



# UTB Financial Guide

for International Students and Applicants

# Welcome!

We know that the international student budget might be tight, and we understand how important it is for you to manage your finances well and make a careful financial plan for the period you intend to spend studying abroad.

Living costs in the Czech Republic are considered to be affordable, especially for an EU country with high standards of living. **Thanks to cheap public transportation, healthcare and entertainment, the Czech Republic is among the most affordable European Union countries.**

Still, you will need to plan your budget carefully. We hope this guide will help you to orient yourself in financial issues and you can enjoy your studies and life in Zlín without any trouble.



Living costs  
in the Czech  
Republic are  
affordable

# Currency

The Czech Republic is a member of the European Union (EU), but it does not use Euro (EUR) as its currency. The Czech currency is the Czech crown (CZK), known as "Koruna". It is common to pay by credit card in shops, restaurants etc. Nevertheless, not everywhere this type of payment is available. We recommend always having some cash with you and asking in advance (especially in restaurants and small shops), if you can pay by credit or debit card.

**The Czech currency comes in the following denominations:**

**coins/** CZK 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50

**notes/** CZK 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 5,000



**RECOMMENDATION**  
For the current  
exchange rate, check  
the website of the  
**Czech National Bank.**

# ATM's and Credit Cards

Even though debit and credit cards are widely accepted there, it is never a bad idea to have some cash on hand while visiting a restaurant or travelling around the Czech Republic. ATMs can be found easily, but make sure you use bank ATMs as they are generally the safest and most convenient. We recommend avoiding intermediary companies such as Euronet etc. They will probably charge you higher fees for a withdrawal. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted. American Express and Maestro are less common but still usable.

You can use the ATM locator on google maps or locators of each bank. The following ones are safe (but you can use any bank operating in the Czech Republic):

- ▶ **Ceska Sporitelna ATM Locator**
- ▶ **Ceskoslovenska obchodni banka ATM locator**
- ▶ **Komerčni banka ATM locator**

## RECOMMENDATION

Keep in mind that some stores may have a minimum purchase amount for using a card. When using your card at a foreign ATM, you might notice that you have the option to view your transaction in your home currency instead of in the local currency.

Don't do it! Always choose to view transactions in the local currency to save money.

# Banks

As an international student, you will need to open a bank account after your arrival. Before opening a bank account, it is important that you check what kind of fees apply for services and what are the terms and conditions.

It is important to have with you your passport and another ID (such as National Identity Card or, for example, a driving licence). You can also ask about the bank's special offers, such as student bank accounts, for which low or no fees apply. For example, most banks offer free account maintenance for everyone up to 26 years old.

Some banks also provide unique benefits if you present your student certificate. Therefore, bring confirmation of study with you when opening a bank account. The most known banks in the Czech Republic have a website and online banking in English.



## RECOMMENDED BANKS IN ZLÍN \*

- Fio banka
- Česká spořitelna
- Raiffeisenbank
- Air Bank

The list of all banks operating in the Czech Republic is available on the website of → **Czech National Bank.**

# Tuition Fees

If you are studying in English language you will be charged a tuition fee. The tuition fees differ from CZK 45,000-70,000 per year. The exact amount depends on the respective study programme.

The tuition fee is payable after enrolment to study in the Czech Republic (30 days after receiving the document - Decision on tuition fee payment).

**It is possible to pay a tuition fee in CZK or EUR by bank transfer, in cash or by credit card directly at → **UTB Cash Office.****



## RECOMMENDATION

Please make sure you have the required amount of CZK or EUR before your arrival to the Czech Republic.

# Accommodation

UTB arranges accommodation at Halls of Residence (= dormitories) for its international students. The application for a place in one of UTB Halls of Residence has to be submitted on-line. Students are housed in double rooms. Single rooms are generally not available. The monthly rent is approx. CZK 4,000. Please remember you will be asked to pay a refundable deposit of CZK 3,900.

If you would like to stay in a private flat, you need to arrange all administration with an accommodation provider. UTB Welcome Officer can provide you with a consultation and some tips for accommodation outside of UTB, but we cannot guarantee availability and conditions of such accommodation.

Private accommodation costs approx. three or four times more than Halls of Residence. If you decide to rent a flat independently, make sure not to become a victim of scammers. Some warning signs can be: The landlord doesn't want to meet in person; the price is suspiciously good; they are not the owner of the place etc.



## RECOMMENDATION\*

Also please take into account that majority of local flat owners here in Zlín does not want to rent their properties to foreigners so it is highly recommended to book the UTB dormitory on time at least for the first year, to make sure you have an affordable place to stay during your first academic year.

# Food

Most students eat in the UTB canteens (called "Menza" in Czech). The usual price of a meal (with a student discount) is approx. CZK 70. You will pay for the meal using your student ID card. The card must be topped up in advance, which can be done [online](#) or by credit card or in cash at the main canteens' cash desks. The minimum amount you can top up the card with is CZK 300.

## RECOMMENDATION

Get together with your friends, chip in when buying ingredients and cook one meal together for all of you. It will cost you less than cooking only for yourself.

