



Handbook

for International Students

Space for your notes



Contents

● MENDELU campus in Brno	4
● Get to and from Brno	5
● Brno	6
● Getting around Brno	7
● Brno iD	8
● Waste tax	9
● MENDELU halls of residence in Brno	10
● Study related matters	13
● ISIC card	14
● ESN MENDELU Brno	15
● ESNcard	15
● Food	16
● Health	17
● MENDELU in Lednice	18
● Czech out your life	19
● Czech language	21
● Useful apps	22
● Contact list	23

We are glad you have come to MENDELU!
Let's help you feel at home.

MENDELU campus in Brno

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

- Faculty of **AgriSciences (FA)** - buildings C, M, N, D, K
- Faculty of **Business and Economics (FBE)** - building Q
- Faculty of **Forestry and Wood Technology (FFWT)** - building B
- Faculty of **Horticulture (FH)** - building A
- Faculty of **Regional Development and International Studies (FRDIS)** - building Z
- **Institute of Lifelong Learning** - building E
- **International Relations Office, ESN** - building A
- **Student Canteen** - building X



Get to and from Brno



For finding connections and comparing them we recommend using idos.idnes.cz



By bus

to main bus station Zvonařka
or station Grand Hotel

Regiojet.com

cheap, comfortable, WiFi, in-seat entertainment system,
Czech company, most bigger cities

Flixbus.com

cheap, comfortable, WiFi, most bigger cities

Other companies

All Czech long-distance buses will let you board and pay
the driver if they have some vacancies.



By train

to main train station Brno, hlavní
nádrazí

Regiojet.com

comfortable, WiFi, different levels of price and comfort
based on class you pick, Czech company, most bigger
cities, you'll always have specific seat

Czech Railways aka cd.cz

gets you almost everywhere, you don't get specific seat
unless you reserve it

Other companies

There are some other smaller companies operating the
main routes



By plane

to Brno-Tuřany Airport BRQ

limited connections (London, Phuket, Bergamo, ...)
by bus E76 or 77 you'll get to centre of Brno

to Vienna International Airport VIE (AT)

large international airport, has many connections,
in Austria, about 2-3h by train/bus to Brno

to Václav Havel Airport Prague PRG

large international airport, has many connections,
about 3-4h by train/bus to Brno

Other nearby airports

Ostrava (CZ), Bratislava (SK), Krakow (PL) and Katowice (PL)



Gepard Express

provides direct bus or train connections
to Brno from airport in Vienna and Prague



ISIC discount

You are able to get a student discount for bus and train with your
ISIC card if you are under 26.

More about getting ISIC from MENDELU on a separate page.

Brno

World's 4th best student city according to students

source: The Campus Advisor (2023) *Top 50 Student Cities in the World for 2023*. Available at thecampusadvisor.com

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 and enjoyed their stay in Brno.**



Arboretum of Mendel University in Brno

Brno is a great starting point to visiting many other places both in Czech Republic and surrounding countries.

Close to Brno we recommend: Moravian carst, Lednice, Pernštejn, Austerlitz, Bucovice, Palava, Hrad Veverí, Rajec nad Svitavou, Vranov nad Dyjí.

