

Welcome Centre for International Scholars

NEWSLETTER JULY 2026



WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER!

Summer has officially arrived in Prague! The days are long and the city is buzzing with outdoor energy. After a busy spring semester, it is finally time to enjoy the sunshine and step outside the offices and laboratories.

We hope you enjoyed the spring season with us. If you joined our guided historical walk through the beautiful Prague Gardens in May, or our recent excursion to the Nižbor Glassworks and Křivoklát Castle, we trust you had a wonderful time exploring Czech history, connecting with your colleagues, and making great memories.

As always, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the newest members of our international scholars community. We are absolutely delighted to have you join us at CZU and hope you are settling in well, feeling at home both within our institution and here in Prague.

In this summer issue, you will find crucial reminders regarding your legal stay obligations, a wrap-up of our successful Czech language courses, and a preview of our exciting upcoming events - including a traditional outdoor treasure hunt and a special theatre night. To help you make the most of the season, we have also put together some tips on the best ways to cool off and enjoy Prague during the hot summer months.

We hope you enjoy reading this summer edition of our quarterly newsletter, and we wish you a fantastic, relaxing, and sunny summer season!

Your Welcome Centre Team

WHAT IS ON?

MS Teams: International Scholars and Researchers

A friendly reminder for all newcomers to join our MS Teams: International Scholars and Researchers group. Every week, we share useful information, including the latest news, accommodation offers, and tips and ideas for spending your free time in Prague.

Stay connected and make the most of your stay in Prague!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

LEGAL STAY ESSENTIALS: Keep Your Residency Safe

Navigating Czech bureaucracy can be tricky, but maintaining a valid legal stay is crucial. Please take a moment to review these essential rules to avoid unnecessary fines, visa cancellations, or stressful situations.

1. Always Consult Us First

When dealing with anything related to your residence permit, please seek advice before taking action. Visa matters can be complex, and making an uninformed decision can have severe consequences for your legal stay. ***You don't have to handle them alone!***

If you are unsure about expiration dates of your documents, planning to change your work or study status, need to report a personal change, or want to schedule an appointment at OAMP, please reach out to Mirka Perst or Radim Semerád at the Welcome Centre for International Scholars.

2. Maintain Your Purpose of Stay

Your residence permit is strictly tied to a specific purpose (such as Scientific Research, Employment, or Study). You must continuously fulfill this purpose.

For example: If your purpose of stay is "Study", you cannot pause, interrupt, or terminate your studies without officially changing your visa status first. Doing so could immediately invalidate your legal stay in the Czech Republic.

3. Report Personal Changes Immediately

Did something change in your life? By Czech law, you must report specific updates to the Ministry of Interior (OAMP) or the Foreign Police, usually within just a few working days. Please contact us immediately if you have:

- Received a new passport: Must be reported within 3 working days!
- Changed your marital status (e.g., marriage, divorce): Must be reported within 3 working days!
- Moved to a new address: Must be reported within 30 days.

4. Adaptation and Integration Course (AIC)

If you are a non-EU foreign national between 15 and 61 years of age who received a long-term or permanent residence permit after January 1, 2021, and plan to stay for more than one year, you are required to complete this course.

- The Deadline: You must attend the course within 1 year of collecting your residence card.
- The course must be taken at your own expense. Failure to complete it within the one-year period constitutes a violation of Czech law, and the Ministry of Interior may enforce a fine of up to 10,000 CZK.

EURAXESS Course for Researchers & Registration

While standard public courses are available, EURAXESS offers private Adaptation and Integration Courses in 2026 specifically intended for researchers and their family members at a reduced fee.

If you have not yet completed the course and wish to attend the EURAXESS session, please contact Zuzana Maršálková directly via e-mail at: marsalkova@ssc.cas.cz. Your registration e-mail must include:

- First Name and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Passport Number and Nationality
- E-mail Address
- A copy of your residency permit card

Exemptions

Certain exceptions to the AIC requirement exist depending on specific visa categories or previous residency history. Detailed information

regarding the course and applicable exemptions can be found on the [official website of the Ministry of Interior](#).

