



## **WELCOME GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice



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## Welcome!

Dear international students,

we are pleased to welcome you to the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (USB), the biggest higher education institution in the region. Our university has more than 10 000 students across eight faculties, and offers a wide range of study and research opportunities. We believe that studying at our university will give you an unforgettable experience.

We know that setting up in a new city and a new environment may be challenging for newcomers. This guide is designed to help you to prepare for your stay at USB.

Together with our colleagues of Faculty International Relations offices and the students of the International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis, we are ready to guide and support you during your stay at our university.

Don't hesitate to contact us!

Rectorate International Relations Office – University of South Bohemia  
in České Budějovice

## Contacts

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### Rectorate International Relations Office

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University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice  
Braníšovská 1645/31a  
370 05 České Budějovice  
Czech Republic

<https://www.jcu.cz/en/study-at-usb/contact-us>  
[international@jcu.cz](mailto:international@jcu.cz), [erasmus@jcu.cz](mailto:erasmus@jcu.cz)  
[www.facebook.com/InternationalOfficeUSB/](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalOfficeUSB/)  
Rectorate International Relations Office Contact Centre  
in the Academic Library, ground floor

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## Faculties – International Relations Offices

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### Faculty of Economics

Studentská 13, 370 05 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[international@ef.jcu.cz](mailto:international@ef.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Arts

Branišovská 1645/31a, 370 05 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[international@ff.jcu.cz](mailto:international@ff.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Education

Jeronýmova 10, 371 15 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[svobodova@pf.jcu.cz](mailto:svobodova@pf.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Science

Branišovská 1760, 370 05 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[bokosy@pf.jcu.cz](mailto:bokosy@pf.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters

Zátiší 728/II, 389 25 Vodňany

[webpage](#)

[lkacerova@frov.jcu.cz](mailto:lkacerova@frov.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Theology

Kněžská 8, 370 01 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[purova@tf.jcu.cz](mailto:purova@tf.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Health and Social Sciences

J. Boreckého 27, 370 11 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[zahr@zsf.jcu.cz](mailto:zahr@zsf.jcu.cz)

### Faculty of Agriculture and Technology

Studentská 1668, 370 05 České Budějovice

[webpage](#)

[kdvorako@fzt.jcu.cz](mailto:kdvorako@fzt.jcu.cz)

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## International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis

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[www.esnusb.cz](http://www.esnusb.cz)

[www.facebook.com/esnusb/](https://www.facebook.com/esnusb/)

[info@esnusb.cz](mailto:info@esnusb.cz)

## 1. What to do before arrival to USB?

### Admission

Procedures vary for exchange and degree students and also from faculty to faculty.

Find detailed information according to your needs at: <https://www.jcu.cz/en/admissions/admission-procedure>

### Study programmes and course selection

Studies and all study related activities are carried out at faculties.

Browse faculty international relations office web to find details about courses in foreign languages for exchange students and study programmes in foreign languages for degree students.

### Organisation of academic year

The academic year is divided into two semesters:

→ **Winter semester**

Teaching period: end-September – mid-January

Examination period: mid-January – mid-February

→ **Spring semester**

Teaching period: mid-February – mid-May

Examination period: mid-May – end-June

The summer vacation is in July and August.

Current Academic calendar is available at <https://www.jcu.cz/en/study-at-usb/about-studies>

### Entry formalities: visa, residence permit

#### European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland citizens

You do not need a visa or special permit. To enter the Czech Republic, you only need a valid passport or national ID card.

#### Citizens of other countries

Obtaining a visa or residence permit is one of the most important steps for the preparation of your studies in the Czech Republic.

The whole procedure for obtaining a student visa can take **up to 60 days**. Make sure that you request your visa well in advance, to receive it before your departure!

Detailed information concerning visa process is available at the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic web pages: [www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/information-for-schools-and-students.aspx](http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/information-for-schools-and-students.aspx)

Once you have been accepted for studies at the university, you will have to go to your local Czech embassy or consulate abroad and submit your visa/residence permit application. These applications cannot be submitted from inside the Czech Republic.

- An application for a **long-term residence permit** for the purpose of “studies”: if you intend to stay temporarily in the Czech Republic for a period longer than 3 months and you plan to stay for more than 6 months (for example degree students)
- An application for a **long-term visa** for the purpose of “studies”: if you intend to stay temporarily in the Czech Republic for a period longer than 3 months and you plan to stay for less than 6 months in total (for example exchange students)

If you are a holder of a residence permit or a long-term visa issued by another Schengen state, you may stay in the territory of the Czech Republic without a visa **only for a short-term stay** not exceeding 90 days. It is necessary to think about the length of your stay before entering the Czech Republic.

Citizens of some countries are exempt from visa obligation for entering the Czech Republic. Attention: this **visa free regime** applies only to **short-term stays** up to 90 days of a non-profit nature.

Contact your Faculty International Relations Office to get these obligatory documents: **Proof of accommodation, Confirmation of enrolment in studies.**

The regulations for obtaining visas can change from time to time. In addition, embassies in individual countries are given a certain leeway in applying them. This means that the regulations listed here should be considered as guidelines only.

Always you have to consult your local Czech embassy or consulate for the latest information regarding visa requirements, and the particular local requirements that are in force.

### Student mode (*Režim student*)

The project “Student Mode” is the concept of visa facilitation for students-foreigners from selected third countries who have already been admitted to study at Czech universities.

Contact the Faculty International Relations Office to see if you are eligible. If so, the coordinator will nominate you to this project and you will get priority access to the appointment at the Czech Embassy or consulate for a visa interview.

Note: The nomination for the Student mode is by no means a guarantee, that you will actually receive a student visa, or that you will receive it quicker. This project is only a fast track to get an appointment at the Embassy or Consulate.

