

## Country Profile – Czech Republic

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### Job market

#### What are my chances of getting a job?

The Czech Republic joined the European Union (EU) in 2004 and is keen to develop opportunities for European citizens within its country. EU citizens share the same working rights as Czechs so working in the country is relatively easy. A lot of graduate opportunities can be found in the Czech Republic in international companies who have offices there.

- **Typical problems encountered:** the government reserves the right to restrict citizens of an EU member state entering the labour market if it would threaten the jobs of Czech workers.
- **How to improve your chances:** the biggest asset for getting a job in the Czech Republic is having skills that are in demand and/or a good understanding of the Czech language. Tourism remains a lucrative and growing business in the Czech Republic. There are many ties to the UK in this industry, so tailoring your skills to the tourism sector is a good option for those without Czech language skills.
- **Language requirements:** English and German are widely spoken, with English being better known by younger people, but the ability to speak and write Czech is still an important requirement for job seekers. A wide variety of Czech language courses are available in Prague and are listed on [Expats.cz](http://Expats.cz). Distance learning courses are available from [EuroTalk](http://EuroTalk).

#### Where can I work?

- **Major industries:** automotive industry, the leisure and lifestyle sector, IT/telecommunications/electronics, financial services - major international players in all fields from banking to management consultancy, and machinery and equipment.
- **Recent growth areas:** the dramatic growth in the secondary sector slowed since the global economic crisis, but there remains a shortage of some skills, such as specialised manual workers, particularly in the construction and engineering industries. The tourist industry continues to expand.
- **Industries in decline:** agriculture has seen a decline in employment.
- **Shortage occupations:** IT specialists, engineers, skilled manual workers including craftsmen, machine workers and assemblers.
- **Major companies:** ČEZ, Agrofert Holdings, Agropol Group, Zentiva, Škoda, Budweiser Budvar, Pilsner Urquell. Many of the large organisations in the Czech Republic are international and not home grown.
- **Search for more companies:** [Kompas](http://Kompas), a worldwide business directory searchable by country and product/service, [British Chamber of Commerce Czech Republic](http://British Chamber of Commerce Czech Republic), [Europages](http://Europages).
- **Major cities:** Prague (capital and largest), Brno, Plzen, Ostrava and Olomouc.

## What's it like working in the Czech Republic?

- **Average working hours:** typically 40 hours per week, divided into eight hour days.
  - **Holidays:** basic holiday entitlement is four weeks per year.
  - **Tax rates:** foreign residents are only taxed on earnings from within the Czech Republic. The stipulated tax rate for nationals and non-nationals is set at 15%.
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## Applying for jobs

You do not need to be in the Czech Republic to apply for a job as advertisements are available on websites, which is a major source of vacancies.

Applications are typically made using a CV and accompanying covering letter. Most employers require knowledge of the Czech language, so aim to submit the application in Czech. Find out the language requirements of the employer if you are unable to speak Czech.

The format of a CV is similar to UK applications. Information on CVs is usually presented in reverse chronological format and your CV should be no longer than two sides. In addition to personal details, you should provide full details of your higher education and any language skills plus previous professional experience. Copies of certificates are generally not required in the initial application. Details of references should be provided.

When attending an interview take along a copy of your CV and any certificates. Questions commonly focus on your personal and professional background, rather than assessing competencies as is increasingly the UK practice. Selection processes are formal in the Czech Republic and you should dress accordingly. Large multinational companies may use psychometric testing along with other selection techniques at assessment centres.

## Will my UK qualifications be recognised?

Contact [ENIC-NARIC](#) for information on the comparability of your academic qualifications. Also, visit the [UK National Europass Centre \(UK NEC\)](#) website for information on how to make your skills and qualifications easily understood in the Czech Republic.

## Do I still need to pay UK tax and National Insurance?

If you are planning to live and work in the Czech Republic, check your UK tax and National Insurance position with [HM Revenue & Customs \(HMRC\)](#) to ensure that you are not losing any UK pension rights.