If you require assistance verifying your status or obligations, please submit a request through our Legal Stay Support Form or contact the Welcome Centre team.

Summer Travel Insurance for CZU Researchers

Researchers travelling abroad this summer are strongly advised to check their health and travel insurance coverage before departure.

For EU nationals

If you are insured in an EU Member State, make sure you carry your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC provides access to medically necessary healthcare in EU/EEA countries and Switzerland under the same conditions as local residents. However, it does **not** cover repatriation, mountain rescue, lost luggage, liability, trip cancellation, or other travel-related risks. Therefore, supplementary travel insurance is strongly recommended.

For non-EU nationals

As every case could be different depending on the country of origin and your destination, we would recommend you to contact VZP ([here](#)) for advise before departure to check your coverage. It is strongly recommended to have a travel insurance.

Vitalitas Insurance Company offers both short-term and long-term travel insurance, annual multi-trip policies, and insurance for study stays abroad, including 24/7 assistance services. Vitalitas specializes in travel and health insurance products and provides online policy purchase options.

Vitalitas has several types of insurances:

- **Backpacker** (basic package, low limits, and limited coverage—great value)

- **Easygoing Traveler** (best value for the price)
- **Globetrotter** (high limits and broad coverage)
- **Sports Enthusiast** (perfect for an active winter/summer vacation)

For more information you can contact **Vitalitas**:

www.vitalitas.cz

Mr. Petr Primus - product manager (petr.primus@vitalitas.cz)

For further assistance you can also contact our Welcome Centre.

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



SUMMER TREASURE HUNT: OKOŘ & ZOOPARK ZÁJEZD

WHEN: SATURDAY, July 11, 2026

WHERE: DEJVICKÁ (Meeting point for bus departure)

Join us for a scenic walk from Okoř to Zoopark Zájezd. Riddles, clues, and fun challenges along the way. Lunch and zoo visit included.

A shorter option is also available: by a direct bus to the zoo.

A day of fun, nature, and Czech summer!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN [HERE](#).

CZECH CONVERSATION CLUB

WHEN: 22. 7. 2026 at 16:00

WHERE: Hostinec Na Slamníku,
Wolkerova 12, Praha 6



Let's do something typical Czech together! Explore with us one hidden gem of the Czech pub culture...

The Welcome Centre invites you for beer snacks, but YOU will have to order your beer in Czech! :)

[Register here](#)



Theatre Night: Václav Havel in English

WHEN: TUESDAY, August 4, 2026

WHERE: Divadlo v Celetné, Celetná 17, Praha 1

Discover the work of Václav Havel, playwright and first President of the Czech Republic. A witty and thought-provoking exploration of happiness, identity, and human desires. Join us for this unique opportunity to experience Czech literature on stage.

For tickets please contact our Welcome Centre:

welcome.centre@czu.cz



**DAY TRIP TO MEDIEVAL BOHEMIA -
BOTANICUS Craft Center
and Open Air Folk Museum in Přerov nad Labem**

WHEN: SATURDAY, September 5, 2026

WHERE: BOTANICUS CRAFT CENTER, OSTRÁ VILLAGE (organized bus transport)

Visit with us the medieval village and herb gardens of Botanicus in Ostrá. You can try traditional crafts: candle-making, papermaking, soap-making, gold panning, and archery and explore Czech history through hands-on experiences.

Perfect for everyone, families are more than welcome!

Registration will open soon, we will keep you informed!

MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

Interview with Doc. Asa Gholizadeh, Ph.D.



In our latest interview, we spoke with **Doc. Asa Gholizadeh, Ph.D.**, an associate professor at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences of CZU. She shares insights into her research, her academic journey, and what inspires her work.

The full interview is coming soon, and you can watch it [HERE](#), to get to know one of the inspiring researchers shaping our university.

A LOOK BACK AT SPRING



CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES: Semester Wrap-Up & What's Next!

Another semester of our Czech Language Courses has officially come to an end, and we want to send a huge congratulations to everyone who successfully completed their classes!

We all know that Czech is not the easiest language to learn. Whether you just mastered ordering a coffee or you are already having full conversations, we at the Welcome Centre are incredibly proud of your dedication to learning the local language and diving deeper into the culture.

