

Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026



WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER!

Spring is slowly making its way to Prague, though as always, it likes to keep us guessing. Even as the days grow longer and brighter, we know from experience that a surprise snowfall around Easter is never entirely out of the question—especially this year, with Easter arriving earlier than usual.

We hope you had a joyful and relaxing Easter holiday. If you joined our traditional Easter party at the end of March, we trust you not only had a great time but also gained some new insights into Czech Easter traditions—perhaps even mastering a few customs to share with friends and family.

This season also marks an important new chapter for our institution, as we celebrate the inauguration of our **new Rector, Prof. PhDr. Michal Lošťák, Ph.D.** The **new Vice-Rector for International Relations is Prof. Ing. Martin Hanel, Ph.D.** We wish both of them every success in their new roles and look forward to further strengthening collaboration with the international scientific community at CZU.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of our international scholars community. We are delighted to have you join us and hope you will quickly feel at home here in Prague, both within our institution and in the city itself.

In this issue, you will find important reminders regarding legal stay and accommodation, along with a preview of our upcoming events. We also take a moment to reflect on the highlights of the past months and the events that brought us together.

We hope you enjoy this spring edition of our quarterly newsletter.

Mirka, Alena, Agnes and Radim

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

AND INFORMATION

FOR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION COURSE

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](#).

CARD ACCESS ONLY AT THE RECTORATE

We would like to inform you that a new security system – CARD ACCESS ONLY - was installed on our floor last week. If your card does not grant you access, you shall use the Intercom.

You can find our names in the list and use the phone icon to contact us so we can grant you access.

At the moment however the system is not linked to our phones yet, so **you should call us directly.**

As our working hours within the team may vary, we strongly recommend making an appointment with the person you wish to meet in advance.

WELCOME GUIDE

We're happy to share with you the launch of our **Welcome Guide** for international researchers, which brings together all the essential information for starting at our university into one clear and practical resource.

The guide covers key administrative steps such as residence permits, health and social insurance, and other formal requirements. It also provides detailed guidance on everyday life, including housing options, transportation, banking, and practical tips for navigating a new environment. In addition, researchers will find useful contacts, step-by-step instructions, and answers to common questions to support a smooth transition.

A big thank you to everyone involved. We hope it will help our new colleagues settle in quickly and feel at home from day one.



A LOOKBACK AT OUR ACTIVITIES



BLACK LIGHT THEATRE

We started the new year with a cultural evening in the heart of Prague, beginning with a shared dinner at Pivovar Národní. The evening continued with a visit to a Black Light Theatre performance, introducing many of our international guests to this unique Prague art form combining light effects, dance, and humor, leaving a lasting impression.



OLD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

In February, a well-represented group of international scholars took part of an excursion to the Old Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bubeneč, a remarkable technical monument from the late 19th century. The guided tour offered insights into Prague's sewer system, including original machinery and underground spaces, as well as a memorable boat ride through a historic tunnel.



WELCOME CENTRE EASTER PARTY

At the end of March, we celebrated Easter with a festive gathering that briefly transformed the quiet library into a lively workshop. International researchers, PhD students, and their families swapped research papers for paintbrushes and willow branches.

Nearly 60 participants decorated Easter eggs, tried weaving pohlázka, and discovered Czech traditions—while somehow managing not to break too many eggs. A quick Easter quiz proved that folklore can get surprisingly competitive.

Of course, no cultural exchange is complete without “serious research,” so traditional Czech pastries were thoroughly tested—and quickly disappeared.

Most importantly, the event brought people together, creating a warm space to connect, share, and feel a little more at home.

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSE



CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES

As in the past semesters, we were again able to launch our Czech language courses, continuing our commitment to supporting international scholars through language learning. Each semester, we organize the courses to help participants better navigate everyday life in the Czech Republic.

Following the pattern of previous semesters, we are currently offering a wide range of options for our 44 participants, with five different levels available—from complete beginners to advanced conversation courses. This allows each participant to choose a course that best matches their current level and gradually develop their language skills at their own pace.

Registration for this semester has now closed, but we look forward to welcoming new participants in the next semesters.

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB



CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

For those who were not able to register for our Czech language courses, there is still a great opportunity to practice and improve your Czech—while also meeting colleagues in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Join us at our Conversation Café and put your Czech into practice!

WHEN: Wednesday, 13.5.2026 at 16:00 p.m.

WHERE: Club C, on Campus

In an informal atmosphere, you will have the chance to try out everyday Czech in common situations, gain more confidence in speaking, and connect with fellow international scholars. No pressure—just

conversation, new connections, and an enjoyable way to engage with the language.

