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Welcome Centre
for International Students

Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025



Jeseníky Mountains



Christmas 2024

2025



Welcome to 2025!

We are excited to step into the new year and bring you the latest edition of the Welcome Centre Newsletter! This is your guide to upcoming

events, tips for exploring the campus and the vibrant city of Prague, and everything you need to make your stay in the Czech Republic memorable and successful.

We hope you had a relaxing and joyous holiday season. As we embark on this new year, **we want to wish you great success in your professional endeavors and abundant happiness in your personal life throughout 2025.**

The Welcome Centre is here to ensure your experience in the Czech Republic is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Our services cover:

- Residence Permits
- Accommodation
- Health Insurance and Healthcare
- Family Relocation
- Cultural Events & Trips
- Czech Language Courses and Conversational Club
- Professional Seminars

We can't wait to connect with you at our events and activities throughout the year. Keep an eye on our calendar and be sure to join us!

Warmest wishes for the New Year,

Mirka, Martina and Alena

A LOOK BACK TO OUR ACTIVITIES



We began the year with cultural gems, including a mesmerizing performance of **Don Giovanni** at the Estates Theatre and a concert by the **Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra**. These events offered a wonderful introduction to the country's rich musical heritage.

Throughout the year, we explored Prague's historical landmarks, including a guided tour of the **Prague Castle**, a stroll through the medieval **Castle District**, and a visit to the **Old Town Hall**, where we marveled at the Astronomical Clock and enjoyed panoramic city views.

For practical support, we hosted informative seminars to help our community adapt to life in Czechia. Topics included navigating the **Czech healthcare system**, understanding **taxation for international scholars**, and „**survival tips**“ for managing daily life in a new country.

Our community spirit shone during seasonal celebrations. We embraced **Czech Easter** traditions with food, crafts, and games, and enjoyed two major outdoor events: the **7th Annual Garden Fest** and the

2nd International Garden Party. Both events brought together international scholars and their families.

Outdoor enthusiasts joined us for day trips to some of the country's most picturesque destinations. We explored the **Bohemian Paradise**, including **Castle Kost**, enjoyed a relaxing day at the **Sázava River**, discovered the historical treasures of **Kutná Hora** and spent a wonderful weekend discovering the scenic wonders of **Dolní Morava and the Jeseníky Mountains**.

Finally, we balanced fun and relaxation with events like **Staff Sport's Day**, filled with outdoor activities, and a sweet outing to the **Steiner & Kovařík Chocolate Factory**, where participants indulged in hands-on chocolate-making and tastings.

We concluded the year with a heartwarming **Christmas Party** on December 6th. Scholars and staff from different faculties came together to decorate a Christmas tree, make traditional gingerbread and sweets, and create festive crafts. We sang carols, exchanged gifts in a Secret Santa, and shared holiday traditions from around the world. The event was a joyful celebration of the season, fostering connection and spreading holiday cheer.

2024 was a year of discovery, learning, and connection. We're excited to create more unforgettable memories with you in 2025!

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



JOSEFOV IN PRAGUE (THE JEWISH QUARTER)

We are excited to invite you to an exclusive event on **February 2nd, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, where we will embark on a fascinating journey through one of **Prague's most mysterious and historically rich areas**: Josefov, also known as the Jewish Quarter or The Fifth Quarter. Throughout this walking tour, we will explore **the six synagogues** that survived the ruthless urban renewal of the late 19th century, and we'll visit the **Old Jewish Cemetery**, a testament to the city's Jewish heritage. The event will offer insights into not only Jewish traditions and customs but also significant historical figures whose lives and legacies are deeply intertwined with this unique part of Prague.

DATE: 2nd February, 3 hours

PRICE: 500 CZK (including the entrance to all synagogues and cemetery), **the tour guide is sponsored by the Welcome Centre**

SIGN-UP HERE: <https://forms.office.com/e/Vg6EWPKgn6>



ŠKODA FACTORY & STARÁ BOLESLAV

We are thrilled to invite you for a **guided visit to the Škoda Factory** this **March 2025!** This is a unique opportunity to witness first-hand the cutting-edge manufacturing processes and learn about the history of one of the most renowned automotive companies in the world.

During the visit, you will have the chance to explore the production lines, see how Škoda vehicles are designed and built, and gain insight into the latest innovations in the automotive industry. After the tour, we will visit **Stará Boleslav** that is an important city in the Czech history and also the birthplace of Czech statehood.

DATE: Friday, 21st March (the tours are only possible during a working day due to the visit of manufactory halls)

PRICE: 360 CZK (includes entrance to the Museum and manufactory halls), **the private bus is sponsored by the Welcome Centre**

SIGN-UP HERE: <https://forms.office.com/e/gvKudxi0pJ> (kids over 10 years old are welcome)



Welcome Centre
for International Scholars

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES WITH THE WELCOME CENTRE

🎉 *Firstly, a big congratulations to all the students who successfully completed the Czech language courses during the winter semester!* 🎉

As we step into the new semester, we're thrilled to announce that the Welcome Centre for International Scholars will continue to support your linguistic journey by offering **Czech language courses this summer semester**. Whether you're a complete beginner or eager to refine your skills, we've got you covered with tailored classes for various proficiency levels. This semester, we are excited to offer four different language levels to suit your needs. Detailed information about the levels, schedules, and dates can be found in the sign-up form.

