K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Czechia

A guide for international students & families — how Czech higher education works, the long-term visa, FREE tuition if you study in Czech, cheap English programs, and post-study work.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

FREE IN CZECH, CHEAP IN ENGLISH

Czechia offers a rare deal: **public-university tuition is completely free if you study in the Czech language — for any nationality** — while English-taught programs remain far cheaper than Western Europe. Add historic universities (Charles University dates to 1348), low living costs, and central Europe. Non-EU students need a **long-term visa or residence permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Czech rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Czech embassy, Study in the Czech Republic, and your university**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Czechia

WHAT TO KNOW

Czechia offers **free tuition if you study in Czech (any nationality), cheap English-taught programs, historic top universities, low living costs, and a safe, central location** — with easy travel to Germany, Austria, and Poland.

BY THE NUMBERS

Free in Czech	Cheap in English	Historic universities
any nationality	vs. the West	Charles, 1348

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Czechia's **remarkable value** (free in Czech, cheap in English) against learning Czech for the free route — either way, it's among Europe's best-value destinations.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **free-if-you-study-in-Czech** rule applies to *all* nationalities at public universities — a rare and powerful option.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Czech higher education is led by **public universities**: **Charles University** (Prague; oldest in Central Europe, strong in medicine, law, humanities), **Czech Technical University** (CTU, engineering), **Masaryk University** (Brno), and others. Degrees are Bologna-compliant (bachelor's—master's—doctorate).

BY THE NUMBERS

Charles University	CTU / Masaryk	Bologna
oldest & top-ranked	+ others	EU-recognized degrees

HOW TO HELP

Choose among Czechia's **public universities** by field — Charles for medicine/law/humanities, CTU for engineering, Masaryk for research — and note the language of instruction.

GOOD TO KNOW

Czech degrees are **Bologna-compliant and EU-recognized** — portable across Europe.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Visa or Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students staying over 90 days need a **long-term visa for study** or a **long-term residence permit**, applied for at a Czech embassy. After arrival, you register/apply with the **Ministry of Interior (foreign police)** within the required timeframe.

BY THE NUMBERS

Long-term visa/permit	At the embassy	Register
for study, non-EU	before travel	MOI / foreign police

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **long-term visa or residence permit** at a Czech embassy with your admission, funds proof, insurance, and criminal-record check — processing takes ~4–8 weeks (up to 60 days).

WATCH OUT

Apply **early** — processing can take up to 60 days, and documents must be translated and apostilled.

4

STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (procedures vary by institution). The academic year runs **September–June**, with application deadlines often **February–May**. Some programs (like medicine) have entrance exams; credential recognition (nostrification) may apply.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	Feb–May	Entrance exams
to universities	typical deadlines	for some (medicine)

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to your chosen universities** by their deadlines, prepare for any **entrance exam**, and handle credential recognition (nostrification) if required.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some programs require **nostrification** (recognition of your prior qualification) — start it early, as it takes time.

5

STEP 05 OF 10

Understand Tuition (the Free Route)

WHAT TO KNOW

The headline: **public-university programs taught in Czech are tuition-free for everyone, regardless of nationality**. **English-taught** programs charge fees — typically **€1,000–15,000/year** (medicine higher), still cheaper than Western Europe. Private universities always charge.

BY THE NUMBERS

Czech-taught	English-taught	Private unis
FREE (any nationality)	~€1k–15k/yr	always charge

HOW TO HELP

Decide between the **free Czech-language route** (worth learning Czech for) and an affordable **English-taught program** — both are excellent value.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you're willing to **study in Czech**, your public-university tuition is **zero** — a compelling reason to learn the language.

6

STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa/permit you must prove **sufficient funds** for tuition and living — recently around **€5,500+ for the academic year**. You also need **health insurance** valid in Czechia (student packages are affordable) and a criminal-record certificate.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Health insurance	Criminal record
~€5,500+/year	required	certificate

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount, arrange **Czech-valid health insurance**, and get a criminal-record certificate — all required for the visa.

WATCH OUT

Non-EU students need **specific Czech-valid health insurance** — affordable student packages exist; confirm the accepted type.

7

STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

For **Czech-taught** (free) programs you prove Czech; for **English-taught** programs you prove English (IELTS, TOEFL, and often Duolingo are accepted). Learning Czech significantly helps daily life and (better) part-time work.

BY THE NUMBERS

Czech-taught	English-taught	Some Czech
prove Czech (free)	IELTS/TOEFL/Duolingo	helps work & life

HOW TO HELP

Take the **right test for your program's language**, and learn some Czech — it helps daily life and opens better part-time work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many Czech universities accept **Duolingo** alongside IELTS/TOEFL — check your program's accepted tests.

8

STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **residence registration, health insurance, and a bank account**, and have documents **translated and apostilled**. Living costs are low (€400–750/month; Prague pricier). Housing is competitive in Prague — start early.

BY THE NUMBERS

Register	Translate/apostille	Low costs
residence + insurance	documents	€400–750/mo

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence registration, insurance, bank** — prepare **translated, apostilled documents**, and secure housing early in Prague.

GOOD TO KNOW

Prague housing is **competitive and pricier** than other Czech cities — arrange it early; Brno and Olomouc are cheaper.

9

STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

International students may work **part-time (typically up to 20 hours/week)** during their studies, and **no special work permit is needed** if you're enrolled in an accredited program. Knowing Czech greatly improves job prospects.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	No permit	Czech helps
~20 hrs/week	if enrolled	for better jobs

HOW TO HELP

You may work **part-time (~20 hrs/week) without a special permit** while enrolled — useful, though learning Czech opens far more opportunities.

GOOD TO KNOW

Part-time work is **much easier with some Czech** — especially in customer-facing roles.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, you can apply for an **extended residence permit / job-seeking visa (recently up to about 9 months)** to find work or start a job. Czechia hosts many multinationals in **IT, engineering, and business**, with strong graduate demand.

BY THE NUMBERS

Job-seeking visa	Multinationals	Central Europe
~9 months	IT, engineering, business	+ EU recognition

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **post-study job-seeking permit**, build networks during study, and target Czechia's strong IT/engineering/business sectors if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Czechia's **job-seeking visa** plus its multinational job market make staying on realistic — confirm the current duration and conditions.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Czechia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Czech embassy, Study in the Czech Republic, and your university.

The system

Public universities led by Charles University (oldest in Central Europe), Czech Technical University, and Masaryk; Bologna-compliant, EU-recognized degrees; academic year Sept–June.

Visa & permit

Non-EU/EEA students staying over 90 days need a long-term visa for study or a long-term residence permit (apply at a Czech embassy; register with the MOI on arrival).

Tuition (the key)

Public-university programs taught in Czech are FREE for all nationalities; English-taught programs charge ~€1,000–15,000/year (cheaper than Western Europe); private universities always charge.

Money

Prove ~€5,500+/year in funds for tuition and living; Czech-valid health insurance and a criminal-record certificate are required; living costs are low (€400–750/month).

Work & after

Work part-time (~20 hrs/week) without a special permit while enrolled; a post-study job-seeking visa (recently up to ~9 months) supports staying to work.

YOUR CZECH JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

K12 ACADEMICS

k12academics.com

© 2004–2026 K12 Academics