



Handbook for International students

An aerial photograph of a university campus, likely Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic. The image shows a large, modern building with a curved facade and a central courtyard. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and a list of contents. In the foreground, a group of people is gathered around a circular paved area with a large sculpture of two figures. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and distant buildings under a blue sky with light clouds.

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**“We are glad you have come to MENDELU!
Let’s help you feel at home!”**

Welcome to MENEDELU!

Mendel University in Brno is named after the father of modern genetics whose experiments with pea plants in Brno monastery established principles of heredity. He was first to distinguish between dominant and recessive traits.

- Faculty of AgriSciences - building C, M
- Faculty of Business and Economics - building Q
- Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology - building B
- Faculty of Horticulture - building A
- Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies - building Z
- Student Canteen - building X



Getting in and out



Long distance buses (by various operators) use the main Bus Station Zvonařka (south of the train station, take the tram 12), with some operators to main cities using the more centrally located "Grand Hotel" station by the train station. Regiojet.cz will get you from there to most cities (including abroad), with WiFi, in-seat entertainment system and hot beverages on board. Tickets available online, cheaper (ca. 20%) if you prepay an account with them. Flixbus.com is also expanding. All Czech long-distance buses will let you board and pay the driver if they have the room.



The Czech rail network is one of the densest in Europe. Tickets cost usually slightly more than the buses slightly more than on a bus and most local trains have no power outlets or WiFi (Prague-Brno route is better). Some small operators run popular lines, but the dominant "České dráhy" will get you everywhere. Generally do not expect a student discount, or return tickets being much cheaper, but you can get a group discount for 2 or more people. If you are going to use the train more, consider buying an IN 25 card which gives you 25% discount. For anyone under 26 it costs 150 CZK for 3 months or 250 CZK for 12 months.



Brno does have an airport with regular flights to London or Munich and a few more destinations seasonally. Bus 76 goes to and from the airport. Major international airports nearby are Prague (CZ) and Vienna (AT) which is a bit closer. There is a regiojet.cz bus that connects Brno centre about 10x a day directly with VIE airports in 2h15min. At Prague airports, take the 119 bus to the Underground (Metro) and proceed to either the bus or train stations to continue to Brno. You can also try airport in Ostrava (to London, Paris, Milan, Dusseldorf, Dubai), Bratislava (SK or Krakow and Katowice in Poland).

The topography around Brno is easy: Wooded hills to the North, open plains to the South. Both are enjoyable for a day-tour on a bicycle, a popular pastime. Bikes can be brought on most trains. Follow special bike trails of general tourist trails marked as.

All timetables (also for international travel) can be looked up at idos.cz (to switch to english you have to scroll to bottom right). For some connections it will let you buy e-ticket. Smartphone apps are available.



Brno

World's 9th best student city according to student

source: QS 2018 student survey

Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic – the heart of Europe – has a huge student population of 65,000 students with a high percentage of international students. According to the City State Report 2018, 98 % of Erasmus students were satisfied with and enjoyed their stay in Brno.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC FACTS

Population: 10.6 million
Currency: Czech crown (CZK)
Official Language: Czech
Capital City: Prague
Member of: EU, NATO, WTO, OECD,
Schengen Area



Getting around

Public transport in Brno (and most Czech cities) is excellent. You will only need taxi if carrying something heavy and far or if you do not want to wait for a night bus. Taxis are more expensive than in Prague and can be ordered by phone. Liftago.com is a taxi aggregator for Prague and Brno. Uber.com is in Prague.

Each line of Brno public transport has a number (trams 1-12, trolley buses 25-39, buses 40-88, and even a boat line on the Brno dam). Three-digit bus numbers connect to satellite towns and villages. Most run roughly 5am-11pm, in intervals of 3-30 minutes, depending on the line and time. At night, there are special hourly (sometimes half-hourly) night buses (No. 89 - 99, no surcharge).

Timetables

Every stop displays the timetable of lines it serves, but do use the internet to plan more complicated journeys. To search just within Brno and surroundings lines, use idsjmk.cz. The official transport company's website is not the most informative in English, even for copies of their bus-stop displayed timetables you have to go to a fan site jrbrno.cz (this may be useful to print for your local stop).

