps... This process isn't properly called nostrification but transfer of education.

Nostrification of a foreign university diploma is quite different case and the answer mentioned above is not involved. If you are interested in nostrification of a foreign diploma, ask directly our consultants.

8.7. Are there some age restrictions to be accepted at the Czech university?

Answer: No.

There are no age restrictions at the Czech universities. Though some problems can appear concerning older applicants (50 years and more) if they're going to request the student visa. In this case it is necessary to prepare all the documentary properly. Another „age“ complications can appear. E.g. would you like to live in a student hostel with people who should be your children?