## Accommodation

### University dormitories (*univerzitní koleje*)

This is the most common, safest and usually cheapest option for students.

There are 5 dormitory buildings (*koleje*): K1–K5

Four dormitories (K1–K4) are located directly in the main university campus. Dormitory K5 is located about 15 minutes walk away from the main campus, just next to the building of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences.

- K1 provides single and double rooms. Kitchenette and bathroom with toilet are shared between several rooms.
- K2 and K3 provide double bedrooms furnished with a fridge, sink, desks, beds and cupboards. Sanitary facilities (toilets, showers, washing machine) are located on the corridor. A shared kitchen is situated on each floor.
- K4 provides double rooms. Sanitary facilities (toilet, bathroom) and a fridge are shared between 2 rooms. A shared kitchen is situated on each floor.
- K5 provides double and triple rooms with their own sanitary facilities (toilets, shower). A shared kitchen is situated on each floor.



### Services at dormitories

- laundry room
- elevator
- possibility to borrow small appliances and household equipment
- internet connection available by network cable (bring your own cable!)
- reception 24/7 during the academic year

### Price and payment

- The price varies from 2500 to 4200 CZK per month, depending on the dormitory and type of room you stay in.
- You can pay in cash (Czech crowns) or by card.

### How to apply?

Follow the instructions given by your Faculty coordinator or Faculty study department.

More information at [www.kam.jcu.cz](http://www.kam.jcu.cz)

### Private accommodation

Apart from university housing, you can find various alternative accommodation providers in České Budějovice. However, be prepared that arranging the reservation before your arrival may be challenging because information on local providers' web pages is usually in the Czech language.



### Private dormitories

To find more options, just google key words “*kolej*” (= dormitory) or “*ubytovna*” (= hostel) in České Budějovice and contact listed accommodation providers.

### Flatsharing/Roomsharing

There are several websites and Facebook groups with accommodation offers. Try for example to search on these ones:

- Espolubydlení.cz: [www.espolubydleni.cz/podnajem-spolubydlici/jihocesky-kraj](http://www.espolubydleni.cz/podnajem-spolubydlici/jihocesky-kraj)
- Facebook group Spolubydlení ČB: [www.facebook.com/groups/234631556716962](https://www.facebook.com/groups/234631556716962)
- Facebook group Bydlení České Budějovice: [www.facebook.com/groups/BydleniCeskeBudejovice/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BydleniCeskeBudejovice/)

### Renting a flat

Search some offers in english at [www.sreality.cz/en](http://www.sreality.cz/en)

Some real estate agents can speak English and help you, but be prepared, that they may charge a fee for their services.

For non-EU citizens arranging accommodation is an integral part of the visa application process since they need to provide a confirmation of the guaranteed accommodation as an enclosure to the visa application form. However, for all students, it is highly recommended to **arrange accommodation in advance**.



If you need any help with arranging **private accommodation**, contact the International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis.

## Health insurance

**European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland citizens** are entitled to the provision of routine and emergency health care free of charge with the same conditions as Czech citizens. It is necessary to have a European Health Insurance Card (blue card) issued by the social security or health care authorities in your home country.

More information about the European Health Insurance Card:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559>

However, European Health Insurance Card does not cover extra costs like private health care or return flight to your home country in case of health issues. That is why it is highly recommended to get extra travel health insurance before leaving your country.

**Citizens of other countries** have to get private insurance valid for the whole period of their stay in the Czech Republic, to cover hospitalisation, medical expenses, and repatriation to their home country.

Students who intend to stay in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days are required to purchase comprehensive health insurance coverage. You will be asked to submit proof of Czech health insurance when you apply for a visa. It is recommended to consult the Czech Embassy or consulate and verify whether the insurance meets the requirements for an application for a visa or residence permit for stays longer than 90 days. There are several Czech insurance companies that provide the right type of insurance specifically designed for the needs of international students: SLAVIA, MAXIMA, UNIQA, VZP, ERGO, SWISSCARE.

Use the **Health insurance calculator** to compare the different offers:  
<http://infocizinci.cz/en/health-insurance-calculator/>

Based on international agreements, students from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Cuba, Japan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and USA **could be** exempt from the requirement to submit proof of travel medical insurance. The same exception applies to participants of the Erasmus Mundus programme, Fulbright scholarship programme, European Voluntary Service. For more information, discuss your personal situation with the Czech embassy or consulate in your country.

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## International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis

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It is a team of local students, who help international students to acclimatise and integrate into the university and local environment. It can help you with everyday matters during your stay in České Budějovice. It also organizes various free time activities such as sports, parties, cultural activities, trips and so on...

**A mentor** (also called “buddy”) is a local student who helps the international student with various things upon arrival and during their stay at USB such as pick-up, getting accommodated, orientation in the city/campus, studies, foreign police... And in the end, your mentor can also become your friend! To get a mentor, contact the International Student Club!

[www.esnusb.cz](http://www.esnusb.cz)  
[www.facebook.com/esnusb/](https://www.facebook.com/esnusb/)  
[info@esnusb.cz](mailto:info@esnusb.cz)

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## Orientation Week

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Rectorate International Relations Office together with International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis organise the Orientation Week for exchange students one week before the official start of each semester.

The goal is to help new students with necessary administration, settings and familiarising them with the campus and the city. During orientation week students have also the possibility to get to know other students, enjoy leisure activities and get to know some basics of Czech culture and language.

If you are a future exchange student, you will receive detailed information about orientation week directly by email a few weeks in advance.

