



**MASARYK
UNIVERSITY**

CZECH REPUBLIC



**MASARYK
UNIVERSITY**

CZECH REPUBLIC

■ Guide for International Students **2008/2009**

Brno 2008

■ Contents

1. THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND BRNO	7
1.1 The Czech Republic	7
1.2 The city of Brno	9
2. MASARYK UNIVERSITY	11
2.1 Faculties, institutes and departments	13
2.2 Special English-language programmes	21
2.3 Office for International Studies (OIS)	22
2.4 Structure of studies	25
2.5 Assessment	25
2.6 Academic calendar	26
3. PREPARATIONS BEFORE DEPARTURE	27
3.1 Application procedures	28
3.2 Visa requirements	30
3.3 Medical coverage	33
3.4 International Student Identity Card (ISIC)	34
4. GETTING TO BRNO	35
4.1 Air transport	35
4.2 Rail transport	37
4.3 Coach and bus transport	37
4.4 Travel by car	38
4.5 Some useful Web addresses	38
4.6 Crossing the border	38
4.7 Arrival service	39
5. STARTING IN AT MASARYK UNIVERSITY	40
5.1 Accommodation	40
5.2 Orientation	42
5.3 Registration at the OIS	42
5.4 Student tutors	42
5.5 Reporting of place of stay in the Czech Republic	43

5.6 Student card	43
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6. MASARYK UNIVERSITY AMENITIES AND FACILITIES44

6.1 Student cafeterias	44
6.2 Libraries	45
6.3 University Computer Centre	46
6.4 University self-access centre	47
6.5 Division of Czech for Foreigners	48
6.6 Faculty of Sports Studies	49
6.7 International Student Club	49

7. USEFUL INFORMATION A TO Z50

Climate	50
Currency	51
Eating out	51
Electrical appliances	51
Emergency services	52
Excursions / Day trips	52
Foreign-language press, books	54
Health care	54
Information centre	56
Leisure time and entertainment	56
Money matters	61
Police	62
Post offices	62
Public holidays	63
Public transport	64
Religious services	66
Shopping	67
Sports and physical activities	68
Taxis	68
Telephones	69
Visiting Czechs in their homes	69
www	70



1. The Czech Republic and Brno

1.1 The Czech Republic

Though it has only existed in its present form for a little over a decade, the Czech Republic has a history that stretches back millennia. Prehistoric peoples, Celts, Germanic tribes and even, in southern Moravia, Roman soldiers had all been present in what is now the territory of the Czech Republic before the arrival of the first Slav settlers in the fifth and sixth centuries AD. Rather unfortunately, perhaps, the location of this territory has meant that over the centuries that followed it has continually been subjected to external pressures. As a result, the form of state in which the people have lived, and even its extent, have varied greatly. In certain periods - in particular under the Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in the fourteenth century - the country was a sovereign state and even a major European power. But for much of the past few centuries, the Czechs have not been a free and

independent people: first there was the long subjection to the Habsburgs, which only ended with the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia in 1918; then, after a brief twenty years of freedom, came the Nazi occupation during World War II and soon after its end the imposition of Communist rule, which lasted for forty-one years, until 1989. Hardly more than three years later, the two peoples, Czechs and Slovaks, that shared the once again free and independent Czechoslovakia agreed to part, and on 1 January 1993 the Czech Republic came into existence.

The Czech Republic consists of three historical "lands": Bohemia in the northwest, Moravia in the southeast, and a small remnant of Silesia in the northeast. These "Czech lands" are situated at the heart of Europe, and though their geographical location has been the major factor limiting their political power, it has also exposed them to a wide

range of influences from east and west, north and south. As a result, and perhaps as a compensation for their lack of political power, the people here have drawn eagerly on these influences to develop an extraordinarily rich, dynamic and forward-looking culture and society. Composers such as Dvořák and Janáček, writers such as Čapek and Kundera, scientists such as Mendel and Mach, businessmen such as Bata and Škoda, have achieved a fame and exerted an influence that is unusual for such a relatively small country.

With a population of 10,300,000, the Czech Republic is on the medium-small side for Europe. Its makeup is very homogeneous: the overwhelming majority of the people are of Czech nationality, and aside from the Roma (Gypsies), whose numbers are estimated at between 100,000 and 300,000, the other minorities (Slovak, Polish, German, Hungarian, Greek) are quite small. In recent years, significant numbers of temporary workers or refugees from such countries as the Ukraine, Vietnam and China as well as from the Balkan region have added more variety to the picture. Virtually everyone speaks Czech, though some of the older Roma speak only Romani English is now the main foreign language spoken in the country, especially among the younger generation, with German running a close second (and predominating in older generations).





1.2 The city of Brno

The second-largest city (pop. 380,000) in the Czech Republic, Brno combines the vibrancy of a university city with a rich history. Extensive archaeological finds have shown that this key location at the confluence of the Svatka and Svitava Rivers was already attracting settlement in prehistoric times, long before the first Slavs came here in the fifth and sixth centuries to occupy the district of the modern city still known as Staré Brno (Old Brno). The first written reference to Brno dates from 1091; less than two centuries later, in 1243, the Czech King Wenceslas I granted Brno a royal charter. The layout of the prosperous medieval city, with its defensive walls pierced by five gates, many churches and monasteries and three squares, still determines the shape of the historical core of Brno today, just as the towers and walls of Špilberk Castle, which dates back to the fourteenth century, have conti-

nued to dominate the city's skyline over the centuries.

Brno derived its importance from being at a cultural and commercial crossroads that connected it with a number of other important European cities, in particular Vienna. During the Thirty Years' War, it withstood two sieges by Swedish armies, and in 1642 was made the capital of Moravia. The industrial revolution of the eighteenth century transformed Brno into a centre of the textile and machine industries, and by the end of the nineteenth century it had assumed a key industrial role in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As the city outgrew its identity as a fortress town, an elegant circular boulevard and series of parks replaced the old town walls.

With the dawn of the twentieth century, the city expanded rapidly, witnessing the flourishing of a new sense of Czech nationhood and culture. Following the founding of

an independent Czechoslovakia in October 1918, Brno became a focus for exciting new developments in the arts, sciences and commerce. In 1928 the Exhibition of Contemporary Art opened at the newly-established Brno Trade and Exhibition Centre, a bold architectural vision realized in glass and concrete. As the leading city of Czechoslovak Modernism, Brno became a centre for industry and trade, education and the arts. Composer Leoš Janáček, inventor Viktor Kaplan, writer Jiří Mahen and architect Bohuslav Fuchs were among the well-known figures living and working in Brno at the time.

The landmark economic, industrial and cultural achievements of the First Republic were tragically undercut in the following years, which saw the brutal Nazi occupation, followed by decades of Communist government and economic and social stagnation. That era ended in 1989 as tens of thousands of Brno students and other citizens took part in the demonstrations and strikes of the "Velvet Revolution". Since the democratic revolution of 1989 Brno has been transforming itself once more, restoring beauty and dignity to the architecture of the city, working to foster independent initiatives in business and trade and make the city the international crossroads it has always been histori-

cally, and building educational institutions to train leaders for the future.

The city is now home to six universities and over 80,000 students. In addition to Masaryk University, these are the Brno University of Technology, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, and the University of Defence. From a foundation of great intellectual potential and a strong electronic infrastructure, Brno is working to build synergy between industry and education. Recently voted one of the top "European cities of the future" by the international *fDi* magazine, it is the focus of what is rapidly becoming the country's most innovative region. With the Czech Republic being a member of the European Union since May 2004, Brno is once again assuming the role of a great Central European city, international in flavour yet rooted in its local Moravian heritage.



2. Masaryk University

Masaryk University was established on 28 January 1919, only three months after the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic itself. It took its name from the country's founder and first President, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, who as a professor at Charles University in Prague had long called for the establishment of a second Czech-language university.

At its founding, Masaryk University comprised the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Arts and Science. The university thrived throughout the 1920s and 1930s, when Brno too was very much a dynamic centre of European Modernism in the arts and culture. But just as the university was preparing to celebrate its twentieth anniversary, the signing of the Munich Pact in 1938 clearly signalled the beginning of a dark era in Czech history. A year later, with the closing of all Czech universities by the Nazis on 17 November 1939, the educational activities of the university were suspended, and a wave of ar-

rests resulted in the imprisonment and deaths of a number of students and professors.

With the end of World War II in Europe, the university reopened. But following the Communist takeover of the country in 1948, the authorities once more put an end to academic freedom, expelling hundreds of teachers and students and closing down whole departments as well as the entire Faculties of Law and Education. Because the name of T. G. Masaryk remained a powerful symbol of independent leadership in a liberal democracy, even the name of the university was changed, to Purkyně University, in honour of the celebrated nineteenth-century Czech physiologist.

For more than forty years the university strove to maintain its teaching and research standards, first under the very adverse conditions imposed in the period of the "building of socialism" and later, after the defeat of



the Prague Spring reform movement in 1968, during the bleak years of “normalization”. Important scholarly works continued to be published, links were maintained as far as possible with universities in the West, the Faculties of Law and Education were reestablished.

The democratic revolution of 1989 allowed Masaryk University to reclaim its rightful name, and to embark with renewed energy on its course of providing leadership in higher education. The return of academic freedom and a recognition that education must remain relevant to the rapid changes taking place in society made it possible for the university to establish the Faculty of Economics and Administration in 1991 and in 1994 the Faculty of Informatics. The newest additions to the university are the Faculty of Social Studies, launched in 1998, and the Faculty of Sports Studies (2002).

Today Masaryk University comprises nine faculties with more than 200 departments, institutes and clinics covering a broad range of academic disciplines and fields of research. Over 40,000 students from the Czech Republic, the whole of Europe and the rest of the world - over 60 countries in all - study at the university. The use of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) helps foster the internationalization of curricula within a European context. The opening of three-year Bachelor's and two-year



Master's degree programmes of study has helped to further widen access for those wishing to study at the university.

