

Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !



Welcome to 2026!

As we step into a new year, it's time to look back on the last year's achievements, learn from its challenges, and celebrate the moments that made 2025 unforgettable.

As we're taking a moment to reflect on the past three months – filled with vibrant community events, meaningful conversations – we're grateful for every moment shared with you.

Now, with January underway, we're energized and excited for everything ahead. With this edition we're preparing a fresh lineup of events, projects, and opportunities to connect, as well as some important information for your stay in Prague.

You may already know that we have two new members to our team. We are excited to have Agnes and Radim on board and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to the Welcome Centre and the wider university community.

The Welcome Centre is here to make your life in the Czech Republic more comfortable, and you can count on our help for any support with logistical issues or tips on life in Prague and many other services.

Thank you for being part of our community and we truly hope you'll continue to join us at our events.

All the best from,

the Welcome Centre Team



IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR ALL RESEARCHERS

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** after January 1st, 2021 and who plan to stay for **more than one year**, are required to attend the **Adaptation and Integration Course (AIC) 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 AIC and its exceptions 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 at: marsalkova@ssc.cas.cz

Please include in the e-mail the following: First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Passport Number, Nationality, E-mail 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.
- **Residence Permit Expiration Date:** It is essential to apply for an extension of stay before the expiration date. Please inform us at least **3 months before** the expiration of your document. 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 (for example, in the case of studies, it is not possible to interrupt or terminate studies without changing the purpose of stay).
- **For questions and scheduling an appointment please contact Ms. Mirka Perst and Mr. Radim Semerád** – They are committed to helping international employees at CZU navigate the complexities of living and working in the Czech Republic.
perst@rektorat.czu.cz, semeradr@rektorat.czu.cz

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](#).

A LOOKBACK AT OUR ACTIVITIES



Prague Gets Spooky – No Halloween Needed! 🧛‍♀️

On Friday, **October 31st**, we embraced the darker side of Prague with a special evening dedicated to the city's ghosts, legends, and mysterious past. Our journey began at the Ghosts and Legends Museum of Prague, where interactive exhibits and an underground alley brought centuries-old tales of phantoms and headless knights to life.

We then ventured into the Old Town on a guided ghost tour, wandering narrow streets while uncovering eerie stories and forgotten medieval myths. It was an evening filled with mystery, laughter, and shared curiosity, enjoyed by both adults and children alike.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable night—we loved exploring Prague's haunted side with you!



Christmas Pottery Painting

On Sunday, **December 7th**, our international researchers came together for a relaxed and creative afternoon at Kafe & Hrnky | Café and Ceramics Studio. After a short walk through Kampa and past the iconic Lennon Wall, we arrived at the studio, where a friendly and welcoming workshop set the tone for the day.

Participants had the chance to paint pre-made pottery, choosing either a mug or a bowl and decorating it with ceramic glazes. Unlike painting on paper or canvas, working with glazes is full of surprises – colors can blend, shift, or change entirely after firing in the kiln. This unpredictability made the creative process especially engaging.

Everyone left with a unique ceramic piece, each reflecting its maker's style, complete with unexpected color transitions and charming imperfections. Beyond the artwork, the afternoon offered a great opportunity to unwind, be creative, and connect with colleagues from different backgrounds outside the usual work setting. We thank everyone who joined us and look forward to our next event.



Welcome Centre
for International Scholars

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES

Firstly, a big **congratulations to all the students** who successfully completed the Czech language courses during the winter semester! This semester, participants could choose between two levels – Beginners Plus and Intermediate.

We were happy to welcome back our continuing learners and equally pleased to greet those joining us for the first time. Out of 20 enrolled participants, 17 successfully completed the course and received their certificates.

We congratulate all students on their dedication and achievements and we are already looking forward to launching our next round of courses in March, where we hope to once again offer multiple levels—including, ideally, a course for complete beginners. We will be sending out more information shortly.

MAGAZINE Živá univerzita

Our Manager of the Welcome Centre for International Scholars, Ms. Mirka Perst, gave recently an interview to the university magazine, sharing insights into how the Welcome Centre was established and how it has developed over time to support international scholars in their life in the Czech Republic.