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## University Support Centre for students with special needs

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If you are a student with special needs such as physical or specific learning disabilities and you need assistance, you can contact this centre. It can help for example by making study materials more accessible, providing personal assistance and counselling, negotiating extra needs with teachers...

Personal consultation is possible arrangement by email at: [centrum-ssp@jcu.cz](mailto:centrum-ssp@jcu.cz)

## 2. How to get to České Budějovice and to the campus?

### Transport in the Czech Republic

Czech Republic has a dense network of public transport (trains, buses, city buses). To check the timetable and connections of all public transport in the Czech Republic, you can use the website [www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz). There is an English and German version of the website (click on the flag on the bottom right of the page). You can find the timetable of any public transport by selecting bus/train/city public transport.

There is also a very **useful application for smartphones** called “Pubtran”, which you can download **for free**.

When travelling around the country, be sure to have **enough cash** (Czech crowns) with you, because it is not always possible to pay by card, and it is not possible to use euros or other foreign currency.

## Transport from Prague Václav Havel airport to České Budějovice

Prague public transport company: [www.dpp.cz/en/](http://www.dpp.cz/en/)

### From Vaclav Havel airport

#### To the main train station (Hlavní nádraží)

The easiest way is to use the bus “Airport Express” (AE) from Terminal 1. You can buy the ticket directly from the bus driver (60 CZK). The AE bus line operates daily at 30-minute intervals. From the airport the bus operates from 5:30 until 20:00.

#### To the bus station “Na Knížecí”

You can use the bus line n°100 to “Zličín”, then change to metro line B direction “Černý most” and stop at metro station “Anděl”.

#### To the bus station “Florenc”

You can use the bus line n°119 to “Nádraží Veleslavín”, then change to metro line A direction “Depo Hostivař”, change at “Můstek” to line B direction “Černý most” and stop at metro station “Florenc”.

The price of the public transport ticket in Prague is 32 CZK. If you have luggage with dimensions of 25 × 45 × 70 cm, you should also buy an extra ticket of 16 CZK. Complete information about the fares: <http://www.dpp.cz/en/fares-in-prague/>

In Prague be careful using taxis. Taxi drivers have a bad reputation in Prague. One of the reliable taxi companies is AAA Radiotaxi – tel. +420 222 333 222, [www.aaa-taxi.cz](http://www.aaa-taxi.cz)

You can also use Uber in Prague.

## From Prague to České Budějovice

The price of a train or bus ticket is around 150-200 CZK and if you have a student card you can ask for a student discount.

### By train

The train connection to České Budějovice is quite frequent, about every hour. From the main train station the journey to České Budějovice takes about 2 hours 30 min.

Buy your train ticket at the ticket office before getting on the train. It is also possible to buy your ticket online: [www.cd.cz/en/](http://www.cd.cz/en/)

### By bus

There are many companies providing bus transport from Prague to České Budějovice. The most common and convenient are Student Agency (yellow buses) and Flixbus.

Buses to České Budějovice usually depart from the bus stations “Na Knížecí” or “Florenc”.

Buy the tickets online.

Student Agency: [www.studentagency.eu/en/](http://www.studentagency.eu/en/)

Flixbus: [www.flixbus.com](http://www.flixbus.com)

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## Transport from České Budějovice station to the university campus – dormitories K1-K4

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The train station and the bus station in České Budějovice are situated very close to each other.

The bus station is situated on the top floor of the commercial centre called “Mercury”. The name of the bus stop is “Nádraží” and it is on the side of the building of Mercury.

To get to the university, take the bus n° 3 and get off at “Jihočeská univerzita”. It takes about 10-15 minutes from the station. During the night, take the bus n°53.

More information in the section “Transport in České Budějovice” page 44.

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## Transport from České Budějovice station to the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences – dormitory K5

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From the station, bus stop “Nádraží”, take the bus n°1 or n°4 and get off at the bus stop “Evžena Rošického”. It takes about 20 minutes from the station. Then walk about 5 minutes to get to the Faculty.



## 3. First steps at the university

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### Check-in at university dormitories

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We recommend going to the dormitories with your mentor, the staff at reception do not always speak English!

During the academic year, the reception of dormitories is open 24/7.

To check-in:

- Present your passport or ID card at the reception.
- Pay in cash or by card two monthly rents in advance.
- Provide a passport size photo to get your “dormitory card”.

You will receive the key of your room. Sheets and blankets are provided.

The next working day after your arrival visit the head of your dormitory to sign your accommodation contract.

## Registration at Faculty International Relations Office/Study department

Within a few days of your arrival, you have to register for your studies at your faculty. Degree students register at the study department, exchange students register during the Orientation week or at the Faculty International Relations Office.

You can get access to the STAG system only after registration. STAG is the university information system where you can register for classes, see your timetable, get contacts for the teachers, see the results of your exams and so on.

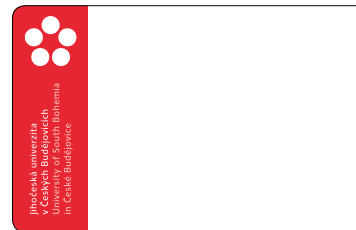
## Student card

Each new student needs to get a student identification card (ID card). This card gives you access to the university buildings and also allows you to use services at the university (canteen, printing and copying, library).

You can choose between two kind of cards:

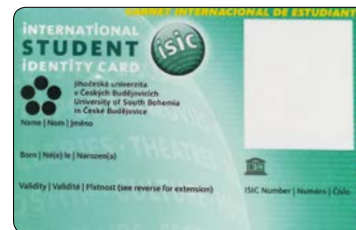
### • Basic USB student ID card

Valid just inside the University of South Bohemia. Fee: 80 CZK



### • ISIC Card

The ISIC card (International Student Identity Card) has the same function as the basic USB card (access to the buildings, canteen, library...) but also allows you to get student discounts for transport, restaurants, cinemas, museums, exhibitions and concerts.