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## Vacancy sources

### Job websites

You can usually register your CV on Czech recruitment websites. Some of the most useful are:

- [CV Online Czech Republic](#) - mostly in Czech;
- [Joblist Czech Republic](#) - in Czech only;
- [Jobmaster Czech Republic](#) - in Czech and English;
- [Job Pilot - Czech Republic](#) - Czech only;
- [Jobs.cz](#) - in Czech and English;
- [Prace](#) - in Czech only;
- Profesia (Czech Republic) - mainly in Czech;
- [Monster \(Czech Republic\)](#) - in Czech only;
- [Expats.cz](#) - good for expat jobs, includes jobs where knowledge of Czech is not required.

[EURES](#), maintained by the European Commission, provides information about job vacancies, living and working conditions, and labour markets in the Czech Republic, as well as a CV-posting service for jobseekers.

### Recruitment agencies

Many British and international recruitment consultancies have offices in Prague and some of the major regional cities. Consultancies may run recruitment events and have job vacancy databases.

- [Adecco](#) have an office in Prague.
- [Hays](#) have a couple of offices in the Czech Republic.
- [Manpower Worldwide](#) has several offices throughout the country.
- [Association of Personnel Services Providers - Czech Republic \(APPS\)](#) has a list of all Czech-based recruitment agencies that are part of the [International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies \(CIETT\)](#).
- [First Czech Recruitment](#) has English language pages and specialises in banking, marketing and IT.
- [Recruit CZ](#) has English language pages.
- [Top Language Jobs](#) provides a list of recruitment agencies with vacancies available in the Czech Republic, as well as advertising jobs with languages.

### Newspapers

- [Mlada Fronta DNES](#) - national daily with a careers section.

- [Prague Post](#) - English language newspaper and an excellent resource for expat jobs.
- [Prague Daily Monitor](#) - English-language electronic daily, with job listings.

A comprehensive list of Czech newspapers is also available from [Kidon Media-Link](#).

## Other sources

Some companies have open days for vacancies and if you plan to attend one prepare for it as you would for an interview. Open days are advertised on company websites.

There is also a job opportunities trade fair called Jobdays, which is open to foreigners and takes place in Prague every spring.

Teaching English provides a good opportunity for getting a job. The following may be of help in locating relevant roles.

- The [British Council Czech Republic](#) has a large teaching centre in Prague and some opportunities for those with TEFL qualifications.
- [Teach Abroad](#) has a list of English teaching positions in the Czech Republic, as well as opportunities for TEFL training courses taught in English.
- [TEFL.com](#) and [TESall.com](#) have links to various job listing sites.

Public employment services are offered free of charge by labour offices throughout the country. These are run by the [Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Czech Republic](#). The website gives details of local employment offices and more information about employment for foreigners in the Czech Republic.

## Hidden vacancies

Speculative approaches are worth making in all sectors. They may be made through student organisations, through personal contacts, or by contacting organisations listed on websites such as those referred to at [Kompas](#). Ensure your application is specific to the company.

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## Work experience

### Work placements and exchange programmes

Work experience can be gained through temporary placements with international organisations. They can also be arranged in the UK through organisations such as:

- [AIESEC \(Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales\)](#) - placements for students and graduates in business and related subjects;
- [IAESTE \(The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience\)](#) - placements for science, engineering and technology students;
- the [Leonardo da Vinci Programme](#) arranges vocational training exchanges and work placements with partner organisations in other countries. Contact your institution's international office or your careers service for more information.

## Teaching schemes

The [Centre for International Services \(Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports\)](#) coordinates opportunities for overseas teachers wishing to work in primary and secondary schools. Also check [ESL Base](#) for a list of English language schools in the Czech Republic.

## Volunteering

[Volunteer Abroad](#) has a list of environmental and community based volunteer projects in the Czech Republic. Also check [International Voluntary Service \(IVS\) in Britain](#) and [One World 365](#) for volunteering opportunities.