Currently Masaryk University is engaged in a 250 million euro development programme that involves the construction of a completely new campus and the refurbishment of all the university's present buildings. When the project is completed in 2010, it will have the most advanced facilities of any institution of higher education in the Central European region.



2.1 Faculties, institutes and departments

Teaching and research at the university are carried out at its nine faculties and a number of university institutes and departments. Most of the teaching at the university is in Czech; the main exceptions are language departments, the Medical Faculty (with full General Medicine and Dentistry degree courses in English) and the Faculty of Social Studies (two MA degrees in English). All faculties offer many Bachelor's and Master's level courses in foreign languages (mostly English). Most doctoral programmes at the various faculties can also be studied in English. There are two special semester-long English-language programmes for international students, the Central European Studies Programme (CESP) and the TESOL Teacher Education Programme (see 2.2 below). Finally, the Division of Czech for Foreigners offers a wide range of short-term and long-term courses for those interested in learning Czech (see 6.5 below). Information

on all these courses and programmes offered in languages other than Czech can be found on the web pages of the Office for International Studies at <http://ois.muni.cz>.

If you are interested in full-time study in a degree course, you should get in touch directly with the appropriate faculty. Those of you who are intending to come to Masaryk University for a shorter period of study (one semester, a whole year) as an exchange student, within the framework of ERASMUS or as a participant in one of the programmes designed specially for international students, should contact the Office for International Studies (see 2.3 below).

The degree courses listed under the various faculties include those in Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degree programmes. More detailed information concerning the subjects offered by the individual faculties appears on their individual Web pages.

Masaryk University consists of nine faculties and a number of units operating university-wide.

- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Economics and Administration
- Faculty of Informatics
- Faculty of Social Studies
- Faculty of Sports Studies

- Support Centre for Students with Special Needs
- Institute of Computer Science
- Language Centre
- Division of Czech for Foreigners



Faculty of Law

Právnická fakulta
Veveří 70
611 80 Brno
Phone: + 420 549 49 1206
Fax: + 420 541 21 4851
E-mail: int@law.muni.cz
Web: www.law.muni.cz

Law and jurisprudence (Legal philosophy and history, Theory of law and the state; Private law; Public law), Local administrative law, Social security law, Theory and practice of preparatory criminal proceedings, Immoveable property, Small trade law, Law and enterprise, Law and international trade, History of the state and law, Roman law, Theory of law, Constitutional law and theory of the state, Public international law, Private international law, EC law, Civil law, Commercial law, Labour law, Administrative law, Criminal law



Faculty of Medicine

Lékařská fakulta
Komenského nám. 2
662 43 Brno
Phone: + 420 549 49 8188
Fax: + 420 542 21 3996
E-mail: int@med.muni.cz
Web: www.med.muni.cz

General medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Health sciences, Human nutrition, Physiotherapy, Nursing





Faculty of Science

Přírodovědecká fakulta
Kotlářská 2
611 37 Brno
Phone: + 420 549 49 1413
Fax: + 420 541 21 1214
E-mail: int@sci.muni.cz
Web: www.sci.muni.cz

Biology: General biology, Plant physiology, Animal physiology, Microbiology, Molecular biology and genetics, Cellular and molecular diagnostics, Anthropology, Systematic biology and ecology, Systematic botany and geobotany, Systematic zoology and ecology, Museum biology, Museum biology - botany, Museum biology zoology, Mathematical biology, Ecotoxicology

Chemistry: Chemistry, Applied biochemistry, Analytic chemistry, Anorganic chemistry, Biochemistry, Physical chemistry, Environmental chemistry, Macromolecular chemistry, Organic chemistry

Earth sciences: Geology, Hydrology and geochemistry, Geology Museum studies, Geography and cartography, Applied mathematics Geography

Mathematics: Mathematics, Mathematics Economics

Physics: Physics, Applied physics, Biophysics

Secondary-school teacher training in most of the above subjects

Faculty of Arts

Filozofická fakulta
 Arna Nováka 1
 602 00 Brno
 Phone: +420 549 49 1517
 Fax: +420 549 49 1517
 E-mail: int@phil.muni.cz
 Web: www.phil.muni.cz

Philology: General linguistics; Languages and literatures Czech; Greek, Latin, Modern Greek; English; German, Norwegian, Dutch; French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish; Russian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian; Baltic languages; Japanese

Historical disciplines: Archaeology, History, Archive studies, Auxiliary historical sciences, Museum studies

The arts: Art history, Musicology, Theatre studies, Film studies, Esthetics, Classical archaeology, Fine arts

Man and society: Philosophy, Study of religions, Ethnology, Education, Social pedagogy and counseling, Psychology, Library science

Secondary-school teacher training in many of the above subjects





Faculty of Education

Pedagogická fakulta
Poříčí 7
603 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 6739
Fax: +420 549 49 1620
E-mail: int@ped.muni.cz
Web: www.ped.muni.cz

Languages and literatures: Czech, English, German, French, Russian

History, Civics, Fine arts

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography

Physical education, Special pedagogy, Social pedagogy, Education for special needs, Art education, Music education, Drama in education, Family education, Technical education, Social pedagogy (leisure time specialization)



Faculty of Economics and Administration

Ekonomicko-správní fakulta
Lipová 41a
602 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 1713
Fax: +420 549 49 4375
E-mail: int@econ.muni.cz
Web: www.econ.muni.cz

The national economy, Financial enterprise, Commercial enterprise, the Public economy, Regional development and administration, Economic theory, Economic policy and administration, Economics and management, Company economics and management

Faculty of Informatics

Fakulta informatiky
Botanická 68a
602 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 1813
Fax: +420 549 49 1820
E-mail: int@fi.muni.cz
Web: www.fi.muni.cz

Informatics, Information technology



Faculty of Social Studies

Fakulta sociálních studií
Joštova 10
602 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 1914
Fax: +420 549 49 1920
E-mail: int@fss.muni.cz
Web: www.fss.muni.cz

Environmental humanities, International relations and European studies, Media studies and journalism, Political science, Psychology, Social policy and social work, Sociology, Gender Studies.



Faculty of Sports Studies

Fakulta sportovních studií
Sladkého 13
617 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 8667
Fax: +420 549 49 2020
E-mail: int@fsps.muni.cz
Web: www.fsps.muni.cz

Physical education and sport, Kinanthropology



Support Centre for Students with Special Needs

Středisko pro pomoc studentům se specifickými nároky
Šumavská 15
602 00 Brno
Phone: +420 549 49 1105
Fax: + 420 549 49 1120
E-mail: teiresias@muni.cz
Web: www.teiresias.muni.cz

Institute of Computer Science

Ústav výpočetní techniky
Botanická 68a
602 00 Brno
Phone: + 420 549 49 2100
Fax: + 420 541 21 2747
E-mail: info@ics.muni.cz
Web: www.ics.muni.cz

Language Centre

See 6.4.

Division of Czech for Foreigners

See 6.5.



2.2 Special English-language programmes

Masaryk University offers two one-semester English-language programmes that have been specifically designed for international students, the Central European Studies Programme (CESP) and the TESOL Teacher Education Programme. Fees are charged for the programmes. Specific agreements allow international students who come to study at Masaryk University within the ERASMUS programme to enrol in some or all of the CESP courses free of charge (see 3.1 below).

The Central European Studies Programme (CESP) is an interdisciplinary programme offering a selection of courses in such fields as politics, social policy, economics, ethnic relations and various aspects of Czech culture (literature, theatre, music and film) as well as a course in the Czech language. The intention is to provide students with a broad understanding of the Czech Republic and the Central European region, an area of increasing importance as a result of the expansion of the European Union.

Detailed information on the programme - courses, teaching staff, costs - can be found at <http://ois.muni.cz>.

For those of you who are interested in a career as teachers of English to foreigners, Masaryk University's TESOL TE Programme offers a unique opportunity to acquire teaching skills in a foreign-language environment that is real rather than simulated, in the process acquiring the internationally recognized CELTA certificate issued by Cambridge University English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). In addition, the programme includes courses in Czech culture, applied linguistics (with special relevance to language teaching) and the Czech language. For more detailed information, visit <http://ois.muni.cz>.



2.3 Office for International Studies (OIS)

The Office for International Studies was established in 2000 for the purpose of forwarding one of Masaryk University's strategic goals, the internationalization of the university. It is responsible for all aspects of international activities relating to academic matters, with its main areas of concern being:

- international cooperation: coordinating Masaryk University's internationalization policy, overseeing and implementing bilateral agreements;
- teacher and student mobility: organizing visits to Masaryk University by foreign teachers and visits abroad by Masaryk University teachers, preparing Masaryk University students for study abroad, welcoming international students coming to Brno and seeing to their needs while here;

- the development and coordination of foreign-language programmes and summer schools designed for international students;
- the promotion of Masaryk University abroad;
- activities carried out within the framework of international university networks.

General enquiries about study at Masaryk University can be sent to the Office for International Studies, but if you are interested in a specific full-degree course you should address your request to the appropriate faculty (see 2.1 above for lists of degree courses offered at the individual faculties).

Questions concerning particular programmes organized by the Office for International Studies should be addressed to the OIS employees responsible.

