



TEFL Jobs in Czech Republic



## Country overview

The following section provides useful, practical information about your destination country. It includes heaps of information about the local cuisine, cultural taboos and travel safety, so that you can make the most of your overseas teaching experience.

### Basics

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe and a member state of the European Union. The country has borders with Poland to the north, Germany to the northwest and west, Austria to the south, and Slovakia to the east. The capital and largest city is Prague, a major tourist destination. The country is composed of two entire historic regions, Bohemia and Moravia, and parts of Silesia.

The Czech Republic lies in the centre of Europe and is often considered the gateway to Western Europe. Approximately 10 million people live in this country.

Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic and has about 1.2 million inhabitants. For most, living and working in Prague offers a more relaxed life. Surprisingly for a capital city, Prague boasts a somewhat slow pace of life.

To many the Czech people seem distant and can appear cold, but once you get to know them they become very friendly. The Czech language is considered one of the most difficult in the world and is wrongfully said to be a waste of time to learn because of this difficulty and because most people in Prague speak some English.

### Society and culture

The Czech Republic comprises of the former provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia, together often called the Czech Lands. In the western part of the republic lies the Bohemian plateau, which is separated by the Bohemian-Moravian heights from the fertile Moravian lowland in the eastern part of the republic. The Sudetes Mts. in the north separate Moravia from Czech Silesia along the

Polish border. Agriculture is concentrated in the Moravian lowlands and in the valleys of the Elbe and Vltava rivers.

Almost 95% of the people are Czech, with small minorities of Slovaks, Germans, Poles, Gypsies, and Hungarians; the Gypsies have been subjected to increased discrimination since the fall of Communist rule. Although many Czechs do not profess a religion, about 40% are Roman Catholic. There is also a substantial Hussite minority and a smaller group belonging to the Orthodox Church. Czech is the official language; Slovak is also spoken.

### **Climate**

The Czech Republic has a temperate, continental climate with relatively hot summers and cold, cloudy winters, usually with snow. Most rains are during the summer. The temperature difference between summers and winters is relatively high due to the geographical position - no access to sea.

Even within the Czech Republic, temperatures vary a lot depending on the altitude. In general, at higher altitudes the temperatures decrease and precipitation increases. At the highest peak (Snezka, 1602 m) the average temperature is only  $-0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , whereas in the lowlands of South Moravia, the average temperature is as high as  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and this also applies for the country capital Prague.

The coldest month is usually January followed by February and December. During these months there is usually snow in the mountains and sometimes also in the major cities and lowlands, but this snow tends to melt very quickly and so most of the winter is just wet. During March, April and May, the temperatures usually increase rapidly and especially during April the temperatures and weather tend to vary a lot during the day. Spring is also characterized by high water levels in the rivers due to the snow melting and there are often floods.

The warmest month of the year is July, followed by August and June. On average, the summer temperatures are about  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  higher than during winter. Especially in the last decade, temperatures above  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  are not unusual. Summer is also characterized by rains and storms.

Autumn usually begins in September, which is still relatively warm, but much drier. During October, temperatures usually fall back under  $15$  or  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and deciduous trees begin to drop their leaves. By the end of November, temperatures usually drop to freezing point.

## Food and Drink

Dining in Prague can be inexpensive if done outside the centre. Czech cuisine can be found in most restaurants. Pork is the primary meat served; however, other types of meat can be ordered as well. In most restaurants an average meal, including a beer, costs about 150 crowns (3,6 GBP, 7 USD). It is interesting to note that a small glass of Coke is typically more expensive than a big glass of excellent beer.

Many other cuisines can be found in Prague. One restaurant that appeals to expats in particular is called Bohemia Bagel. There are a few Bohemian Bagels restaurants in Prague. They offer a wide variety of foods specializing in bagels, burgers and sandwiches. You might be relieved to discover that fast food chains have made their way to the Czech Republic. McDonalds and KFC are the two predominant chains. Prices there are the same as anywhere else with a typical value meal costing about 100 crowns (2.5 GBP, less than 5 USD).

Prague has a great nightlife including the largest club in Eastern Europe called Karlovy Lazne. Most clubs and bars are open until 5:00am. However some are open 24 hours a day. Entrance fees are not common. Occasionally, some of the bigger clubs in the centre will charge an entrance fee, especially when there is a special DJ playing. Czech beer is considered the best in the world, which explains its popularity and I can tell you it's true. A half-liter of beer costs approximately 25 crowns (0.6 GBP, little over a dollar). Mixed drinks are a bit more expensive costing about 100 crowns (2.5 GBP, 5 USD) per drink. Shots range in price from 30 – 90 crowns (0.7 – 2.2 GBP, 1.5 - 5 USD) on average. Most Czechs go out late around 11:00 or 12:00. Like any city Friday and Saturday are the popular nights to go out. You will be able to find whatever type of bar or club you prefer in Prague. A good resource to find out about local events is [www.expats.cz](http://www.expats.cz). Groceries are relatively cheap and will allow you to save a significant amount of money if you eat at home.

