NYU Prague

Spring 2013 Pre-departure Orientation
Trivia!

1. This famous Czech president, human rights activist, and playwright died in December 2011
2. This was the name of the Czech Republic before its Velvet divorce from Slovakia in 1993
3. These four countries border the Czech Republic
4. This Czech tennis player defected to the U.S. in the 1980s
5. This tongue twister means “ice cream” in Czech!
What is NYU Prague?

- NYU Prague is one of NYU’s thirteen global academic centers
- 160-200 students attend for one semester or full academic year
- NYU Upperclassmen (soph – senior) from ALL schools + Visiting students from universities across the U.S.
- Courses are taught in NYU’s own academic facilities by locally hired faculty who speak English.
- Classroom learning is supplemented by field trips, excursions, internships, and community service.
- A full-time staff provides high quality student support services
- Housing is provided and MANDATORY
Who is NYU Prague?

Jiri Pehe
Director

Thea Favaloro
Associate director

Martina Faltova
Student Life, Housing

Sarah Coffey
Student Life

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Librarian

Jan Hovorka
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Leah Gaff en
Student Life
What courses do I have to take?

- Courses are designed to enable you to engage, learn, experience and personalize your time in Prague
  - Broad perspective on Czech society and on the post-Soviet region in transition
- You must take 12-18 credits while abroad.
- Required course: The Czech Republic in a Global Context (0-2 credits)
- Language courses are optional, but consider taking one – Czech, Russian, Polish or German (Languages cannot be taken pass/fail)
Can I do an Internship?

- Plentiful Internship Opportunities
  - Journalism (e.g., Radio Free Europe)
  - Business
  - Politics & Economics
  - Fashion (InStyle)

- Internship Fair during Orientation week!

- Most Internships are NOT for credit
  - Unpaid internships

- Community Service
  - Amnesty International
  - Teach English

Questions? Contact Jitka Kalasova (jk1007@nyu.edu)
What Leadership Opportunities are available for me?

**NYU Wasserman Center Global Peer Career Educator – look for info in WN Blog**
- Coordinate a variety of career-development focused programs and events
- Work closely with both the Wasserman and local global study away staff
- Contribute to the Wasserman Center's blog with your global experience

**Office of LGBTQ Student Services Global Peer Ambassador – look for info in WN Blog**
- Strive to bring outreach to your local NYU community and LGBTQ community
- Develop programming both on campus and within the city you are studying in
- Serve as a model of peer education abroad, and represent the LGBTQ Student Center internationally

**Student Senator’s Council International Ambassador - look for info in WN Blog**
- Hold office hours at your site and communicate with your student constituency, faculty, and staff
- Create and lead a mid-semester student feedback session at your study away site
- Collaborate with and stay connected to the NY based council and to other Ambassadors at other sites

**NYU Prague Student Council - look for info in WN Blog**
Do I need to bring books?

- NYU Prague has a small collection on site that holds most of the required reading.
- Course packets are free!
- Continued access to many electronic books, journals, and articles through the NYU Library.
- You can access the libraries resources by visiting the library’s home page, or visit: [http://www.nyu.libguides.com/global](http://www.nyu.libguides.com/global)
- Additional course materials can be bought at local bookstore.
- You’ll spend less on books!
How do I pay my tuition bill?

- **E-bills ONLY**, sent to NYU email address
- Must be registered for at least 12 credits
- Spring 2013 bills generated in **mid December**
- You can authorize a parent or other individual to have access to your e-Bill
- Housing Charge is a placeholder and will be posted on e-Bill and must be paid in full prior to arrival
- Financial aid & scholarships often post after the bill; pay what you owe less that amount
- Questions? visit [NYU Bursar Web-site](http://www.nyu.edu/youthcenter) for details
How do I get my visa?

- Everyone should have applied by now! Keep your receipt with application number.
- If you mailed the application, please call to confirm receipt and inquire about your application number.
- New York consulate posts application approvals, by number, on their web site.
- If it’s been over 90 days since you’ve applied (or it’s getting close to the time when you need to leave), please call the consulate or Embassy.
- You must have your visa before you leave for Prague. You cannot go and send your passport back.
- US citizens can stay in EU for additional 90 days after their student visa expire.
How will I afford everything?

