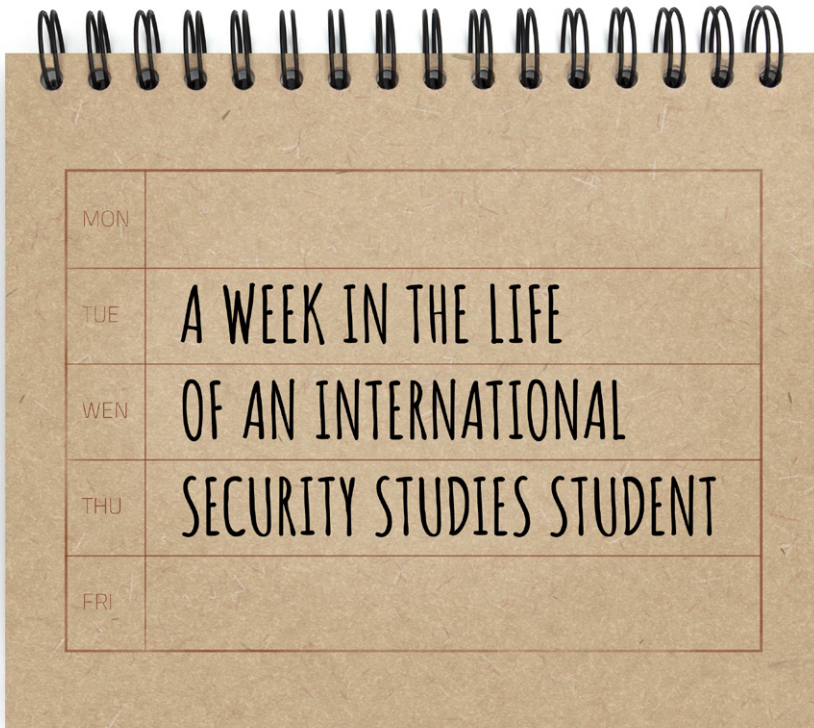




INSTITUTE
OF POLITICAL STUDIES
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University





Hi to all who are reading this! I'm currently going into the final year of the two years master's course offered at Charles University and wanted to give past, future and present pupils insight into the student life here in Prague. Join my adventures for a week by reading along and checking out all the different things the city and university have to offer!

I'd like to preface these stories by stating that the program allows for lots of flexibility in terms of scheduling (compared to other faculties). This means I am given more time to pursue my own opportunities and can start working on that ever-important thesis. Furthermore, there are so many courses to choose from within MISS itself that students are both spoiled for choice and time.

THE SCHEDULE

Formatting my schedule (below) to only have classes on Mondays and Tuesdays (with the occasional Wednesday class) has meant I have enjoyed five-day weekends to pursue my own interests and activities!

MY SCHEDULE – SUMMER SEMESTER 20/21

	6:30	8:00	9:30	11:00	12:30	14:00	15:30	17:00	18:30
Mo		Research ... Karásková J1037					Security and... Střítecký J4019	Cyber... Janák J2085	
Tue						Theories of... Plechanová J1031		Armed Forces Kučera J4020	
We								Crisis Games I Kučera J2083	
Thu									
Fri									

OBVIOUSLY A STUDENT'S SCHEDULE VARIES BUT I LOVED HOW MANY FREE DAYS I HAD FOR MYSELF!



MONDAY AND TUESDAY

These two days are the days I solely focus on my studies, prepping before each lecture to ensure I have some talking points if the time arises to participate. Thankfully for me, there are some amazing places around Prague that make it easy to sit down and be productive. For this week I have gone all out and chosen the National Library of the Czech Republic. After some quick ogling at the surroundings I can get down to business. With an annual library card only costing 200 Kc (less than \$10 USD), this is an absolute no brainer for us book lovers.

Most of the classes taught within the program are formatted in such a way that student participation and involvement form the backbone of all discussion. You are made to feel appreciated for your opinion, and with the international nature of the program you get perspectives from all around the world. Although you may not totally agree with what every person thinks, discourse is the best way to understand how the social world functions! With required and elective courses discussing brand new and controversial topics, some classes are bound to get a little heated (and that is where the fun begins).

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday is usually my day to finish up all the assignments that were given to us the previous two days. Assignments take many different forms including writing forum posts, reading and answering questions based off of prominent articles, watching different sources of media and keeping up with worldly events! This usually takes place on Moodle (which will become your best and worst friend) and will be easy for you to figure out once you get started.

Hanging around campus for this day gives me the opportunity to catch up with friends and discuss the assignments. With students in different programs and others within the Erasmus exchange, there are hundreds of people to meet and get to know! You can catch me in the study lounge (only when I'm taking a break from work of course) playing foosball with friends and enjoying some socialising time.



