



Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025



Dear Scholars and Friends,

Autumn has arrived — as the crisp air and colorful leaves remind us — and with it, the start of a new semester. While the academic year begins anew, the Welcome Centre for International Scholars has hardly slowed down. On the contrary, the Centre has been boiling with activity, celebrating important milestones and bringing our community together through culture, history, and joyful gatherings.

This summer marked a particularly special moment for us: on **July 15, 2025**, we celebrated the **fifth anniversary** of the Welcome Centre's founding. Our "birthday" was honored in style with a series of memorable events.

The celebrations began with a cultural highlight — a visit to the **International Organ Festival** at Prague's majestic **St. Vitus Cathedral**. Surrounded by the soaring Gothic architecture, our group of researchers enjoyed an evening of breathtaking music performed by acclaimed artists. The combination of organ, soprano, and orchestra created an unforgettable atmosphere of reverent beauty. After the concert, some of us continued the celebration at a cozy pub nearby, rounding off the day with lively conversation and warm company despite the chilly July night.

The anniversary program continued on August 16th with a unique outing. First, we visited the charming town **Bečov nad Teplou**, where we explored one of Europe's most significant Romanesque treasures: **the Reliquary of St. Maurus** at the Bečov Castle. This intricately decorated 13th-century shrine, once hidden underground for decades, impressed us with its gilded silver, gemstones, and remarkable history.

From there, our journey continued through the picturesque **Slavkov Forest** to the **SOOS National Nature Reserve**, often called the "Czech Yellowstone." Walking along wooden trails, we marveled at bubbling mineral springs, peat bogs, and rare "mud volcanoes." The area's unique ecosystem, with its mix of protected plants, birdlife, and geological features, offered a fascinating glimpse into nature's power and beauty.

Before heading back to Prague, we made a short but delightful stop in **Františkovy Lázně**, a charming spa town, to sample its mineral healing waters and taste the warm spa waffles - a perfect ending to a perfect day.

The anniversary celebrations reached their grand finale on September 5th with our **International Garden Party**. Scholars, families, and friends gathered in the local community garden to enjoy an afternoon filled with great food including international delicacies, games, music, and friendly exchanges. The cheerful, welcoming atmosphere reflected the very essence of our Centre: a place where cultures meet, friendships grow, and our international community thrives. The garden party was not only

a joyful culmination of our anniversary but also a symbol of the vibrant future we are building together.

Wishing you a beautiful autumn and a cozy, joyful winter ahead.

Warm regards,

Mirka, Martina and Alena





Welcome Centre
for International Scholars

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES AND LANGUAGE CAFÉ

The Welcome Centre for International Scholars is pleased to announce that **Czech language courses have successfully started last week with the beginning of the new semester**. Once again, we are offering international employees the chance to improve their Czech and make everyday life in the Czech Republic a little easier and more enjoyable.

This semester, participants can choose between two levels – Beginners Plus and Intermediate – ensuring that both returning students and newcomers will find the right level of support. We are happy to welcome back our continuing learners and are equally delighted to greet those who are joining us for the first time.

We warmly invite you to join us for our next **Language Café** on **Wednesday November 12th** – a relaxed opportunity to practice your

Czech over coffee or lunch in a friendly atmosphere.

We wish all participants the best of luck in their journey to mastering Czech!

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

A SPOOKY NIGHT IN PRAGUE: CZECH LEGENDS AND GHOSTS

On **Friday, October 31st**, forget Halloween – in Prague, we don't need it! Our city is already full of **ghosts, legends, and spooky tales** that have haunted Prague for centuries. So, we've decided to celebrate in true Prague style with an evening exploring the rich, mysterious history of our local spirits and stories.

