

# UPCES

Undergraduate Program in  
Central European Studies

STUDY ABROAD AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

[WWW.UPCES.CERGE-EI.CZ](http://WWW.UPCES.CERGE-EI.CZ)



# UPCES

Undergraduate Program in  
Central European Studies



UPCES is an undergraduate study abroad program at CERGE-EI and Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

With UPCES, students learn new topics, study a foreign language, gain wider perspectives, and experience cultural immersion – while living in one of Europe’s most incredible cities.

Crucially, UPCES offers a personalized approach to study abroad. Students receive all the resources essential to a rewarding semester.

We invite you to learn more about our program – and to join us. An incredible semester in Prague awaits you.



**MY SEMESTER WITH UPCES WAS LIFE-CHANGING IN THE BEST WAYS POSSIBLE. I HONESTLY CANNOT IMAGINE A BETTER PROGRAM OR PLACE TO STUDY ABROAD.**

Ben | University of Pennsylvania

**MISSION** | The mission of UPCES is to provide undergraduates with an unmatched semester abroad in Prague through dedicated instruction, international integration, and excellent program support.

**STUDENTS** | UPCES welcomes motivated and accomplished students from diverse educational backgrounds. UPCES also values personal experiences outside of college, as well as future aspirations.

**CURRICULUM** | UPCES courses infuse topics relevant to Central Europe into a wide variety of liberal arts disciplines. A faculty of distinguished scholars, government figures, and industry experts lead our interactive courses.

**IMMERSION** | Outside the classroom, UPCES students explore the cultures of Central Europe firsthand. Program trips, excursions, internships, and immersion activities offer opportunities to discover new places, people, and perspectives.





# CURRICULUM

The UPCES curriculum infuses Central European topics into a wide variety of liberal arts subjects.

**SUBJECTS** | Students of many different majors will find courses that meet their interests and academic requirements in the following subjects:

- » Anthropology
- » Architecture
- » Art History
- » Communications
- » Cultural Studies
- » Economics
- » Environmental Studies
- » Film and Media Studies
- » History
- » International Relations
- » Literature
- » Philosophy
- » Political Science
- » Psychology
- » Religious Studies
- » Sociology

**FACULTY** | UPCES professors are leading scholars in their fields and hold distinguished teaching credentials. Faculty members are drawn from the university, and also include government leaders and industry specialists.

**CZECH LANGUAGE** | All UPCES students enroll in a rigorous beginner Czech language course. This course spans the entire semester and includes an intensive session during Orientation. Advanced language courses are also available.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY** | If a student seeks a course topic not offered during the semester, an Independent Study may be arranged with an UPCES professor. This option enables students to explore a specific topic related to their interests and studies.

**COURSE LEVEL** | All UPCES courses are intended for college students at the Junior and Senior level. Course numbers correspond to the upper-level credit distinctions at American universities.

# COURSES

Courses are designed to inspire and challenge students to master new concepts and discover different perspectives.

**COURSE LIST** | Courses are added to the UPCES curriculum each semester. The following list of courses are commonly on offer:

- » European-American Relations in the 21st Century
- » Comprehending the Holocaust
- » Global Communication
- » The Rise and Fall of Communism in Central Europe
- » Psychoanalysis and Cultural Studies
- » Human Relationships in Czech and American Films
- » Ideas Behind Politics: Communism, Post-Communist and Civil Society
- » Prague as a Living History: Anatomy of a Central European Capital
- » Life and Culture in a Totalitarian Regime
- » Central European Economic Growth and Development
- » European Integration
- » Film as a Mirror of Communism and Post-Communist Developments
- » Gender and Minorities in Post-Socialist Europe
- » Central Europe: Shaping a Modern Culture
- » Gothic, Baroque, and Modern: The Arts in Bohemian Culture
- » Kafka in Prague
- » Central European Psychology
- » Environmental Economics in Central Europe
- » Economics of Transition
- » Lines of Light: Central European Cinema

## UPCES ACADEMICS AT A GLANCE

CREDITS EARNED PER SEMESTER	COURSE LOAD PER STUDENT	WEEKS IN COURSE CALENDAR	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE	DAYS OF UPCES ORIENTATION
16	5	13	12	9



I LOVED HOW I WAS ABLE TO GET A **WELL-ROUNDED** VIEW ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLASSES.