THURSDAY

If I am able to get all my assignments done for the coming week by Wednesday this means the rest of my time can be spent pursuing what I love to do on my downtime (i.e. hiking, exploring, eating, that thesis I'm not putting on the backburner). Prague is such a beautiful city that it's fun to get lost and explore all the different hidden gems and scenery. Today I chose to visit the beautiful Vysehrad and got a few shots for my Instagram along the way! It's amazing the types of views you can find with a little bit of exploration!



[photos by Jonathan Collins, consent has been granted including GDPR]

FRIDAY

After exploring the outer reaches of Prague, it was time to turn inwards towards the centre and all the goodies the Old Town has to offer. If you know even a little bit about Prague, you have probably seen the famous astronomical clock and the square that goes with it! But have you seen the amazing hot dogs (klobasa) that you can get in and around!? If this picture does not look like pure happiness to you, I don't know what else does! With how cheap the prices are in the city compared to Canada it's hard to resist splurging a little on all the amazing tastes this city has to offer. (Note: it is also important to find a photographer who can take the most opportunistic photos for shots like this).



THE WEEKEND

Growing up in the countryside, sometimes the city becomes a bit too much for me and I need a little getaway. Lucky enough for me, Prague is surrounded by some incredible day trips easily accessible throughout the Czech Republic. And with an ISIC (International Student Identity Card) you can get to pretty much anywhere within the country for less than 100 Kč (under \$5 USD)! Taking about a 45-minute bus ride I found myself

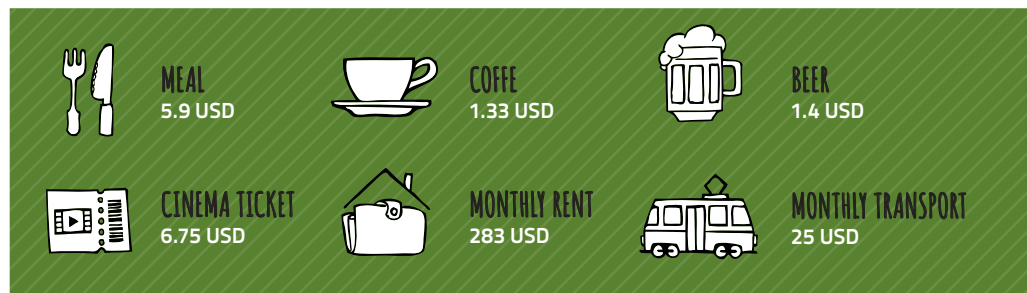
hiking through the various quarries that are now creating spectacular views for tourists. Lucky enough for me I saw them even building a movie set at the base of one of the quarries! Continuing the hike for about 30 minutes you will find yourself at the famous Karlstejn Castle and the spectacular views that come with it! The pictures speak for themselves how incredible this trip outside of Prague was.

LIVING COST FOR STUDENTS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic is one of the most popular educational destinations in Europe, because many universities offer affordable undergraduate and graduate programs, opportunities to study in any state university, and learn

the Czech language. Moreover, it is a great chance to gain a unique cultural experience while acquiring new skills in the country with a high quality of life and low cost of living.

AVERAGE COST BREAKDOWN



[Source: <https://www.educations.com/study-guides/europe/study-in-czech-republic/student-accommodation-4488>]

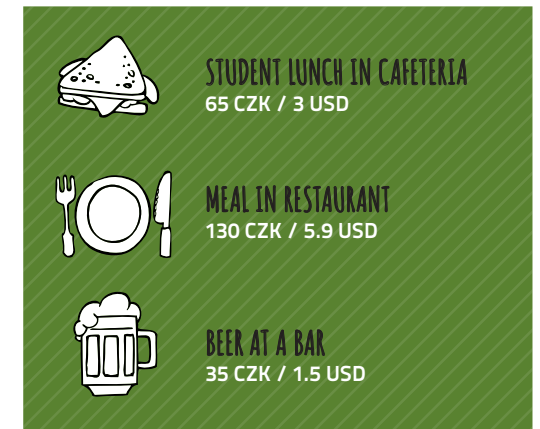
RENT

Students in the Czech Republic generally live in one of two types of accommodation: university accommodation or private accommodation. University accommodation will allow you to settle into student life more easily. On the other hand, renting a private flat may appeal to those who want a little more privacy.

After a student enters university the price of accommodation will be around 4500 CZK per month. A One-bedroom apartment on the other hand, in the city centre, costs around 12 000 CZK per month. Many students decide to share flats. In that case, the rental costs are almost equal to the price that students pay for living in a dormitory, moreover, each person has his or her own room.

FOOD AND DRINKS

In the Czech Republic, it is easy to find quality food at an affordable price. On average, students can expect to pay the following:



Groceries tend to be cheaper as well. So, if you're a student on a tight budget, consider limiting the number of meals you eat out, and go grocery shopping instead.

