

Summer Program in the Czech Republic

Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders

Who the Summer School is for:

- Young people ages 16-22 (junior and senior high school students, undergraduate students) interested in Czech culture and/or studying in Czechia and /or
- Young people of Czech heritage interested in learning more about their homeland

When: July 14-23, 2025

Where: Prague, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, and Brno in the Czech Republic

Program Overview: Explore, Learn, and Lead Together!

Embark on a transformative journey through the Czech language, culture, history, and cross-cultural leadership with Czech high school and university students! Explore unique architecture, history, language, and food in this beautiful region while making connections with fellow students, excellent facilitators, and inspiring instructors with deep knowledge of life in Czechia.

The curriculum offers a unique blend of intensive sessions with site visits in Silesia, Bohemia, and Moravia, as well as free time activities in Prague with Czech buddies, to allow you to form Czech-American friendships. Discussions with Czech and international university students and visits to universities will inspire you to consider a university experience in the Czech Republic.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2025

In partnership with:



All young leaders will receive a one-year paid membership from NCSML



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Program Highlights:

Czech Language, Culture, and History (4 days):

- Kickstart your experience with a Czech language crash course.
- Dive deep into Czech culture, modern design, and architecture through the eyes of local students.
- Reflect on pivotal historical lessons about totalitarianism, the Holocaust, and the struggles of minority groups.
- Discover the richness of Czech cities Prague, Brno, Hradec, and Ostrava from a student's perspective.

Cross-Cultural Leadership (1 day):

- Focus on a Czech-American comparative team project (similar to college coursework).
- Engage in discussions on Czech-American relations with diplomats from both nations.
- Explore global challenges in a local context during a visit to the United Nations Office in Prague.
- Build cross-cultural skills and leadership abilities through a transformative workshop.

What's it like to study at Czech universities? (2 days of tours):

- Introduction to possibilities of studying for free at Czech universities with specific Czech language competency levels.
- Tailored visits to universities outside Prague, based on your interests.
- Meet the leadership and students from the prestigious Charles University, Czech Technical University of Brno, Hradec Králové University, and Ostrava University, and have fun in Prague, Brno, Hradec, or Ostrava!

Program Instructors:

- Šárka Boušková, Ph.D. (Czech Language and Modern History)
- Eva Janebová, Ph.D (International Relations)
- Lenka Polánková, Ph.D. (Empowerment and Leadership)
- Mgr. Jana Ter-Akopow Čemusová (Cross-Cultural Studies)
- Renáta Tichá, Ph.D. (Cultural Heritage)

Guest Speakers:

- Jaroslav Kantůrek (former diplomat to the USA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- US Embassy Representative
- Representative of the United Nations in Prague

University students and leadership you will meet:

- Leona Stašová, Vice Rector of Hradec Králové
- Lenka Henebergová, Member of Rector's Board at Charles University
- Karolína Gondková, Strategy Director Czech Technical University
- Renata Tomášková, Vice Rector Ostrava University
- Students of architecture from Czech Technical University

Czech student buddies: from gymnasium Memory of the Nation

- Travel together in Prague
- Participate in workshops and afternoon activities with American students
- Speak Czech and English and make friends in the Czech Republic
- Organize a Treasure Hunt around Prague for American students
- Present Memory of the Nation

Accommodation:

Charles University Hotel Krystal and dormitories in Ostrava and Hradec

Classroom Venue:

Vila Hřebenka, Praha 5,
New York University in Prague



Schedule:

1. Online Orientation in May: Introduction to the program, logistics, presentations by university Vice Rectors for participants to make informed decisions about which universities to visit
2. Program in Prague: July 14-23, 2025

Note: The curriculum is subject to minor modifications. The minimum number of participants required is ten, while the maximum is seventeen.

Summer Program Fee: \$1,450

What is included:

- Lunch and dinner every day plus Welcome Dinner in Strahov Cloister
- Accommodation in Charles University Hotel Krystal, in Ostrava/Brno, and Hradec University dormitories for international students
- Curriculum/programming
- Chaperoning 24/7 by Dr. Eva Janebová; additional chaperoning by Dr. Renáta Tichá
- Social activities: Boat trip ticket and bicycle tour of Prague
- Airport transit to/from the hotel
- Travel costs within Prague
- Travel costs to Hradec Králové, to Ostrava/Brno, and back to Prague
- Public Project Presentation refreshments

There is a limited number of scholarships available by co-sponsoring organizations.