SIGN-UP UNTIL 31.1.: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/EyT5WqEFne>



CALL FOR RESEARCHERS: JOIN OUR SUMMER SCHOOL

We are excited to announce the upcoming Summer School at CZU, where **students from various countries will come together to explore diverse topics and engage in enriching academic experiences for two weeks.** We invite researchers from all departments to contribute to this international event by offering workshops, lectures, or research projects.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up and share with us what you can offer to make this summer school a truly dynamic learning experience!

SIGN-UP HERE: <https://forms.office.com/e/gZeX0sPTL6>

MEET OUR RESEARCHERS

Innovative Forest Monitoring: Juan Alberto Molina Valero

Discover how Juan Alberto Molina Valero is revolutionizing **forest monitoring through innovative remote sensing technologies.** Learn more about his cutting-edge research and its



impact on sustainable forest management in our latest interview where Juan also talks about his life in Czechia.

INFO

EVENTS IN PRAGUE AND CZU

THE FLEETING ETERNITY OF THE JUNGLE - EXIBITION

WHEN: until 25. 2. 2025

WHERE: Municipal House

Discover **large-format works inspired by the artist's time in the Peruvian Amazon**. For the first time, the Municipal House hosts these pieces, created using paints made from local plants and barks. The exhibition blends decorative style with symbolism, reflecting on connection with nature.



INFO



METRO COMEDY CLUB

WHERE: Malostranské náměstí
264/7

Metro Comedy Club features internationally touring comedians as well as rising stars in the thriving local scene. Most shows are performed in the **English language**. You can expect funny comedians and delicious beer!

INFO

CZU MASOPUST PARADE

WHEN: 27. 2. 2025

WHERE: CZU Campus

Join us for the Masopust Parade on **February 27th at the CZU campus!** Experience the vibrant traditions of the **Czech carnival, featuring colorful costumes, music, and dancing.** Don't miss this lively celebration of culture and community!



IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR ALL RESEARCHERS

We would like to share some important reminders and updates regarding residency permits, work permissions, and other key topics for researchers.

1. Residency Permits & Work Permissions

- All inquiries related to **residency permits** should be directed to **Mirka Perst, J.D. at perst@rektorat.czu.**
- **Check the validity** of your passport and residency cards to ensure they are up to date.
- If you are planning to **end your employment contract**, please contact **Mirka Perst, J.D. at perst@rektorat.czu** in advance.
- In case you are planning to leave Czechia, please check this checklist for departure and contact us in case you need assistance.

2. Work Permissions for Researchers

- Please note that **researchers** working on scientific research **do not have permission to work outside of CZU**, except in the case of working in other **90 approved research institutions** within the Czech Republic.

3. Health Insurance for Family Members

- For those with family members (children, spouse) in the Czech Republic, please make sure to review the information regarding health insurance coverage.
- For more details, visit the websites of PVZP and Vitalitas.
As we are part of EURAXESS, you can get 20% discount on Vitalitas insurance: <https://www.vitalitas.cz/euraxess/>.

4. Important Update on Payments at the Ministry of the Interior

- Starting from **January 1st, 2025**, it is no longer possible to pay at the **Ministry of the Interior** using stamps (kolek).
- If you need more information or guidance, please contact **Mirka Perst, J.D. at perst@rektorat.czu.**

5. Annual Taxes Declaration 2025

- **If you have only one taxable income** (CZU), the university will handle your tax reconciliation. Please check the Intranet and your email inbox for further instructions.
- **If you have multiple taxable incomes**, you are required to declare your taxes independently (until 1st April by paper, until 2nd May electronically via data mailbox, until 1st July with a tax advisor). We recommend hiring a tax advisor in such cases. A list of advisors: <https://www.kdpcr.cz/seznam-danovych-poradcu>.
- If you need proof of Czech tax residency (Tax Domicile), please contact **Mirka Perst, J.D. at perst@rektorat.czu**

WE ARE PART OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK EURAXESS

The Czech University of Life Sciences is part of the European network EURAXESS – Researchers in motion, and has thus been included among 600 service centers operating in 42 European countries. The EURAXESS organization was founded by the European Commission to support the mobility of scientific researchers and at the same time to strengthen scientific cooperation between Europe and the world. **The CZU EURAXESS Service Center operates at the Welcome Center for International Scholars and offers a range of comprehensive services to scientists and their families moving to the Czech Republic.** For example, it provides them with help and assistance from the initial preparatory stages in their 9 home countries to their arrival in a new

environment in the Czech Republic. **It helps to find suitable accommodation, assists in processing visas, work permits and offers assistance in solving problems associated with staying abroad.** Researchers and their families have access to the national center EURAXESS Czech Republic, where they have the opportunity to get a lot of practical information related to, among other things, professional development, employment and funding. CZU is now part of the national center EURAXESS Czech Republic, which actively cooperates with the European Commission as a support platform for organizations and research centers.

For more information you can check our website and our Teams group - International Scholars and Researchers where you can get updates on important issues. If you haven't done so, please fill in our registration form here.



Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU)

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Our mailing address is:

welcome.centre@czu.cz

Disclaimer:

The Welcome Center will be pleased to provide advice and support in all non-academic issues. Please note, however, that you will have to make the final decision in all issues discussed and the Welcome Center and its staff cannot take any responsibility or assume liability for these decisions. If this newsletter was forwarded to you by a friend, you can subscribe to our mailing list also via welcome.centre@czu.cz.

[Unsubscribe from the list by simply sending us an e-mail to welcome.centre@czu.cz](mailto:welcome.centre@czu.cz)