For more information about the use of the card and the possibility to get discounts, please visit [www.isic.cz](http://www.isic.cz). Fee: 250 CZK

To get your card, you need to fill in an application form with a passport-size photo, and pay the fee.

If you attend the Orientation Week, the application of ID card is part of the programme.

Other students get instructions from the study department or International Relations Office of their faculty.

In case of any problem with your card such as loss, deterioration or technical issue visit the IT Helpdesk (*Kartové centrum*). Fees for issuing new ID card are higher than for the first time.

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## Internet connection and IT settings

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### Eduroam

USB is part of Eduroam worldwide network which allows students, researchers and staff from participating institutions to obtain Internet connectivity across campus and when visiting other participating institutions. Eduroam has to be set at your home university, you can then benefit from eduroam connection on your equipment without any special setting here.

### USB Wifi network and IT settings

At the beginning of your stay, you will receive a personal account (username and password) that allows you access to wifi network and other IT systems of the university.

If you attend the Orientation Week, the IT settings are part of the programme. Other students can visit IT Helpdesk (*Kartové centrum*) if they need some help.

### Internet at dormitories

At the dormitories, there is no wifi connection. Internet is available by cable connection. It is necessary to have your own ethernet cable, which you can bring with you or buy on site.

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## Accommodation scholarship

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As well as local students, international students can apply for a special governmental scholarship for accommodation.

The amount is about 400-500 CZK per month, but is subject to changes through the year. To receive the scholarship, it is necessary to fill in the application at the beginning of your studies.

You can receive more information at the Study department or International Relations Office of your faculty.

If you attend the Orientation Week, we will provide detailed information during the programme.



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## Registration at Foreign police or Ministry of Interior – Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (OAMP)

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### EU citizens

- If you stay in university dormitories – you do not need to register, registration is done directly by the dormitories.
- If you stay in private accommodation, registration at foreign police is compulsory within 30 days of your arrival.

### Non-EU citizens

#### 1. You have a long-term visa (6 months)

- If you stay in university dormitories – you do not need to register, registration is done directly by the dormitories.
- If you stay in private accommodation, registration at foreign police is compulsory within 3 working days after your arrival.

#### 2. You have a long-term residence permit (up to 1 year)

You have to register at OAMP (Department for Asylum and Migration Policy) within 3 working days in order to provide your biometric data necessary for the issue of your residence permit card.

## Contacts

### Foreign police (*Cizinecká policie*)

Address: Pražská 1257/23, České Budějovice – 3rd floor  
Telephone: +420 974 221 829  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 8:00–17:00

### Ministry of the Interior, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (OAMP) (*Ministerstvo vnitra, odbor azylové a migrační politiky*)

Address: Pražská 1257/23, České Budějovice – 1st floor  
Telephone: +420 974 226 851  
Office hours:  
Monday and Wednesday: 8:00–17:00  
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00–12:00  
Friday: Only for clients with an appointment

### If you stay in Vodňany, you need to register in the city of Písek:

Foreign police and Ministry of the Interior (OAMP)  
Na Výstavišti 377, Písek  
Tel.: 974 235 851, 859  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 8:00–17:00

The officers of Ministry of Interior or Foreign police do not always speak English. We highly recommend a Czech speaking person to accompany you, for example your mentor!



## 4. Living and studying at the university

Most of the buildings of the University of South Bohemia are situated on the main campus, about 20–30 minutes walk from historical centre of České Budějovice. On campus, you will find the Rectorate, the Academic Library, four dormitories, the main canteen, the student club “Kampa” and buildings of the Faculties of Agriculture, Arts, Economics, Fisheries and Protection of Waters and Science.

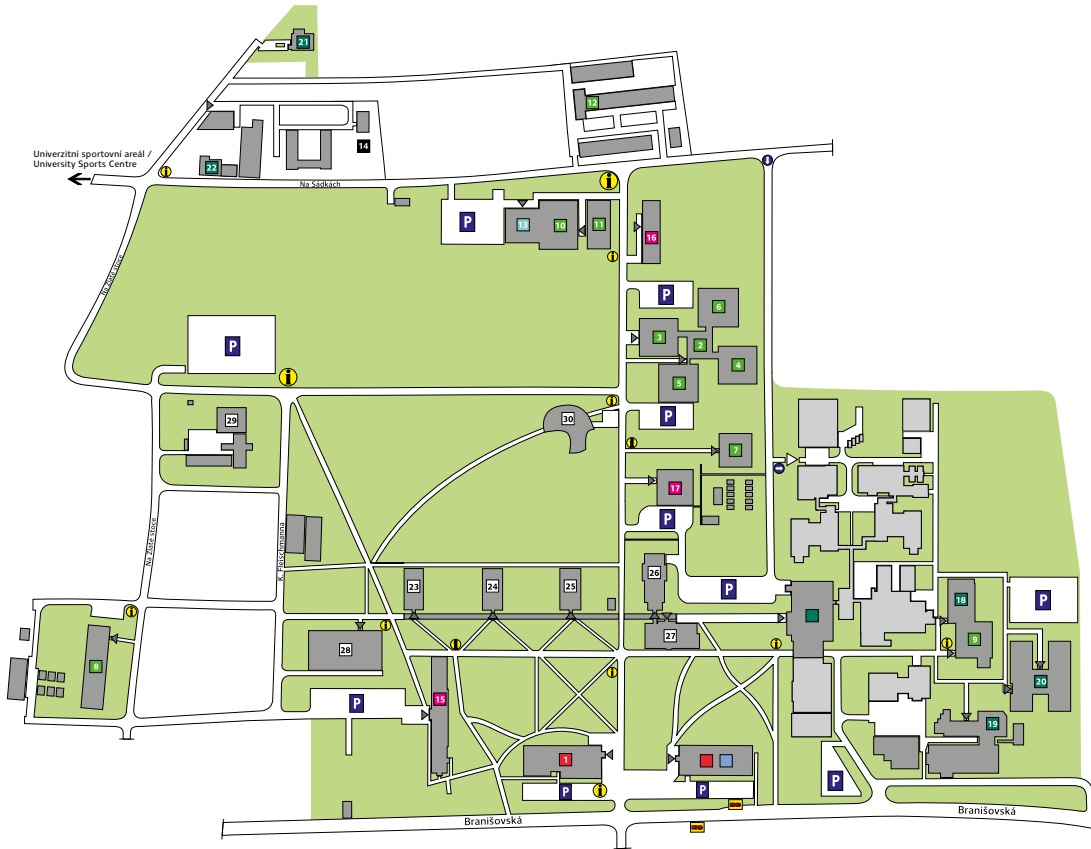
On campus you will also find the buildings of the Biology Centre of the Academy of Science of Czech Republic, which is not part of the university but closely cooperates with it.