Ready for more? If you want to level up your language skills, or if you missed out this time and want to start from the very beginning, we have good news: the courses are coming back!

Please note that our next semester will start a bit earlier than usual - classes will kick off in September.

Stay tuned! We will be sharing the updated schedule, language levels, and registration details with you very soon.

For now, take a well-deserved break from studying vocabulary!



Historic Tram Ride Through Prague

On 19 April, the Welcome Centre took participants on a journey through Prague's transport history. After visiting the Střešovice Public Transport Museum, the group enjoyed a ride on a historic tram from 1920, passing Prague Castle, Malá Strana, and other iconic landmarks. Along the way, they discovered fascinating stories about Prague's history, making it a memorable experience for international scholars and their families.



SGGW Delegation Visits CZU

In April, CZU welcomed a delegation from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) for a two-day visit focused on internationalization and support for international academics. The programme included meetings with the EURAXESS and Welcome Centre team, a campus tour, and discussions on international cooperation. The visit also provided an opportunity for networking with international researchers and PhD students, fostering valuable exchange of experiences and best practices. To our Researchers a big thank you for your participation!



Discovering Prague's Hidden Stories

On 16 May, the Welcome Centre organized a guided walk through Prague's historic gardens and hilltop districts. Participants explored the city's rich history, including the origins of Vinohrady, landmarks around Prague Castle, and other hidden gems. Despite the changeable weather, the event offered a memorable morning of discovery, learning, and great company.



The Art of Glassmaking in Nižbor and Křivoklát Castle

In June we enjoyed a memorable day trip to Nižbor and Křivoklát, beginning with a visit to the renowned Nižbor glassworks. During a guided tour, we learned about the traditional craft of handmade glass production and witnessed master glassmakers at work. After lunch in unique railway carriage dining rooms, the group continued to Křivoklát Castle, where they explored one of the Czech Republic's oldest and most impressive medieval castles. The excursion offered a perfect combination of Czech craftsmanship, history, and a friendly atmosphere.

SUMMER EVENTS IN PRAGUE

BOHEMIA JAZZ FEST

WHERE: Historical squares of Prague

WHEN: 14. 7. 2026

Bohemia JazzFest is one of the largest summer jazz music festivals in Europe. For its 21st edition, it will once again bring world-class jazz, funk, and blues to the historical center of Prague –completely free of charge! Join thousands of music fans and enjoy top international performers in an unforgettable open-air atmosphere.



INFO



LETNÍ LETNÁ FESTIVAL - CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS

WHERE: Letná Park (Letenské sady)

WHEN: 12. 8. - 31. 8. 2026

The 23rd edition of the International Festival of Contemporary Circus and Theatre returns to Letná Park! Expect breathtaking acrobatics, visual poetry, and an enchanting atmosphere in the festival village. With an array of international performers and a rich accompanying program for both adults and children, it is a staple of

the Prague summer you won't want to miss.

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LETNÍ SHAKESPEAROVSKÉ SLAVNOSTI (SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL)

WHEN: 23. 6. - 5. 9. 2026

WHERE: Prague Castle &
Liechtenstein Palace

This is the oldest and largest open-air theatre festival in Europe dedicated exclusively to the works of William Shakespeare. With dozens of performances scheduled throughout the summer, it offers a magical cultural experience combining classic theatre with the stunning, romantic backdrop of Prague's historical landmarks.



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PRAGUE OPEN AIR

WHERE: Areál7 Holešovice

WHEN: 17. 6. - 8. 9. 2026

Prague Open Air offers unique open-air experiences on its stages at Areál 7 in Holešovice and Riegrovy sady. Music fans can look forward to a wide range of genres,

a summer atmosphere, and the chance to see their favorite artists. Areál 7 is a multipurpose outdoor venue located in Prague's Holešovice district between the Exhibition Grounds and Holešovice Station. It is easily accessible by car and public transportation.

INFO

For more summer activities check MS Teams - International Scholars and Researchers:

Culture

SUMMER IN THE CITY



More Ideas for Enjoying the Outdoors This Summer

Summer in Prague brings long, warm evenings and a search for the best spots to cool down. It is the perfect season to swap indoor activities for waterfronts, open-air culture, and lively neighborhood gatherings.