Sydney | University of Michigan



# BUILDING & FACILITIES

UPCES is located within the beautiful Schebek Palace in the historic center of Prague.

**LOCATION** | UPCES is one block from Prague’s Wenceslas Square and minutes away from such landmarks as the National Museum, the Estates Theatre, and the Powder Tower. Surrounded by restaurants, cafes, art galleries, museums, and shops, our location encourages students to explore Prague on their walk to and from class.

**OUR BUILDING** | The magnificent Schebek Palace was constructed in the nineteenth century by an Italian nobleman as a private residence. It has since been converted to a modern study and research center.

**LIBRARY** | Our building library holds an extensive collection of print and electronic resources, as well as access to widely used databases.

**CLASSROOMS** | UPCES classes take place underneath chandeliers, paintings, and gilded ceilings in meticulously restored palace rooms. Classrooms are modernly equipped and arranged with discussion-style seating.

**STUDY AREAS** | Students can find a quiet place to work or study in the UPCES Study Center, which includes free printing, computer workstations, and wireless internet.

**SECOND CAMPUS** | Charles University has a campus center in the Jinonice neighborhood of Prague that UPCES students can utilize for classes, events, and meals at the FHS cafeteria.

# CHARLES UNIVERSITY

UPCES draws on the rich traditions of Central Europe’s oldest university to create an unmatched educational experience.

**HISTORY** | Charles University was founded in 1348 by Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. As Central and Eastern Europe’s oldest university, it began with only four faculties: medicine, law, theology, and the arts. The university dedicated its mission to the circulation of learning, the cultivation of free thought, and independent academic research.

**PRESENT** | Today, Charles University ranks as the most prestigious university in all of Central and Eastern Europe. The university has grown to include seventeen faculties and an undergraduate enrollment of nearly 16,000 students. With its growth, Charles University remains true to its historic traditions.

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES** | UPCES courses are integrated with the Faculty of Humanities (FHS) of Charles University. FHS is committed to high-quality education and research in the humanities and social sciences through innovative and progressive study programs. Students from around the world study at FHS for full degrees and international exchange.

**CERGE-EI** | UPCES is based at CERGE-EI, a joint workplace of Charles University in Prague and the Economics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. CERGE-EI contributes to progress in the region by providing an intellectual environment that emphasizes free and open inquiry.



## NOTABLE PEOPLE IN CHARLES UNIVERSITY HISTORY



**Charles IV**

Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia. Founded Charles University in 1348.



**Jan Hus**

Revolutionary religious reformer. Served as Charles University Rector and professor.



**Ernst Mach**

Scientist and philosopher. Chair of the University’s Experimental Physics Dept.



**Franz Kafka**

One of the 20th century’s greatest authors. Studied at the University’s Faculty of Law.



**Albert Einstein**

World-famous scientist. Taught theoretical physics at Charles University.



**Tomáš Masaryk**

First President of Czechoslovakia. Studied and taught at Charles University.

# DISCOVER PRAGUE

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Students discover the magic and charm of Prague, a vibrant, modern, and affordable European capital with a rich cultural heritage.

**HISTORY** | Since the 9th century, Prague has been a rotating center of power for princes, kings, emperors, dictators, and presidents, and a home to luminaries of the arts and sciences. After 40 years of communism, Prague reemerged in 1989 as a dynamic and democratic capital city.

**ARCHITECTURE** | Prague is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, and rightfully so. Gothic, renaissance, baroque, classicist, art nouveau, and modernist buildings all sit side-by-side in the city's squares and maze of winding streets.