Join us for a night of mystery and intrigue as we dive into the eerie world of Czech legends and ghosts! We will start the evening with a visit to the **Ghost and Legends Museum of Prague, and then continue our adventure with a guided ghost tour of Old Town** 😊

PRICE: Price for adults is 290 CZK (students up to 26 years and with a valid student ID 220 CZK, children 90 CZK)

[SIGN-UP](#)

PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY – A CREATIVE DECEMBER EVENING

This December, step into the cozy ceramic studio at Kafe & Hrnky and experience a different kind of winter relaxation – **painting your own pottery!** Enjoy a peaceful moment as you decorate a mug, bowl, or something smaller. The artists will guide you through the painting process, then fire your creation in the kiln. Your finished piece will be ready within a few days – dishwasher and microwave safe, and made to be truly yours. Perfect for unwinding after work or getting creative with colleagues from the lab!

More information coming soon to your e-mail!

WHAT KIND OF EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND IN SPRING?

City Day Trip

Nature Day Trip

Cooking Class

Tour/Museum in Prague

Other - please share below

SUBMIT

EVENTS IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE COFFEE FESTIVAL

WHEN: 15. 11. - 16. 11. 2025

WHERE: Holešovice Exhibition
Grounds, Prague

The biggest celebration of coffee in the Czech Republic is back! Two unforgettable days filled with top roasters, inspiring workshops, and discussions with coffee professionals from around the world. Discover new flavors, experience coffee culture at its best, and connect with a passionate community.

INFO

SIGNAL FESTIVAL

WHEN: 16. 10. - 19. 10. 2025

WHERE: Various locations in Prague

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. Over the past 12 years, it has welcomed more than 5 million spectators in Prague. At its core, **Signal Festival serves as a platform for internationally acclaimed and emerging Czech artists** working across light design, visual and digital art.

INFO

CHRISTMAS POTTERY & CRAFT MARKET

WHEN: 6. - 7. 12. 2025

WHERE: Holešovice Exhibition Grounds, Prague

Get into the festive spirit with **over 130 Czech artisans offering handmade gifts, traditional crafts, and seasonal treats.** Enjoy mulled wine, Christmas sweets, and live performances including children's choirs and a jazz brass band. Free entry and barrier-free access.

INFO

Local Tip: Want to explore Czech hiking trails? Download the “[Mapy.cz](#)” app – it’s the best for finding marked routes, train stops, and hidden spots locals love.

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Adaptation and Integration Course - FOR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

All non-EU foreign nationals (aged 15 to 61) who are issued a **long-term or permanent residence permit** (without prior authorized stay in the country) for the Czech Republic after January 1st, 2021 and who plan to stay for **more than one year**, are required to attend the **Adaptation and Integration course within one year of collecting their residence permit**, at their own expense. Failure to complete the course within this one-year period may result in a fine of up to 10,000 CZK, as enforced by the Ministry of Interior.

More information about the Adaptation and Integration Course can be found on the Ministry of Interior's website [here](#).

EURAXESS will offer private Adaptation and Integration Courses in 2026, specifically for researchers and their family members, with a fee reduced from the standard public fee.

If you have not yet completed the Adaptation and Integration Course and would like to attend, please send the following information together with a copy of your residency permit card directly to Zuzana Maršálková from EURAXESS.

marsalkova@ssc.cas.cz

First Name:

Last Name:

Date of Birth:

Passport Number:

Nationality:

Email Address:

LEGAL STAY ESSENTIALS

- **Valid Passport:** Regardless of any changes, it is imperative that you always possess a valid passport.
- **Reporting Changes:** Any changes to your personal information, such as your name, address, or passport number, must be reported to the relevant authorities (OAMP or foreign police) within a few days. We will assist you with the procedure.
- **Expiration Date:** Please note that the expiration date on your residence permit does not necessarily determine the legal length of your stay in the Czech Republic.
- **Purpose of Stay:** It is crucial to adhere to the purpose of stay for which your residence permit was issued.
- **Contact Mirka Perst, J.D. for Assistance** – She is committed to helping foreign employees at CZU navigate the complexities of living and working in the Czech Republic. Don't hesitate to contact Mirka at perst@rektorat.czu.cz for any questions or concerns related to your stay and scheduling an appointment.

By staying informed and seeking timely assistance, you can ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience in the Czech Republic.

For more information you can also check our website. If you haven't done so, please fill in our registration form [here](#).



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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](#)