Czech Republic basics

Population: 10.8 million

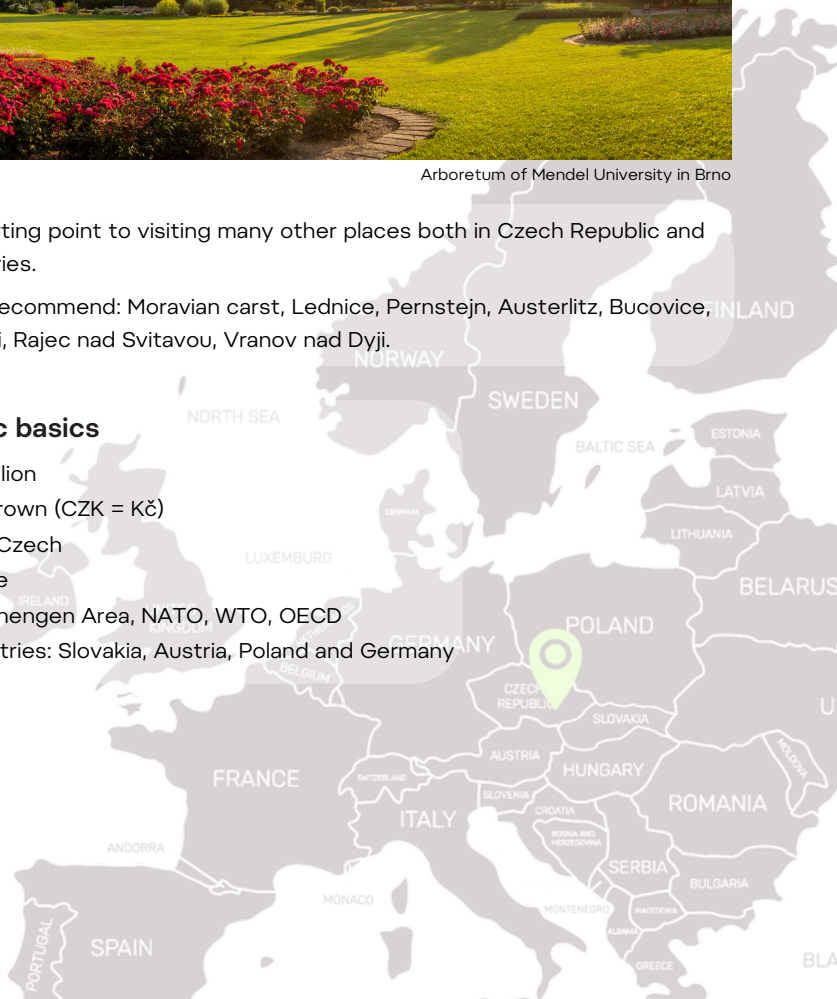
Currency: Czech crown (CZK = Kč)

Official Language: Czech

Capital City: Prague

Member of: EU, Schengen Area, NATO, WTO, OECD

Neighbouring countries: Slovakia, Austria, Poland and Germany



Getting around Brno

Public transport in Brno is excellent so mostly it's all you need to get around the city. There are trams, buses, trolleybuses and even boats. Apart from that, there are regular taxis, Uber and Bolt.



Timetables

Can be found at:

- All tram / bus stops
- IDOS app
- DPMB app

Everything is mostly on time.

NA ZNAMENÍ = Request stop

- It means that the stop is only on request.
- Wave when you see tram / bus arriving.
- To get off press a button for your tram / bus to stop.
- Some stops change to request stops at night or on weekends.

At night



- From 11pm till 5am night buses replace all transport in the city.
- Tickets are the same as during the day.
- All of the buses meet and wait for each other at Main train station stop each hour (and some days and times also half hour).
- Most stops at night are request stops (you need to wave to get on or press a button to get off).

Tickets



Short term:

- You can buy them in **machines** at some stops, in **DPMB app** or use **Beep and Go system** (you tap your debit card on the validation machine when you enter the vehicle).
- Paper tickets must be validated in the machine on board.

Long term:

- Use **Brno iD** or **DPMB office** to buy monthly/quaterly/yearly ticket.
- Tickets to nearby towns can be a bit cheaper with the long term ticket.

Beep and Go
explained



next page

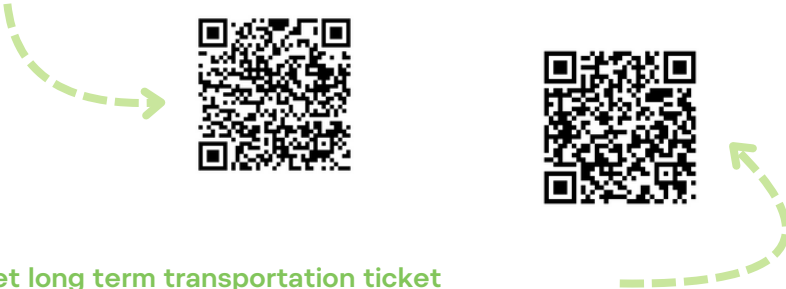
Brno iD

A website run by the city of Brno where you can get your **transportation tickets**, pay **waste tax**, buy tourist card, pay fines and much more.