## Gap year opportunities

Gap year opportunities in the Czech Republic are almost always teaching positions - the country does not have a great need for outside conservation or community help.

- [World-Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms \(WWOOF\)](#) have opportunities on Czech organic farms that involve working for bed and board.
- [iGapyear](#) lists various schools with placements to study for a TEFL qualification in the Czech Republic.

## Postgraduate study

### How does the higher education system work?

The Czech Republic has a high level of general education with an emphasis on vocational education and training.

Undergraduate degrees are awarded after three to four years, and Masters courses typically take one to three years to complete. Doctoral level studies usually take a further three years and are open to graduates of Masters level programmes.

Both public universities and private colleges offer postgraduate study. Many private institutes are international.

### **What courses are available?**

Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for international students are available at several Czech universities.

There are an increasing amount of courses that are taught in English, particularly at US-run private colleges including the [University of New York in Prague](#) and the [Anglo-American University in Prague](#). Both specialise in the study of business and finance, including MBAs.

MBA courses are also taught in English at [CMC Graduate School of Business](#) and the [US Business School Prague \(USBSP\)](#).

Established universities such as [Charles University](#) in Prague, the oldest in central Europe, have short course and degree programmes in English.

See the [Czech Republic](#) website for more information.

### **Where can I study?**

The Czech Republic has 26 public higher education institutions, 2 state higher education institutions and 44 private institutions. [Study in the Czech Republic](#) has a list of universities, with links.

### **Applying for postgraduate study**

Requirements for postgraduate study are similar to those in the UK. For example, a Bachelors degree will be a prerequisite if you apply to study for a Masters qualification. The grades required will depend on the faculty and standard of university.

Applications for public universities are usually required by the end of February although some extend deadlines to March/April. Check with individual institutions for specific dates.

Initial enquiries should be made to the higher education institution of your choice. Admissions usually require evidence of diplomas and certificates, an application form and payment of a small non-refundable application fee. Many institutions, both public and private, accept online applications.

For courses taught in Czech, you will have to demonstrate your knowledge of the language and may be required to pass an examination (usually held between June and September).

## Fees and scholarships

There are no school fees to be paid by Czech citizens or foreigners for study in public universities. However, this is only concerning those courses taught in Czech. Course offered in English or other languages may require fees and individual institutions should be contacted for details.

Cost of living for students is significantly lower than in western European countries.

A range of scholarships may be available and include:

- Scholarship from the [Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports](#) and the Czech government, offered every year to foreign students at public universities.
- [Erasmus Mundus](#) scholarship, offered to highly qualified students to follow a selected Erasmus Mundus Masters or PhD course.
- [Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies \(CEEPUS\)](#) has university networks operating joint programmes of study to lead to joint degrees. CEEPUS offers mobility grants for students involved.
- Some higher education institutions offer scholarships in certain circumstances if students are in hardship or are achieving excellent study results. Contact individual institutions for specific details.

Further information can be found at the Study in the Czech Republic and the Czech Republic websites.

## Are there any exchange programmes?

Several higher education institutions in the Czech Republic participate in the [Erasmus](#) scheme, which allows students to work or study in a European country as part of their degree course for up to twelve months.

## Will my qualification be recognised in the UK?

The Czech Republic is a member state of the [European Higher Education Area \(EHEA\)](#), which aims to enhance the transferability of qualifications across the European Union and standardize the teaching of the qualifications. This means qualifications gained in the Czech Republic will be recognised in the UK.

You can also refer to [UK NARIC \(National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom\)](#) for information on comparing international qualifications.

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## Visa and travel information

### Visa requirements and applications

EU nationals do not need a visa or work permit. This is applicable for those who wish to stay less than 90 days. If you intend to stay for more than 30 days, you have a “reporting requirement” to report to the appropriate foreign police department.

If you want to stay for longer than three months, you must apply for a certificate of temporary residence or a permanent residence permit. To do so you will need a valid passport, proof of health insurance and a document that proves the intention of your stay. This may be work, study, economic activities or family membership. See the [Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic](#) website for details.