Buildings of the Faculties of Education and Theology (including a small canteen) are situated in the historical centre of the city.

The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (including a canteen) and the dormitory K5 can be found about 15 minutes walk from the campus.

Our Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters has its main building in the town of Vodňany, about 30 km north of České Budějovice. If you are a doctoral student of this faculty you may stay there. See sections “Campus in Vodňany” page 42 and “Living in Vodňany” page 53.

## University campus in České Budějovice



- Rector's Office**
- 1 Academic Library
- Faculty of Arts**
- Faculty of Agriculture and Technology**
- 2 Building A, Student Affairs Office
- 3 Building B, Departments
- 4 Building C, Centre for Agroecology
- 5 Building D, Centre for Agricultural Product Processing
- 6 Building E, Quality Control Centre
- 7 Building M, BAT Centre, Classrooms
- 8 Building K 200, Classrooms
- 9 Biology Centre, Classrooms
- 10 Classrooms, Laboratories
- 11 Service Building
- 12 Stock Rooms
- Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters**
- 13 Department of Aquaculture, Directorate, Classrooms
- 14 Agricultural School Farm
- Biology Centre AS CR
- Faculty of Economics**
- 15 Building A
- 16 Building C
- 17 Building F
- Faculty of Science**
- 18 Building A
- 19 Building B – Blazek Building
- 20 Building C
- 21 Department of Botany
- 22 Centre for Polar Ecology
- 23 Dormitory K1
- 24 Dormitory K2
- 25 Dormitory K3
- 26 Dormitory K4
- 27 Auditorium, Hostel
- 28 University Canteen
- 29 Science and Technology Park
- 30 Student Club

## University campus in České Budějovice

### Dining

The university offers a wide range of possibilities to get food and drinks at subsidized prices.

#### University canteen (*Menza*)

The canteen serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers diverse types of meals, including salads, soups, pizzas, but also for example vegetarian or gluten free meals.

The canteen has 3 buildings:

- Main canteen on the campus (next to the Faculty of Economics)
- Canteen in the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (next to K5 dormitory)
- Canteen in the Faculty of Theology (city center)

To use the canteen services you have to deposit money on your student ID card at the canteen cashdesk (ground floor – main building), at the Academic Library café or at the reception of dormitory K4.

You can also order your meal in advance:

- Online: <https://menza.jcu.cz/> – You have to login by clicking on “Přihlášení do WebKredit”, then choose English language.
- Terminal: located on the ground floor of the main building

### Cafés

- Academic Library Café (ground floor of the Academic library): You can buy some snacks, drinks, sandwiches and salads here. You can pay by cash or with the credit on your student ID card.
- JU Café (ground floor of the canteen): It serves breakfast, hot and cold drinks, desserts and other snacks.
- Student Club Kampa is situated in the middle of the campus. It serves various drinks, including the beer “Čtyrák” produced by our Faculty of Agriculture! Kampa organizes also many concerts, parties, meetings, conferences... More information on their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/KampaJU/](http://www.facebook.com/KampaJU/)
- Buffet in Biology Centre (ground floor): You can get some bakery products, sandwiches, soups, and drinks here.
- Coffee to go – Sweet City (Ground floor – Rectorate building).

### Academic Library

The Academic Library provides library and informational services for students and staff of USB, for employees of the Biology Centre of the Academy of Science and for the general public. The main building is located on campus, in front of the Rectorate.

Inside the library, you can find, on two floors, more than 450 000 books and journals, tens of thousands of electronic journals and e-books, more than 500 study places in various study rooms, and 100 PCs with internet access. There is wifi connection all around the building.

The library also offers self-service copying, scanning and printing. Copy and printing machines are located in both library floors. The service is payable; you will need to have a minimum credit of 10 CZK on your ID card.

More information (opening hours, loan services, catalogue...) can be found at [www.lib.jcu.cz](http://www.lib.jcu.cz)

## Sports

Sports facilities of the Faculty of Education are available for all USB students. They are situated about 15 minutes walk from campus (street Na Sádkách) and include for example table tennis hall, fitness room, climbing wall, outside football field and tennis or volleyball courts.

As a student, you can register for sport classes and get credits. There are many types of classes, for example yoga, karate, climbing, swimming, tennis, volleyball...

The department of sport studies also organises training courses: in the winter, you can go skiing in French Alp resorts, or cross country skiing in the Czech Šumava mountains. During the summer, you can learn windsurfing in Croatia or go cycling in the Czech countryside.