Create your account

- sign up with an email you have access to
- fill in your full name and date of birth
- upload a photo where you're clearly visible and recognisable
- add the address of your dorm or apartment in Brno as permanent residence
- acknowledge GDPR and save
- in Verifications and discounts submit photo(s) of your ID or passport

After you get an email that your data has been verified you can continue



Get long term transportation ticket

- in Public transport - My carriers
- add your card as a new carrier (you can also get a special card from DPMB to use)
 - if you used the card in Beep and Go there are extra steps as a box with red text will appear for you:
 - click on "**click here** to log into auxiliary account..."
 - then choose "to transfer the ticket carrier from this account to your other Brno iD account created via proper registration **click here**"
 - input the email with which you created your account
- if you are under 26 you can get student discount
 - Go to **My Account - Verification and discount claims**
 - click on **Verify student status**
 - Choose MENDELU logo and fill in your "*User's identification number*" (can be found in UIS-Student's portal-Study details)
 - you'll have "Student" added in the types of tickets you can get
- go to **Tickets only for Brno**
- choose your carrier, if possible discount category, and yearly/quarterly/monthly type
- lastly choose start date of the ticket and proceed to pay
- your tickets are in **My tickets**

Waste tax

It is necessary to pay waste tax for the time you spend living in Brno. We recommend first setting up your Brno iD account and then following the steps bellow.

Register your stay in Brno

- in Waste tax - Pay for waste - Reporting waste forms
- go to **"Form for reporting of stay of foreigner(s) in Brno"** or use QR code/link
- if you filled out your BrnoID profile before you can use **"Prefill empty fields from my Brno iD account"** button
 - if not then fill out your first name, last name and your address in Brno
- tick **"I don't have assigned identification number"** and then fill your gender and date of birth
- start date for waste tax is the day you arrived to Brno
- **IMPORTANT: mark "Tick if it is a short-term stay, for example ERASMUS, exchange program, etc." and then add end date of your stay**
- tick the declarations and submit



Pay your waste tax

- in Waste tax - Pay for waste
- tick **"is foreigner"** and **"Taxpayer doesn't have assigned identification number"** and your gender
- adjust **"From"** to date when you arrived to Brno and **"Until"** to when you expect to end your stay in Brno
- proceed to payment

MENDELU halls of residence in Brno

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

MENDELU has three halls of residence in Brno. They are usually referred to as JAK, Taufer and Academy based on their official names.

What to bring when living there

- towel (bed linen is provided and washed monthly)
- ethernet cable RJ-45 for the Internet (block C at JAK)
- small padlock for kitchen locker (in A, B, C of JAK and at Academy)

First arrival

- pick up your key and linen at reception
- if you'll arrive on the weekend or outside of office hours contact the staff ahead of time
- go to the accommodation office on the first day possible

Rent is always due in the first half of calendar month and cards are accepted.

Academy

*Koleje Akademie
Tř. Generála Plíky 7, 613 00 Brno*

The Academy Hall of residence is situated in the building of the Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies, but offers only limited number of rooms and thus, it is very often fully booked.



Facilities

- double and triple bedrooms with private sanitary facilities and refrigerators, kitchens are communal for each floor
- washing machines, dryers, Wi-Fi and possibility to borrow vacuum

How to get there from main train station

during the day



Bieblova



tram 9 or 7

direction Čertova rokle

Then follow **a map** to the reception in the building →



at night



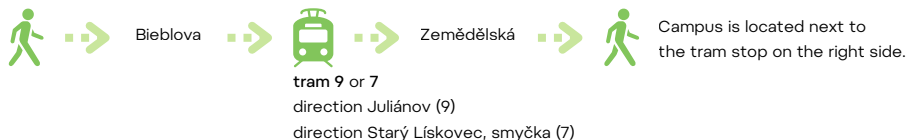
Bieblova



bus N93

direction Lesná

How to get to campus



JAK

Koleje Jana Amose Komenského
Kohoutova 3–11, 613 00 Brno

JAK dormitory is within **walking distance** from the **main campus** and considered **favourite by most** of the Erasmus+ students, which makes it quite **vivid and sometimes even noisy** or too busy for those oriented more on studies than social life.



