

# Czech Republic

MAY 20–JUNE 22, 2012

## 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.

Program participants will live in an urban residential neighborhood located about 10 minutes by public transportation from the city center. Students take classes at CERGE, the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education, which supports several undergraduate study abroad programs as well. The CERGE building is a renovated 18th century palace at the heart of Prague's historic downtown. Classes are conducted entirely in English, and the curriculum includes field trips to museums, concerts, and day trips to sites of interest. We will also take an extended weekend trip to Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

One of the primary goals of SSA Prague is to familiarize students with the important cultural, political, and economic features of the area known as Central Europe – an area which has historically played a crucial role in European civilization, and which today orients itself eagerly towards the future, but with a keen sense of “what it is like” to exist at the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe.

### Application Deadline

February 15, 2012

### Credits

Between .9 and 2 units

### Language Prerequisite

None

### Cost

Approximately \$4,500

### Payment Schedule

- Non-refundable \$150 deposit due March 1, 2012 (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

### Program Director:

Dr. Yvonne Howell  
Professor of Russian and  
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### Department

Modern Literatures and Cultures

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## 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 21.

## Program

Students will get up to 2 units of academic credit for the following courses:

- **MLC 260: Nature, Nurture, Neurons: Science and Society in East European Literature (FLST).** A survey of 20th century Czech, Polish, and Hungarian literature in translation, with special focus on the interaction between literary culture and the social and scientific issues that bedeviled Eastern Europe under communism. (UR elective credit in MLC, ISME, and FSLT)
- **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. (UR elective credit for ISME and ISPD)

## Housing and Meals

Housing is in the Hotel Prokopka, a small hotel that specializes in youth/study groups. Breakfast included every day. Two room suites share private bath and kitchenette, 2 to 3 students per room. It is possible to fix lunches and snacks in the hotel, but most students enjoy Prague's relatively cheap and easily available array of cafes, restaurants, and pubs.

## What's Included

- Up to 2 units
- 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
- 4 day trip to Budapest
- welcome and farewell dinners
- 24-hour access with card ID to CERGE computer lab
- on-site supervision by program director

## What's Not Included

- roundtrip airfare
- meals, other than hotel continental breakfast and official group dinners
- paperback books for literature course

*All dates and costs are approximate and subject to change as are program details. The University of Richmond reserves the right to alter the program costs as a result of fluctuations of international currency.*



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