CULTURE






Prague is a city located in the very heart of Europe. What comes with this is a complex history and cultural development that has spanned hundreds of years.

One is spoiled for choice when it comes to the countless number of museums and art galleries littered throughout the city.

Visit <https://www.prague.com/v/culture/> to get a taste of all the different cultural experiences one could have! The website has an extensive list that would be impossible to cover in a life-time.

ENTERTAINMENT

After a long week of classes and studying, the weekends are a chance to relax and explore the Czech Republic. As a student, there are plenty of discounts available to participate in leisure activities such as museum exhibitions and art galleries. However, you should still have some money set aside for going out with friends and enjoying the local life. Expect to pay the following for some common entertainment:

	MOVIE TICKET 100–200 CZK 4.5–9 USD
	MONTHLY GYM PASS from 400 CZK 16 USD
	MUSEUM ADMISSION from 40 CZK 1.8 USD



LIFE IN PRAGUE

FOR EXPLORING. FOR FINDING HIDDEN TREASURES. FOR GETTING A TASTE OF LOCAL CULTURE.

Prague is a fantastic city for exploration and discovery alike. With its transportation networks covering the entirety of the city starting from the moment of arrival, the places to travel are endless.

Among other things, the city is famous for its art, music, architecture, traditions and cheap drinks. Whether you are living on a budget or treating yourself there is something for everyone within the city.

In 2019, the capitol of Czech Republic was rated in the top 15 for quality of life and living standards in the world, and it's easy to see why once you get here.



From traditional beer halls with accordion players to sleek modern dance clubs, Prague nightlife is alive and kicking until the sun comes up. It is an interesting mix of generations as well, if you seek the more traditional beer halls and pubs for your Prague nightlife experience, do not be surprised if you end up drinking with Grandfather Czech and do not be surprised when (not if) he drinks you under the table because he most certainly will!

Prague features some really great night clubs where you can dance all night long to house, techno, swing and all other types of dance music. If a night club isn't your taste, there are beer halls, beer gardens, wine bars, jazz clubs and others that could tickle anyone's fancy.



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

One of the best sources for information and helpful guides into the vast city of Prague are locals. What I found extremely useful as a student arriving from overseas was the [YouTube Channel Honest Guide](#). He has a variety of videos on the city and the surrounding area, along with tips and tricks to make the move that much easier.

JUST A TASTE

This brief guide has provided just a little taste of how life is really like in the city. With a massive amount of resources at your disposal to learn and discover all the hidden gems and local treasures spread throughout, when you aren't in class you can spend your time discovering everything Prague has to offer.

MISS STUDENTS SAID

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Being a master's student of International Security Studies programmes (MISS) in Charles University (Prague) has been an incredible opportunity to learn more about the field of my passion and stay in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe! The study programme is created by lecturers with expertise in their field, who have a clear idea of the learning outcomes in mind, so that the chosen courses give you both the foundational understanding and introduce you to the newest developments and challenges of the field. You can take courses ranging from theoretical ones, such as the Traditional and Critical Concepts in Security Studies (going through the evolution of the discipline), to practical ones, such as Crisis Games (aiming to give a direct experience in international crisis bargaining), which helps to gain knowledge and develop a range of skills needed in the professional life. Needless to say, studying is not an isolated process, so being part of an international student group, with people coming from around the world, enriched my personal experience and gave me friends for life.

Written by Tetyana, 29th of June, 2020

Regarding the program and my experience studying at Charles University I would like to say that this opportunity has allowed me to grow not only in my professional career but in my personal life too. Coming from halfway across the world, to a new culture, not knowing the language and by myself was a challenge at first, but got easier with time. Many of the teachers have such immense knowledge that have inspired me enormously. Regarding my professional career, I landed an internship at the Organization of American States, a couple months after graduating, but now I am looking for a more permanent job. While studying there I discovered how many things are actually connected to security and now I am highly interested in the fight against corruption and impunity...I think that overall my experience was great, and that the acquired knowledge can be implemented in many fields of international affairs. I am glad I did this program because it also allowed me to get closer to the career path I want to be in.

Written by Daniela, 21st of July, 2020

The security studies program at Charles University has positively changed the entire trajectory of my life. Through its dual degree program, it has provided me with the outstanding opportunity of obtaining two master's degrees from two different countries in Europe and ultimately put me on the path of beginning my Ph.D. For me as a foreign student, it was very exciting to work with diverse teaching staff representing different academic cultures from around the world and being able to study interesting and useful classes such as intelligence studies, US national security policy, etc. These courses became the foundation for my interest in pursuing a career in a particular area.

Written by Davit, 24th of June, 2020





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<https://www.instagram.com/cunisecurity/>



<https://ips.fsv.cuni.cz/IPSENG-1.html>

<https://fsv.cuni.cz/en>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/fsvuk>