■ Office for International Studies

Masaryk University
 Komenského nám. 2
 602 00 Brno
 Tel.: + 420 549 49 1106
 Fax: +420 549 49 1113
 E-mail: ois@czs.muni.cz
 Web: <http://ois.muni.cz>

■ Don Sparling

Tel.: +420 549 49 6860
 E-mail: sparling@czs.muni.cz
 Director

■ Martin Vašek

Tel.: +420 549 49 7785
 E-mail: vasek@czs.muni.cz
 CESP, TESOL TE, CELTA, ISEP, CEEPUS, Compostela Group

■ Marcela Dibelková

Tel.: +420 549 49 3264
 E-mail: dibelkova@czs.muni.cz
 Erasmus - Incoming students, AKTION

■ Martin Glogar

Tel.: +420 549 49 3076
 E-mail: glogar@czs.muni.cz
 Bilateral agreements, project support, summer schools

■ Amal Al Khatib

Tel.: +420 549 49 3110
 E-mail: amal@czs.muni.cz
 Website and IT, Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window, Utrecht Network



■ **Veronika de Azevedo Camacho**

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E-mail: camacho@czs.muni.cz

Erasmus - Bilateral agreements, outgoing teachers

■ **Tomáš Lády**

Tel.: +420 549 49 4820

E-mail: tomas@czs.muni.cz

Erasmus - Outgoing students (study periods)

■ **Tamara Muchová**

Tel.: +420 549 49 3761

E-mail: muchova@czs.muni.cz

Erasmus - Outgoing students (study periods, work placements)

■ **Zita Hrabovská**

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Erasmus - administrative mobility, Development Programme mobility

■ **Radka Sedláčková**

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Organizational Assistant

■ **Eva Lioliu**

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E-mail: lioliu@czs.muni.cz

Assistant

■ **Violeta Osouchová**

Tel.: +420 549 49 5878

E-mail: osouchova@czs.muni.cz

Head of Finance

2.4 Structure of studies

Until recently, Masaryk University like most universities in Central Europe offered only five-year programmes leading to Master's degrees and doctoral programmes. It has now moved almost completely to a system of three-year programmes ending in a Bachelor's degree and two-year Master's degrees; most doctoral programmes now

last four years. Only the Faculties of Medicine and Law, along with a few individual departments, have retained the long-cycle Master's degrees.

For information on the current state in any particular faculty or subject, you should check the appropriate homepage on the MU website.

2.5 Assessment

Assessment varies greatly within the university: it may involve written tests or examinations, an oral examination, class contributions, essays or projects. Teachers will explain at the beginning of each course what method will be used.

In order to facilitate integration with universities abroad, Masaryk University has adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). This means that, for those of you who are from European institutions, cre-

dit for the courses you take is readily transferable to your home university. Since the ECTS has already become a widely recognized standard internationally, it also makes it easy for credits gained at Masaryk University to be transformed to correspond with systems at universities outside Europe.

2.6 Academic calendar

The academic year is divided into two semesters, autumn and spring. Each semester contains from 12 to 15 weeks of lectures (this varies from faculty to faculty) followed by a six to eight week examination period. If necessary, special examination arrangements can be made for international students in the autumn semester in order to enable them to finish their courses before Christmas. The CESP and TESOL TE programmes have their own schedules, as does the Division of Czech for Foreigners.

Though there are no regular university classes in the summer, every year the Division of Czech for Foreigners organizes the Summer School of Slavonic Studies. (For details, see 6.5 below.)

In addition, the Office for International Studies runs special summer schools related to the Central European region in cooperation with the University of Toronto. Full information can be found at www.summerabroad.utoronto.ca

Autumn Semester 2008

Orientation week: 8 - 14 September 2008

Classes: from 15 September 2008

Examination period: 5 January - 13 February 2009

CESP (including examination period): 15 September - 12 December 2008

Spring Semester 2009

Orientation: 2 - 8 February 2009

Classes: from 16 February 2009

Examination period: 25 May - 3 July 2009

CESP and TESOL TE (including examination period): 9 February - 15 May 2009



3. Preparations before departure

Aside from those enrolled in full-time degree courses, most of the international students at Masaryk University come here within the framework of a mobility programmes (in particular ERASMUS), on the basis of bilateral agreements, or for the CESP, ISEP, ISEP Direct and TESOL TE programmes. If you fall within one of these categories, then you need to fill in the necessary application form(s) and send them to the Office for International Studies. Please note the following:

■ 1. Your application must reach us before the programme's final application deadline. For most programmes this is 15 July for entry in September and 15 November for entry in February (note that the CESP, ISEP, ISEP Direct and TESOL TE programmes, however, have somewhat different deadlines). We cannot guarantee you a place in the programme of your choice after the dead-

line, though we will of course do all we can to do so.

■ 2. Different programmes have different admission requirements: be sure to go through the instructions carefully.

Once we have received your application, we will deal with it as promptly as possible. If you have fulfilled all the necessary requirements, we will then send you a letter of acceptance that includes any additional information and/or documents you may need for arranging your stay here.

3.1 Application procedures

Full-time study in a degree course (Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral studies)

Students interested in full-time study in a degree course should contact the appropriate faculty, which will be responsible for seeing to the application process (see 2.1 above).

ERASMUS programme

The documents required by the Office for International Studies are the following:

- Application Form for entry as an exchange student at Masaryk University
- Learning Agreement

Since the ERASMUS programme is based on agreements made between specific universities, these forms should be available at the international office of your home institution. If they are not, write to us at the Office for International Studies, or download the forms from our homepage.

Please note:

If you wish to take courses in the Central European Studies Programme (CESP), you must indicate this on the Application Form for entry as an exchange student at Masaryk University. The CESP Board first decides on the overseas enrolment in the CESP programme, and then assigns the places reserved for the ERASMUS candidates. The latter are then informed whether or not they have been accepted for participation in the programme.

Bilateral agreements, other university links and international programmes

If your home university has a bilateral agreement with Masaryk University that includes provisions for student exchanges, or has some other traditional or institutional link with us (for example through the Utrecht Network, ISEP, etc.), you should inquire at your international office for details of the application process that is involved if you wish to study in Brno.

Central European Studies Programme (CESP)

Those wishing to apply for CESP should send us the CESP application form. This can be obtained from the OIS or downloaded from the OIS homepage.

TESOL Teacher Education Programme

Applicants for the TESOL TE programme should send the TESOL TE application form to the Office for International Studies. This can be obtained from the OIS or downloaded from the OIS homepage.

ISEP, ISEP Direct Programmes

See the OIS homepage.



3.2 Visa requirements

Students from EU countries

Students from the EU (plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) are exempt from student visa requirements.

Students from countries outside the EU

Once you have been accepted for studies at Masaryk University, you will have to turn to the local Czech embassy or consulate: the Czech Republic, like most other countries, requires foreign students studying in the country to have a **student visa**. Possession of a student visa is a condition for studying at Masaryk University.

This means ploughing through a certain amount of paperwork, but in fact the procedure described below sounds more complicated than it is in reality. The whole procedure for obtaining a student visa can take up to 60 days. Make sure that you ask for your visa soon enough to receive it before your departure.

The regulations for obtaining visas 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 below should be considered guidelines only.** You should consult your local Czech embassy/consulate for the latest information regarding visa requirements, and the particular local requirements that are in force.

The visa is issued by the Czech consulate in your home country. Application forms are available at the consulates and cannot be copied. In some countries Czech consulates will mail all the necessary material to applicants; in others applicants have to visit the Czech consulate personally.

Visa Application procedure

■ a) For a stay of up to 90 days

- 1. Letter of acceptance (supplied by the Office for International Studies).
- 2. Proof of income. If you will be receiving a stipend from Masaryk University while studying here, this information is included in the letter of acceptance from the Office for International Studies. If this is not the case, proof must be supplied by your home university (which provides, for example, the Erasmus grant) and/or in the form of a bank account statement.
- 3. Confirmation of accommodation (this information is included in the letter of acceptance from the Office for International Studies if you have applied for accommodation in a Masaryk University hall of residence).
- 4. Proof of health insurance (for example a letter from a health insurance company). This must be translated into Czech and notarized. The Czech Republic normally recognizes all health insurance plans valid in the EU. Nevertheless, EU students, as well as students from other parts of the world, should check with their insurance company whether this is the case with their particular health insurance.
- 5. Three photographs (passport size).
- 6. Passport (valid for at least 90 days beyond the expiry date of the visa required).

■ b) For a stay of more than 90 days

The first five items required for a stay of up to 90 days, plus the following:

- 6. Passport. Passports must be valid for a specified period extending beyond the expiry date of the visa required. In some cases, this period is as short as three months, but it may be considerably longer. Contact your local Czech embassy or consulate for more details.
- 7. Confirmation of absence of criminal record in your home country. This document is absolutely necessary. Contact your local Czech embassy or consulate for more details.
- 8. A clean report from the Czech criminal record register (confirming that the applicant has no criminal record in the Czech Republic). The form is available at Czech consulates and needs to be filled out in Czech.

All the documents must be either written in Czech or translated into Czech by an authorized translator. (All letters from the Masaryk University Office for International Studies will be in Czech and English). Some consulates will provide authorization of translations themselves for a small charge; the same is true for notarization of signatures.

The consulate sends the application to the Office for Foreigners of the Czech Police in the Czech Republic, who are responsible for authorizing the consulate that they can issue a visa. The whole procedure takes about six weeks to two months.

Note: It is no longer possible to pick up a visa in the Czech Republic.



3.3 Medical coverage

After arriving in the Czech Republic, students from European Union countries should register with one of the local health insurance companies (Všeobecná zdravotní pojišťovna [VZP], the General Health Insurance Company, is recommended). You will be given a health insurance number, which will simplify and speed up the administrative procedure if you have to visit a Czech doctor.

EU students should bring with them to the Czech Republic a European Health Insurance Card.

These documents, however, only cover medically necessary care. For this reason, you may also wish to take out additional coverage for your stay in the Czech Republic.

Make sure that your additional health insurance covers the whole period of your stay in the Czech Republic. Avoid any health

insurance that only covers the first few days of your stay: after this period runs out, you are not covered at all.

Students from countries outside the EU must have a personal health insurance policy. Should you visit a doctor while in the Czech Republic, you will have to pay for your treatment in cash; after returning to your home country you should contact your health insurance company for reimbursement.

ISEP and ISEP Direct students should arrange for their health insurance through the ISEP programme.

For all students, a small additional administrative fee of a few Czech crowns is paid when visiting the doctor owing to a new system applied in the Czech Republic since January 2008.



3.4 International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

Those of you who are coming to Masaryk University for a period of study lasting only one or two semesters (for example, in the CESP or TESOL TE programmes, or as part of a mobility programme such as ERASMUS or CEEPUS) should **obtain an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) at your home university or in your home country**. This card will allow you to benefit from student reductions for such things as the public transport pass, most museum and theatre tickets, and many bus, rail and air fares. If

you are unable to do so before coming to Masaryk University, it is also possible to apply for the ISIC in Brno at GTS International, Vachova 4. [Http://www.gtsint.cz](http://www.gtsint.cz).