You're also more than welcome to utilise the cooking facilities in the dormitories. Here are the prices of the most common ingredients you can get to prepare your own meals:

Milk (regular), (1 liter)	CZK 20
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	CZK 40
Rice (white), (1kg)	CZK 40
Eggs (regular) (12)	CZK 50
Local Cheese (1kg)	CZK 230
Chicken Fillets (1kg)	CZK 160
Beef Round (1kg) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat)	CZK 250
Apples (1kg)	CZK 35
Banana (1kg)	CZK 30
Oranges (1kg)	CZK 35
Tomato (1kg)	CZK 60
Potato (1kg)	CZK 20
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	CZK 15
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	CZK 110
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	CZK 15



Buy products on discount in supermarkets. Every supermarket such as Billa, Lidl or Kaufland regularly offers particular products on discount. Prices of such products usually have a price tag of a different colour to be easily identified and are usually displayed on special shelves where you cannot miss them.

Buy food from local market → **Tržiště Pod Kaštany**. You will find there seasonal products such as fresh fruit and vegetables offered by regional producers. Locally grown food is typically cheaper, fresher and of better quality than food you can buy in supermarkets.

Buy products in a local shop → **Lacněnka** in Zlín. This shop offers mostly drugstore products or food right before the date of minimum durability (or best before date) with cheaper prices than products in supermarkets or other shops.



# Entertainment

## CULTURE

In Zlín, you can experience many opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy the artistic exhibitions (theatre, music, etc.). The prices vary tremendously, but are often very reasonable, if you show your ISIC card.

Museum (14-15, Skyscraper etc.) entrance fee	CZK 50-250
Cinema ticket	CZK 170-200
Concerts	CZK 100-1,500

## SPORT

Our university offers a wide range of sporting opportunities. Students can participate in various organized activities, such as aerobics, attend self-defence courses, do workouts in the gym, climb mountains etc. You can also join the [University Sports Club](#) for CZK 1,500 per year. Membership enables you to enter the gym, swimming pool and attend extra sports activities.



Sports prices outside of the university per one visit:

Gym	CZK 120-200
Badminton	CZK 200-350
Swimming pool	CZK 50-120
Yoga	CZK 100-150
Hockey/Footbal match	CZK 150-350

## RESTAURANTS AND PUBS

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	CZK 160
Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant	CZK 1,000
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	CZK 45
Cappuccino (regular)	CZK 60
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	CZK 30
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	CZK 25

### RECOMMENDATION

To save cost and environment, all students can install the app Lokni and can tap into their bottles high-quality sparkling or non-sparkling chilled and pre-filtered water for free (3 litres per day) at most of the UTB faculties.



# Finding a job

Do you need career counselling, seek help with writing a CV, advice on how to prepare for a job interview or how to find a job or an internship? We will provide you with comprehensive assistance services in UTB Job Centre. Counselling services are provided free of charge to students and recent graduates (no more than 2 years after completion of studies).

Generally, you should understand that getting any type of job without knowledge of Czech language outside of IT or fastfood field is very hard in and around Zlín, therefore you should arrive with sufficient savings to support yourself at least for the first year of your studies.

## **STUDENTS FROM EU/EEC AND SWITZERLAND**

EU students have the same working conditions as Czech students. They can be employed in any form of cooperation. The most common forms of cooperation for students are agreements made outside the employment relationship, which are governed by Czech legislation. For more information on employment relations in the Czech Republic, please visit this web page.

### **RECOMMENDATION\***

Job Centre contact details are available on the following website → **Job Centrum - UTB**  
If you are a PhD student, you can make extra money on special projects (such as IGA).  
Do not hesitate to ask your supervisor about available opportunities.

## **NON-EU/EEA STUDENTS**

Students from third countries who have a visa/permit to stay for the purpose of study also do not need a work permit and have the same employment rights as Czech students. However, they must take into account the fact that the main purpose of their stay in the Czech Republic is to study. Non-EU students studying via distance learning can also work in the Czech Republic. The condition is that they must be no more than 26 years old and their working time must not exceed 7 consecutive calendar days or 30 days in total per calendar year.

In other cases, and possibly after completing their studies, non-EU/EEA and non-Swiss citizens must apply for a work permit or employment card. For more information on how to apply for a permit, visit web page → **Ministry of the interior of the Czech Republic**

# Visa and Insurance

If you wish to enrol at UTB, you must apply for a long-term visa or long-term residence permit (recommended) for the purpose of studies. You have to file your application at the Embassy or Consulate General of the Czech Republic abroad, usually in your country of citizenship. Primary applications cannot be filed in the Czech Republic.

**Price: CZK 2,500**

If you want to extend your stay in the Czech Republic, you will have to apply → **for a visa extension (if you have a long term visa and will stay up to a year) or a long-term residence permit extension** in case you have a long term residence permit in Zlín at → **the local branch of Ministry of the Interior – Dept. for Asylum and Migration Policy (Ministerstvo vnitra-OAMP).**

**Price: CZK 2,500**



## RECOMMENDATION\*

When extending your visa, you need to extend the travel medical insurance as well. You can choose any insurance company that will offer the comprehensive health insurance. The required insurance benefit limit is EUR 400,000. The comprehensive health insurance for foreigners in the Czech Republic costs from approx. CZK 18,000 to approx. CZK 28,000 based on your age (older age - higher insurance).