What is not included:

- Airfare to Prague

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sun	Arrivals and transit to Krystal Hotel in Prague		
Mon	<p>Introduction to Summer School Welcome and Introduction Cross-cultural workshop</p> <p>Introduction to Cultural Comparison Team Projects with Czech buddies</p>	<p>Czech – American Diplomatic Relations</p> <p>Panel discussion with representatives of Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and US Embassy</p> <p>Prague Castle Tour</p>	<p>Welcome Dinner</p> <p>Strahov Cloister (Parents, friends welcome, self- funded)</p>
Tue	<p>Czech Crash Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop basic communication skills • Enable students to use basic Czech phrases and sentences in everyday situations • Foster cultural understanding. • Introduce Czech cultural norms, traditions, and social etiquette to facilitate effective communication • Build confidence in language use • Encourage active participation and instill confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Czech 	<p>Cross-Cultural Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase your ability to recognize and bridge cultural gaps and overcome challenges in heterogeneous environments • Empower yourself with drama techniques to become leaders and drivers of change 	
Wed	<p>Czech History in Outlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand key historical developments • Gain an overview of major periods and events in Czech history, from early settlement to modern times • Recognize historical continuity and change • Explore how historical events and cultural developments have shaped Czech society and identity • Develop critical thinking • Analyze the causes, impacts, and interconnections of significant historical events within the Czech lands • Appreciate cultural heritage • Understand the role of Czech history in the broader European context and its influence on national culture and identity 	<p>Project Consultations</p> <p>Modern Prague Architecture and CVUT Arts and Design</p> <p><i>Architecture tour of Prague through the eyes of students of architecture</i></p>	<p><i>Shopping with Czech buddies</i></p>
Thur	<p>Czech Communities around the Globe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the causes of migration • Examine the historical, political, economic, and social factors that led to Czech emigration • Explore cultural Identity abroad 	<p>Global or local issues (?)</p> <p>Site visit and discussion in United Nations in Prague</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze how Czech communities maintain their cultural heritage and adapt to life in foreign countries. Understand the impact of Czech emigrants on the societies they joined and their role in preserving Czech traditions Develop an appreciation for the interconnectedness of Czech history, culture, and global migration patterns 	Project consultations	
Fri	<p style="text-align: center;">Travel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit University of Hradec Králové</p> <p>Guided tour and discussion with Vice Rector doc. Leona Stašová, PhD., and students will be tailored as per their interest</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tour of Hradec</p> <p><i>The name literally means "the castle of the queen, one of the oldest and historically most significant Czech cities, celebrating its 800 anniversary</i></p>	Accommodation in Hradec
Sat	<p>A) Visit of VUT (Brno) or B) Visit of Ostrava University</p> <p>Guided tour and discussion with Vice-Rector Renáta Tomášková, PhD., and students will be tailored as per their interests</p>	<p>Tour of Brno/Tour of Ostrava</p> <p>Festival Colors of Ostrava <i>A guided tour of the historical City center and the UO new City Campus; a visit to an industrial heritage sight of the visitor's choice: <u>The Landek Park Mining Museum</u>, or <u>Michal Coalmine</u></i></p>	Accommodations in Ostrava/Brno
Sun	Travel back to Prague	<i>Free time</i>	Treasure Hunt with Czech students
Mon	Swimming in Šárka with Czech buddies	Bicycling trip over Prague/ Boat trip	

Tues	<p align="center">Totalitarian Regimes of CR + Paměť Národa and Czech buddies presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the nature of totalitarianism • Define the concept of totalitarianism and identify its key characteristics • Analyze historical contexts • Examine the historical conditions that led to establishing totalitarian regimes in the Czech Republic • Explore the impact on society • Understand how totalitarian regimes influenced political, social, cultural, and economic life in the Czech Republic 	<p align="center">Terezín Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Prague through reflecting on historical lessons • Evaluate the legacies of totalitarianism and their relevance to modern democratic values and human rights 	
Wed	<p align="center"><i>Karolinum (Charles University) tour</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Public Presentations of Projects with light refreshments</i> <i>Parents and friends welcome</i> <i>Venue: UNYP</i></p>	

Additional Information:

- Participants do not need to speak Czech as the program will be held in English.
- Participants need to have passports, with no visa requirements for US citizens.
- Participants will need to show a proof of health insurance valid in the Czech Republic.
- Parents' accommodation in Krystal Hotel and/or dormitories in Hradec, Brno, and Ostrava will be available upon request (self-paid).

To apply, complete this [Application form](#)

Contact Eva Janebová Ph.D. with any questions



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