- ATMs widely available throughout Prague. We recommend using them to get money.
  - Contact your bank to let them know you’ll be abroad so they don’t flag your account for fraud
  - Find out what fees they’ll charge and budget accordingly
- Credit Cards are accepted throughout Prague – AmEx not as widely as Visa or MasterCard

Estimated Costs
- Airfare: $800-$1200
- Laundry: $10/month
- Textbooks: $100
- Local travel: $100/90 day unlimited
- Groceries: $70/month
- Weekend away: $200
- Average Spring Break: $600
- One night out: $15-20

Tips
- Create a budget and stick to it!
- Ask for student discounts. Get a international student card! www.isic.org/
What should I pack?

“Pack as light as you can! You are going to need space for all your souvenirs and gifts.”

**Suggested items**
- Book bag for weekend trips and groceries
- Adapters
- Battery-operated travel alarm clock
- Any medication you need (and copies of the prescription written in the generic term)
- Comfortable shoes!
- Camera (with battery charger)
- Toiletries you love – the brands are different abroad and some things can be expensive

**Leave it home**
- Linens
- Kitchen utensils
- Electronics (e.g., hair dryers, electric razors etc.)

**Contact your airline before you pack to find out luggage restrictions!**
What are the dates of the program?

- January 28: Departure
- January 29: Arrival
- January 30: General Orientation
- January 31-February 8: Global Course
- February 4-8: Intensive Czech
- February 15: Global Course Final Exam
- February 11: First Day of Classes
- February 15: Make-up Day for Monday Classes
- February 22: Make-up Day for Tuesday Classes
- March 1, 15, 22: Make-up Day for Wednesday Classes
- March 8: Make-up Day for Thursday Classes
- April 1-5: Spring Break
- May 1: National Holiday (No Classes)
- May 8: National Holiday (No Classes)
- May 16: Last Day of Classes
- May 20-23: Final Exams
- May 24: Student Departure

- All students must arrive by arrival day
- Czech Republic in a Global Context class is MANDATORY
- Housing is only available for dates of the program! January 29 – May 24
- If you arrive earlier or depart later than program dates you must find your own accommodations. No exceptions!
What happens when I get there?

- **At the Airport**
  - Follow all immigration procedures closely and carefully. Do not pack or bring any illegal items.
  - Site staff will meet you at the airport between 7am – 7 pm
  - Transportation is provided from airport if you arrive 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. (book flights to arrive by 6pm; you have to clear immigration and get your bags!)

- **First two weeks**
  - Mandatory Orientation includes all topics pertinent to everyday life in Prague like banking, obtaining a cell phone, academic questions.
  - Required Global course and Intensive Czech – **final exam Feb 15**th!!!
  - Welcome Reception for all students and staff
  - Lots of fun events – hockey, opera, bowling etc!
Where will I live?

- **Housing is mandatory**
  - Assignments based on info submitted via Study Away Confirmation Portal
  - Roommate search
  - We try to honor roommate requests
  - Housing assignments will be sent to your NYU email account in December
  - **Housing estimate is the same for all students & does not reflect final cost. Final housing bill will be sent after start of program.**

- 4 options: 2 residence halls and 2 apt-style buildings.
  - Doubles, Triples, Quads, and limited singles

- No meal plan but fully equipped kitchens!

- Linens provided (sheets, towels, blankets, and pillows)

- Laundry facilities, study room and student lounge, computer with internet

- Phone in each room & Wireless internet

- No smoking and no alcohol

- 24/7 housing security guards

- RAs are local Czech students
Machova

- Located in Vinohrady, fashionable residential area with cafes and shops
- Singles, Doubles, Triples and Quads
  - 1 quad
  - 3 triples (1 male, 2 female)
- 60 person occupancy
- Shared bathrooms and kitchens on each floor (4-8 people)
- 15 minutes to the NYU center
Slezska

- Newest dorm!
- Located in Vinohrady, fashionable residential area with cafes and shops
- Singles, Doubles, Triples and Quads
- 35 person occupancy
- Shared bathrooms among suites and kitchens on top and bottom floors
- 15 minutes to the NYU center
- 5-10 minute walk from Machova
Located in Nusle, a slightly grittier area with a real Czech flavor