If you are enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral programme, you will receive an ISIC card with a special Masaryk University chip from the Office for Studies of the faculty you are enrolled in at the beginning of your studies.

4. Getting to Brno

Few of the international students who come to study in Brno have been here before; at most, they may have been to Prague. However, Brno is perhaps the most conveniently situated city in Central Europe, with good and frequent connections of all kinds to all the surrounding countries and major cities, so it is relatively easy to reach no matter which means of transport you choose.

4.1 Air transport

Brno international airport was only opened in 2005. So far it offers links to London, Gerona, Moscow and Prague; soon more should be introduced. If you arrive in Brno by air, you can go by bus no. 76 to the centre of the city, or take a taxi to the university residences.

Otherwise, most students will find it convenient to fly to Prague or Vienna, and from there continue to Brno by train or bus.

■ From Prague to Brno

To get to the centre of Prague from the airport, you can take a taxi or go by public transport.

Prague's public transport system offers the cheapest way to get from the airport to the centre and vice versa. Bus no. 119 runs every 20 minutes between the hours of 5:00 and 24:00, leaving from a stop in front of the airport terminal and going as far as the Dejvická Metro station. (Before you get on the

bus, you have to buy a 26 Kč ticket, available from vending machines or newsagents.) There you transfer to the Metro system and travel to either the Main Railway Station (Hlavní nádraží) or the railway station at Prague Holešovice, or to the central coach station at the Florenc Metro stop, depending on which means of transport you will be using to travel on to Brno (see 4.2 and 4.3 below).



An alternative way of getting to the city centre is by taxi. There are flat rates of 400 Kč to the Holešovice railway station, 550 Kč to the bus station at Florenc, and approximately 650 Kč to destinations in the centre of the city (where the Main Railway Station is situated).

There is also the possibility of travelling directly to Brno from Prague airport on buses operated by a private company - Student Agency - or on buses run by Czech Airlines. Tickets for the private bus line can be purchased right at the airport; tickets for Czech Airline's buses are usually bought in conjunction with the air tickets to Prague. Altogether more than a dozen buses a day run from Prague airport to Brno, with somewhat fewer on weekends; the journey takes a little under three hours.

■ From Vienna to Brno

If you travel by air to Vienna, you can then proceed to Brno by train from Wien Südbahnhof. There are also convenient bus links, either directly from the airport or from the coach station found alongside the Wien Nord / Praterstern train station.

4.2 Rail transport

The main north-south railway line in Central Europe passes through Brno, which means that it is easily accessible by train from most points on the continent. The journey from Prague by fast train takes three and a half hours; EC trains shorten the journey to less than two and a half hours. There are over a dozen trains between Prague and Brno every day, some leaving from the Main Railway Station and others from the station in Prague Holešovice. Vienna is even closer than Prague, only 1 hour 40 minutes away. Eight EC trains daily (from Wien Südbahnhof) link the two cities.



4.3 Coach and bus transport

Many cities in Europe, and most of its major cities, have direct coach links with Brno. These may not be available every day, but they are convenient, and ticket prices are very low. Check your local coach company or see the web pages of Student Agency (www.studentagency.cz) and Eurolines (www.bei.cz).

■ From Prague to Brno

Within the Czech Republic, there are bus departures from Prague to Brno from the

central bus station, which is situated at the Florenc Metro stop, virtually every half-hour during weekdays, and slightly less frequently on weekends and holidays. The journey takes about 2 hours 30 minutes.

■ From Vienna to Brno

Eight buses a day travel from Vienna to Brno, starting at the airport and stopping at the coach station found near the city centre beside the Wien Nord/Praterstern train station.

4.4 Travel by car

Brno is situated at the meeting point of motorways D1 (Prague-Brno) and D2 (Brno-Bratislava). Both are part of the trans-European road system, which links France with the Ukraine (E50) and Scandinavia with the Balkans (E65). Other major roads lead northeast to Poland and the Baltic states and south to Austria and Italy.

It should be pointed out that Brno has a very good and inexpensive public transport system (see section 7 below), and the country as a whole, despite cuts in rail and bus

lines in recent years, still has one of the densest such networks in Europe. Fares are cheap: the trainfare to Prague on a Eurocity link, for example, is less than \$20 US/Ä13. For these reasons, there is no real need for international students to bring cars with them. An additional reason for leaving cars at home is that vehicles with foreign licence plates tend to act as magnets for what are known as *živly* ("elements") in Czech - i.e. petty thieves.

4.5 Some useful Web addresses

www.csa.cz	The homepage of Czech Airlines
www.cdmail.cz	The homepage of Czech Rail, the national railway system
www.jizdnirady.cz	A page that enables you to find out about train and bus links within the Czech Republic and to surrounding countries

4.6 Crossing the border

Early in 2008, the Czech Republic was admitted to the Schengen zone, which brought with it the abolition of border controls to participating countries. This means that travel to and from not only the Czech Republic's immediate neighbours, but virtually the whole of Europe from the

Scandinavian countries in the north to Spain and Italy in the south, is now without any kind of border checks.

4.7 Arrival service

Before leaving for the Czech Republic, those of you whose arrangements for study at Masaryk University have been handled by the Office for International Studies should inform the office of the date and (if possible) time of your arrival in Brno. If you wish, it can be arranged for a Czech student to wait for you on arrival in Brno and take you to the residence where you will be staying.

The residences are open non-stop, so you can arrive at any time of the day. If you arrive during the weekend or in the evening, however, you will have to leave your formal registration at the residence until the following working day.





5. Starting in at Masaryk University

5.1 Accommodation

Most international students at Masaryk University are housed during the academic year in the university residence at Vinařská 5, a modern complex of buildings constructed in the late 1980s in Pisárky, one of Brno's most pleasant neighbourhoods.

Accommodation is in double rooms, each with ensuite bath-room and mini-kitchenette (fridge, sink and double hotplate). The rooms are equipped with furniture. Bed linen is provided, but you must supply your own kitchen utensils, which are inexpensive and easy to buy in Brno.

There are no telephones in the rooms, but phones for incoming calls are located in the corridors, and ones for outgoing calls in the

entrance lobbies of the individual "blocks" of the complex. However, many students find it more convenient to have their own cellphones.

All rooms at the Vinařská residence allow Internet access. Students who are interested in this service must bring their own computer and LAN cable, and pay a special monthly charge. There is also a modest computer room situated in Block A2, for which a small fee per hour is paid.

There are laundry rooms at Vinařská, which you can use for a small charge. The Vinařská residence complex also includes a student cafeteria that is open on weekdays

for lunches and dinners and a buffet that is open all day for snacks.

Those of you who apply for studies through the Office for International Studies will receive, along with your letter of acceptance, confirmation of your accommodation in university facilities (assuming you have requested this) and detailed instructions on how to get to the Vinařská residence or to the university residence where you will be living temporarily before semester starts.

Once settled in the Vinařská residence, you will be given a contract to sign which details the various rules and regulations that apply at the residence, including those relating to payment.

Rent is paid monthly by the tenth day of each month, by a transfer from a bank or bank account. A deposit equal to one month's rent must also be paid at the start of your stay in the residence. This will be used for the payment of the last month of your study, less changes to any damages you may have caused. The rent for most students ranges from 2,900 Kč to 3,100 Kč monthly.

■ How to apply

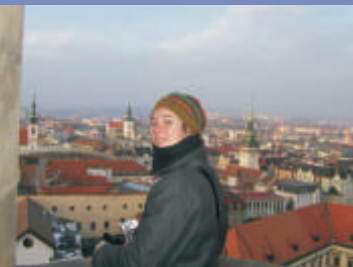
Students who have been accepted for studies in Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral programmes are offered accommodation and informed about the application procedure automatically by the Office for Studies of the faculty where they will be enrolled.

Students enrolled in the CESP and TESOL TE programmes and students arriving within ERASMUS and other exchange programmes apply for accommodation through the Office for International Studies.

The accommodation application is included in the general online application form for study (more information on the website at <http://ois.muni.cz>).

Students arriving within CEEPUS apply for accommodation through their partner/coordinator who signed the particular CEEPUS project.

5.2 Orientation



The Office for International Studies runs an extensive orientation week programme (see http://ois.muni.cz/at_mu/orientation). It is provided free for students in the CESP, ISEP, ISEP Direct and TESOL TE programmes; other international students can participate for a small fee. Erasmus, CESP, ISEP, ISEP Direct, TESOL TE and bilateral exchange agreement students do not have to fill in this application form because they indicate whether they want to participate in the orientation week in the online application form.

When you arrive in Brno you will be given a packet with an orientation week programme and information material about

Masaryk University, Brno and the Czech Republic. In addition to arrangements for registering for courses and obtaining all the various official documents you will need, a typical orientation week includes tours of the university and its facilities, lectures on Czech culture and Czech society and on the Czech university system, an intensive course in Czech (ranging from “survival Czech” for complete beginners to various degrees of advanced courses for those who already have a knowledge of the language), a meeting with Masaryk University teachers and students, a tour of Brno, a visit to a Brno theatre, and a day-long excursion in the environs of the city.

5.3 Registration at the OIS

If your admission to Masaryk University has been handled by the Office for International Studies, you should go there after your arrival in Brno and hand in photocopies of your student visa (for non-EU students), your insurance policy and your passport or identity card.

The office hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday 12:00 - 14:00

Tuesday and Friday 9:00 - 11:00

Thursday 13:00 - 15:00

5.4 Student tutors

Those of you who apply through the Office for International Studies will be assigned student tutors, who will help you to get settled in here and familiarize you with the faculty/faculties where you will be

studying. You should not hesitate to turn to them when you have questions or problems of a practical nature.

5.5 Reporting of place of stay in the Czech Republic

Students from EU countries

Students who are EU citizens are obliged to report to the police the place of their stay in the Czech Republic within 30 days, provided the intended length of stay exceeds thirty days. The same applies to family members of EU citizens, provided they are staying in the Czech Republic.