**FESTIVALS** | Prague hosts a seemingly endless number of music, film, art, fashion, theatre, and literature festivals throughout the year. Whatever your tastes or style, you are sure to find a festival in Prague that will truly excite you.

**SPORTS** | Soccer and ice hockey are two sports that rise far above the rest in Prague. Two local sports clubs traditionally battle it out for national supremacy in popular city matches. Prague is also a great place to participate in recreational sporting activities of all types.

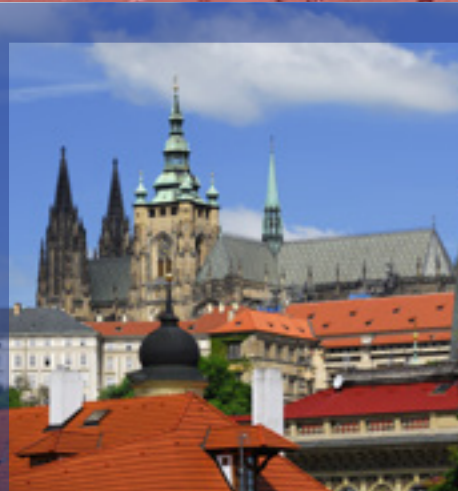
**MUSEUMS** | Due to the Czech Republic's vast cultural riches, there are a remarkable number of museums in Prague. With galleries in the city opening left and right, Prague has rapidly become a mainstay of the European art and culture scene.

**EATING** | Czech cuisine has many delicious treats, but Prague is perhaps better known for its huge variety of international dining options, from Italian and French to Thai and Mexican. Hop on a tram to explore the city's many eateries.

**OUTDOORS** | Prague is celebrated for its parks, gardens, forests, and hiking trails. The city is filled with large green spaces perfect for strolling, playing sports, exercising, and relaxing. Most parks offer incredible views of the city's spires and bridges.

**MARKETS** | If you're looking for a treat, a gift, or just a special atmosphere, head to Prague's many outdoor markets. Squares bustle with markets from March through October, and the city's Christmas and Easter markets rank among the best in Europe.

**THEATRE** | For centuries, Prague has been an international center for theatre of every sort. Each night there is an excellent ballet, symphony, opera, dance, or drama performance to attend, as well as music concerts of all genres.



# IMMERSION

UPCES students enhance their abroad experience by taking advantage of countless opportunities to integrate in the local culture.

**INTERNSHIPS** | UPCES partners with local businesses, schools, and NGOs to offer a range of internship opportunities. Students may apply for different positions to gain professional skills and insights into local culture. Recent examples include:

- » **CEELI Institute** - Pre-Law
- » **Park Lane** - Teaching
- » **TOL** - Marketing, Journalism
- » **FireFly** - Graphic Design

**LOCAL ENROLLMENT** | UPCES students take classes alongside Czech and European exchange students. This international atmosphere creates a blend of perspectives and opportunities for immersion.

**CZECH PARTNER PROGRAM** | Students are paired with “Czech Partners” who study at Charles University. Partners help UPCES students navigate Prague, integrate with locals, and develop their Czech language skills. UPCES organizes events during the semester for participants.

**CITY APARTMENTS** | Students live in apartments located in the central districts of Prague. Students choose their apartments during Orientation based on recommended options. Apartments allow students to experience the independence of city life while acquiring greater immersion in Czech society.

# EXPLORE EUROPE

The best way to discover Europe is to go out and see it. UPCES arranges four trips in the Central European region each semester.

**WEEKEND TRIP** | UPCES students explore an important Central European cultural capital during a three-night program trip. Destinations vary between Krakow (Poland), Budapest (Hungary), and Berlin (Germany). The weekend trip includes transportation, city center accommodation, guided tours, museums tickets, cultural activities, and free time.

**OVERNIGHT TRIP** | UPCES Orientation concludes with an overnight trip to Český Krumlov, a picturesque city famous for its preserved historic Old Town and enchanted atmosphere.

