

Czech Republic

MAY 18–JUNE 20, 2014

Application Deadline

February 15, 2014

Cost

Approximately \$5,300

Payment Schedule

- Non-refundable \$150 deposit due March 1, 2014 (make check payable to the University of Richmond, designated Czech Republic Study Abroad Program, and submit with your application) Payments are paid in the Student Accounts office.
- 1st payment due March 15
- Final payment due April 15

Director

Dr. Howell has PhD from the University of Michigan in Slavic Languages and Literatures. She has published books and articles on the history of 20th century science, literature, and culture in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. She speaks Russian and (more to the point) Czech fluently.

Prague

Prague is a spectacular European capital city that was home to two Holy Roman Emperors in the Gothic and Renaissance eras, and then a principal city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After WWI, Prague became the sophisticated capital of independent Czechoslovakia, but from 1948 until the Velvet Revolution in 1989, the country was under the political and economic control of the Soviet Union. Today, Prague is one of the most popular destination cities in Europe, for good reason: it dazzles visitors with its architectural splendor, its free-spirited, bohemian temperament, and its distinctly Czech culture of innovation and resilience.

Academic Program (2 units)

As in the past, program participants will receive FSLT credit for one literature course, MLC 260: Literature and Social Change in Eastern Europe. All participants will also enroll in a specially designed course, HIST 299: The Idea of Central Europe. Both courses involve guided readings and discussion-based, interactive classes, as well as hands-on research assignments that are designed to get you out into the cultural, economic, and social life of the places we visit. "The Idea of Central Europe" is course in "comparative histories and cultures," therefore we will not spend our entire time in Prague. This year the group will travel to Wroclaw and Warsaw (Poland), Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary) and Bratislava (Slovakia) before returning to Prague for the last two weeks. Local English-speaking faculty in each city will lead interactive seminars with our group, to provide other perspectives on our course topics.

- **MLC 260: Literature and Social Change in Eastern Europe (FLST).** An intensive introduction to literary studies by way of some of the 20th century's most significant authors (read in translation). Particular focus on the intertwining of literary culture, national identity, and social dissidence in the formerly communist part of Europe. (Note: UR course counts towards cumulative GPA and carries elective credit in MLC, ISME, and FSLT)

Program Director:

Dr. Yvonne Howell

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- **HIST 299: The Idea of Central Europe.**

An interdisciplinary exploration of how and why Central Europeans define themselves as neither “West” nor “East.” Historical and contemporary importance of Central Europe in cultural and geopolitical contexts. Taught on site during the summer, with relevant field-trips, mandatory class presentation and final portfolio/project report (Transfer course for UR elective credit, can count towards for ISME and ISPD majors)

Orientation

There will be two short orientation sessions on campus before the trip. There will be a practical onsite orientation by CERGE staff for all students on Monday, May 19, 2014.

Housing, Meals, and Fitness

Students will be housed in centrally located apartments that are typically used to accommodate CERGE students during their semester programs. The apartments are fully furnished with kitchenettes, but for dining most students enjoy Prague’s relatively cheap and easily available array of cafes, restaurants, and pubs. For a small fee, students can use a very modern and well-equipped fitness center, and/or run in the extensive city parks, and/or take yoga classes. Like most Prague residents, students will walk or rely on public transportation to get around on a daily basis.

What’s Included

- 2 units of transferrable UR credit
- pick-up service from airport
- on-site orientation and constant attention from CERGE staff

- one-month public transportation pass and initial local cell phone plan
- faculty-led field trips and excursions both within the city and beyond
- extended study trip to Wroclaw, Warsaw, Vienna, Budapest, and Bratislava (no visas required for U.S. citizens; other nationals should check visa requirements)
- 24-hour access with card ID to CERGE computer lab
- on-site supervision by program director

What’s Not Included

- roundtrip airfare
- most meals
- paperback books for literature course

We expect the price (without airfare) to be the same as two years ago, \$5,300. The dollar is fairly strong against the Czech koruna this year (Czech Rep is part of the EU, but retains its own currency), so one can budget \$15- \$20 per day for food and eat well.

Scholarship money

Students are encouraged to investigate undergraduate funding possibilities online and in the Office of International Education. In addition, qualified students can apply for the Holt summer scholarships. See <http://mlc.richmond.edu/program/awards.html>

Note: The above program description may still be subject to small changes.