Facilities

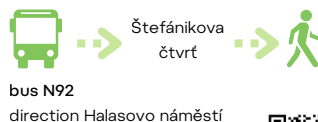
- four blocks
- A and B blocks: double bedrooms with bathroom and kitchen for two rooms
- C block: double and triple bedrooms with communal facilities (bathrooms, kitchenettes with refrigerators)
- D block: double and triple bedrooms with bathroom and kitchenette with fridge
- washing machines, dryers, outdoor workout space and sports courts
- Wi-Fi: A, B, D everywhere, C only at reception, rooms have sockets for internet connection
- accommodation office is in block D
- first arrivals pick up keys at reception of D

How to get there from main train station

during the day



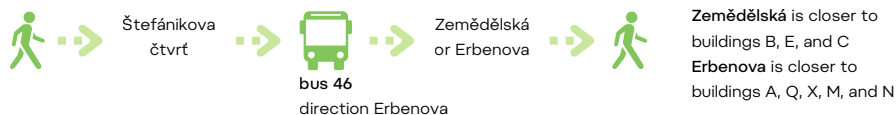
at night



Then follow a **map** to the reception in building D of JAK. The reception is open 24/7. →



How to get to campus



You can also walk to campus. (approx. 20min)

Taufer

Koleje Josefa Taufera
Jana Babáka 1861/3, 616 00 Brno



Taufer dormitory is a little bit further (around 30 mins by public transport) but still very easily reachable, a bit calmer than JAK and the Center of Sport Activities situated is there.

Facilities

- double and triple bedrooms with communal facilities for each 2-3 rooms (bathrooms, kitchenettes with refrigerators)
- washing machines, dryers, bicycle storage room, Wi-Fi and gym
- The Mendel University Sports Centre is located in the dormitory yard

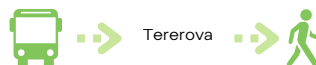
How to get there from main train station

during the day



tram 12
direction Technologický park

at night



bus N99
direction Technologický park

Then follow a map to the reception in the building ...>



How to get to campus



tram 12
direction Komárov

trolley-bus 25 or 26
direction Štefánikova čtvrť

Campus is located next to the crossroad that the trolley-bus passes right before the stop.

Don't forget that to live at MENDELU halls of residence you need to book it in time at webiskam.mendelu.cz



Contact persons
and more details
about each dorm

UIS is.mendelu.cz

- system for you to manage your studies
- grades, assignment submissions, document server, timetable, etc.

Library

- there are several MENDELU libraries
- in building A are also study rooms
- after signing up you can borrow books, magazines and textbooks to take home for a limited time
- some items are only accessible in the library



Hierarchy

- the whole university is headed by the rector
- faculties are headed by their dean ("děkan/děkanka")
- each faculty has various departments whose academics specialise in a particular field
- a head of each department is a **good contact person for academic issues you cannot resolve with your lecturer**
- mind the **formal academic culture**; **make sure to be polite** when addressing the members of academic staff

Grading

- depends on course mode of completion
- Pass credit (you get pass or fail)
- Exam
 - A, B, C, D, E you pass
 - F you fail (you can retake the exam twice)
 - often you have to pass preliminary to be allowed to take the exam
 - you have to sign up for it in UIS

Sport

- university runs many sport activities
- you can sign up for two sports for free (additional are subjected to fee)



Wi-Fi = Eduroam

- get access through MENDELU or use the one from your home university
- you'll catch signal throughout the campus or near some other universities' buildings in town
- manual is in UIS under "Certificate for 'eduroam' wireless network"



ISIC card

Your "key to university". Is used as your university ID card, to enter parts of university and Arboretum, borrow books and print in Library, and payment option in dining halls and buffet Q.

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

How to get it:

1. **Pay** for it through Flywire service (400 CZK). More information will be sent by your Incoming Coordinator.
2. **Take a picture** for your ISIC in the atelier in building A (bring ID or passport). *
3. **Wait for an email** from your Incoming Coordinator letting you know it's ready.
4. **Pick it up** at your Incoming Coordinator's office.

* Participants of Welcome Week will go to take the pictures together during Monday's program.