## Transportation

Prague is an extremely easy city to get around in. There is an extensive network of metros, trams, and buses that take you wherever you need to go. Most teachers purchase a monthly pass for 460 crowns (11 GBP, 22 USD). This pass allows you to travel freely around the city on any form of transportation. As a teacher you can expect to be on the public transport system several times a day making the monthly pass worth the expense. Individual tickets

can also be purchased for single uses. The cost of an individual ticket varies depending on where you are going, but is usually about 14 – 20 crowns (less than 0.5 GBP). Individual tickets can be purchased at every metro station.

Metros stop running at 12:00am, which can pose a problem when trying to get home late. Prague does offer night trams; however, they are often full and take awhile to get anywhere. Taxis can be found throughout the city. Calling for a taxi is significantly cheaper than jumping in the first one you see. City Taxi and AAA Taxi are the least expensive companies.

## **Travelling outside of Prague**

Travelling outside of Prague within the Czech Republic is extremely cheap. Trains and buses are constantly leaving Prague going to many different locations within the country. To travel to most cities within the Czech Republic it is no more than 300 crowns (7,3 GBP, 14 USD). Travelling outside the Czech Republic can be a bit more expensive and the price of a ticket depends on where you are going.

## **Communication**

Vodafone, T-Mobile, and O2 are the three major service providers in Prague. All three allow you to pay as you go without signing a contract. If you bring a mobile phone from home you will probably need to have it unlocked before it will work. If you need to buy a phone you have two options. You can buy a new phone from any of the service providers' stores or you can buy a used phone at a bazaar. There are many bazaars near the Tesco in the centre.

If you have a computer you can use a program called Skype to call your friends and family. Skype is free as long as the person you are calling has it as well. You can also use Skype to call landlines or mobile phones. The price to call the United States or Great Britain is about three Euro cents per minute. If you do not have a computer you can use one at many of the Internet cafes. Most Internet cafes cost around 25 crowns (0.6 GBP, little more than a dollar) per 15 minutes. Many of the cafes also have Skype available to use.

## National Holidays

1 Jan New Year's Day.  
April Easter Monday.  
1 May Day.  
8 May Liberation Day.  
5 Jul Day of the Apostles St Cyril and St Methodius.  
6 Jul Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Jan Hus.  
28 Sep Czech Statehood Day.  
28 Oct Independence Day.  
17 Nov Freedom and Democracy Day.  
24-26 Dec Christmas.

## What you can expect in the Czech Republic

- **Salary:**  
20,000 Czech Koruna / \$950 (USD) / £480 / €710 / CAD\$1100 / AUD\$1160 / NZD\$1300 per month based on a 25 hour week. For good teachers pay per hour can increase and there could be the opportunity to work up to 35 hours per week. Tax of 15%-25% will be payable locally, dependent on earnings.
- **Accommodation:**  
When you first arrive in Prague you will stay in a youth hostel near to the city centre and the school. You will then be assisted in finding rental accommodation for the remainder of your stay.
- **Arrival:**  
You will be met at Prague Airport (PRG) and taken to your accommodation. The next day you will be taken on an orientation tour of the city centre. You will also be taken to the school within your first couple of days, introduced to your tutor who will help you throughout your stay and introduced to the teaching methods of the school. You will then spend 1 – 3 days training before starting classes.
- **Locations:**  
The school is located in the heart of Prague in the old historical centre. However, you may also be required to teach individuals or groups in other locations which could be anywhere in Prague. If you need to commute in this way, extra money will be paid and the cost of transportation will be reimbursed.
- **Contract lengths:**  
6, 9 or 12 months

- **Departure Dates:**  
Departures are available every month although the majority of placements are available in September.
- **Free courses:**  
Czech lessons are provided at the school. Course attendance is voluntary so you can skip or quit classes whenever you want.

## Requirements

- Native English speaker with EU nationality.
- Open to US, Canada & Australia citizens, but these nationals must book 6 Months before departure due to visa requirements.
- TEFL qualification (Essential TEFL Plus course included)
- University degree not necessary, although viewed as an advantage during the application procedure

## CZECH REPUBLIC: EMPLOYMENT

### 1. How much will I be paid?

20,000 Czech Koruna which is approximately \$950 (USD) / £480 / €710 / CAD\$1100 / AUD\$1160 / NZD\$1300 per month based on a 25 hour week. For good teachers pay per hour can increase and there could be the opportunity to work up to 35 hours per week. Tax of 15%-25% will be payable locally, dependent on earnings.