## Culture and student organisations

During the academic year, the cultural life of the campus is very rich. There are many events organised all over the year: conferences, festivals, concerts, theatre and of course parties.

Here are some of the most active student organisations:

**International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis:** [www.esnusb.cz](http://www.esnusb.cz)

Helping international and local students getting together, organizing trips, sports and cultural activities, parties.

**Student Union (SUJU):** [www.facebook.com/StudentskaUnieJU](https://www.facebook.com/StudentskaUnieJU)

Organizing many events for all students such as welcome festival, end of year festival, conferences, trainings, parties.

**AISEC České Budějovice – local section:** <https://aiesec.cz/cbudejovice/>

**Students Radio K2:** <http://www.radiok2.cz/>

**Students theatre:** [www.facebook.com/SudStudentskeUniverzitetniDivadlo/](https://www.facebook.com/SudStudentskeUniverzitetniDivadlo/)

## University Psychological Consulting Centre – Faculty of Education

Studying and living abroad is challenging and you may feel homesick, stressed or anxious. If you do not feel well and need some help, you can contact the university psychological consulting centre.

The Psychological Centre is situated in the building of the Faculty of Education (Jeronýmová 10 – Ground floor). The consultation is free of charge for students, and the psychologists speak English, German or French. It is necessary to arrange a meeting in advance.  
<https://www.pf.jcu.cz/en/faculty/other-facilities/the-university-counselling-centre>

## Campus in Vodňany

The main campus of the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters is situated in the town of Vodňany, about 30km north of České Budějovice and if you are a PhD student, you will spend most of your studies, research and practice there.

The campus provides modern research facilities and laboratories as well as accommodation and dining services. There is a specialized library in the area of fisheries, aquaculture, hydrobiology, ichthyology and related sciences that provides over 20 000 items.

There is also a special International Environmental Educational, Advisory and Information Centre of Water Protection (MEVPIS) focused primarily on life-long learning, especially in environmental field.



## 5. Living in České Budějovice

České Budějovice is the biggest town of the South Bohemian region. It is a royal town founded in 1265 famous around the world especially for its Budweiser beer brewery. The historical centre is small, but the city is big enough! It is the commercial and political capital of the region. There are always many events, especially during the summer.

[www.c-budejovice.cz](http://www.c-budejovice.cz)

### Transport in České Budějovice

#### Public transport – Buses and trolleybuses

Many buses and trolleybuses go through and around the city. To get to campus, take the trolleybus n°3 and stop at "Jihočeská univerzita".

You can check the timetables on [www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz) or using the application Pubtran. You can get a 60 minutes ticket for 16 CZK from the yellow machines at bus stops or in the small shops "Tabák". You can also buy a ticket directly from the driver but the price is 25 CZK. Don't forget to validate your ticket inside the bus.

It may be interesting to get a prepaid long-term ticket, you can get a student discount and pay for example only 190 CZK for a 30 days ticket. To buy your prepaid ticket, visit the ticket office in Mercury centre (next to train station)

or next to the bus stop "Šumava" (5 minutes walk from the campus) with a confirmation of studies (in czech), a passport size photo, and an extra 30 CZK for establishment of the card.

All information are available on [www.dpmcb.cz/en/](http://www.dpmcb.cz/en/)

#### Cycling

České Budějovice is an ideal city for cycling, because it is very flat, and almost every place is reachable within a max. 30 minutes ride. You can get your own bike from one of the second hand shops (bazar). Don't forget to get a good lock!

You can also enjoy bike sharing from the small company Rekola. All over the city, you will see their pink bikes that you can borrow for a small fee (for example 20 CZK / 60 minutes). See more at [www.rekola.cz](http://www.rekola.cz)

#### Taxi

Taxis are not very expensive in České Budějovice, but you have to be careful and use some well-known companies. You may find some taxi of the company Taxi Budejovice s.r.o (Tel.: +420 385 310 689) in front of the train station.

Otherwise you can call for a taxi from these companies:

Taxi Vi3 +420 601 250 260

Taxi Kroupa +420 724 70 80 90

Some taxi companies offer a special price for travel inside České Budějovice (around 90 CZK).

## Health services and emergency

### General practitioner

With your health insurance you are entitled to visit a general practitioner. Anyway, it is important to first arrange an appointment by phone, to be sure that the doctor has the time to see you. Ask your mentor or another czech-speaking person to accompany you.

If you have a specific problem, it is necessary to first visit a general practitioner who will examine you and then send you to see a specialist.

On campus a general practitioner has an office on the back of the Biology centre building.

There are also several medical centres where many doctors have their offices:

- Poliklinika Sever: [www.poliklinikasever.cz](http://www.poliklinikasever.cz)
- Poliklinika Pražská: [www.zzprazska.cz](http://www.zzprazska.cz)
- Poliklinika Jih: [www.eucklinika.cz/ceskebudejovice](http://www.eucklinika.cz/ceskebudejovice)

## Emergency service – Hospital of České Budějovice

[www.nemcb.cz](http://www.nemcb.cz)

### Medical first aid service for adults

Situated in the lower area of the hospital, Pavilion G, access from Gen. Svobody Street.

Contact: +420 387 878 001

Ordination time

Monday – Friday: 6:00 – 22:00

Saturday, Sunday: 9:00 – 21:00

### Dental emergency

Situated in the lower area of the hospital, Pavilion E, access from Gen. Svobody Street.

Contact: +420 387 878 570

Ordination time

Monday – Friday: 16:30 – 21:30

Saturday, Sunday: 8:00 – 18:00

## Pharmacies

There are a large number of pharmacies in České Budějovice, and the most common opening hours are from Monday till Friday from 7:30 till 17:00, also during the weekends in shopping centres.