How to load money onto your ISIC card:

- online through webiskam.mendelu.cz
- in buffet or cafeterias by cash or card
- in special kiosk in student canteen (building X)
- at dormitories reception desk



Discounts

- meals at MENDELU student canteens at student price
- student transportation tickets
 - if you're under 26
 - tickets between cities or long-term city tickets
- all can be found on isic.org/discounts/



ESN MENDELU Brno



Non-profit organisation run by volunteers (students of MENDELU). Their main task is to take care of incoming exchange students and make them feel at home.

ESN MENDELU Brno is part of Erasmus Student Network (ESN), one of biggest student associations in Europe. It functions on local, national and international level and connects volunteers from Europe and beyond.

What does ESN MENDELU Brno do for you?

- takes care of **buddy system**,
- organises **cultural events** (International Market, Country presentations, ...), **sports matches** and **parties** (Beer Marathon, Boat party, Tram party, ...),
- prepares **trips** to cities in Czech Republic and abroad,
- puts together **International Students Ball** in spring semester and more



ESNcard

ESNcard is the membership card to the Erasmus Generation. It brings you access to events by ESN sections and many discounts worldwide.

How to get it:

You can buy it at ESN MENDELU Brno office during their office hours. Don't forget to bring small printed passport-style photo of yourself.



What does it bring you:

- discounted or free entrance to ESN events
- discounts from partners like Ryanair and many more (esncard.org)



Food

- **Tap water is drinkable** (unless clearly marked as non drinkable).
- Many supermarkets are open also on Sundays.
- Restaurants are more expensive than cooking at home, but most of them offer cheap lunch menu (around 150 CZK).
- Tipping: most Czechs round up.

Fun fact: Czechs also buy mineral water, but unlike in many countries it does not actually have mineral in it.

On campus and at dorms in Brno

Canteens (in Czech **Menza**)

- at building X (it's the main menza)
- at JAK dorms
- at Taufer dorm
- at Academy dorm

Pizzeria in O

- pizzas, sandwiches
- university's own products



opening hours
and menu

Buffet in Q

- sandwiches, panini and hot dogs
- small snacks
- coffee and other drinks
- pens and notebooks

Design lab MENDELU

- coffee and other drinks
- cakes, cookies etc.

You can pay using your ISIC in all University food outlets (except Design lab). You can load money to your ISIC card at menza cashier. Minimum is 200 CZK, recommended 500 CZK.

There are also **automats with sandwiches and snacks** all around the campus.
If you want filtered or sparkling water for free there are two machines in Q.

Around campus

For food and coffee try: Restaurace na Chatě, Cat Café, ERA café, Bistro La TERRA.
Snacks: Crocus bakery (at tram station), grocery store next to Restaurace na Chatě.

After hours

Only few pubs/restaurants serve food after 10 pm. Many grocery stores are open till 10pm, some fast food shops past midnight. Bistros by the main train station are open 24/7.

Health

English level of medical personel in general varies a lot so use recommendations and be prepared for some language barriers.

Register with VZP insurance company

Holders of the **EHIC** (European Health Insurance Card) or **XX/CZ 111 documents** should register with the VZP insurance company for **easier and mostly free of charge medical attention**. Detailed **instructions** can be found in the section "During your stay"



What to do when you get sick/hurt

Get an appointment with a dentist or GP via phone. If needed, the GP will give you a referral to the specialist. Dermatologists, eye doctors and ear, nose and throat doctors can be also contacted directly without a GP referral. In case of emergency you can use emergency services.

Medical contacts

General Practitioner

MUDr. Eliška Hrabálková
Hybešova 43 (MediClinic a.s.)
+420 542 215 858
praktik5-Brno@ordinace.mediclinic.cz

Acute conditions

Mon, Tue, Thu: 8:00-10:00
Wed: 11:00-13:00
Fri: 7:00-9:00
other times only with appointment

more information
about contacts



Largest Hospital in Brno

Fakultní nemocnice Bohunice
Jihlavská 20
+420 532 233 569
+420 532 232 435 (non-stop)
fnbrno.cz

Dentist

MDDr. Jan Kopřiva
Kociánka 2
+420 702 348 064
kdent@email.cz | kdent.cz

Emergency service 24/7

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

Emergency Pharmacy 24/7

Dr. Max
Bašty 2
+420 542 213 531
drmax.cz

Do not forget to bring your insurance card (or another insurance document) with you. If the doctor does not accept your card and you have to pay, **keep your receipts**, your insurance company should refund what you paid (if it is covered by your insurance policy).

