

Czech Republic

Central European Studies, Charles University

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective of the Advising Notes Document

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's *decision to apply* for a UCEAP program. The document is *not* a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment.

The best sources of detailed information for this program are the UCEAP webpage http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/czech_republic/Pages/central_european_studies_prague.aspx and the CIEE Program webpage <http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/czech-republic/prague/central-european-studies/> from which you can access a substantial list of the interesting and varied courses offered by CIEE, Charles University, and the famous film school, FAMU. Scroll to the bottom of the CIEE webpage for the course listings, descriptions, and a link to the syllabi.

The Program Guide for the Czech Republic contains many important details and is another excellent source of information: <http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/Pages/default.aspx>

If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP or CIEE websites, the Program Guide, or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Czech Republic adviser.

Advisor Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

Note about UCEAP's Programs in the Czech Republic:

This UCEAP program is affiliated with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and Charles University. Students must be matriculated at the University of California for at least one semester before being eligible to apply.

Study Czech at Cal before your semester in Prague

Berkeley offers two years of Czech language instruction, with a strong emphasis on Czech culture. For information on Introductory Czech (Czech 26A & B) and Advanced Czech (Czech 116A & B), please contact Ellen Langer, PhD, Lecturer in Czech Language and Culture, at erlanger@berkeley.edu. You would get so much more out of your semester in Prague if you knew even a semester's worth of the language upon arrival!

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad

View UCB financial aid details and many scholarship opportunities on our webpage: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances>

Deadlines to apply for scholarships are earlier than you may think, so do your research now!

Some scholarships that are good for students going to the Czech Republic are:

- **Boren Scholarships** exist for the Czech Republic (among many other countries): Boren Scholarships offer generous financial assistance to US undergraduates who are US citizens in exchange for a substantial service commitment with the federal government upon completion. http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/basics.html
- **Gilman Scholarship** (must receive Pell Grants.): <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>
- UC Berkeley's **Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarships** - non-need-based scholarships of up to \$2000 each to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies (deadline is in November) - <http://iis.berkeley.edu/content/undergraduate-merit-scholarships>
- CIEE, UCEAP's partner in the Czech Republic, offers scholarships based on merit and financial need. An application for **CIEE scholarships** is available at <http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/scholarships-grants/>. The CIEE scholarships application must be sent directly to CIEE and is a separate document from the CIEE Study Center Program Application.

Internships Available

See http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/czech_republic/Pages/central_european_studies_prague.aspx?t=5 for information about internship opportunities in Prague. Students can do an internship for academic credit (P/NP) in lieu of one of their program courses. Prior to departure, CIEE will contact students and ask those interested to complete an Internship Proposal Form.

Competitiveness of the Program

Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose will have a good chance of being selected, but we cannot make guarantees.

Selection Interviews

If you need to be interviewed, you will be notified by the Czech Republic adviser after your application has been reviewed.

Passport, Visa Application, and International Travel Prior To the Program

Your passport must be valid for *6 months beyond the end date of the UCEAP program in the Czech Republic* check the UCEAP Czech Republic webpages to see the tentative end dates.

Also, your UCEAP application name and your passport name must be identical (not similar!) If there is a discrepancy of even one letter, hyphen, etc, the Czech Republic consulate will not issue you a visa. Please check your passport name and use precisely that name on your MyEAP on-line application, even if it doesn't match the name you use at UC Berkeley. If your passport name has an error, either get your passport fixed before you apply for EAP, or simply use the incorrect name on your MyEAP application in order to avoid a crisis later on.

FYI – international travel just prior to the program: The student visa application process for the Czech Republic is quite bureaucratic and time-consuming. Therefore, do not make any international travel plans for the months before the program starts until you receive all the details about arrival and visa application requirements that will arrive from UCEAP and CIEE via e-mail a few months prior to departure. It is possible that you will have to relinquish your actual passport for 60 days or longer while the consulate processes your student visa. That means you can't leave the country during that period. It may be possible to apply for a duplicate US passport, so if you must travel outside of the US during the few months prior to the official start date of the program, you should contact the National Passport Agency immediately to find out how long it will take to get a second passport and how to apply for it. If you foresee any problems in this area, please consult with the BSA Czech Republic adviser as soon as possible.

Additional Application Materials for CIEE

Students must complete CIEE and host university application materials after their selection to the program. Students should note that the CIEE and host university application will require items that may take additional time to prepare, including, but not limited to, letters of recommendation, official transcript, and passport-size photos. Please do not take action until you have been given detailed instructions for these items.

Graduating Seniors Spending their last UC Semester Abroad in any UCEAP Program

Graduating seniors must enroll in a full course load while abroad, even if they do not need the courses or units for graduation. (Requests by DSP students who provide documentation may be considered for a reduced course load.) Only one-third of units taken abroad may be on a P/NP basis (so about one course); the rest must be letter-graded.

Medical Marijuana

Marijuana is not legal in the Czech Republic, even if you are approved for medical marijuana use in California. Please consult with your primary care physician for a legal substitute before applying to the program.

EAP Alumni/ae

EAP alums are some of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the Czech Republic BSA Adviser an email addressed to the alums (e.g., "Dear alums, I have some questions about the program or your university...") and the message will be forwarded to them. Limit your questions to the top 2 or 3 initially in order to get responses.

Undocumented Students

Undocumented students who are granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) may be eligible to study abroad with Advance Parole. Students who intend to study abroad with DACA need to be organized and work with the UC campus study abroad adviser and the Undocumented Students Program (USP) Office: <http://undocu.berkeley.edu/> Liliana Iglesias: liglesias@berkeley.edu

Undocumented students who qualify for DACA should consult with an immigration attorney in USP before enrollment in UCEAP to evaluate any risks of potentially being unable to re-enter the United States upon completion of the Program and any impact that participation in UCEAP might have on any deferred action applications that the student may be pursuing. It will be necessary for the student to work out an appropriate timeline for the Advanced Parole process and possible visa application process for the country of study.

Students must carefully review the UCEAP Program Budget(s) and Payment Schedules in the Money Matters tab of their program's Pre-Departure Checklist and assess the financial risks of a potential withdrawal from the program in the case that Advanced Parole is not approved.

New York Times article "My Hidden Prague"

This might pique your interest in this fascinating city: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/18/travel/my-hidden-prague.html?src=me&ref=general&_r=0