Tickets

Do not try to understand the official ticket price table, most locals cannot decipher it either. The main rule is pretty simple. In town, estimate how long you need and (at tobacco or vending machine) get a 20 CZK ticket for unlimited rides for 15 mins or a 25 czk ticket for 60 mins. This means you can make the return journey with the same ticket if you are quick. Once inside the vehicle (only trams will always let you in also through the front door) you must validate your ticket by inserting it into the stamping machine slot (it records the time on the ticket). If you get a Czech sim card, you can also pay for ticket by SMS.

Consider getting a Brno-wide pass for 275/month or 685/quarter. Take your MENDELU ISIC card and an ID photo to Novbranska 8 in city centre (or to CD Centre in train station) and ask for "šalinkarta. Train journeys to nearby towns using a multi-zone ticket can be a bit cheaper than buying a ticket from the train company.



Halls of residence

To live in Halls, you need to apply at webiskam.mendelu.cz

Komenského (JAK)

Tauferova (TK)

City centre/Dorm

Take the tram 9 from "Hlavní nádraží" (platform 1), get off at 4th stop "Moravské náměstí". Wait (on the same platform) for the tram 5 towards "Štefánikova čtvrť", get off at the final stop. Then follow the map to the reception in building D of JAK.

Take the tram 12 from "Hlavní nádraží" to "Technologický park" (platform 2), get off at the 8th stop "Tererova". The Hall is across the road.

Take the 92 night bus from "Hlavní nádraží" towards "Lesná" (platform 2), get off at "Štefánikova čtvrť" (at night this is not the last stop).

Take the 99 night bus from "Hlavní nádraží" towards "Technologický park" (platform 2) or the 93 night bus towards "Komín". Get off at the 8th stop "Tererova".

Dorm/Campus

Take the 25 or 26 trolley-bus from "Merhautova" towards "Starý/Nový Lískovec" and get off at the 2nd bus stop "Lesnická".

Take the 12 tram towards "Komárov" and get off at 3rd stop "Konečného náměstí". Cross the road, around the corner fence catch the 25 or 26 trolley-bus downhill towards "Novolíšeňská" get off at 3rd stop "Lesnická".

Campus starts in one corner of the traffic lights nearby. (for FRDIS catch the 9 or 11 tram for one stop to your right).

Facilities

Block D (orange building) has the main office, cafeteria, 2-3 bed rooms with own bathroom, toilet and kitchen. A (yellow), B (blue) and C (green) have 2 bed rooms, shared toilets, bathrooms, kitchen, washing machines on each floor. Nearby: dining (menza), football, field, gym (B), student pub (C).

Single building. 2-3 bed rooms with own kitchen, bathroom, toilet. Dining hall (menza) on ground floor. Most of university sport clubs in nesrby sports hall. Running track next door, beach volleyball courts one tram-stop away.

What to bring to Halls of residence:

- Ethernet cable RJ-45 for the Internet
- towel. bed linen is provided and washed monthly
- for first arrivals at night or weekends, contact staff (vusa your buddy) to have key+linen ready at reception
- small padlock for kitchen locker (in A, B, C of JAK)
- FYI: rent is due always in the first half of calendar month, cards are accepted

University structure

People

- Many of you will have a pretty good idea what courses you want to study. Whether you have come for a semester or the whole degree programme, the system is the same: self manage your study progress visa the Information System.

Academic Life

is.mendelu.cz

- Many of you will have a pretty good idea what courses you want to study. Whether you have come for a semester or the whole degree programme, the system is the same: self manage your study progress visa the Information System.

Credit system

- each course is worth a certain amount of credits which roughly measure the amount of time you should expect to devote to studying it in order to pass. (If you are here for a whole degree, there is a minimum threshold of credits you have to pass in order to proceed to the next smeester.

Sport

- University runs many sports clubs. Follow the QR code for google translation of current offerings.

Buildings

- Many of you will have a pretty good idea what courses you want to study. Whether you have come for a semester or the whole degree programme, the system is the same: self manage your study progress visa the Information System.

Your study

Grading

- You will be evaluated in each course you take - don't expect everything to depend on an exam at the end of the semester. In most courses you will get a grade (A-F for pass, F for Fail; you can twice retake the final exam "zkouška"). Some courses are just Pass/Fail ("zápočet").

Academic calendar

- The academic year is divided into Winter ("zimní") and Summer ("letní") semesters, running from late September to late January and from early February to Late June, respectively. Towards the end of each there are a few weeks with no lectures, just exams ("zkouškové období").