For non-EU citizens, short-stay visas are available for stays up to 90 days and long-stay visas for those who wish to stay for longer than 90 days. Contact the Czech Republic embassy in the country where you are currently residing about how to obtain visas and work permits. If you are living in the UK, go to [Czech Republic Embassy in the UK](#).

You might also find it helpful to contact your ministry of foreign affairs (or your own embassy if you are not living in your home country) to ask whether there are any issues to be taken into account when considering working in the Czech Republic.

### Permanent residency

Citizens of the EU can apply for a permanent residence permit after five uninterrupted years of living in the Czech Republic. Applications can be made to the regional office of the Asylum and Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

Non-EU citizens should also contact the Ministry of the Interior for details on how to apply for permanent residency.

### Help in an emergency

If you are a UK citizen, the [British Embassy in the Czech Republic](#) in Prague will be able to help with various problems, such as providing support if you are the victim of crime, and contacting friends and family if necessary. See the website for details of the assistance available.

Emergency phone numbers are:

- 112 - emergency (general), this is the emergency number used throughout the European Union and is particularly useful for foreigners
- 150 - fire
- 155 - ambulance

- 158 - police
- 156 - municipal police

## Travel advice

Find the latest travel advice and a traveller's checklist on the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) website.

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## Country overview

### Geography

- **Full country name:** Czech Republic.
- **Population:** just over 10 million.
- **Border countries:** land-locked country at the heart of Central Europe, surrounded by Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria.
- **Climate:** continental climate, with mild summer and cold winters.
- **Terrain:** low mountains in Bohemia to the west, and hilly terrain in Moravia to the east, with lowland areas in the centre and south of the country.
- **Natural hazards:** flooding.

### Living in the Czech Republic

- **Cost of living:** [Study in the Czech Republic](#) states that the costs to cover food, accommodation and public transport for students ranges from £220 - £475 per month. Prague remains slightly cheaper than most European capital cities for things like food and transport. But luxury goods (electrical items, fashion, etc) continue to be higher than elsewhere. You can get discounts on transport, restaurants and more with an [International Student Identity Card \(ISIC\)](#).
- **Internet domain:** .cz
- **Health:** the quality of healthcare in the Czech Republic is good, and improving. It is available to anyone with healthcare insurance, and the price of services is considered below the average for Europe. EU citizens just need to have the [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) in order to receive free medical care.
- **Laws and customs:** after Portugal, the Czech Republic is the most liberal country in the EU regarding drug liberalisation. While the sale of drugs is illegal, possession of small amounts of a variety of illicit substances is a misdemeanor, subject to a fine equal to a parking ticket. It is also one of the most liberal countries in Europe with regard to gay rights, and registered same-sex partnerships have most of the rights of marriage.

### Economy and finance

- **Currency:** Czech koruna (CZK).
- **Type of economy:** market economy.
- **Health of economy:** the Czech Republic had one of the most stable and prosperous economies following the end of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Since the global economic crisis it has seen a rise in unemployment, especially in remoter regions. However, the country remains an attractive destination for foreign investors due to its central location, well-qualified labour force and low-cost structure.

- **Unemployment rate:** 8.3%.
- **Main exports:** beer, heavy industry products including motor vehicles, transport equipment and machinery.

## Culture

- **People:** over 90% of the population are Czech nationals, with small minorities of Moravian, Slovaks, Poles and other immigrants.
- **Major religion:** Majority are secular. Roman Catholicism is the most common religion.
- **History:** see [BBC Timeline: Czech Republic](#).

## Politics

- **Type of government:** parliamentary democracy, with two chambers of government - the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, with a President and a Prime Minister, the latter being the head of government.
- **Major political parties:** Civic Democratic Party, Czech Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, Christian Democratic Union, Green Party, and Association of Independent Candidates.

## More information

- [Czech Republic Embassy in the UK](#)
- [BBC Country Profile: Czech Republic](#)
- [The World Factbook](#)
- [XE Universal Currency Converter](#)

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