Students from non-EU countries

Students who are not EU citizens are obliged to report to the Office for Foreigners of the Czech Police at the place of their stay in the Czech Republic within three workdays following the date of their entry into the Czech Republic.

5.6 Student card

If you are enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's or doctoral programme, you will receive an ISIC card with a special Masaryk University chip from the Office for Studies of the faculty you are enrolled in at the beginning of your studies. This card will serve as your student ID card while you are at Masaryk University, giving you access to the University Computer Centre, student cafeterias and other Masaryk University facilities and enabling you to benefit from the student reductions available for such things as the public transport pass (a special rate for students up to 26 years of age), most museum and theatre tickets, and many bus,

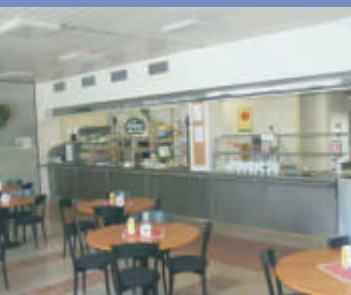
rail and air fares.

If you come to study at Masaryk University for a shorter period (one or two semesters), you have to purchase a special Masaryk University magnetic card and a paper Masaryk University student identity card containing your personal data. These function in the same way as the ISIC card with its special Masaryk University chip described in the preceding paragraph. To obtain these cards, you should go to the international office of the faculty that has sent you your letter of acceptance, or to the Office for International Studies (if it has been responsible for handling your admission).

Note: Students up to 26 years of age are eligible for a reduced public transport pass even if they do not possess an ISIC. You will have to fill in a special form, which is available in the Office for International Studies and the Offices for Studies of all faculties, and have it confirmed by your faculty Office for Studies or the OIS.

6. Masaryk University amenities and facilities

6.1 Student cafeterias



Most Masaryk University students take advantage of one of the university cafeterias, which offer inexpensive meals, at lunch-time (when Czechs eat their main meal of the day). Some also make use of the facilities in the evening. At both times a choice of meals is offered.

Lunches can be reserved at least one day in advance at <http://kredit.skm.muni.cz> or you can choose from a more limited selection that is available without reservation. To make the reservation you use your Masaryk University ISIC or special magnetic card issued by Masaryk University (see 5.5 above); this can be done in person at the student cafeteria or via the Internet.

The main student cafeteria (*menza* in Czech) is situated at the university Rectorate, Žerotínovo náměstí 9 (entrance from Brandlova street). Additional student cafeterias are found at the Vinařská residence and the Faculty of Law. Lunches are served from 11:00 to 14:00, dinners from 14:30 to 19:30.

The student cafeterias are not open on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays, or on Fridays for dinners.

The average price of a lunch is about 30 Kč.

6.2 Libraries

Three kinds of libraries are available for use by students: the Moravian Library, faculty libraries and departmental libraries.

■ The Moravian Library

The Moravian Library is the second-largest library in the Czech Republic, and receives by law a copy of every book, magazine and sound recording issued in the country. It has extensive holdings in foreign languages, and

a number of specialized collections, including ones in music, in education and in technology, as well as the English, German and Austrian libraries. Most of its catalogues can be accessed via the Internet.

Moravská zemská knihovna Kounicova 65a 601 87 Brno Phone: + 420 541 646 111 Fax: + 420 541 646 100 E-mail: mzk@mzk.cz Web: www.mzk.cz	Opening hours: Library: Reading room:	Monday - Friday Monday - Friday Saturday	09:00 - 19:00 09:00 - 22:00 09:00 - 16:30
English, German and Austrian Libraries Solnicní 12	Opening hours:	Monday and Thursday Tuesday and Wednesday Friday	10:00 - 17:30 10:00 - 16:00 10:00 - 13:00
Music Room Solnicní 12	Opening hours:	Monday and Wednesday Tuesday Thursday	09:00 - 13:00 12:00 - 16:00 10:00 - 17:00

■ Faculty libraries

All of the faculties have their own central library with books and other materials relevant to the subjects taught there. These libraries are situated in or alongside the main buildings of each faculty (for locations see

2.1 above). Opening hours can be found on the faculties' homepages.

The union catalogue for all of Masaryk University's libraries can be accessed on the web at www.aleph.muni.cz.



■ Departmental libraries

At many of the faculties various departments maintain separate libraries of their own. In some cases - for example at the Faculty of Arts - these are in the process of being closed down, with the books being transferred to the central faculty library collection. If you are interested in books in a particular

field, you should enquire at the relevant department as to whether they have a library of their own.

6.3 University Computer Centre



Besides computer rooms for students at the individual faculties, there is a large non-stop university computer centre housed at the Faculty of Medicine, with more than one hundred terminals. It is situated in the entrance building of the faculty, on the ground floor at the right, and is open to all Masaryk University students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Access is with the card issued by the university.

Celouniverzitní počítačová studovna MU

Komenského nám. 2

662 43 Brno

Phone: + 420 549 49 2123

Fax: +420 549 49 2121

E-mail: studovna@ics.muni.cz

Web: <http://studovna.muni.cz>

Open NON-STOP

6.4 University self-access centre

The Language Centre provides Czech and international students, teachers and staff with the possibility of improving their knowledge of English, German, French, Spanish, Russian and Czech at its language self-access centre (*"Jazyková studovna"*), which is situated in the same building as the Rectorate (5th floor; enter from the main entrance to the Rectorate). A great variety of materials is there to help with developing language skills. Educational programmes and CD-ROM encyclopedias on medicine, the sciences and the humanities are also available.



Centrum jazykového vzdělávání

Žerotínovo nám. 9

601 77 Brno

Phone and Fax: +420 549 49 6447

E-mail: schuller@rect.muni.cz

Web: <http://lingua.muni.cz>

Opening hours: Monday 13:00 - 17:00

Tuesday 12:00 - 16:00

6.5 Division of Czech for Foreigners



Every year the Division of Czech for Foreigners organizes a wide variety of courses of Czech for foreigners. These are designed for beginners as well as for intermediate and advanced students, and range from short-term courses lasting two weeks or a month to semester-long and year-long courses. An intensive four-week course called the Summer School of Slavonic Studies is offered every year in August. This focuses on the Czech language, but also includes many lectures on Czech history and culture, a number of film showings and some excursions.

Both the courses held during the year and the Summer School are run on a fee-paying basis. Every year, however, there are a number of scholarships for foreign students. Some come within the framework of bilateral agreements signed between various foreign countries and the government of the Czech Republic; others are awarded by the Division of Czech for Foreigners itself.

For detailed descriptions of the courses offered by the Division of Czech for Foreigners, as well as information on possible scholarships, you should contact it at the following address:

Katedra češtiny pro cizince

Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University

Arna Nováka 1

602 00 Brno

Phone: + 420 549 49 4631

Fax: + 420 549 49 1525

E-mail: bohem@phil.muni.cz

Web: www.phil.muni.cz/kabcest

The orientation week activities for incoming international students include participation in intensive Czech courses, for both beginners as well as those with some knowledge of Czech. During the semester students may continue in courses at the introductory or more advanced levels. For those coming to Masaryk University within some programmes (in particular CESP and TESOL TE, as well as ERASMUS if Czech is part of their degree programme), these are free of charge; other students must pay a fee.

6.6 Faculty of Sports Studies

International students may participate in the wide variety of sports activities offered by the Faculty of Sports Studies. These include various kinds of aerobics, aikido, athletics, badminton, basketball, body-building, canoeing, climbing wall, dance, fitness yoga, floorball, football (soccer), golf, jogging, karate, modern gymnastics, mountain biking, Schwinn cycling, self-defence training, skiing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. International students may also participate in

some week-long sports courses under the same conditions as Czech students (prices are announced during the semester).

The Faculty of Sports Studies has a separate University Sport Centre which offers sports courses and activities for all students from the different faculties.



6.7 International Student Club

The International Student Club plays a key role in the lives of international students at Masaryk University. Run by Czech students at the university, its main activities include helping the Office for International Studies with orientation activities for international students when they first come to Masaryk

University, running a tutor system and arranging for special language classes, and organizing cultural and social events, sports activities and short excursions for Czech and international students. Further information about the club can be found at its official website, <http://isc.muni.cz>.

7. Useful information A to Z



■ Climate

In general, the climate in the Czech Republic is continental, with hot summers and cold winters. During most of the autumn and spring semesters, however, Brno does not suffer from extremes of heat or cold. There is, for example, occasional snow from De-

cember to February, but usually it does not remain on the ground very long (this is not true in the mountainous regions of the country, of course, where the excellent skiing conditions last several months). Similarly, the spring is pleasantly warm, and the autumn crisp but not cold.

■ Average daily temperatures in Brno (°C)

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3.5	3.5	6.1	11.5	15.8	19.6	20.2	19.7	12.4	8.0	2.2	-0.7

Note: these are average temperatures; in the summer months highs may be in the 30s, while in January and February temperatures sometimes drop to -12 °C.



■ Currency

The Czech currency is the **koruna** (crown, abbreviated **Kč**), which is made up of 100 **haléřů** (hellers, abbreviated **hal.**). Coins in the following denominations are in circulation: 50 hellers, 1 crown, 2 crowns, 5 crowns, 10 crowns, 20 crowns and 50 crowns. In addition there are the following notes: 50 crowns, 100 crowns, 200 crowns, 500 crowns, 1,000 crowns, 2,000 crowns and 5,000 crowns.

■ Eating out

Restaurants, pubs, cafés - eating and drinking places of all kinds - play a central role in Czechs' lives. For many and perhaps for most Czechs, these are the natural places to meet for relaxation, for intellectual debate, for discussing plans, for gossiping and plotting. As a result, there is a whole range of different kinds of places where you can get a meal and/or a drink, and a whole range of prices as well (as a rule they are surprisingly low). We have made no attempt to provide you with a list of recommended places for eating and drinking. To paraphrase a famous Zen koan, "Every pub and restaurant in Brno is the best." Or at least each has its own fans. And certainly Czech students will be only too pleased to show you which ones are theirs.