ISIC card

Your University ID card will be issued in the form of ISIC card, no need to have two cards separately. It is your single gateway to University services. It gives you access to some places (Arboretum for e.g.), you use it in the Library as well as in the dining halls. Throughout the country (and the world) many businesses offer students special discounts when you show them your MENDELU ISIC card.

How to get it

If you come to the Welcome Week at the beginning of semester, there will be an activity to get your ISIC card. If you will miss it your buddy can help you to get it later. You get your picture taken in the basement of building A on campus. After a few days you will get a message from the international coordinator that your card is ready to be picked up in the International office.

2 money accounts

Library and Dining

To activate the ISIC card for the MENDELU library (in A) there is a 120 CZK fee. After that, you can put extra money on your card for printing in the Library as well. Use the machine next to the printers or pay to the staff.

There is no fee for activating your ISIC for use in dining halls. You just have to put the money on it through any of the cashiers, on campus or your residence hall. Do use your ISIC money since you will often get a discount.

ESN card

You can also get ESN card (Erasmus student network, which works throughout the whole Europe). This card also gives you some discounts (for example entrances and so on).

ISIC card is contactless. To get to some parts of university just attach the card to a nearby scanner. You may have to take the card out of your wallet/purse.

Unlike in many countries, you should not assume you will always get ISIC discount on transport. For example, no ISIC discount on Regiojet buses (domestic).

Health

Medical contacts

General Practitioner

Otakar Ach-Hübner
Mendlovo náměstí 17
(middle of the square)

Dentist

Jan Kopřiva
Kociánka 2
Tel.: +420 702 348 064
kdent@email.cz

Emergency service 24/7

(hospital, doctors, dentist)
Úrazová nemocnice Brno
Ponávka 6
Tel.: +420 545 538 111
www.unbr.cz

Psychological counselling at MENDELU

Bulding E

Mo & We 10:30 - 13:00

Sign up by email

pcentrum@mendelu.cz

A trained psychotherapist fully conversant in English is available on campus for all culturally sensitive psychological counselling.

- stress management
- self development
- relationship issues
- anxieties, depression
- dealing with life issues

Medical contacts

Hospital close to Campus

Surgal Clinic
Drobného 38-40
Tel.: +420 532 149 333
info@surgalclinic.cz

Largest Brno Hospital

Fakultní nemocnice Bohunice
Jihlavská 20
+420 532 231 111
www.fnbrno.cz

Emergency Pharmacy 24/7

Koliště 47
+420 545 424 811
www.lekarnakoliste.cz

With your health insurance you can visit any general practitioner (GP) or dentist. If you have a specific problem (e.g. with an eye), first visit a GP (try to make an appointment, if you can) who will examine you and may then arrange for a visit to a specialist.

Do not forget to bring with you the insurance card (or another insurance document). If the doctor does not accept your card and you have to pay, keep your receipts, your home insurance company will refund you what you paid.

Food

You do not need to be afraid of any food you buy in the Czech Republic. Equally tap water is drinkable. Czechs also buy mineral water, unlike in many countries it does actually have mineral in it).

Many supermarkets open on Sundays. Restaurants are more expensive than home cooking but most will offer cheap lunch menu (around 150 CZK).

Tipping: most Czechs round up.

Main Menza

X
The largest dining hall in the centre of university campus (building X). 7 main courses daily (though do not expect all towards the end), and some more options while you wait (mostly fried). Predominantly Czech cuisine but sometimes with an international twist. Soups, side salads and desserts can also be purchased as well as soft drinks, baguettes etc. Water from the fountain is free.

Mo - Th 11am-4pm

Friday 11am - 2pm

Buffet

Q
Main lobby of "Q" hosts a cafeteria with wide selection of coffees, freshly baked croissants, snacks, toasts, panini etc. This is the venue with the longest opening hours on campus so it is the safest bet early and late.

Monday - Friday 7am - 5pm

Pizzeria

O
Downstairs of O building various snacks, baguettes etc. are available, including (on irregular basis) University students' own food products. Ten kinds of pizzas while you wait.

Mo - Th 8am - 4pm

Friday 8am - 1:30pm

(pizza available only after 10am)

Catering at Halls of Residence

JAK - Menza (by B building)

Mo - Th: 11 - 20

Friday: 11 - 13:30

JAK - Buffet (in D building)

Mo - Th: 6:30 - 20:30

Friday: 6:30 - 12:00

Taufer - Menza

Mo - Fr: 7 - 10:30 snacks/11:30 - 14 lunch

You can pay using your ISIC in all University food outlets. In menza you will get reduced price with ISIC! You can load money to your ISIC card at menza cashier. Minimum is 100 CZK, recommended 200 CZK.