It is recommended that teachers share an apartment close to the centre in a nice location such as Letna or Vinohrady (approximately 7-15 minutes by metro or tram). The price here is around €300 (£200 / US\$400) per month for a private room in a shared house (a deposit may be required). Accommodation in the city centre is more expensive.

The cost of living after rent should generally be around €150 (£100 / US\$200) per month although this will, of course, depend on your lifestyle.

For transportation, most teachers purchase a monthly pass for 460Cz (£11 / €16 / US\$22). This pass allows you to travel freely around the city on any form of transportation. As a teacher you can expect to be on the public transport system several times a day making the monthly pass worth the expense. Most Internet cafes cost around 25Cz (£0.60 / €0.90 / US\$1.20) per 15 minutes. Groceries are inexpensive, and in most restaurants an average meal, including a beer, costs about 150Cz (£3.65 / €5.40 / US\$7.30). It

is interesting to note that a small glass of soda is typically more expensive than a big glass of excellent beer!

2. Do I receive a bonus or flight re-imbusement?

There is no bonus or flight reimbursement.

3. How many holiday days will I receive per year?

No paid holidays are provided with this contract. If you wish to take an unpaid holiday you should give at least 1 week's notice – if you would like to take a longer holiday (e.g. 2 weeks or more) please try to give 1 month's notice.

4. What are my working hours?

Your teaching contract will be for 25 hours per week. Classes are held at the school between 7:20am and 8:30pm, usually Monday to Friday. However, most classes take place in the afternoon and early evening.

5. Can I renew my contract?

Your contract may be extendable; you would need to discuss this with your school.

6. What happens if I need to break my contract?

You should give 1 month's notice if you wish to break your contract.

7. Can I apply with someone else?

Yes in most cases it's possible for us to place applicants in the same accommodation and in the same school.

## **Pre-departure**

1. How do I get my visa?

While holding an EU passport, no visas are required.

2. Which airport should I fly into?

Prague (PRG)

### 3. When and how should I book my flights?

Please wait to book your flights until you are advised by our in-country agent to do so.

### 4. Do I need to take out travel insurance?

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance for the entire duration of your stay. For details of travel insurance for UK citizens, please visit [www.endsleigh.co.uk](http://www.endsleigh.co.uk). For citizens from outside of the UK, please visit [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com).

### 5. Do I need vaccinations?

No specific vaccinations are required to teach in the Czech Republic. We do recommend you see your doctor for your own specific questions.

### 6. How much money should I bring with me?

We recommend that you bring approximately £500 / USD \$900 / €750 to cover all initial costs until your first payday. (You may be required to pay a bond on your apartment.) Always have access to emergency funds (Monies that can be transferred to you at short notice from home)

### 7. Do I need to be able to speak the local language?

As with all countries, the more you can learn before your teaching placement, the more you will get out of it.

YES	ANO <i>ano</i>
NO	NE <i>ne</i>
PLEASE	PROSÍM <i>proseem</i>
THANK YOU	DE <sup>V</sup> KUJI VAM <i>dyekooyi vam</i>
GOOD MORNING	DOBŘÉ RÁNO <i>dobrye rano</i>
GOOD AFTERNOON	DOBŘÉ ODPOLEDNE <i>dobrye odpoledne</i>
GOOD NIGHT	DOBROU NOC <i>dobroh nots</i>
HELLO	DOBRY' DEN <i>dobree den</i>
GOOD-BYE	NA SHLEDANOU <i>nas-khledanow</i>
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?	JAK SE JMENUJETE? <i>yak se ymenooyete</i>
MY NAME IS...	JMENUJI SE... <i>ymenooyi se</i>
HOW ARE YOU?	JAK SE MÁTE? <i>jak se mahte</i>
I UNDERSTAND	ROZUMÍM. <i>rozooeem</i>
I DON'T UNDERSTAND	NEROZUMÍM. <i>nerozooeem</i>

i-to-i Placements, Exploration House,  
32 Grattan Square,  
Dungarvan, Waterford  
Ireland

tefljobteam@i-to-i.com

UK: +44 (0) 870 787 2375  
USA: (800) 985 4864  
Ireland: +353(0) 58 40050  
Australia: +61 (0)3 9326 3066

I DON'T SPEAK (MUCH) CZECH. NEMLUVÍM (MOC) C<sup>^</sup>ESKY.  
*nemlooveem (mots) chehskee*

8. Is there a dress code?

Smart casual / work casual

9. How long will it take to complete the TEFL training?

The course can be completed in a minimum of 2-3 weeks. Most people finish the course in 4-6 weeks. You have a maximum of 6 months to complete the course. You will be sent your certificate, letter of reference and hard copy of the course within 21 days of completion of all components of the course.