■ Electrical appliances

The electric power in the Czech Republic is 220 volts, 50 Hz AC, so you may need an adapter and a converter to use your electrical appliances. If you have dual-voltage appliances, you will only need an adapter. It is best to purchase what you might need in your home country.

■ Emergency services

Throughout the Czech Republic, you can use the general European Emergency Number, 112, in all cases of emergency.

In the case of fire, the urgent need for an ambulance, or crime, the following numbers can be dialled:

Fire - 150

Ambulance service - 155; but see also “**Emergency cases**” under “Health care”, below.

Crime - 156 (City police), **158** (Czech police); see also “Police”, below.

■ Excursions / Day trips

Each semester the Office for International Studies offers a number of weekend excursions to major cities in the region for international students involved in the programmes it handles. In recent years these have included such places as Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Krakow. Those of you who are at Masaryk University on the CESP, ISEP, ISEP Direct and TESOL TE programmes can take part in these excursions free of charge; other students must pay themselves. Participation fees, however, are very reasonable. Several one- and two-day trips are also organized each semester by the International Student Club. Full information is posted outside the OIS, and can be found on its webpages and those of the ISC.

In addition to going on these excursions, you will probably want to spend some of your weekends exploring the countryside round Brno. The southern Moravian region has many attractions, far too many to list here: what follows is a brief survey highlighting some of the main ones.

The battlefield of Austerlitz (“Slavkov” in Czech), the site of one of Napoleon's most famous military victories, is easily reached by public transport, as is the impressive Baroque chateau at Slavkov itself, where Napoleon stayed after the battle.

North of Brno, the deeply wooded, hilly countryside is criss-crossed by a maze of trails that serve for hiking in summer and cross-country skiing in winter. A favourite destination here is the pilgrimage church at Křtiny, one of the country's most magnificent Baroque monuments. Slightly farther north

(but still only 25 km from the city centre) lies the karst region of the Moravský kras, with its spectacular limestone caves.

To the south and east of Brno, the land opens up into the shallow, rolling hills that provide the perfect conditions for the country's best vineyards. The local towns and villages abound in wine cellars, both public and private; these are ideal places to enjoy the vintage celebrations in the autumn and tasting of the new wine in late winter. This is also one of the richest regions in Europe for folklore; the annual international folk festival held at Strážnice in June attracts visitors and participants from across the continent.

Other nearby attractions are not difficult to find: the quintessential medieval castle, at Pernštejn; the great collection of epic paintings by Alfons Mucha, whose work has come to define Art Nouveau, at Moravský Krumlov; the haunting Jewish ghettos and graveyards in a score of towns and villages, in particular at Mikulov, Boskovice and Třebíč; the

Romanesque rotunda with its unique eleventh-century frescoes at Znojmo. Quite remarkably, in Brno and within easy reach of the city there are no fewer than six UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Tugendhat Villa in Brno itself; the perfectly preserved town of Telč, with its Renaissance chateau and Baroque town houses; the Baroque gardens at the chateau of the Archbishop of Olomouc in Kroměříž; the Lednice-Valtice complex, with its two sprawling chateaus, gardens, artificial ponds, Romantic and Neo-Classical follies and vast stretches of landscaped countryside; the quirky Gothic-Baroque (!) pilgrimage church at Zelená hora near Žďár nad Sázavou; and the Jewish ghetto and ancient basilica at Třebíč. Add to these two UNESCO biosphere reserves, at Palava and the White Carpathians, and the exceptional historical and natural richness of the region is beyond dispute.



■ Foreign-language press, books

■ Newspapers and magazines

If you are looking for foreign newspapers and magazines, the best places to find them are at the Main Railway Station or in any of the major hotels (International, Continental, Grand).

There are also two weekly newspapers published in the country in English and German - *The Prague Post* and *Prager Zeitung*. These, naturally, enough, offer wide coverage of Czech news, though they perhaps tend to be a bit top-heavy on Prague-focused items.

There are also several on-line news sites reporting on the Czech scene. Both *The Prague Post* and *Prager Zeitung* appear in an electronic version (www.praguepost.com and www.pragerzeitung.cz). The *Prague*

Daily Monitor (www.praguemonitor.com) has very comprehensive coverage relating to the events in the Czech Republic, while *Topix* (www.topix.net/world/czech-republic) includes world and US news in addition to Czech items.

■ Books

Several bookshops have a limited range of books (particularly fiction) in languages other than Czech, the most common being English, German and French. The widest selection can be found in Academia (nám. Svobody 13), Jiří Šedivý (Masarykova 6) and Barvič a Novotný (Česká 13).

■ Health care

■ General

With your health insurance (see 3.3 above) you are entitled to visit any general practitioner. When you arrive in Brno, the Office for International Studies will supply you with the name of a doctor who speaks English and has had experience in treating international students.

■ Dental care

Again, you may visit any dentist; the Office for International Studies will supply you with the name of a dentist who speaks English.

■ Eye problems

If you have eye problems you should first visit a general practitioner, who will examine you and then, if necessary, arrange for you to see a specialist.

■ Pharmacies

Most of the medicines available elsewhere can be obtained here, though not necessarily in every pharmacy. In case you need some kind of medicine in the evening, at night or over the weekend, when shops are normally closed, there is a non-stop pharmacy located conveniently in the centre of the city, just off náměstí Svobody, at Kobližná 7.

■ Emergency cases

If you are faced with an urgent need for medical attention at a time when doctors' offices are not open, and you are confined to bed, call the emergency service at 545 538 538; a doctor will come to examine you within a very short time. In other cases you should go in person to the emergency service at Ponávka 6, which is open Monday - Friday from 19:00 till 7:00 and non-stop on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Emergency dental care is also available at the same address and telephone number.

■ Payment for medical treatment

Students from EU countries receive basic medical treatment free of charge; that is, medical treatment is ultimately paid for by their health insurance plans. This, however, only relates to care covered by the Czech health insurance companies and to doctors and medical facilities financed from public sources.

If you are a student from a country outside the EU, you must pay for your treatment in cash; you can then use the receipt to obtain reimbursement from your health insurance company.

For all students, a small additional administrative fee of a few Czech crowns is paid when visiting the doctor owing to a new system applied in the Czech Republic since January 2008.



■ Information centre

The city of Brno operates a cultural and information centre at Radnická 8, in the building of the Old Town Hall. It has a wide selection of maps, brochures and other information on Brno and the surrounding region. See www.ticbrno.cz.

■ Leisure time and entertainment

As the information below indicates, Brno has everything that one would expect to find in a thriving middle-sized European city. Incoming students will be given more information, as well as tours of the university and city during which some of the main cultural facilities and places of entertainment will be pointed out, upon arrival in Brno. Once you are settled in here, there are various publications you can turn to to keep track of the city's many cultural events and recreational opportunities. The monthly magazines *Kam v Brně* and *Kult* are both available at any newsstand in the Brno city centre. The bi-monthly bilingual flyer *Do města / Downtown* is free of charge and can be picked up in cinema foyers, many restaurants and other public places; its information is more up-to-date.



In this section of the guide we offer only some general comments on the main cultural institutions and kinds of entertainment in Brno, to give you some idea of what to expect and where to find what interests you.

■ Buying tickets

Most theatres sell tickets for their performances at their own box offices, as do cinemas and clubs; the Philharmonic too has its own ticket outlet (see below). For most other cultural activities, especially one-off events, the best place to turn to is usually the central advance booking agency at Běhounská 17.

■ Cinemas

Though films are not as popular a form of entertainment with the Czech public as they used to be, there are still plenty of cinemas in Brno, and the city now has two multiplex cinemas, one in the centre of the city at the Velký Špalíček shopping centre (Mečová street) the other at the Olympia hyperstore on the city's outskirts (reachable by free shuttle-bus from the stop alongside the Tesco department store behind the Main Railway Station). At these and other cinemas in Brno you can see the latest American and European films, though you should check first to find out whether they have been dubbed or subtitled. For those with a deeper interest in film, there are various other possibilities.

The Kino Art cinema (Cihlářská 19) offers a good selection of less commercial (what the Czechs refer to as "more demanding") films and film classics, films not targeted at the general public, films from unusual countries and so on. The programme varies from month to month: sometimes an individual director is highlighted, at other times films from a particular country or region or representing a particular genre. Each autumn it hosts the country's main festival of gay and lesbian films. As with films generally, you should check to see whether the films you wish to see are dubbed or have subtitles.

Every Spring Brno hosts the Febiofest, a major film festival that screens old and new films and includes many special categories of films - retrospectives of particular directors, films from regions such as Latin America or the Far East, films from individual countries. In spring there is also a second big film event, the two-week Festival of European Films, bringing about thirty recent films from all over Europe. At both the Febiofest and the Festival of European Films many of the films come from countries with lesser-known film industries; this may give you a chance to see films you would be unlikely to come across in your home country.

Finally, the International Student Club (<http://isc.muni.cz>) offers weekly showings of Czech films with English subtitles at the Faculty of Social Studies.

■ Clubs

This is a jungle, since Brno has so many clubs, designed to cater to such a wide range of tastes. What's more, they tend to appear and disappear with more frequency than theatres, cinemas and even restaurants. Unfortunately there is no convenient way to find out about everything that is going on at the city's clubs. *Kam v Brně* and *Kult* are helpful; because of its bi-monthly format, *Do města /Downtown* tends to have more recent information. And it's worth remembering that many clubs advertise their programmes

through posters. In all probability, though, most of the time you'll probably learn about what's coming to the clubs by word-of-mouth.

■ Museums and galleries

The five main institutions here are the Moravian Museum, the Moravian Gallery, the Technical Museum, the Museum of the City of Brno and the House of Art (Dům umění), each of which has facilities at more than one location. Besides their permanent collections, which are described below, they also mount many temporary exhibitions each year. All museums and galleries are closed on Mondays; some also close on other days.