Around campus & after hours

There is "Restaurace na Chatě", restaurant with nice seating at the bottom of the boulevard along A. A small supermarket is just to the right of it. On the outside of Q there is cozy "Cate Cafe" with ice cream and Italian menu. Two bakeries at tram stop, ERA cafe nearby. Only few pubs/restaurants serve food after 10 pm. Many corner shops are open till ca. 10pm, some fast food shops past midnight. Asian bistros by the central interchange for night buses are open 24/7.

Czech language

Although the situation is getting better, don't expect everyone to be able speak or even understand English. The younger generation usually speaks, although it is good to learn at least a few basics.

Quick vocabulary list:

airport - letiště
(main) station - (hlavní) nádraží
train - vlak
boat - loď
bicycle - kolo
skates - brusle
residence hall - kolej
student dining hall - menza
potatoes - brambory
dumplings - knedlíky
beef - hovězí
pork - vepřové
chicken - kuře(cí)
water - voda
beer - pivo
thank you - děkuji
you're welcome - není zač
please - prosím
excuse me - promiňte
I apologise - omlouvám se
I'm sorry - je mi to líto
do you know where is - nevíte kde je
how do I get to - jak se dostanu na
I like you - líbíš se mi



Guess what these mean

tramvaj
autubus
trolejbus

Sort out your life

Czech ✓

Weather

First snow starts late Nov/ early Dec, but don't expect it to last. Jan & Feb there is often snow on the ground, sometimes it can get to -15°C. Sun is rare. Sub-zero temperatures gradually stop over Mar & Apr. From late May it can get pretty hot, even +30°C. Leaves start turning yellow in September, though ppleasant amntun days often last till Nov.

WiFi

You will get eduroam access at MENDELU (or you can use your own if you have it from home). Catch its signal throughout the campuse or near some other universities' buildings in town. Many pubs will let you know their WiFi password - but first check around the bar, it might be advertised. Some bus companies offer WiFi. Use common sense when using public access points.

Money

Cards are not accepted everywhere. 1 euro is about 27 CZK. Some supermarkets accept euro but the exchange rate is daylight robbery. Instead change money in a bank or decently looking exchange bureaus, often they will give you a better rate than a bank. Before using cash machine check with your bank about charges.

National Holidays

No school on national holidays, shops are still allows to be pen (this may change).

- 1. Jan (New Year's day)
- ? Good Friday (Easter)
- 1. May (Labour Day)
- 8. May (end of WW2)
- 5. July (Christianity, 863)
- 6. July (Jan Hus Day)
- 28. September (St. Wenceslas)
- 28. October (Statehood)
- 17. November (Velvet Revolution)
- 24. - 26. December (Christmas)
- + occaisional Rector day

Visiting Czechs

You'll be expected to take off your shoes in people's houses, you may be offered slippers, but socks should do, floors are generally kept clean. Do not expect many garden parties, few city people have gardens. Even regular smokers often use a balcony. Beer is just as frequent beverafe at dinner as wine.

Mobile_SIM

Mobile services are traditionally more expensive in the Czech Republic than even Western Europe. Check with your home provider, it may be actually cheaper to use your roaming for making calls, though consider getting a local SIM for (always free) incoming and (expensive) daa. O2, T-Mobile and VOdafone are main operators, many virtual operators exist.

Travelling

Explore the are with friends. Here is what you should google for day trips:

Moravian carst

Lednice, Pernstejn, Austerlitz, Bucovice, Palava

Hrad Veveri

Rajec nad Svitavou

Vranov nad Dyji.

Further afield are Olomouc, Telc, Slavnocie,

Kromeriz, Kutna Hora, Cesky Krumlov,

Karlovy Vary Or pick any mountains along the border.

Folklore

Czechs can be more pragmatic than traditional, but when the do keep custmos, they do so proudly. At Easter, men weave willow whip with which women's wellness will wake. Old pagan Spring tradition. On Christmas Eve (24th), Czechs will eat potato salad and fried battered carp, whose one scale they will carry in their wallest throughout the year.

CONTACT LIST

International Relations Office

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ERASMUS CODE: CZ BRN002

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Find out more:

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