You can read the whole interview [here](#).

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



BLACK LIGHT THEATRE

WHEN: Friday, January 23, 2026 at 20:00 (from 18:00 a get-together at the restaurant **Pivovar Národní**, Národní 8, 110 00 Prague 1)

WHERE: [IMAGE Theatre, Národní 25, Prague 1](#)

Join us at a spectacular event where imagination comes alive in the dark.

This unique form of performance art combines darkness, ultraviolet light, and carefully choreographed movement to create stunning visual illusions. Objects float, characters appear and disappear, and stories

unfold without a single spoken word. Rooted in the theatrical traditions of Prague, Black Light Theatre invites you to experience a magical blend of mime, dance, music, and visual trickery that transcends language and culture.



AN EXCURSION TO THE OLD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN BUBENEČ, PRAGUE

WHEN: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 15:00

WHERE: Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant, Papírenská 199/6,

160 00 Praha 6 – Bubeneč

We invite you for an unusual experience at the Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant. But don't worry—it has been out of service since 1967, so the only thing you'll be catching is the atmosphere! Take part of a guided historical tour in English of the industrial underground and the original steam engine room with us.

You can sign up [here](#).



EASTER WITH THE WELCOME CENTRE

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 2026 from 15:00 p.m.

WHERE: at the CZU Library

Whether Czech Easter traditions are new to you or you've experienced them with us before, don't miss our Easter party.

Join us at this event, where you get a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues from various faculties while gaining insight into the Czech Easter traditions. You will also have the opportunity to sample traditional Easter dishes such as Mazanec, Beránek, Velikonoční nádivka, and refreshing drinks.

More detailed information will follow.



CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

WHEN: 21.1.2026 and 11.2. 2026 at 12:00

WHERE: Café at the PEF building

Join us at our **Language Café** and put your Czech into practice! ☕🇨🇪

In a relaxed setting, you'll try out everyday Czech in common situations, meet new people, and gain confidence speaking — no pressure, just conversation.

EVENTS IN PRAGUE

EIGASAI - 19TH JAPANESE FILM AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

WHEN: 9.2. - 14. 2. 2026

WHERE: Kino Lucerna, Prague



Japanese playwright and actor Zeami Motokiyo once likened an artistic message to a flower that is passed from heart to heart. This idea also provided the inspiration for this year's edition of Eigasai, the 19th festival of Japanese cinema and culture, which is very close to all of our hearts indeed. The motto "From the Heart" reminds us that if we want to live a fulfilled and happy life, our heart is sometimes more important than our head which tends to spur us on to endlessly pursue performance and practicality. Maybe this is the right time to stop for a moment and let our hearts speak.

INFO

PRAGUESHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

WHEN: 25. 2. - 1.3. 2026

WHERE: different cinemas in Prague

The 20th Pragueshorts Film Festival will take place in Prague February 25 – March 1, 2026 in the cinemas and March 1 – 22, 2026 at online platform KVIFF.TV. The Pragueshorts Film Festival is a competitive festival of short films. Its aim is to contribute to the development and promotion of artistic short films and their production.



INFO

PRAGUE AIRPORT VALENTINE'S RUN 7K 2026

WHEN: 14. 2. 2026

WHERE: Stromovka Park

Celebrate Valentine's Day in a running style at Stromovka! The 2026 Valentine's Day Run is a race that is open to everyone – beginners, recreational runners and those who want to take on the challenge. The route is 7 km long, participants will receive a full results service, and, as in previous years, the race will also have a charitable dimension.



INFO



CIRKOPOLIS – contemporary circus at its boldest

WHEN: 8.2.-14.2.2026

WHERE: different places in Prague,
see the [programme](#)

Cirkopolis is an international festival of contemporary circus that, since 2013, has been bringing original and inspiring

performances from across Europe and beyond to Prague and other Czech cities.

Intimate and surprising performances at the crossroads of circus, dance, physical and visual theatre – for everyone seeking new experiences.

INFO

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.

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)

Kamycká 129, Prague
Czech Republic

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)