# Telecommunication

Major mobile operators in the Czech Republic are as follows:

**O2 Czech Republic**

**T-Mobile Czech Republic**

**Vodafone Czech Republic**

## **RECOMMENDATION\***

All of them provide pre-charged student tariffs for prices starting from CZK 300. At the beginning of your stay, we recommend you to buy a prepaid SIM card from ESN Zlín or UTB Welcome Centre.

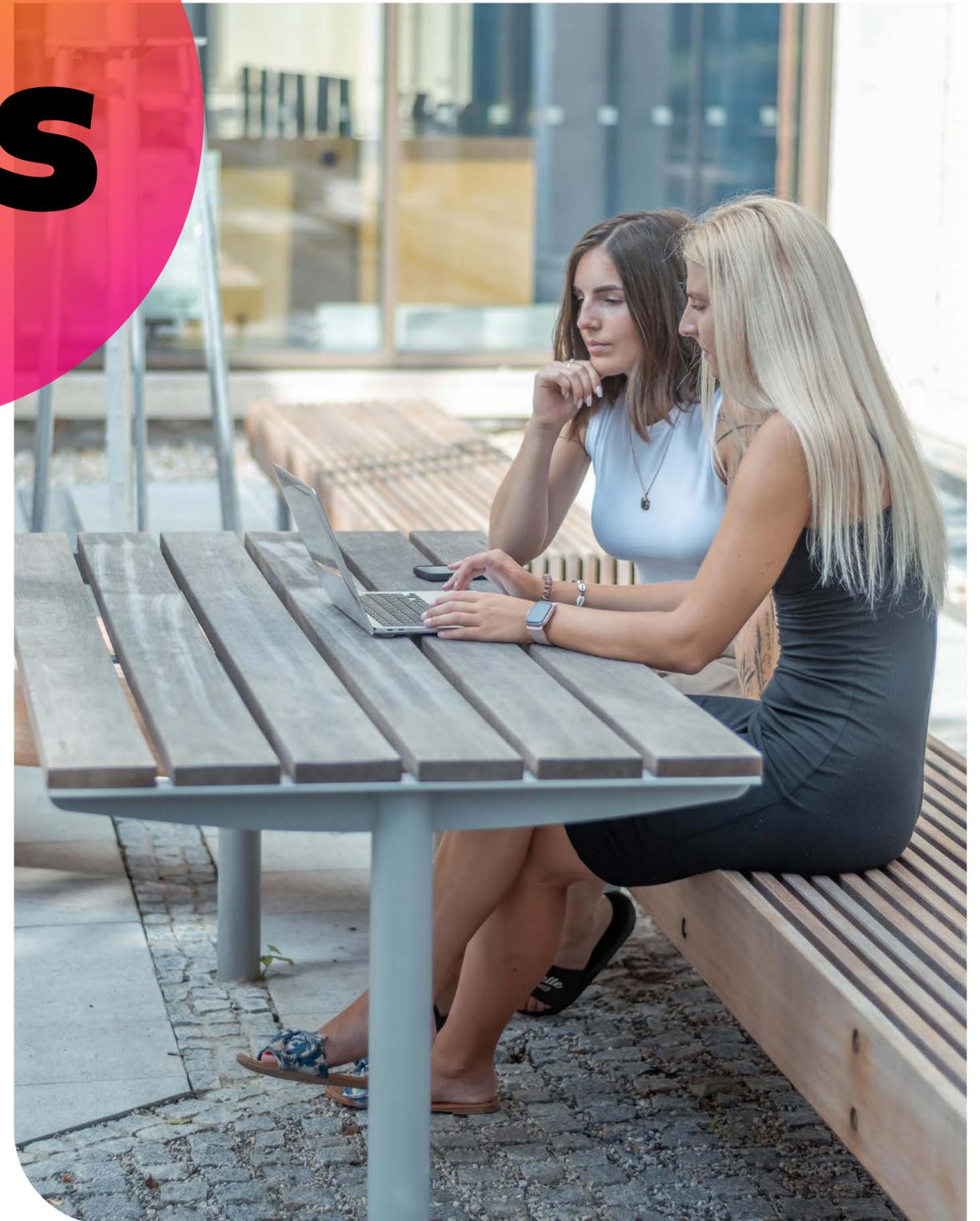


# Monthly costs

## Average monthly costs

Tuition fee*	CZK 3,300-CZK 6,300
Accommodation in HoR	CZK 4,000-5,000
Food	CZK 4,000
Transportation	CZK 200
Other expenses	CZK 500
Total	CZK 12,000-CZK 15,000

(\* the amount is being paid for the whole academic year at the beginning of the first semester)



# Contacts

## **UTB WELCOME OFFICE**

E-mail: [welcome-centre@utb.cz](mailto:welcome-centre@utb.cz)

Office: U3/203

## **UTB ADMISSION OFFICER**

E-mail: [admissions@utb.cz](mailto:admissions@utb.cz)

Office: U13/161