There is also a 24/7 pharmacy, located in the entrance hall of the hospital of České Budějovice (Tel. +420 387 873 103)



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## Money exchange and ATMs

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In the Czech Republic, you will not be able to pay with currency other than the Czech crowns.

To exchange money, you have several possibilities:

- Banks charge 2-3% commission for cash exchange; sometimes, there is a minimum fee. Banks are generally open Mon-Fri. 8:00–17:00
- Private exchange offices are often in shopping centres and also on the main square Přemysla Otakara II. They are usually open also during the weekends. It is recommended to ask the exact sum you will receive for your money: the sign advertising 0% commission often relates to buying foreign currency! Also the currency rate may not be the best.

ATMs are situated all over the city and usually accept all major credit and debit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Maestro...). One ATM is situated on campus, on the outside of the Rectorate building. Besides, you can pay by card in most of the shops and restaurants without any minimum amount required.

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## Shopping and services

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### Shopping centres

Usually open also during the weekends.

**Mercury Centrum** – situated next to the train station. The bus station is situated on the top floor. There are many stores including clothes, sport, pharmacy, restaurants and a supermarket Albert. [www.mercurycentrum.cz](http://www.mercurycentrum.cz)

**Čtyři Dvory** – a smaller shopping centre situated near to the campus. There is a supermarket Albert, bowling, a cinema and other stores. [www.ctyridvory.cz](http://www.ctyridvory.cz)

**IGY Centrum** – the biggest shopping centre with many stores, restaurants, and also a cinema. [www.igycentrum.cz](http://www.igycentrum.cz)

**GEČKO Shopping Centre** – situated outside the city centre. It includes the supermarket Globus, a restaurant and diverse stores. [www.geckocb.cz](http://www.geckocb.cz)

### Supermarkets close to the campus

**Billa supermarket** – the closest one to the campus, about 5 minutes walk  
Address: Jana Opletala 926/20 – Bus stop “Šumava”  
Open from 7:00 to 20:00 7/7

**Supermarket Kaufland** – about 20 minutes walk from the campus, next to Stromovka city park  
Address: Na Sádkách 1444  
Open from 7:00 to 22:00 7/7

**Supermarket Tesco** – close to the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences,  
15 minutes walk from the campus  
Address: J. Boreckého 1590  
Open from 6:00 to 22:00 7/7

**Opening hours:** outside shopping centres and main supermarkets  
which are open every day, most of the shops, banks and post offices are open  
from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00 and on Saturday mornings.

## Leisure time

České Budějovice is situated in the heart of the popular tourist region  
of South Bohemia.

You can get a lot of information about activities in the city and in the region  
by visiting the Tourist Information Centre situated on the main square  
(nám. Přemysla Otakara II. č. 2 – middle entrance to the Town Hall).

Here are just some tips on how you can spend your free time:

### Cinemas

- Cinestar in Čtyři Dvory and Igy shopping centres ([www.cinestar.cz](http://www.cinestar.cz))
- Kino Kotva ([www.kinokotva.cz](http://www.kinokotva.cz))

### South Bohemian Theatre

The theatre uses three stages: Main building on the river bank  
Malše (drama, small operas) – Dr. Stejskala St. 19, Cultural house Metropol  
(opera, ballet) – Senovážné nám. 2, Small Theatre (puppet show,  
studio-drama) – Hradební St. 18

The theatre is famous for its open air Revolving Theatre, based in the chateau  
gardens in the historical town of Český Krumlov. Book your ticket a long time  
in advance!

For more information: [www.jihoceskedivadlo.cz](http://www.jihoceskedivadlo.cz)

**Swimming pool area** contains a long swimming pool for swimmers  
(50 x 20 meters), a children's pool, a diving pool for jumpers, a water slide,  
steam room and whirlpool. Outdoor swimming pool is open during the  
summer.

Opening hours and tariffs: [www.cbsport.cz/plavecky-stadion-a-sauna/](http://www.cbsport.cz/plavecky-stadion-a-sauna/)

**City Park Stromovka:** situated 15 minutes walk from the campus,  
it is an ideal place for sport or relaxing. In the middle of the park, there  
is a pond where you can ice-skate during the winter.

**Winter stadium:** There you can go to see an ice hockey match  
or in the winter go ice-skating.

## Interesting sights around České Budějovice

You should not miss the second largest castle complex in Central Europe (UNESCO world heritage site) located in Český Krumlov! Also visit one of the most beautiful Czech gothic castles in Hluboká nad Vltavou, the historical town of Třeboň and its surrounding ponds, the Šumava and Novohradské mountains, medieval city Tábor, Klet hill and many more.

More tips for trips in the region of South Bohemia: [www.jiznicechy.cz/en/](http://www.jiznicechy.cz/en/)



## 6. Living in Vodňany

The town of Vodňany, situated in the heart of the region of South Bohemia is surrounded with ponds. It is well-known for its fish farming tradition and sport fishing opportunities.

The historical centre is situated about 20 minutes walk from the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters.

More information about Vodňany: [www.infocentrumvodnany.cz/information-centre](http://www.infocentrumvodnany.cz/information-centre)

### Transport

#### Transport from Prague to Vodňany

You can go by bus from the Prague bus station "Na Knížecí". The journey takes about 2 hours. In Vodňany, you will arrive at the bus station situated close to the historical center.

#### Transport from/to České Budějovice

You can travel by train or by bus and the journey takes about 40–50 minutes.

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## Shopping and services

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There are various shops, restaurants and other services in the town. Some supermarkets are open 7/7.

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## Health

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There is a health center (*Poliklinika*) at the address Jiráskova 116, Vodňany.