10. What happens when I arrive?

You will be met at the airport of your teaching destination and transferred to your accommodation. You will have an orientation to prepare you for teaching and to show you around the school and city.

### **Czech Republic: TEACHING**

1. What age and level of students will I be teaching?

You will be teaching a mix of adults and children, at all levels.

2. How many students will there be in each class?

Classes could be made up of 1, 2-5, 8-12 or 18 depending on the type of course.

3. How long are the classes?

Most classes are 1 hour long or 2 parts of 45 minutes each.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes. The institute is well-resourced – there is a study room, library and internet access. You may also like to take photos and pictures of your home country, family and friends.

5. Will I be teaching alone or team teaching?

You will be teaching alone, but will have support from other teachers.

6. What kind of school will I be teaching in?

You will be teaching in a private language school.

## **TEFL certification**

All our TEFL Jobs include the 40 hour Online TEFL course and the 20 hour Grammar and Language Awareness Module. These courses will give you the skills you need to teach English as a foreign language, so you can walk into your first TEFL classroom with the utmost confidence.

You'll be sent details of how to access your courses via email. You will have six months to complete the 40 hour course and extra time after that to complete the Grammar and Language Awareness Module. Both courses must be complete by the time you start your placement.

It's also an idea to take your TEFL certificate with you when you go. Some placements request it – and even if they don't it's always handy to have it with you.

It's not uncommon for applicants to desire extra qualifications to supplement their Online TEFL certification and further develop their skills. That's why we offer a range of specialist certificates that will help you tailor your skills towards a specific area of the TEFL business. As an i-to-i tutee you are entitled to 10% off any of these certificates.

Visit [www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates](http://www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates) to find out more or call/email us at:

UK & the world: +44 (0)113 205 0077 [tefljobteam@i-to-i.com](mailto:tefljobteam@i-to-i.com)

Ireland: 058 400 50 [ireland@i-to-i.com](mailto:ireland@i-to-i.com)

North America: 800 985 4864 [usca@i-to-i.com](mailto:usca@i-to-i.com)

Australia: 1300 556 997 [australia@i-to-i.com](mailto:australia@i-to-i.com)

## **Surviving culture shock**

Almost everyone experiences some degree of culture shock when they first arrive at their destination - even if they're a seasoned traveller. It may be felt as stress, frustration, anxiety or homesickness and is a perfectly natural reaction to encountering a new culture that looks, sounds and feels different to what you're used to.

Try not to worry if you feel overwhelmed at the start of your placement – just go with the flow and before you know it you'll start to settle in. The following advice will help you to overcome culture shock as quickly as possible.

Doing as much research as possible into your destination will help to reduce culture shock, as you'll be prepared for many of the differences you will encounter. The Lonely Planet and Culture Shock! Guides are good resources to use for this.

Try to arrive at your destination as fresh as possible. Avoid alcohol and caffeine on your flight, eat a light meal and rest as much as possible. This will give you the energy to get through your first day in-country. If you're exhausted when you arrive, everything will seem a lot more challenging.

Take it easy on your first few days, to give yourself time to adjust to your new environment and get over your journey. You don't have to see and do everything in the first few days – that's just the adrenaline talking!

A good tip is to observe the locals and do as they do. They are used to the heat, humidity and altitude and know how best to cope. Watch what they do and adopt their ways.

Remember that if you're finding things difficult at your placement, it may be due to culture shock. Try to keep an open mind and avoid making comparisons with how things are done in your own country – if you wanted everything to stay the same you wouldn't have gone overseas in the first place!

If you're going away for several months, budget for a well-deserved break halfway through your placement. Treat yourself to a night in a comfy hotel and a good meal, then return to your placement feeling refreshed. It's okay to want a few home comforts while you're away – something as simple as watching a movie in English in an air-conditioned cinema can make you feel much better!

## **Checklist for Paid Teaching Placements**

### **We send you:**

- Confirmation email of PTP placement
- Confirmation/login details email of Online TEFL course
- DVD and GAM for TEFL course

### **What you need to do:**

- Send relevant documents to complete application:
- CV/Resume
- Cover letter
- Scanned copy of your University degree certificate or a letter from your university confirming your expected graduation (English translation required). (If required)
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Arrange suitable travel insurance.

Documents will be sent to the in-country representative who will contact you about the application. Remember to complete your TEFL course!

### **Once accepted we send you:**

- Terms and conditions to be signed.

### **In-country representative sends:**

- Confirmation of placement contract

### **Next Steps:**

- Once your visa has been accepted and returned, book flights

Enjoy your trip!