Psychological counselling at MENDELU

- free for all MENDELU students (including incoming exchange students)
- sign up using registration form at icv.mendelu.cz website (Counselling centre -> Psychological counselling)
- a trained psychotherapist fully conversant in English is available on campus for all culturally sensitive psychological counselling (stress management, self development, relationship issues, anxiety, depression, dealing with life issues, ...)
- takes place in building E (Institute of Lifelong Learning)



MENDELU in Lednice

Main location of the Faculty of Horticulture is in Lednice (na Moravě). Part of the campus there is the faculty, library, dormitory, canteen and gardens.

Getting to Lednice from Brno



Lednice na Moravě

- village in South Moravia with 2 296 inhabitants
- is part of the UNESCO heritage Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape

Hall of residence

Lednice

Koleje Petra Bezruče
Valtická 538, 691 44 Lednice na Moravě

First arrival

- pick up your key and linen at reception
- reception works 24/7 (most people there don't speak English)
- go to the accommodation office on the first day possible

Facilities

- four blocks,
- single, double and triple bedrooms with communal facilities (bathrooms, kitchenettes with refrigerators)
- washing machines, dryers, drying room and gym (for an additional fee)
- Wi-Fi only in entrance hall, rooms have sockets for internet connection
- free parking and garage for bicycles

What to bring

- Towel (bed linen is provided and washed monthly)

Canteen

- offers 3-4 meals each workday
- it's located in the same building as dormitory

Health

- Nemocnice Valtice (certain specialists are available only on some days)



book it in time at
webiskam.mendelu.cz



Czech out your life



Money

Our currency is Czech crowns. Exchange rate tends to be around 1 EUR = 25 CZK. Cards are mostly accepted but not everywhere so it's good to have some cash.

Exchange places

In Brno

There are many good exchange places on **Masarykova** street and **Česká** street. Usually they have no commission and have their exchange courses shown on a visible spot so you can see before you decide.

In Lednice

There are no exchange places so you'll have to go to Břeclav. For example in shopping centre **AVENTIN Shopping Břeclav** is an exchange place.

SIM cards

Mobile services are more expensive than in most other EU countries. Consider if you can use your home provider.

You can get **Vodafone SIM card for free** from ESN that has a special offer suitable for international students.



Weather

Snow is expected from late November until end of February, although in past years it's more occasional. In winter temperature fluctuates between 2°C and -5°C (sometimes it can drop to -15°C).

Over March and April it gets slowly warmer with occasional temperature jumps.

In late May temperatures start to rise and can reach summer temperatures of 30°C.



Public Wi-Fi

Many restaurants, bars and cafés have Wi-Fi for the customers, look at the menu or the walls or ask the waiters.

When connecting to public Wi-Fi be mindful and use common sense regarding safety.

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.

You can expect to be offered **drinks and small snacks**.

Folklore

If you want to experience Czech folklore, we recommend going to "hody" that take place in many city quarters. During Easter you can see traditions mainly in smaller cities and villages.



Emergency numbers

- 112 general emergency number
- 155 ambulance
- 150 firefighters
- 158 police
- 156 metropolitan police

National Holidays

- Jan 1st (New Year's day) *
- Good Friday (Easter)
- Easter Monday *
- May 1st (Labour Day)
- May 8th (end of WW2) *
- July 5th (Cyril and Metoděj)
- July 6th (Jan Hus Day)
- September 28th (St. Wenceslas) *
- October 28th (Statehood) *
- November 17th (Velvet Revolution)
- December 24th - 26th (Christmas) *

On days marked * supermarkets and many other shops should be closed

HONEST GUIDE

Czech duo that makes videos (not only) for tourists giving them the scoop on how things work, how to not get tricked and what to try.



video about Brno



Czech language

Although the situation is changing, don't expect everyone to be able to speak or understand English. In general the younger generations usually speak English, but it is good to learn at least some basics of Czech.