The **Moravian Museum** is the city's (and region's) history and natural science museum. Its two main buildings are the Dietrichstein Palace and Bishop's Court, off Zelný trh, where there are permanent exhibitions on prehistoric Moravia, the ninth century Great Moravian Empire (which encompassed Moravia and parts of Bohemia, Slovakia and Hungary) and the medieval village in Moravia, a comprehensive collection of coins and medals, and a large exhibition on the fauna of Moravia. The Moravian Museum has two other main locations: the **Ethnographic Museum** (Kobližná 1) and **Anthropos** (Pisárská 5). The collections at the Ethnographic Museum fo-

cus on the Czech lands and particularly Moravia, which is one of the richest regions in Europe for folk culture; pride of place here goes to the spectacular folk costumes from southern Moravia. Anthropos is concerned with the origin and evolution of the human race and the beginnings of human culture, drawing heavily on the unusually rich prehistoric finds from the Pavlov Hills region of southern Moravia.

The **Moravian Gallery** brings together collections of the fine and applied arts. The main building of the Moravian Gallery (Husova 14), a splendidly refurbished neo-Renaissance structure from 1883, houses the collections of applied art - furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork, textiles - from ancient times to the present. An excellent collection of modern Czech art is found at the Pražák Palace (Husova 18), while the Governor's Palace (Moravské nám. 1a) is the place to go for older Czech art (from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century) and art from other countries.

The **Technical Museum** embraces such areas as traditional crafts, industrial processes, means of transport and communications. In addition to its main building at Purkyňova 105 it has an amazing number of old trams, buses and trolleybuses and several historical buildings (a windmill, ironworks, etc.) located in the countryside near Brno.

The **Museum of the City of Brno**, as its name implies, records all aspects of the city's past. Its main exhibition spaces are in Brno's castle, Špilberk, where there are permanent exhibitions on the history of Brno, Špilberk as a prison, Brno artists and sculptors and Brno's interwar Functionalist architecture. The museum also administers the best-known Modernist building in the country, Mies van der Rohe's landmark **Tugendhat Villa** (Černopolní 45), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and has a small space for temporary exhibits in the Menín Gate (Menínská 7), the sole survivor of the five gates that once provided access to Brno in the Middle Ages.

The **House of Art** (Malinovského nám. 2) mounts temporary exhibitions. In recent years its programme has included many major exhibitions of Czech and foreign provenance that have attracted national and even international attention. It also has a second set of exhibition rooms in the recently restored Renaissance palace known as the **House of the Lords of Kunštát** (Dům panů z Kunštátu - Dominikánská 9).

A sixth significant museum is the **Museum of Roma Culture** (Bratislavská 67), the only museum in Europe devoted solely to the Roma (Gypsies).

In addition to the above institutions, of course, there are many galleries, both public

and private, with continually changing exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, graphic works, photographs and media art. One of these, the **Design Centre of the Czech Republic** (Radnická 2), specializes in publicizing the latest in all aspects of Czech design.

■ Music

The major musical body in Brno is the Brno State Philharmonic, which offers a whole range of different kinds of concerts throughout the year. These are presented in a series of "cycles" devoted to particular kinds of music - symphonies, chamber music, and so on - each of which comprises half a dozen or more concerts in the course of the year. Tickets can be bought for individual concerts, or you can take out a subscription for a whole year's cycle. Full information on the Philharmonic's activities can be obtained at its box office in Besední street.

The Philharmonic's activities account for only a fraction of Brno's musical life. In addition, the city has many choirs, chamber orchestras and smaller groups (quartets, quintets and so on), old-music ensembles, folk music groups, jazz groups, modern folk groups, bluegrass groups, rock groups - the list is endless - and of course welcomes many groups like these from other places in the Czech Republic and abroad. To keep up with what's happening, it's best to buy *Kam v Brně* and/or *Kult* (or pick up *Do města / Down-*

town), keep an eye out for posters advertising these events, and ask your Czech friends for tips. Tickets for the majority of these kinds of musical events can be bought at the central advance booking agency at Běhounská 17.

■ Theatres

The theatres in Brno offer a wide range of stage productions - dramas, operas, ballets, operettas, musicals and puppet plays. Here we list only the main theatres and kinds of productions they offer. The city also has a number of smaller theatres, often with interesting repertoires and inventive productions.

The **Janáček Theatre** (Rooseveltova 17) has the largest stage in Brno and is the venue for the opera and ballet productions of the National Theatre in Brno. Its second stage, the **Mahen Theatre** (Malinovského nám. 1), an opulent neo-Baroque building from 1882, is devoted largely to the theatre's drama productions, with a repertoire running from the classics to contemporary premieres. The advance booking office for both these theatres is at Dvořákova 11. The elegantly redesigned **Reduta** (Zelný trh), the oldest theatre building in Central Europe, serves as the National Theatre's third stage and is used for intimate productions in all genres.

The **Brno Municipal Theatre** (Lidická 16) is famous for its dynamic productions of dramas, operettas and musicals, many of the latter being original works. Its recently opened second stage, the **Music Theatre**, boasts the best facilities in the country for musical productions.

Brno is unusual in having two experimental theatre companies, both with an international reputation. The **Goose on a String Theatre** offers exciting, visually stimulating productions, largely of original or provocatively adapted plays, in its state-of-the-art complex of buildings at Zelný trh 9. **HaDivadlo** operates out of a newly renovated venue at Poštovská 8d and is notable for the intellectually demanding content of its (usually original) plays and its highly expressive acting style.

The **Bolek Polívka Theatre** (Jakubské nám. 5) brings to Brno some of the best Czech theatre productions as well as performances by Polívka himself, a brilliant mime and one of the country's most popular theatre figures.

Studio Marta (Bayerova 5) is the theatre of the Janáček Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts: its lively and controversial productions are the work of the Academy's aspiring young actors, directors and stage designers. In spring semester the Academy

organizes a week-long festival here that brings to Brno exciting productions from student drama schools all across Europe.

Everyone whose childhood was spent in Brno is familiar with the **Radost Puppet Theatre** (Bratislavská 30-32). But this is more than just a company for children: some of its productions are designed for adults.

Finally, don't miss the productions by students at the Faculties of Arts and Education of plays put on in English, German, French, Spanish and even, occasionally, Latin and Greek.

■ Money matters

The cost of living is very low in the Czech Republic compared to most Western countries, and you will be able to live very comfortably without spending large sums. ATMs are generally the easiest and cheapest way to manage money here, and the Brno city centre features numerous conveniently located automated banking machines capable of handling transactions with Western financial institutions.

Foreign currency can be exchanged at any bank, though you might check around to see which one gives the best rate, since these can vary considerably. The small exchange booths along Masarykova street are said to offer the best exchange rates in the Czech Republic.



Some of you may wish to open an account in crowns or a foreign currency at a local bank, especially if you are going to be in Brno for more than one semester. This can be done relatively easily at virtually any bank, though you will probably find that banks in the city centre, especially branches of the larger banks, offer the best range of services. The Office for International Studies can advise you on which bank might serve you best.

Credit and electronic debit cards (Master-Card, Maestro, Visa) can be used in most restaurants, as well as in larger shops. In smaller shops credit cards are less likely to be welcomed; there you will probably have to pay in cash.

■ Police

There are two separate police forces in the Czech Republic, the national police force (**Policie České republiky**) and municipal police forces (**Městská policie**). They can be distinguished by their uniforms, the Czech police wearing grey trousers with blue jackets and the municipal police black uniforms. The Czech police deal with such areas as criminal activities, road traffic (accidents, fines and so on), and visas for foreigners. The municipal police have limited powers to maintain law and order within the town or city where they work.

Czech Police - Office for Foreigners

Kopečná 3

Tel.: + 420 974 620 251-61

Office hours:

Monday and Wednesday	8:00 - 17:00
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Friday	8:00 - 12:00
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■ Post offices

Most post offices are only open on weekdays. The one beside the Main Railway Station remains open non-stop, 24 hours a day seven days a week. It should answer most of your communication needs. In addition to sending letters and packages, you can

use their fax and wire services and phone long distance, paying cash upon completion of your call (though this will be more expensive than if you phone from a payphone).

■ Public holidays

1 January	New Year's Day
Easter Monday	moveable; the Monday after Easter Sunday
1 May	May Day
8 May	Liberation Day (marking the end of World War II)
5 July	Feast day of the Apostles of the Slavs, Sts Cyril and Methodius
6 July	Day marking the anniversary of the death of Jan Hus (burned at the stake in 1415)
28 September	Day of Czech statehood (the feast day of St Wenceslas)
28 October	Day commemorating the founding of Czechoslovakia (in 1918)
17 November	Day of the struggle for freedom and democracy
24-26 December	Christmas holidays



■ Public transport

■ Brno municipal transport

The public transport system in Brno is quite comprehensive and reliable. The many tram, bus and trolley-bus lines allow you to get quickly to any part of the city throughout the day and the evening. Several trams and buses run through the night as well, at one-hour intervals. You can buy individual tickets for the public transport system at most newspaper stands, in some food stores and from machines located at key stops; the price of the usual adult ticket is 15 Kč. It is also possible to buy a ticket directly from the tram/bus/trolley-bus driver, but in this case it costs 20 Kč. You must stamp the ticket as soon as you enter the vehicle, using one of the small devices attached to the vertical poles near the doors. Tickets, which allow you to transfer, are valid for 60 minutes. If you anticipate a journey to some distant part

of the city that will last more than 60 minutes, you can buy various kinds of more expensive tickets.

Most students, however, prefer to purchase a monthly or quarterly pass, especially since there is a considerable student reduction (see 5.5 above).

Special one-day, three-day, seven-day and fourteen-day tickets are also available, of particular interest to those of you who might have guests coming to visit while you are in Brno.

Brno municipal transport offices:

Novobranská 18

Mendlovo nám. 19

Hlinky 151

(near the Vinařská halls of residence)

Detailed information about municipal transport services can be found at www.dpmb.cz.