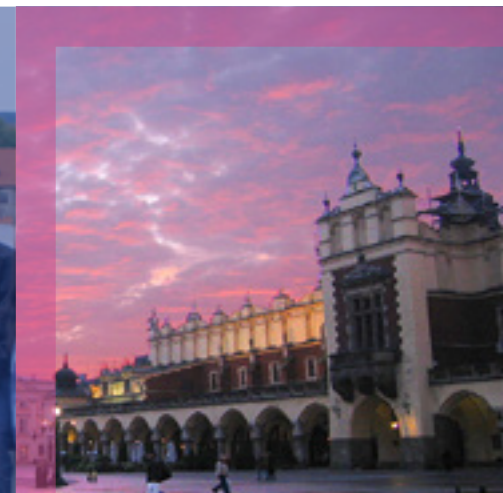
**DAY TRIPS** | To highlight the cultural diversity of the region, UPCES organizes two day-trips each semester, usually to Dresden (Germany) and Litoměřice (Czech Republic). Dresden has world-famous museums and markets, and Litoměřice is one of the oldest towns in the region.

**INDEPENDENT TRAVEL** | Prague is in the geographic center of Europe, making it a great “taking-off point” to a number of incredible locations. Affordable busses and trains offer convenient access to several nearby countries, such as Austria, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy.



**I WAS REALLY IMMERSSED INTO THE CULTURE OF THE REGION, WHICH MADE MY ABROAD EXPERIENCE THAT MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL TO ME.**

Chase | Tulane University





# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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An UPCES semester includes weekly opportunities to join events, attend guest lectures, and participate in numerous extracurricular activities.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- UPCES organizes events and cultural activities around Prague on a weekly basis.
- Excursions include Czech sporting events, opera performances at the National Theatre, museums and exhibitions, tours of government institutions, and visits to recreational landmarks.

## GUEST LECTURES

- Prominent scholars, political figures, and business leaders regularly come to our building (CERGE-EI) to present on relevant topics.
- Lectures are usually presented along with a small discussion.
- In recent years, many Nobel Prize laureates have lectured in our building, such as Joseph Stiglitz.

## ORIENTATION SERIES

- Each UPCES semester begins with a 2-week Orientation program designed to facilitate a smooth transition to life in Prague.
- UPCES Orientation includes city tours, academic lectures, guest visitors, information sessions, intensive Czech language classes, and a Welcome Reception.

## STAFF SUPPORT

- UPCES is proud to have a dedicated and professional staff that is equipped to help students make the most of their semester abroad and offer support in all circumstances.
- Students can access staff members during regular office hours and at all times by phone.

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB

- The International Club of Charles University is a student-based organization for both local and international students.
- The club organizes trips, film screenings, and museum tours throughout each semester.

UPCES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ENABLED ME TO BOND WITH MY CLASSMATES AND EXPERIENCE THE RICH CULTURAL HISTORY OF PRAGUE AT THE SAME TIME.

Jenna | Princeton University



# JOIN US

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An incredible semester in Prague awaits you.

**What's Included** | An UPCES semester includes:

- » Enrollment in 5 courses for 16 academic credits
- » 2-week UPCES Orientation Session
- » 4 Weekend Excursions in Central Europe
- » Prague transportation pass, cell phone, and Charles University ID
- » Cultural activities and tours throughout the semester
- » Course materials and Czech language guides
- » UPCES staff support 24 hours per day
- » Official transcript
- » Standard student health insurance

**Students** | UPCES participants should have a strong interest in liberal arts studies and a genuine enthusiasm for cultural immersion in Central Europe.

**Admission Requirements** | UPCES requests students to complete four university semesters (or equivalent) before their selected UPCES term. There is a GPA minimum requirement of 3.0.

**How to Apply** | Students may apply online or by hard-copy application on our website. In addition to the application form, students will submit a Personal Statement, updated résumé, and official transcript. There is no application fee.

**Tuition** | Visit our website for the latest tuition figures and deadlines: [www.upces.cerge-ei.cz](http://www.upces.cerge-ei.cz)







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