Basics

thank you = **děkuji**

you're welcome = **není zač**

please = **prosím**

excuse me = **promiňte**

I apologise = **omlouvám se**

I'm sorry = **je mi to líto**

Good day = **dobrý den**

Food

student cafeteria = **menza**

potatoes = **brambory**

dumplings = **knedlíky**

beef = **hovězí**

pork = **vepřové**

chicken = **kuře(cí)**

water = **voda**

beer = **pivo**

Transportation

do you know where is = **nevíte kde je**

how do I get to = **jak se dostanu na**

airport = **letišťe**

(main) station = **(hlavní) nádraží**

tram = **tramvaj**

tram in Brno = **šalina**

bus = **autobus**

trolleybus = **trolejbus**

train = **vlak**

boat = **loď**

bicycle = **kolo**

skates = **brusle**

Other

residence hall = **kolej**

I like you = **líbíš se mi**

Want to learn Czech?

Sign up for course **Czech Language for Foreign Students (Z-CL)**

- 12 weeks
- 3 ECTS



Guess what these mean

hrášek
ahoj
hrad
příští stanice
roztomilý/á

little pea, Hi!, castle, next station, cute

Useful apps

Moje MENDELU

Your MENDELU study assistant.
You can see canteen menus,
FAQ, your schedule and more.

Lokni

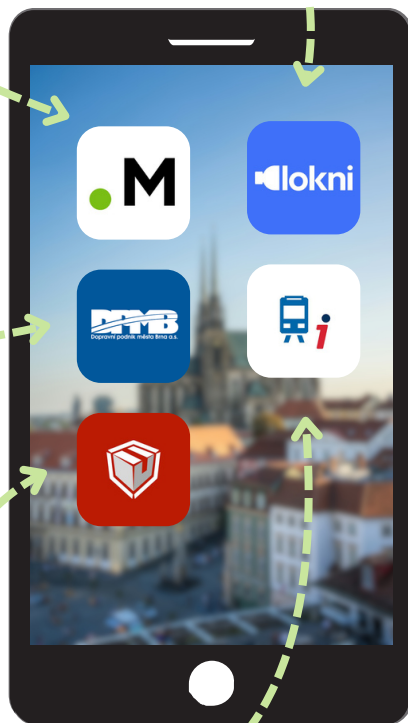
If you want to use the filtered
or sparkling water provided by
the Lokni machine in Q, you'll
need this app.

DPMBinfo

All-in-one app of Brno's
transportation system. You can
find connections, timetables,
where are which vehicles etc.

Zásilkovna (Packeta)

To send or receive package easily you can
use services of Zásilkovna which
cooperate with many businesses and have
delivery boxes



IDOS

Great resource for finding connections to
other cities or within a city. You can also
find train and bus connections between
cities outside of Czech Republic

Contact list

International Relations Office

Mendel University in Brno, Zemědělská 1, 613 00, Brno, Czech Republic

Full name in the original language: **Mendelova univerzita v Brně**

ERASMUS CODE: **CZ BRNO02**

Erasmus+ Incoming Students Coordinator:

Ing. Bohdana Čechová

tel. +420 545 135 150 | erasmus-incoming@mendelu.cz

Erasmus+ Credit Mobility Coordinator:

Mgr. Hana Byrtusová

tel. +420 545 135 184 | credit.mobility@mendelu.cz

Out of Europe Incoming Students coordinator:

Ing. Kateřina Brzokoupilová

+420 545 135 113 | katerina.brzokoupilova@mendelu.cz

CEEPUS Coordinator:

Ing. Bohdana Čechová

+420 545 135 150 | bohdana.cechova@mendelu.cz



Faculty Coordinator: **Mgr. et Mgr. Eva Klepáčková**

tel.: +420 545 133 398 | eva.klepackova@mendelu.cz



Faculty Coordinator: **Mgr. Ing. David Sís**

tel.: +420 545 134 007 | david.sis@mendelu.cz



Faculty Coordinator: **Bc. Anna Zavadilová**

tel.: +420 545 132 799 | anna.zavadilova@mendelu.cz



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