- Singles, Doubles, and Triples
- 30 person occupancy
- Apartment style, with kitchens and bathrooms in each suite
- Good for those who prefer quieter living
- 25 minutes to the NYU center
- 15-20 minute walk from Machova and Slezska
Osadni

- Located in Holesovice, former industrial area now with galleries and clubs
- Singles & Doubles limited, Triples and Quads
- Largest dorm: 70 person occupancy
- Apartment Style, with kitchens and bathrooms in each suite
- 25 - 35 minutes to the NYU center
- Practice rooms with pianos on top floor and in basement
What will it be like to live there?

- **What’s Prague like?**
  - Pronounced Pra-ha in Czech
  - Capital of the Czech Republic
  - Much smaller than New York (roughly 1.2 mil)
  - 20 million tourists per year; as well as
  - many study abroad students

- **What are Czechs like?**
  - Czechs are quite reserved
  - Ethnically homogenous
  - Traditional! (role of women, celebrations)
  - Society is changing at a rapid pace
  - The customer isn’t always right
  - Not much is open 24/7 (except the stands on Wenceslas Square)
  - Czechs tend to be early to bed, early to rise, although they are increasingly switching to a 9 to 5 (not 7 to 3) schedule
  - Tips: just round up to the nearest 10 Kc (e.g., 54 Kc to 60 kc)
What will I do in my free time?

- The site arranges lots of activities for all students, including the Welcome Reception during orientation.
- Student life activities
  - Subsidized Excursions and day trips
  - Workshops
  - Yoga and Swimming
  - Gym
  - Cooking classes and competitions
  - Prague Student Council
  - And more!
- Cultural Immersion opportunities
  - Community Service
  - Language Exchange
  - Internships
  - Weekend homestays

Through your RAs, who are local Czech students!
What will I eat?

- All kitchens are fully stocked with everything you need to prepare your own meals.
  - Groceries are inexpensive
  - Try local farmer’s markets located near your dorm/ the academic center
  - Cook together!
- Dining out is cheap, lots of options near Academic center and dorms
  - Recommendations in your handbook
  - Ask site staff for other suggestions!
- Typical foods include:
  - Pork
  - Cabbage
  - Dumplings
  - Soups and stews
  - Vegetarian and vegan options available throughout the city
  - Many other types of cuisine too!
What if I don’t know the language?

- Very few students arrive in Prague with knowledge of the local language
- Intensive Czech during the first few weeks will help you get around
- Learn some helpful phrases ahead of your arrival:
  - **Dobry den** – Hello
  - **Na shledanou** – Good bye
  - **Prosim** – please
  - **Dekuji** – thank you
  - **Ne mluvim cesky** – I don’t speak Czech
  - **Nerozumim** – I don’t understand

- Attempts to speak Czech will ingratiate you with locals!

“It is indeed difficult to speak the local language, but a little effort might help you start a relationship!”
How do I get around?

- Very walkable city, centered around the Old Town Square
- Tram and subway system very easy to use (run like clockwork!)
  - Subways stop running at midnight
  - Trams run all night, every 30 mins
  - You can plan your trip at dpp.cz
- We provide you with the first month metro and tram pass for free
- A 3-month pass for the rest of your stay costs roughly $100
What if I get sick?

- All students are enrolled in HTH, an international health coverage plan
  - Free of charge for students
  - No advance out-of-pocket payment for students to see a doctor or counselor
  - Credentialed, western trained, English-speaking health professionals posted on the HTH website and available to students
  - REMEMBER to register with HTH when you receive the email from them later in the semester.

- Students should consult with NYU site staff if they need help making a doctor’s appointment.

- DO NOT cancel your domestic health insurance while you are abroad!!!!!!

- Crisis Response available
What do I need to do now to prepare for my health & safety abroad?

- Students with special needs, academic or otherwise **must** contact the Moses Center prior to departure; resources and services may differ abroad [www.nyu.edu/osl/csd](http://www.nyu.edu/osl/csd)
- Students with disabilities that affect their studying or exam performance and require special arrangements **MUST** also inform the NYU staff
- If you take prescriptions regularly we recommend getting a full supply prior to going abroad.
- If you anticipate wanting to be in on-going counseling while abroad, call the NYU Wellness Exchange so they can help coordinate. It is covered by HTH!
Will I feel safe?