■ Trains

The Brno Main Railway Station ("Hlavní nádraží") lies on the major rail route connecting Berlin with Prague, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. Brno is linked to Prague by many daily express trains (some of them international) as well as several Euro-city trains, which make the journey in around two and a half hours.

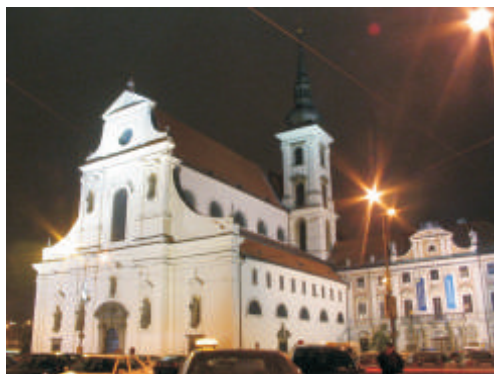
If you plan to do some travelling by train in the Czech Republic, it is highly advisable to purchase a special Czech Railways discount card ("In-zákazník"). This card, which costs 600 Kč and is valid for three years, entitles you to a 30 - 40% discount whenever you buy a rail ticket. You must show the card to the cashier whenever you purchase a ticket, as well as to the conductor in the train when s/he checks your ticket. The card is sold at railway station ticket offices; a passport-sized photograph is needed.

■ Coaches and buses

Bus travel in the Czech Republic is very inexpensive. Brno has two bus stations. The main bus station, "Zvonařka", is about a ten-minute walk from the Main Railway Station. It serves as the point of arrival and departure for buses linking Brno with places within the Czech Republic as well as for international coaches. The downtown bus station is the place to go for buses to and from Prague. The station is located less than five minutes from the Main Railway Station, opposite the Grand Hotel. Three companies operate buses on the Brno-Prague link - Student Agency, Czech Airlines and Tourbus. Service is very frequent, with as many as thirty buses on weekdays and about half that number on weekends. Tickets are purchased at the station.

■ Religious services

The Czechs as a nation seem to be one of the most “atheistic” in Europe: at the 2001 census, 59 per cent said they were non-believers. Among believers, the largest group is that of the Roman Catholics (about 27 per cent of the population), followed by considerably smaller numbers of Protestants (around 3 per cent), Orthodox Christians, Jews and members of other faiths. In Brno, and even more in southern Moravia, the proportion of believers is higher than the national average, but still rather low by European standards. So do not be surprised if few of your Czech friends attend religious services. Nevertheless, there is a wide range of denominations and faiths represented in Brno, though in most cases their language of worship will be Czech.



■ Roman Catholic

Most Roman Catholic churches have two or more masses a day on weekdays, more on Sundays. The Jesuit Church (Beethovenova street) holds a mass for students (in Czech) on Monday at 19:00. The student centre at Kozí 8 (first floor) has a library and reading room open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 14:30 till 18:30 and on Wednesday from 9:00 till 18:30. Consultations with a priest in German and English are possible on Wednesday.

■ Protestant

Many Protestant denominations are active in Brno, among them the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, Church of the Brethren, Unitarians, Salvation Army, Latter-Day Saints and Jehovah's Witnesses. Perhaps the best-known Protestant church building is the historic “Red Church” on Komenský Square, which belongs to the Evangelical Czech Brethren Church. It holds its regular services on Sundays at 10:00 (in September at 9:00).

The “Majak” ministry organizes an inter-denominational Protestant service in English that is held on Sundays at Dusíkova 5 (in the suburb of Lesná) at 17:00. Enquiries at 548 221 566.

■ Orthodox

The single Orthodox church in Brno (a remarkable example of Functionalist architecture) is situated near the beginning of Gorazdova street, on the slope leading up to Špilberk from the western side. Sunday services are at 7:00, 9:00 and 19:00 (in winter at 18:00). Further information can be obtained from the Orthodox Church community office, at Úvoz 62 (tel. 542 214 030), in Czech, Russian, Greek and Ukrainian.

■ Jewish

The one synagogue that survived World War II is located at Skořepka 13. Services are on Fridays at 19:00 and Saturdays at 9:00. For more information, you can get in touch with the Jewish community office, třída kpt. Jaroše 3 (tel. 545 244 710).

■ Muslim

Brno enjoys the distinction of having the first and so far only mosque in the Czech Republic. It is part of the offices and cultural centre of the Islamic Foundation in Brno, situated at Vídeňská 38a (tel. 543 243 352). Worship is held five times daily; the main service of the week is on Friday at 12:30 (when the country is on standard time) or 13:30 (during summer time). Detailed information is provided on the Islamic Foundation's Website, www.muslim.cz.

■ Shopping

Brno has seen a flurry of new commercial ventures in the fifteen years since the end of Communism. Brno's attractive city centre features hundreds of shops offering everything from designer clothes to books in various languages to beautiful antiques. For miscellaneous daily needs, students often find the Tesco department store and supermarket, located behind the Main Railway Station, a useful resource. Stretching beyond Tesco is the recently opened Galerie Vaňkovka: with its 130 shops, food courts and other facilities, it is the largest shopping complex in Moravia. Smaller supermarkets and convenience stores are located close to the Vinařská residence facilities.

Opening hours vary greatly. Most shops are open Monday to Friday from 8:30/9:00 till 18:00, and those in the centre of the city on Saturday as well, from 8:30/9:00 till 12:00. Supermarkets and convenience stores throughout the city are often open for some hours on Saturday and Sunday; convenience stores calling themselves "Večeřka" are open late in the evening and usually over the weekend. At the shopping centres ringing the city, most of the shops are open seven days a week.



■ Sports and physical activities

Brno offers a wide range of sporting and recreational opportunities. Masaryk University operates several gymnasiums, including one adjacent to the Vlnářská residence where most international students live. The city of Brno also provides dozens of sports facilities, including thirteen indoor and open-air swimming pools and two winter stadiums. The enormous Bobby Centre, the largest of these facilities, boasts squash courts, a bowling alley, and some of the best work-out facilities in the Czech Republic, not to mention the country's largest discotheque. The Brno Lake, easily accessible by public

transport, is a popular site for swimming, skating (in winter) and outdoor recreation. The area also offers opportunities for golf, hiking and skiing.

Information about specific sports and athletics facilities in Brno can be found on the City of Brno Webpages; visit www.bрно.cz.

If you are studying at Masaryk University for more than one semester, you may wish to join some sports club. The Office for International Studies can provide you with information about where you might go for the particular sport you are interested in.

■ Taxis

Brno taxi services have a much better reputation than those in Prague. Overcharging does not happen so often and the taxi-gang wars are not an issue here. In any case, when using the taxi, ask in advance the approximate price of the service and make sure that the taxi-meter has been set to zero at the beginning of the ride. A 15-minute ride should cost between 130 and 150 Kč.



■ Telephones

Public telephones are found all around the town. Some of them are for use with coins (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 Kč), the basic cost of a local call being 2 Kč and a long-distance call in the Czech Republic 15 Kč. Other phone boxes are meant for use with prepaid "O2 cards", which can be purchased at post offices and from most newsagents. More information can be found at www.cz.o2.com.

To make an international call, dial 00 followed by the country code. A full list of country codes can be found in the Yellow Pages. Within the Czech Republic area codes are no longer needed when making long-distance calls; the nine-digit numbers can be dialled direct.

For information on telephone numbers in the Czech Republic dial 1180, for information on telephone numbers outside the Czech Republic 1181.

■ Cellphones

For the sake of convenience, many students purchase a cellular phone for incoming and outgoing phone calls, thus avoiding reliance on public telephones and the telephones available in Masaryk University's residences. There are three mobile phone operators in the Czech Republic:

T-Mobile (www.t-mobile.cz)

Vodafone (www.vodafone.cz)

O2 (www.cz.o2.com).

Vodafone sells phones that can also be used with other operators' simcards. North American students should ask for a tri-band phone if they want to use the phone after they return home.

■ Visiting Czechs in their homes

The almost universal custom in Czech households is to wear slippers inside the house or flat. This means that if you are visiting friends at their home, you will probably be expected to shed your shoes too. However, most households are normally prepared for this: there is a selection of slippers for guests waiting at the entrance to the home or flat.

If you are invited to someone's place for a meal, it is the custom to take a small gift - often something to consume, such as a bottle of wine or a box of chocolates. Or a small bouquet of flowers might be appropriate.

■ WWW

Masaryk University	
Masaryk University	www.muni.cz
Office for International Studies	http://ois.muni.cz
Faculty of Law	www.law.muni.cz
Faculty of Medicine	www.med.muni.cz
Faculty of Science	www.sci.muni.cz
Faculty of Arts	www.phil.muni.cz
Faculty of Education	www.ped.muni.cz
Faculty of Economics and Administration	www.econ.muni.cz
Faculty of Informatics	www.fi.muni.cz
Faculty of Social Studies	www.fss.muni.cz
Faculty of Sports Studies	www.fsps.muni.cz
International Institute for Political Studies	www.iips.cz
Institute for Computer Science	www.ics.muni.cz
Language Centre	http://lingua.muni.cz
Division of Czech for Foreigners	www.phil.muni.cz/kabcest
International Student Club	http://isc.muni.cz
Union catalogue for all of Masaryk University's libraries	www.aleph.muni.cz
University Computer Centre	http://studovna.muni.cz

Brno	
City of Brno	www.bрно.cz
Public transport in Brno	www.dpmb.cz
Information centre	www.ticbrno.cz
Czech Republic	
Czech Republic	www.czechcentrum.cz
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic	www.mzv.cz
The official web site of the Czech Republic	www.czech.cz
Czech tourism	www.czechtourism.cz
Travelling	
Student Agency	www.studentagency.cz
Eurolines	www.bei.cz
Czech Airlines	www.csa.cz
Czech Rail	www.cd rail.cz
Find your connection in the Czech Republic	www.idos.cz



■ **Guide for International Students** **2008/2009**

Published by the Office for International Studies

Masaryk University

6th edition, 2008

700 copies

Designed by Filip Raif, Graphic Studio Hlava

Printed by OLD PRINT, s.r.o.