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



PRAGUE TRANSPORTATION HISTORY

WHEN: SUNDAY, 19. 4. 2026 at 15:00

WHERE: VOZOVNA STŘEŠOVICE, PRAHA 6

Join us to our next community event: a visit to the Prague Museum of Public Transportation, followed by a special ride on a historic tram through the city.

At the museum, you will discover a fascinating collection of vintage trams, buses, and other vehicles that tell the story of Prague's public transport system. From beautifully preserved early 20th-century trams to more modern icons, the exhibition offers a unique glimpse into how the city has evolved over time.

After the visit, we will board a historic tram for a guided ride through Prague. During the journey, an expert guide will introduce you to some

of the city's most notable sights and share interesting stories along the way—combining history, architecture, and local insights. This event is a great opportunity to explore Prague from a different perspective, meet fellow international scholars, and enjoy a memorable experience together.

You can sign-up here:

[SIGN-UP](#)

NETWORKING EVENING

WHEN: MONDAY, 20. 4. 2026

WHERE: Restaurant Na Farmě

We are looking forward to the networking evening for colleagues from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences. The event will take place in the restaurant Na Farmě, offering an opportunity to meet fellow researchers and exchange ideas in an informal atmosphere.

This gathering aims to support new connections, encourage collaboration, and strengthen ties within our international research community.



PRAGUE GARDENS WALKING TOUR

WHEN: SATURDAY, 16. 5. 2026

May is the month when Prague truly comes into bloom, and we will take this opportunity to admire the beauty of the city's gardens together. During a guided walk with an experienced guide, we will visit not only well-known locations but also hidden corners and gardens that international visitors would be unlikely to discover on their own.

Registration will start soon.



SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE 2026

A TRIP THROUGH CZECH HISTORY & CRAFT TRADITIONS

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO A FULL-DAY EXCURSION TO NIŽBOR GLASSFACTORY & KŘIVOKLÁT CASTLE

PROGRAMME:

- MORNING: A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE GLASSFACTORY RŮČKL IN NIŽBOR
- SELF PAID LUNCH AT THE RESTAURANT ZASTÁVKA IN NIŽBOR
- AFTERNOON: A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CASTLE KŘIVOKLÁT

DEPARTURE FROM CAMPUS BY BUS: 8:30 A.M.
RETURN BETWEEN 18:00 - 19:00 P.M.

PARTICIPATION FEE (PER PERSON)
ADULT: 540 CZK
STUDENT (UNDER 24): 430 CZK
CHILD (UNDER 15): 230 CZK

SIGN-UP TILL 15TH APRIL

QR Code

TCU Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NIŽBOR GLASSFACTORY and KŘIVOKLÁT CASTLE

WHEN: SATURDAY, 6. 6. 2026

Before everyone heads off for their summer holidays, we are preparing a full-day trip on Saturday, June 6th –so be sure to mark your calendar! The day will focus on Czech history and traditional craftsmanship. We will begin with a visit to the Růčkl glassworks in Nižbor, where participants will learn about the production of traditional Czech crystal and have the chance to observe master glassmakers at work. In the afternoon, we will continue to Křivoklát Castle, one of the most important Gothic castles

in the Czech Republic, where a guided tour will take us through its historic halls, chapel, and impressive castle library.

[SIGN-UP](#)

EVENTS AT CZU

CZU MISS AGRO

WHEN: 12. 5. 2026

WHERE: CZU Campus



The Miss Agro Festival is one of the largest open-air events in the Czech Republic, attracting over 10,000 visitors each year. Held at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague near Kruhová Hall, it is organized by students and alumni.

The event has two main parts: the selection of Miss and Strong Man of the university, followed by a music festival featuring top Czech and Slovak bands and a rich accompanying program.

[INFO](#)

SPORTS GAMES OF CZU EMPLOYEES

WHEN: 14. 5. 2026

WHERE: CZU Campus

CZU will be hosting its traditional **Staff Sports Games** this year, a beloved social-sporting event that brings together university staff for a day of fun and fitness. The Welcome Centre will traditionally join the **non-competitive Tourist March** that invites participants to explore the scenic beauty surrounding the university.



EVENTS IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE BEER FEST

WHEN: 10. 4. - 11. 4. 2026

WHERE: The Prague Market,
Bubenské nábř. 306, Hall 13

50+ breweries from 17 countries,
workshops and lectures, food &
great atmosphere

More than 50 breweries will be participating this year with a spotlight on foreign brewers (USA, England, Poland, etc.)