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## 7. About the Czech Republic

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### Czech language

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The official language of the Czech Republic is Czech. Czech belongs to the western Slavonic family, along with Slovak or Polish. The Czechs and Slovaks understand each other without major problems. Czech has a difficult grammatical structure but reading and pronunciation are not so difficult. Attending Czech classes is highly recommended, to try to learn at least some basics, it will really help you with integrating in the city and among local people.

At USB, exchange students can take some classes during the semester for free. If you are interested in Czech language, you can also take part in the Summer School of Slavonic studies organised by our Faculty of Arts: <https://www.ff.jcu.cz/en/admissions/intensive-czech-language-course-for-foreigners>

## Basic phrases

### Greetings and Social Interaction

Hello! ("Good day!")	<i>Dobrý den!</i>
Hi!	<i>Ahoj!</i>
Goodbye!	<i>Na shledanou!</i>
Thank you	<i>Děkuji</i>
Please	<i>Prosím</i>
You are welcome	<i>Není zač</i>

### Meeting People – informal

What's your name?	<i>Jak se jmenuješ?</i>
My name is Peter	<i>Jmenuji se Petr</i>
Nice to meet you	<i>Těší mě</i>
How are you?	<i>Jak se máš?</i>
Do you speak English?	<i>Mluvíš anglicky?</i>
I don't speak Czech	<i>Nemluvím česky</i>
I don't understand	<i>Nerozumím</i>

### Student life

Canteen	<i>Menza</i>
Dormitory	<i>Kolej</i>
Library	<i>Knihovna</i>

Dean's office	<i>Kancelář děkana</i>
Classroom	<i>Učebna / Posluchárna</i>
Exam	<i>Zkouška</i>
Cashdesk	<i>Pokladna</i>
Student department	<i>Studijní oddělení</i>
International office	<i>Zahraniční oddělení</i>

## Currency

The official currency of the Czech Republic is Czech crown (*Česká koruna*) and its abbreviation is CZK or Kč. The conversion rate is about 1 EUR / 26 CZK. Available banknotes are 5000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200 and 100 CZK. Used coins are 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 CZK. The Czech crown is generally the only currency that can be used.



## Costs of living – Approximate prices

Student dormitory (per month)	2900 CZK / 110 EUR
Public transport in České Budějovice (per month)	190 CZK / 7,50 EUR
Public transport – one ticket	16 CZK / 0,60 EUR
Lunch at university canteen	40 CZK / 1,50 EUR
Pizza at a restaurant	120 CZK / 4,50 EUR
Beer at a pub	30 CZK / 1,20 EUR
Loaf of bread (500g)	20 CZK / 0,80 EUR
1 litre of milk	20 CZK / 0,80 EUR
1 kg of apples	26 CZK / 1 EUR
Cinema ticket	150 CZK / 5,50 EUR
Swimming pool (1 hour)	60 CZK / 2,50 EUR
Gym entry (1 hour)	130 CZK / 5 EUR

## Climate and weather

The Czech Republic has a temperate climate with four seasons. The climate varies throughout the year. Summer weather is relatively hot with average temperatures around 27°C in July and August. During the winter, the weather is cold and snowy with average temperature around -4°C. During Spring and Autumn the weather can be very pleasant but also unpredictable.

## Internet and mobile phones network

It might be more practical and cheaper for you to get a Czech phone number. Before leaving home, check the conditions of use of your phone tariff with your local operator.

If you decide to get a czech phone number, you may choose between one of the three main operators: Vodafone, T-Mobile and O2. Since a few years many other mobile virtual network operators such as Coop mobile, Tesco mobile, OpenCall and Sazka mobile also sell some prepaid cards.

You can get one of these prepaid cards with a credit which is the easiest way if you bring an unblocked cell phone. You can also decide to get a monthly tariff but some operators require a 24 month contract which is not suitable if you stay in the Czech republic for a shorter period.

Ask your mentor to advise you or accompany you to one of the operator's shop.

## Important emergency telephone numbers

112	Single European Emergency Number
158	Police
150	Fire and Rescue Service
155	Emergency Medical Service

## Useful resources and websites

### Pre-arrival formalities

- Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic – Immigration policies: [www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/immigration.aspx](http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/immigration.aspx)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic: [www.mzv.cz](http://www.mzv.cz)
- Health Insurance Bureau: [www.kancelarzp.cz/en/](http://www.kancelarzp.cz/en/)
- Portal of the Czech government: [www.portal.gov.cz/en](http://www.portal.gov.cz/en)

### Get to know more about the Czech Republic

- Study in the Czech Republic: [www.studyin.cz/](http://www.studyin.cz/)
- Youtube channel – Honest guide – See especially the video “Student life in the Czech republic”
- Hello Czech Republic: [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz)
- Official Tourism Portal: [www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com)

## Practical

- Václav Havel Airport in Prague: [www.prg.aero/en/](http://www.prg.aero/en/)
- Trains and Buses – Timetables: [www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz)
- Czech post: [www.ceskaposta.cz/en](http://www.ceskaposta.cz/en)



## Check list

### Pre-arrival

- Admission – Registration: Be in touch with your Faculty International Relations Office or Study department to be sure that your registration at the university is valid.
- Check that you fit with entry requirements to the Czech Republic/ Get your visa if necessary
- Get health insurance
- Arrange your accommodation
- Get a mentor from the International Student Club – ESN USB Budweis and be in touch with him/her
- Get sufficient cash (czech crowns) for the first few days and some passport size photos

### Upon arrival

- Register at your faculty
- Register at the Foreign police/Ministry of immigration if needed
- Get your ID student card and IT account
- Get to know other students and enjoy your stay!





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EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy  
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY