

NEWSLETTER

02_2023/2024



STUDIES AND INTERNSHIPS ABROAD ON BUT

Welcome to the April Newsletter! It's a great pleasure to have you back on board. We hope you've enjoyed the previous one and are very happy about the warm feedback we've received.

Currently, we find ourselves amid a Czech spring, nature is getting back to shape, trees are in full bloom and it's almost time to put away your winter clothes and start enjoying your Brno life a bit more outdoorsy. What to do and where to go? We can help you with that in our "Discover Brno" section.

Have you had fun with our Czech restaurant tips? This month, we will take you to our favourite pubs for you to get the real taste of Czech beer and the culture that surrounds it. And what else can be looking forward to today? Our former student ambassador Xuexiu Jia shares her tips on Living in Brno, the "Get to Know BUT" section uncovers some of the Uni history and we'll shed light on how health insurance works here in the Czech Republic. You'll also find tips on places and events to go to, your favourite App section, and also a second part of our Library tour.

Have fun reading,

[#gointernationalwithbut](#)

The Internationalization Team

→ Let's Eat Brno



As we promised in the previous issue, in today's Let's Eat we're about to discover some of the best beer places there are in Brno. Needless to say, the Czechs are worldwide beer-drinking champions. Just last year's data on beer consumption show Czechia on the very top of the list with almost twice as much beer drunk here than in runner-up Austria.

The Czech beer culture has a long tradition and has become somewhat of a cornerstone of our national identity. For some, the day doesn't go without a pint (or two) and the pubs have in a way turned into communal places full of fun and tipsy wisdom.

We'd like to show you some places where you can get a glimpse of this exact thing and maybe even learn to love beer the Czech way.

1. U Bláhovky (Gorkého 96/54)

This one's a classic. The very best place to get a proper pilsen (no joking – for the past few years, they've been selected as a brewmasters' champions), Bláhovka is a real gem. Their bartenders know how to draught the perfect pint and seeing them in action is a real spectacle. With them, you can learn that preparing a simple glass of beer is actually not that simple at all and that this said glass of beer might be a great experience on its own.

Tip: Try their cooked ham hock, it is delicious!

[web_page](#)

2. Schrott (Křenová 291)

The second pub we'd like to tell you about just couldn't be more different from the one mentioned above: Schrott is a steampunk getaway with a one-of-a-kind atmosphere, speciality beers of both their own and imported production, a secluded terrace and even art gallery. The building itself used to be a metal tubing and component factory and you can see traces of that throughout the whole interior. It's funky, it's edgy and it's located just a few steps away from the Main Train Station.

Tip: Get a pint of their Velbloud beer

[web_page](#)

3. Na dobré cestě (Sokolská 364/4)

One of the most casual beer places we know, Na dobré cestě is THE place to become a regular. It comes with a whole bunch of contrasts: their ultra-minimalist (read purposely unfinished) yet cosy interior, laid-back but super nice waiting staff, and simple but delicious snacks and dishes, all this makes Na dobré cestě one of the Brno's nicest pubs there are. They pick their beers carefully throughout the abundance of Czech breweries, their staple one though is Dalešice Brewery. Try that one – or any other of their six taps.

Tip: Adopt your own Na dobré cestě beer jug

[web_page](#)

Not to miss:

- Axiom Pub (Poštovská 68/3)
- Pivovar Harry (Poštovská 68/3)
- Hladinka a šnyt (Kounicova 10)
- Pub U Dvou přátel (Dominikánská 11, Tábor 25)
- Výčep Na Stojáka (Běhounská 16)

Are you thirsty already? Now you know how and where to solve this. And even though we should not encourage you to get woozy, the Czech pub experience is truly special and definitely one that you shouldn't miss.

Let us know your experience, send us your ideas and pictures, we'll be more than happy to share them here.

Next time we'll cover those with a sweet tooth and show you the best bakeries in Brno!

Fun Facts

- We love to clink our glasses when starting a new pint along with saying "Na zdraví" ["nazdravi:] (literally "to your good health" wishes)
- The City of Brno holds the right to brew beer since the 12th century, however, the oldest documented beer production started in the Břevnov Monastery, Prague, in 993
- The most popular type of beer in the CZ is a pale lager with pilsner being the most common one.
- Both pilsen and budweiser, two widely popular types of beer, originated in the Czech Republic: Pilsen is the German name for the City of Plzeň whereas Budweiser is the German for České Budějovice. Those beers were developed there and spread worldwide since.
- There is a "Šalina Pub available in Brno! You can literally book a tram for a beer-drinking party and take a fun ride across Brno.

Beer consumption per Capita (2020 data)




Czech Republic

181,7


Austria

96,9


Poland

96,0


Romania

95,0


Germany

92,5


Estonia

84,4


Namibia

83,4


Lithuania

83,4


Slovakia

82,2

→ GET TO KNOW BUT

In the last issue, we introduced the head of this great institution of BUT, rector Ladislav Janíček, to you. This time we'd like to discover bits of the fabulous history of your current alma mater.

Brno University of Technology is the oldest university in Brno and the whole South Moravia. It was established back in 1899 as the Imperial Czech University of Franz Joseph mainly as a reaction to the lack of higher technical education in the region. Even though there had been an even older university in Moravia (former Jesuit University, now Palacký University Olomouc, est. 1573), that one focused on law, languages and theological studies, and with Brno being more secular than predominantly Catholic Olomouc, the aim was to create a school that can accommodate all of the needs of the region along with the demand of a proper Czech school¹.



From 1849 to 1945, there was a German-speaking German Technical University in Brno in existence. Even though some ideas occurred to establish a bilingual school, it had originally fallen through: the Imperial University of Franz Joseph in Brno was finally founded in 1899 giving Brno the very long-awaited Czech university.

The BUT beginnings were very humble indeed – the first address at Augustine Street (now Jaselská Street) accommodated only 4 professors and 47 students! Thus in its early years, BUT was a place to study (just) Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Geodesy. Before World War II though, BUT offered studies in the fields of Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Cultural Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Architecture.

After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, BUT along with other Czech universities was forced to shut down. At that time the only place where to get any type of technical education in Brno was said German Technical University. Once the war ended, BUT was reopened and in a way merged with the prior – just to get closed again in 1951. The school was then opened yet again (and this time for good) in 1956 as a three-faculty establishment.

After 1989, the whole university structure changed drastically; it has grown up to be this monumental institution of eight faculties and two institutes, become a cradle to what's today's Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín, created various research centres such as CEITEC or AdMaS and – what's really the most valuable achievement – brought up dozens of generations of brilliant minds.

You are one of them.

¹ Back in those days, the German language was more prominent and many schools used that as the only language of education. Moreover, Brno itself had a predominantly German-speaking population (in 1900 around 63% people used German as their first language here), even though the suburbs and the rural country were mostly Czech-speaking.

→ CZECH THIS!

Burning of the Witches

Picture this: here you are, enjoying your Brno life to the fullest, juggling both studies and personal stuff, dealing with homesickness, odd language and currency and a zillion other little things and then you learn they burn witches here. Casually. Nice, what a place to be, huh?

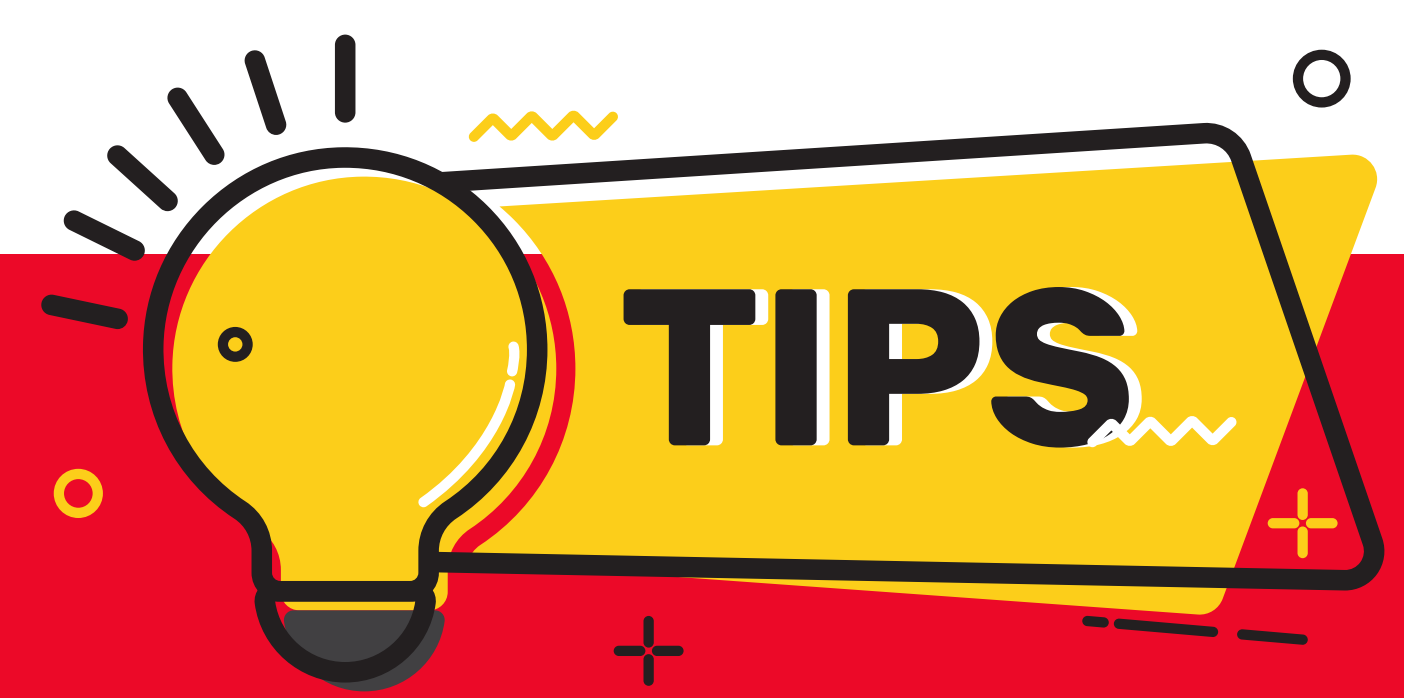
Well, first and foremost, even though we might perhaps seem a little barbaric on occasion, it's safe to say that there's no evidence of witches whatsoever. Also, there is no capital punishment in force here and we do not burn anybody².

What is this whole thing about then? Just one of the funniest and wildest nights of the year! "Pálení čarodějnic" (or Burning of the Witches) is celebrated throughout the night of 30th April up till the early hours of the 1st May. This derived from a pagan tradition, the Christian feast day of Saint Walpurga and the May Day celebrations. It's a Czech cousin of German Hexennacht or Gaelic Beltane.

Huge bonfires that are sometimes decorated with flammable witch-like figurines are a key part of the festival even today. Historically, young people tended to literally play with the fire when jumping over or through the flames – this habit has been mostly replaced by simple get-togethers with friends or family, singing, drinking and partying with keeping a safe distance away from the fire.

This is the night when you can experience loads of outdoor fun and it's definitely something you want to be a part of!

² There was a time we did – it's not nice, it's not fun and you can learn about that dark period here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Moravia_witch_trials



How to:

Health insurance

Health is wealth and an accident is not just an accident. During your stay abroad, you may come across a situation where you need to seek medical help completely unexpectedly, so it is best to be prepared for such a moment. What do you need to do in order to become part of the Czech health system?

Get your identity card and confirmation of your studies and go to a branch of the General Health Insurance Company (VZP, see the contact below). On the spot, the relevant official will advise you on the whole process and you are done. Registering with a health insurance company will thus cover the costs associated with medical care – and it will pay off!

This process is strongly recommended for students from EU countries (and also Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland), but if you come from a country outside the EU and will be staying in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days, it is mandatory by law to have health insurance for your stay. Think about it and avoid possible inconveniences.

More info here and here.

General Health Insurance Company address (VZP):

10 Benešova Street, Brno

Opening hours:

Mon, Wed: 8:00 – 17:00

Tue, Wed: 8:00 – 15:00

WWW.VZP.CZ

→ APP TIPS

The new batch of our favourite apps at your service:



Gastromapa Lukáše Hejlíka

Lukáš Hejlík is a total generalist: a well-known actor, book lover and food enthusiast who created a perfect application for everyone to find just the right place for them to enjoy something delicious to munch on at various places across the whole country. You can filter your preferences (wanna visit a café, bar or bistro) or get surprised by the variety of food-related businesses in your area.

Available for: iOS, Android

Language:

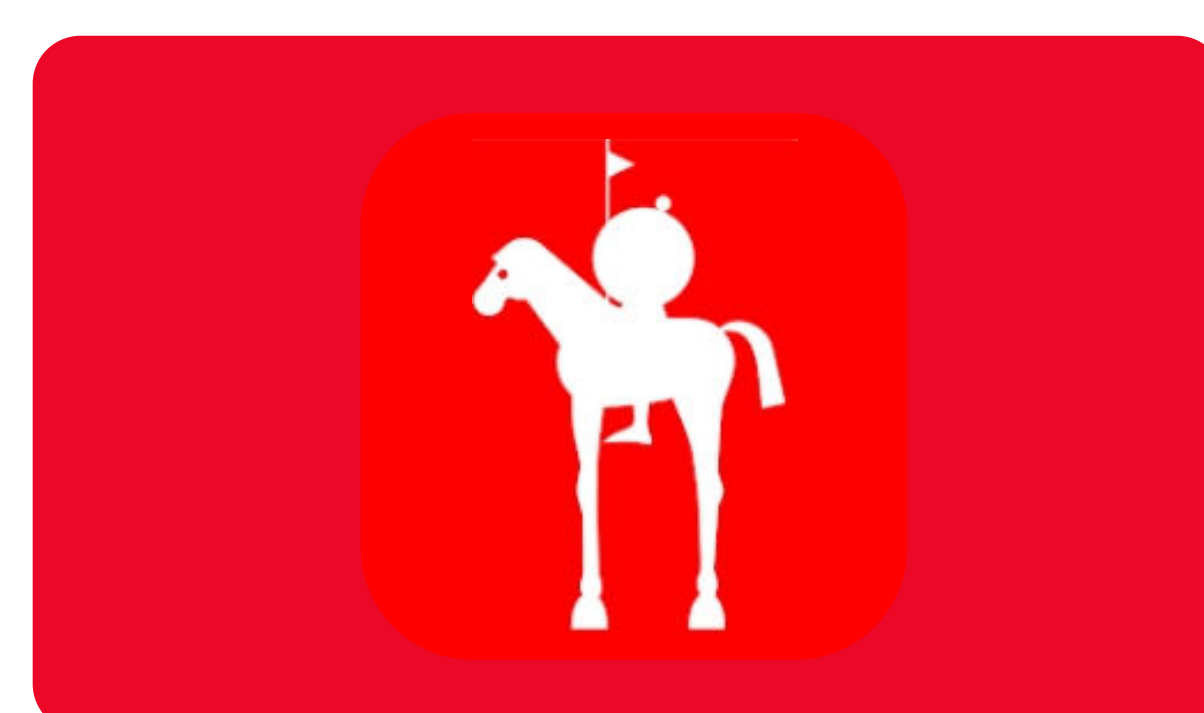
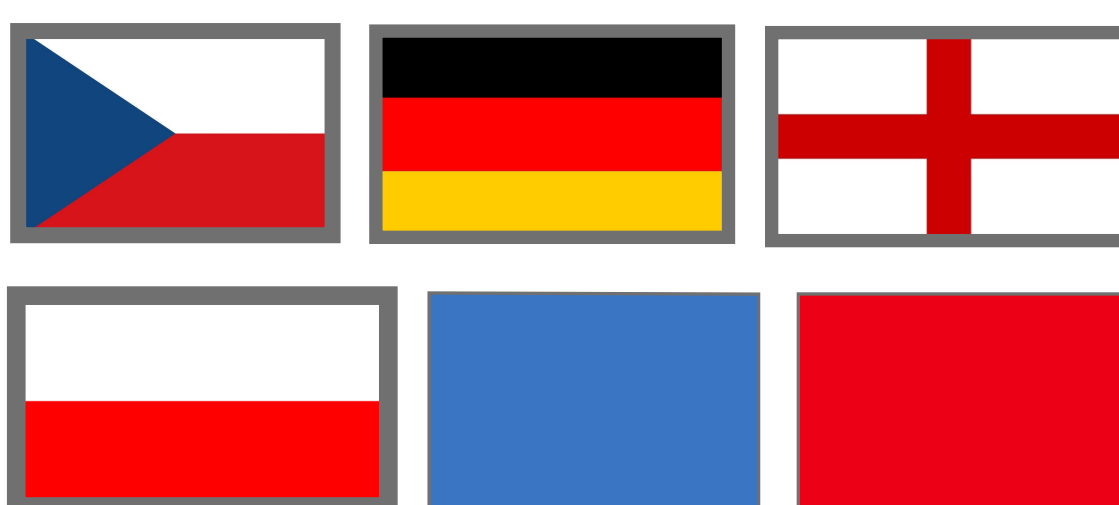


Záchranka

Záchranka is that kind of app that you're more than happy NOT to use – a handy little device, which can help you with all things emergency related. It comes very useful with its localization settings that can get your whereabouts straight to the emergency hotline or hospital, you can upload your medical records, next of kin information and much more.

Available for: iOS, Android

Language:

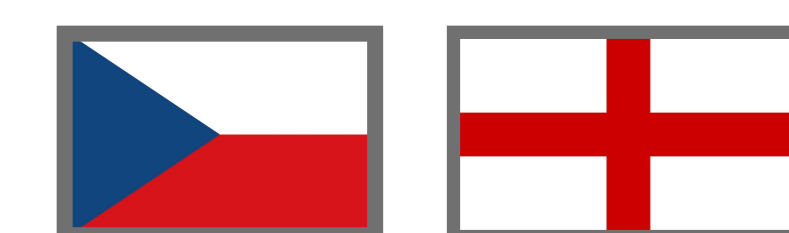


Play Brno

Is there a better way to get to know Brno than through a super hype mobile game? You can explore famous sights, take a virtual tour and also learn some fun facts along with playing this AR game. If you fancy, you can finish the whole thing in about an hour, but together with other things that Brno has to offer (check Let's Eat Brno!) you can spend the whole day out and explore further. And even when you finish the game itself, there's still a super neat map of the city with plenty of other places to visit.

Available for: iOS, Android

Language:



Do not miss!

Šmoulové / Smurfs

10. 3. – 2. 9., Brno Exhibition Centre

An adventurous and magical exhibition that brings you straight back to childhood? Šmoulové (Smurfs) at Brno Exhibition Centre is that exact thing. Have fun and learn something new in the process!

[MORE](#)

Animefest

5. – 7. 5., Brno Exhibition Centre

The biggest Japanese culture and pop culture themed festival in the Czech Republic with all things manga, cosplay and anime.

[MORE](#)

Pivní festival Brno / Brno Beer Fest

18. – 22. 4., Náměstí Svobody

Try the locally produced beers, wines and other drinks and delicacies at this popular outdoor beer festival in the very centre of Brno.

[MORE](#)



→ STUDENT AMBASSADORS WANTED

Dear students,

As you surely noticed, the current academic year has passed its first half and we are slowly but surely starting to focus on the admission procedure for the next year's first-year students. Here at BUT we believe that our students are the most important and essential part of our university. That's you who we're talking about, you are the body and soul of this institution. That's why we've started our International Student Ambassador community: creating a common place for people who share our values and are more than happy to spread them out. And - of course - to learn something new and have loads of fun in the process!

We'd like to invite you to join our ISA community. Be a part of something important. Be the one who makes a difference.

Be sure that becoming our ISA ambassador won't be time wasted: you can experience work within the international team, develop both hard and soft skills and get a great addition to your CV too. And most importantly, you can contribute to the overall development of the whole university.

If you are interested in joining the community, please contact Martina Halouzková (halouzkova@vutbr.cz) to get more information. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Department of Internationalization
Rectorate of Brno University of Technology

Ambassador's Diary

Living in Brno like Living at Home

When I saw the list of topics to share, I had a strong feeling to share my tips of making "living in Brno" like "living at home" with you.



Xuexiu Jia

I believe if you have already made the decision to study abroad, you might be a person with proper abilities to adapt to new environments. But it also depends on where you are from, how different the food, culture and life style are. It would make a great difference that you moved here from Britain or Beijing. Studying abroad alone is not easy, especially when you don't know almost anything about the language and culture. Are you worried you will miss your home from time to time, or won't be able to fit in local life? Here are some of my "tips" based on my first-hand experience and observations for you to make living here like living at your home.

The key words are "active adapt", and "Finding Nemo". These are general tips that would work not only for adapting new lives in Brno, but any other new environment. I will introduce them and then share more specific experiences of living in Brno/Czech Republic.

Active adapt is a piece of general advice for all students who are studying abroad. It means you have to be actively prepared and get ready mentally (also physically, of course ;)) to adapt to the new environment. Do not just wait until the arrival day to realise "wow, everything just becomes so different and it feels so hard". What can you do BEFORE you come here? For example, collect information about your destination, learn basic Czech language, and maybe also find some "living in Brno" groups to get a little bit of what living here looks like of. Search the price of living in Brno and prepare a brief financial plan so you won't find yourself in an embarrassing situation of "bankruptcy" in one or two months. Active and even proactive, that's the point. For me, my biggest effort related to active adaptation is to learn the Czech language, which eases my life in many many ways. Daily lives become much more comfortable (especially when you encounter some problems, visit doctors/dentists), local people are more friendly and communicative, you know better what's going on around you and feel more involved in the local life. If you are studying in English and don't have the motivation to learn the Czech language, set an official language test date and go for it! Learning languages for exams is different from practical purposes, but at least it keeps you exposed to the language and it increases your vocabulary. Listening to radios helps a lot with building up your vocabulary as well as getting the "feelings" of speaking too. The Czech language is simple and complex in its own way, and it is also a very rich and beautiful language. You might be amazed by its complexity.

It is exciting to explore the new lives in a new place, that's why we are here. In contrast, you are sometimes down and feel insecure because all your familiar things are changed, your families and friends are not here, you cannot see your favorite restaurant around the corner, and that small café where you study every afternoon is missing from the street. Of course, you can throw a video call to your families and friends when you miss them, but when you miss your familiar living environment, I also have a small tip for you. I call it "finding Nemo", which means to find similar things here as in your home town. It was not so difficult for me to find my Nemo in food, decoration, drink, even in the language (what a surprise!). Czech dumplings (knedlíky) was the first thing I found similar to Chinese food. It's not similar to Chinese dumplings, but a typical north China side dish – Mantou (馒头), I would say it's basically the same food with different names. The second one is Czech guláš, which is very similar to the Chinese Stewed Beef Brisket with Tomato (西红柿牛腩), the form and taste are very very similar. Of course, I would also cook our traditional dumplings when I really miss my home tastes. Also, you can go search for a restaurant to comfort your stomach, and after a great home meal you feel like being alive again. Brno is becoming more and more international in terms of food, all types of Chinese food, Indian food, Vietnamese food, Thai food, Greek food, Japanese food, Korean food and many more. Home cooking is also a great way, the process of cooking the food is also very curing.

A last small spoiler for the arriving students, what are typical meals in the Czech Republic? There are really many to be listed, but I selected a few for you as a starter to explore. Typical Czech food is listed based on my own judgements. Fried Chicken Fillets (smažený kuřecí řízek) or řízky in a local way is my favourite Czech food. Freshly prepared řízky are crispy outside, but soft and juicy inside, and with tartar sauce are the best. Other typical Czech dishes are svičková, guláš, and so on. Another thing I need to mention is a dessert called makovec, it's a cake rolled with poppy seeds.

Poppy seeds are banned in many countries as they are considered "drug" so some people are just curious to try them. Another one worth mentioning - Olomoucké tvarůžky, because of its very distinguishing smell. Besides food, the most typical Czech drink is of course beer, which the Czechs call „liquid bread“. In South Moravia, there is also very good wine and slivovice, which is a spirit made of plums. In Brno, homemade lemonade (nonalcoholic) is also very popular. It is usually made with syrups, fruits, flowers or cucumber.. My favorite two kinds are cucumber and elderflower. After eating and drinking, you might need to do some sports to keep fit. In summer, you can enjoy the amazing nature in the north of CZ with biking or hiking. In winter, a must-see is ice hockey, being in the stadium and surrounded by screaming fans is an exciting and unforgettable experience. There are also lots of driving and motorbike racing events from spring to autumn. Besides all these exciting activities, there are many beautiful villages, especially in the South Moravian region, where you can still find traces of traditional folklore and costumes (kroje). Many villages in South Moravia also have annual hody festivals, where you can enjoy folklor dances, singing, wine, and delicious food.

That's all my personal experience shared with you, who are coming soon or considering to come to study in the Czech Republic. Being active and proactive to feel, fit in, and appreciate the beauty of local life, and try to find your Nemo, which will turn Brno into your new home.

→ LIBRARY



The campus library

The campus library of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FME) may be hard to find these days. Due to the ongoing reconstructions in the area, you cannot get there directly from the main (and also the tallest) building of the faculty. The campus library is situated on the second floor of the A4 building. The entrance to the building is the first on the left accessed from the glass bridge which connects FME to the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication. We provide books and other study materials related to study programs offered at our faculty. The newest books (and some slightly older ones, but still relevant) are placed on shelves in the library's study room. This open collection is divided into twenty subjects: each subject has its own colour. These books are in Czech or English so don't hesitate to explore the field of your interest.

The open collection is small – that's because the majority of our books are placed in the library repository. If you are searching for a specific book, we recommend using our search engine called Primo (<https://primo.lib.vutbr.cz>).

Using this tool, you can find not only books located in the open collection (volný výběr), but also books located in the library repository (sklad knihovna). You can borrow and take home any document with a 1-week or 4-week loan "status". The period can be prolonged twice. You can borrow magazines or board games from our library too. We lend both categories for one week. However, the newest issues of magazines must remain in the library. Board games are in Czech, but some of them are language-independent.

The FME library offers space for your study as well – you can use seats in our study room and study on your own there, or you can study and work with others: there are several couches in the study room too, so you can get comfortable or rest there.

If you need to focus more in your study time, you are welcome to use a quiet study room located on the same floor. That place depends on your consideration for others, which also means that if someone is making noise there, you can ask them to be quiet.

We prepare educational and leisure time events for both students and teachers during the semester time. The most popular get-togethers amongst students are our board-game events and second-hand book markets.

We are looking forward to meeting you.
THE FME Library Team



BUT NEWS

Scholarships for English Study Programmes at Brno University of Technology

JCMM (South Moravian Centre for International Mobility) offers registration for scholarships for English study programmes in 2023/24. Registration is open until 30 April 2023.

Offer:

- Scholarship up to 1,500 euro covering the second half of the cost of the tuition fee per year for a full Master's degree.
- Free consultancy – get help with the university entrance procedure during the first year of your studies (diploma recognition, information service, visa, study matters, etc.).
- Up to 30 scholarships will be awarded.

Who can apply:

International students from non-EU countries with a completed bachelor degree, who are up to 30 years old.

More useful information can be found [HERE](#)

→ DISCOVER BRNO

With Brno being your new home away from home, getting to know your environment is always a good idea. We'd like to show you Brno's well-known spots as well as some hidden gems that our region has to offer.

Every month, we'll get you three tips: We'll introduce you to one of Brno's landmarks, show you what to do in Brno indoors, and take you out of the town to get to know the beautiful country of Moravia. Are you ready?

Lužánky Park

The largest Brno public park and also the oldest municipal park in the whole republic, a green oasis in the very centre of the city, that's Lužánky.

The place that we call Lužánky Park today used to belong to the Jesuits who established a formal ornamental garden as a place of retreat and meditation. Since the 18th century though, Lužánky Park has been open to the general public.

Nowadays, you can go for a stroll and enjoy the plethora of routes and paths, have a picnic or a barbecue party at one of the designated places, work out or jog a bit – or have a pint at a cult Ponava pub.

Lužánky is the place you don't want to skip and miss on its buzz-yet-chill atmosphere.

Kino Scala

Do you fancy some time indoors? Let us take you to the cinema! This time we'd like to show you the unique University Cinema Scala at Moravské náměstí.

Even so the establishment itself has been run by Masaryk University for more than ten years, it is open to the public regardless. You can visit both mainstream Hollywood movies and independent films, attend lectures (that are pretty much on anything, this month they focus on crime and true crime topics) or attend a screening of various theatre production from all around the globe.

What's more, the Kino Scala ambience is truly one-of-a-kind; the marble-panelled halls, old-school interiors, cosy seatings... plus – do you know any other place where you can enjoy your movie with a glass of wine or pint of beer?

For the past few months, discussions on the possible shutdown of this place arose. The statics and stability of the buildings are evidently not in a good shape and God only knows, how this is gonna end. So – don't waste your time and go ahead and get yourself a Kino Scala movie ticket!

[TICKET](#)

Dukovany and Templštýn Castle

Do you love diving deep into history? Are you into super modern high-tech establishments? Our today's trip brings the best of both worlds!

Firstly, we're taking you a little further away from the city to the rural village of Dukovany, which is located about 30 km southwest of Brno just by the Vysočina County border. Even though the place itself is rather quiet and unpretentious with its approximately 900 inhabitants, one church, one chateau, elementary school and an almost obligatory volunteer fire department, there's this one thing though that brings country-wide attention to the place: Dukovany is also the location of the oldest nuclear power plant in the CZ. NPP Dukovany is responsible for the production of almost 20% of total electricity consumption in whole Czechia with its 15 TWh p.a. and it is a real gem of technical engineering.

What's even more fun, you can visit this place yourself! Their Infocentre is full of interactive experiences and you can learn tons of fun facts about all things (nuclear) energy-related.

[MORE](#)

Just a few kilometres away, you can explore a real hidden gem that is Templštýn Castle which was built in the 13th century by the Knights Templar. The castle served as a commandery of the order in Moravia and later as a seat of various noble families until the mid of the 17th century. The former pride of Gothic architecture has been in ruins for centuries, but visiting this place full of history makes a great experience nonetheless.

[MORE](#)

Do you like our tips? Have you visited any of the places mentioned? Share your stories and pics with us!

→ Contact us

[Newsletter, Student Ambassadors](#)

e-mail: halouzkova@vutbr.cz

[Admission process, e-application](#)

e-mail: admission@vut.cz

[Faculty coordinators:](#)

Check the full list here:

<https://www.vut.cz/en/study-options/degree-studies-en/contact>

→ Social Media



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