Here are some of the best ways to spend your summer days and nights in the city:

Where to Dip and Cool Off (Focus on Prague 6)

When the summer sun beats down, finding water is a priority! Fortunately, Prague 6 offers incredible spots to escape the heat, whether you prefer modern pools or serene nature:

Petynka Swimming Pool

A modern, family-friendly facility featuring a heated 50-meter pool, spacious grassy areas, and a massive waterslide for a bit of a thrill. (koupaliste-petynka.cz)

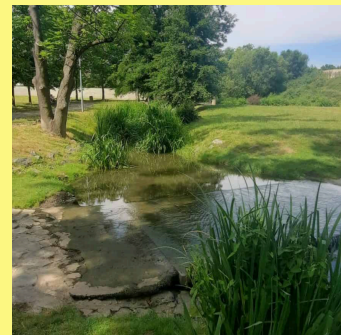
Divoká Šárka Swimming Pool

A quieter lido nestled deep inside a stunning, rocky nature reserve—perfect for anyone looking to escape the city noise. (koupaliste-sarka.webnode.cz)

Biotop Lysolaje

A small, icy-clear natural pond fed by a strong spring. Created by revitalizing a former fire reservoir, it is an ideal, peaceful spot for nature lovers.

(Looking for spots elsewhere? The natural biotope at [Lhotka](#) in Prague 4 is another fantastic option to beat the heat!)



WATER PLAYGROUNDS IN PRAGUE

GUTOVKA

The Gutovka complex offers a public water park with a variety of play features for all age groups. The water throughout the park passes

through a treatment system to ensure it is safe and clean for our young visitors. The water park is open from June through September. Operating hours may vary depending on the weather.

PANSKÁ ZAHRADA

In Říčanka Nature Park, one of the oldest parks in Prague, you'll find the Panská Garden with its maze. This park is a great place for a picnic and some relaxation. In addition to a fantastic wading pool and a small playground, you'll also find a natural maze here. It's the perfect place for toddlers and kids to run around.

PARK MAX VAN DER STOEL

Max van der Stoel Park is a popular spot among both locals and visitors to the city. The park features a wide variety of play structures for children, ranging from balance beams to balance blocks to a rope pyramid. In addition to these attractions, you'll also find fun water features along the Brusnice Creek, which flows through the park.

CYKLOHRÁČEK



It runs on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays from March 21 to November 1, 2026.

For the latest information on service, any changes, or closures, visit [THEIR WEBSITE](#)



Open-Air Cinemas (Letní kino)

One of the most beloved Prague summer traditions! As the sun sets, outdoor screens pop up across the city.

We especially recommend checking out the rooftop of the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art - it offers a fantastic atmosphere and consistently screens films in their original language (with Czech subtitles), making it perfectly accessible for international audiences.

Other great spots to grab a cold drink and enjoy a movie under the starry summer sky include Kasárna Karlín and the Cross Club.



Some other ideas for spending time outside in Summer:

Farmers' Markets for Local Tastes

Saturday mornings are best spent exploring neighborhood markets before the afternoon heat sets in. The lively markets at Kulaťák in Dejvice or Jiřák in Flora are fantastic spots to soak in the local community vibe. You can pick up fresh seasonal fruits, traditional pastries, and excellent local honey directly from Czech beekeepers.

Stromovka Park for Picnics and Active Rest

Prague's largest park is an absolute lifesaver during hot days. The massive, mature trees provide endless shade, and the system of ponds naturally cools the air. It is the perfect location for a lazy afternoon picnic, a scenic bike ride, or even setting up an outdoor circular training session on the grass.

Pedal Boats on the Vltava

A classic Prague summer activity! Renting a pedal boat (šlapadlo) near the National Theatre or Žofín Island gives you a completely unique perspective of the city. You can gently navigate around the islands, enjoy the breeze on the water, and get stunning, unobstructed views of Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge.

If you have questions or need support, don't hesitate to contact the Welcome Centre for International Scholars at welcome.centre@czu.cz.



Photo by Shatarupa Sarkar



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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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