- NYU’s center and residences are monitored by security guards 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- There is ALWAYS an NYU staff member on duty.
- You will be given a phone number to call in emergencies during on-site Orientation.
- To call for a local emergency number (911) 112
- Help us keep you safe. Follow all staff recommendations:
  - Don’t invite strangers into the residence. Your guests should always be in your company.
  - Always lock your doors
  - Don’t ever hitchhike
  - Don’t leave your street smarts in NYC!
How will I stay in touch with family and friends?

- Set-up a video chat (e.g. Skype) account (and one for your parents)
- Purchase a local cell phone
  - Site staff will show you where during orientation!
- Unlock your smart phone and purchase a new SIM card on site
- Create a communication plan
  - Are you going to talk daily, weekly, or say see you next semester
- Land lines in your room – free within Czech Republic or use a calling card
- Remember, Czech Republic is 6 hours ahead of New York time (GMT +1)
Where can I travel?

- Take advantage of planned excursions by NYU staff. Some examples:
  - Head to the Pearl of Central Europe, Cesky Krumlov: home of a Renaissance Castle with a moat and bears!
  - Take the waters and munch on spa wafers in Karlovy Vary
  - Visit Terezin, a World War II Transit and Concentration Camp

- Use the break to travel (April 1 -5) to farther destinations:
  - Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, and Krakow are all just a train ride away
  - Europe is at your doorstep!

- It can be tempting to spend every weekend in another country. But try staying in Prague too! There are plenty of local attractions beyond the ubiquitous:
  - Petrin Hill
  - Vysehrad and surroundings (Cubist houses!)
  - Veletrzni palac – modern art
  - Zofin

- You cannot miss class for travel!
  - Do not make weekend travel plans until you have arrived, confirmed your schedule, and verified the make-up class schedules for your courses.

- Suggested Itineraries

Also Check out the student-to-student Prague guide online: [http://nyustudentguideprague.wordpress.com/](http://nyustudentguideprague.wordpress.com/)
What should I do about guests?

- My mom, dad, brother-in-law, sister, boyfriend, grandmother, step-grandfather, girlfriend, best friend, cousin, neighborhood is going to visit me...
  - U.S. citizens can stay visa-free in Prague for up to 90 days
  - Guests can stay in the dorm for no more than 3 consecutive nights, for a total of 6 nights within the month
  - Roommates must sign off
  - Available resources:
    - hotel list will available in your handbook
  - You can’t miss class just because family is in town, so plan accordingly!
So, what do I need to do before I get there?

- Confirm your spot in the program ($500 deposit and Confirmation Form)
- Read all What's Next Posts
- Attend Pre-departure Orientation (NYU Students only)
- Register for courses abroad
- Book your flight – by Nov 30
- Submit all required forms and materials via Study Away Confirmation Portal – by November 30
- Obtain a student visa (everyone should have applied by now!)
Preparing to Live in a New City

- You might find yourself getting a bit anxious as you get closer to the date of your departure.
- It’s natural to be nervous before moving to new surroundings.
- **Some steps you can take to prepare can be found at:**
  1. View the [“What is Culture” Webinar](#)
  2. Plan how you will Reflect on the Experience before arrival, during, and after you return
     - Blogging
     - Facebook
     - Personal Journal
  3. Research the culture you will experience by logging into [GlobeSmart](#): GlobeSmart is a web-based cultural awareness training tool which provides quick and easy access to extensive knowledge on how to engage effectively with people from countries around the world.
Transition Tips

You’ll be a more effective learner if you transition into another culture with healthy expectations & tools for change & adaptation.

Remember:
- Study away is a process, not an event.
- Trust your experience
- Call on tools that have worked
- Stay curious
- You are not alone!

Welcome the whole journey, integrating pre-departure, in-country orientation & re-entry experiences.
Expectations

▷ What are you most looking forward to as part of your semester away? Mastering a new language? Trying new foods? List five things you are most excited about.

▷ While studying away is exciting, living in a new place can come with some anxiety. List the three things you are most nervous about when going away.
Thank you!