The festival will include workshops, lectures, and tasting sessions organized by local and international brewers alike.

A delicious selection of street food will also be available on location.



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UNITED ISLANDS

WHEN: 30.4. - 2.5.2026

United Islands is gearing up for another wild ride. In 2026, we'll be bringing you a whole lot – and we already can't wait.

In 2026, the festival will take place for the twenty-third time. Over three days, more than a hundred promising young artists from across Europe will perform on stages at Štvanice Island and in clubs throughout Prague. Admission will be voluntary – you can come for free or purchase a ticket to support the festival.



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BUTTERFLIES: THE ART OF SURVIVAL

WHEN: 2. 4. - 17. 5. 2026

WHERE: Fata Morgana
Greenhouse, Botanical Garden,
Prague



Every spring, the Fata Morgana Greenhouse comes alive with hundreds of butterflies in flight. Their colourful wings brighten the space, while visitors gain a fascinating glimpse into their lives. As in previous years, the event features two exhibitions that together offer an unforgettable experience and new insights into the world of butterflies.

INFO



PRAGUE ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

WHEN: 20.6.-21.6.2026

WHERE: Výstaviště Praha

A celebration of all kinds of ice cream. The Prague Ice Cream Festival is currently the largest festival of its kind in Central Europe. Dozens of stands offering a wide variety of ice cream—including gelato, soft-serve, yogurt, ice rolls, sorbets, special vegan and organic options, and more—as well as popsicles from local and international manufacturers.

SPRING IN PRAGUE



Best Places to Explore in Prague This Spring

Spring in Prague **brings blooming trees, longer days**, and the city waking up from winter. It's the perfect time to **explore gardens, parks**, and **outdoor spots** before the summer crowds arrive. Here are some of the best places to visit in Prague in spring:

Blooming Almond Trees - Seminary Garden (Seminářská zahrada), tucked beneath Petřín Hill, is one of Prague's hidden gems. Its **almond trees burst into delicate pink and white blossoms**, creating a magical setting for a peaceful walk.

The garden also offers **fantastic views of the city skyline**.

Magnolias are one of the first signs of spring in Prague, painting the city with beautiful pink and white blossoms. You can find these stunning trees in several locations, including below **Castle Square**

(Hradčanské náměstí), as well as in Vojan, Wallenstein, and Letná Gardens.

Cherry Blossoms (Sakura) - One of the most iconic spring sights in Prague, the cherry blossoms are truly spectacular. For the best sakura displays, head to **Újezd Tram Station, Chotkovy Sady Tram Stop, Jiřího z Poděbrad Metro Station**

Lilacs and Rhododendrons - The sweet fragrance of lilacs fills the air in early May, and the vibrant colors of rhododendrons follow close behind. For a stunning display visit: **Jiřího z Poděbrad Metro Station, Vojanovy Gardens, or aside Prague Průhonice Park.**

Some other ideas for spending time outside in Spring:

Náplavka – Riverside Strolls and Markets

Spring is when Náplavka, the lively riverfront area along the Vltava, comes to life. Locals and visitors gather here for Saturday farmers' markets, outdoor cafés, bars on boats and scenic walks by the water. Grab a coffee or beer, sit by the river, and enjoy the warm sunshine.

Beer Gardens – The Best Way to Enjoy Spring

As the weather warms up, Prague's beer gardens start filling with people enjoying a cold drink outside. **Letná Beer Garden** offers spectacular views over the city, while **Riegrový Sady** is a favorite among locals for sunset beers. You can visit another popular beer garden Na Hradbách while exploring **Vyšehrad** Castle grounds.

HOLIDAYS - PROLONGED WEEKENDS

HOLIDAYS IN SPRING

MAY:

- **Labor Day (Svátek práce)** – Friday, May 1, 2026
Honors workers' rights and achievements.
- **Victory Day (Den vítězství)** – Friday, May 8, 2026
Marks the end of WWII in Europe and the surrender of Nazi Germany.
- *Also stores will be closed on May 8, 2026.*

May 1st is also – The Czech Day of Lovers

*In the Czech Republic, **May 1st** isn't just Labor Day, it's most importantly a **day dedicated to love**. Think of it as the Czech version of Valentine's Day. Tradition says that **every woman should be kissed under a blooming cherry tree** on this day **to stay beautiful** for the year ahead.*

*One charming tradition you'll notice on holidays is **Czech flags adorning the front of all trams**. However, keep in mind that **public transportation** (trams, buses, and the metro) follows a Sunday schedule, meaning **reduced frequency and fewer connections**.*



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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.

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