



PRE-DEPARTURE LOCATION ORIENTATION RECORDING CLICK HERE

Prague, Fall 2023



ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



**GLOBAL
ORIENTATION**
COMPLETE



**LOCATION
ORIENTATION**
YOU'RE HERE!



**CARE TEAM
HANGOUTS**
AUGUST 23

vertoeducation.org/orientation

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS

We're excited to support you as you prepare for a Verto semester.

We're joined here today by:



JILL CEFALO

PRAGUE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



EMMA PRADARELLI

STUDENT ONBOARDING ADVISOR



MIKE ZAHARCZUK

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



LESLIE JERNEGAN

ACADEMIC MANAGER



AGENDA

- Breakout Warm-Up
- Preparation and Arrival Process
- Program-Specific Expectations
- Your Academic Experience
- Living Life In Prague
 - Housing
 - Staff
 - Academic Facility
 - Packing & Budgeting
 - City Transportation, Food & Spots
- Next Steps & Questions

MINI-BREAK

Share Out in Chat

What are you most
excited about?

What questions do you
have?

*Also mention your name,
pronouns, and where you are
from!*



Vítejte v Praze!

We're excited for you to study abroad in the beautiful city of Prague:

- As the **capital city** of the **Czech Republic**, **Prague** is located in the Central Bohemia region of the country and is divided into 22 different districts.
- Prague is known for its diverse architecture and museums, along with its abundant nightlife.
- Prague's city center is a UNESCO World Heritage site



PREPARING TO GO



Pre-Departure Documents

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in Prague
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Visiting Your Student in Prague
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)

Prague Fall 2023 | Home | About | Members | Events | Officers | Documents | Photos | News | Forum | More ▾

Channels

General Channel

Members

62

Upcoming Events

Virtual Pre-Departure Orientation

Care Team Circle Prague

Wed August 23 2023
9am PT | 12pm ET

(Required) Care Team Circle, Prague

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 At 12 PM

Online Event

Prague Fall 2023

Documents (5)

Pre-arrival Documents (1)

Packing Tips - Carry on:

- All documents for customs (we'll go over that in a moment)
- All electronics & outlet adapters
- All prescription medicine and doctor's notes
- A change of clothes (for 2 days) in case your luggage gets lost
- Toothbrush & daily toiletries (travel size)



Packing Tips:

Advice from Alumni

- Do research on the local weather (summer clothes, sweaters, jacket, scarves, a coat)
- Bath towel (if it fits, if not, we can help you get one!)
- Trekking shoes (running shoes or sneakers)
- Travel sized toiletries
- Medicines & contact lens solution
- Neutral and interchangeable clothing & comfortable shoes
- Raincoat/Umbrella (or plan to buy one there)
 - Multiple forms of payment – including at least 100 USD equivalent in cash to start
 - You can get this from your local bank, but request it a few weeks before you leave



Packing Tips: What To Avoid

WE RECOMMEND YOU DO NOT BRING:

- Items that will not work with the voltage difference:
Hair dryers, flat irons, or curling irons (we suggest you purchase these when you arrive in country)
- Prized possessions: heirloom jewelry, irreplaceable tokens, etc. It's not worth the risk of losing an item.
- Too many clothes - chances are you'll want to acquire some new stuff!
- Anything you can't carry
- Locked cell phones



Documents for Customs

REMEMBER TO CARRY:

- Your Passport! (with Student Visa)
- Letter of Attendance (Verto will provide)
- The ORIGINAL COPY of the stamped CONSULATE LETTER
- Proof of Return Flight
- Photocopies of your PASSPORT, VISA and printout of your CISI (medical insurance) card.

Note: Be sure that your passport is stamped upon arrival in the EU (your first entry point)



Staying in Contact While Abroad

CELL PHONE PLAN:

- Students **MUST** have a cell phone number where they can be contacted while studying in Prague.
- Having a working cell phone is a requirement for program participation
- **You've got Options:**
 - International Plan (You get this from your US provider)
 - Getting a Czech SIM Card (You will have a chance to do this with site staff during orientation week onsite)
 - **Unlock your phone prior to travel**
- Expect to pay approximately \$25 USD (550kč)



Money Matters

- **Inform Your Bank That You'll Be Abroad**
 - If you don't they may block your card for suspicious activity
- **Consider downloading the Revolut app!**
- **ATMs Abroad**
 - Find out whether your bank has a 'sister' bank in Europe that will give you good withdrawal fees (e.g. Bank of America has a sister bank called BNL)
 - Avoid **EuroNet** ATMs
 - Know how much you'll be charged
 - Exchange rate: 1 USD to 24.16 CZK
- Avoid bringing U.S. dollars in cash, you can get CZK directly when withdrawing from a local ATM
- Cards are accepted nearly everywhere
- Prague is also very contactless friendly so add your cards to your Apple Wallet or equivalent!



Have a Plan: Budgeting Guidelines

DEVELOP A PERSONAL BUDGET:

- Expenses are dependent upon your lifestyle! On average, a student will spend about \$75 per week on basic things while in Prague. Some will spend less and others will spend more. To create your budget, think about:
 - How many meals do you plan on eating out?
 - How important are clothes, souvenirs, or physical items to you?
 - Do you plan to take any weekend trips outside of planned activities? (transportation, food, activities, accommodations)
 - Snacks, toiletries, and discretionary
 - The basics: laundry, cell phone plan, medicine
- Students in Prague usually spend between \$75 - \$200 per week, depending on their personal habits



ARRIVAL PROCESS



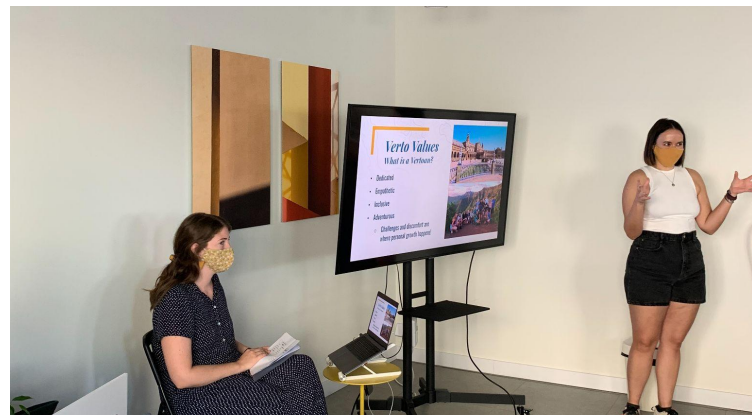
Arrival and Discovery Week

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

- Pickup at Prague Airport and transportation to housing is provided on August 28th
- Plan to arrive between 9AM - 8PM
- Get your luggage, exit baggage claim, and look for the Verto staff there (t-shirts and signs!) More info in your Student Portal
- Shuttle will leave every couple hours and take you to your new home

IN-PERSON DISCOVERY WEEK:

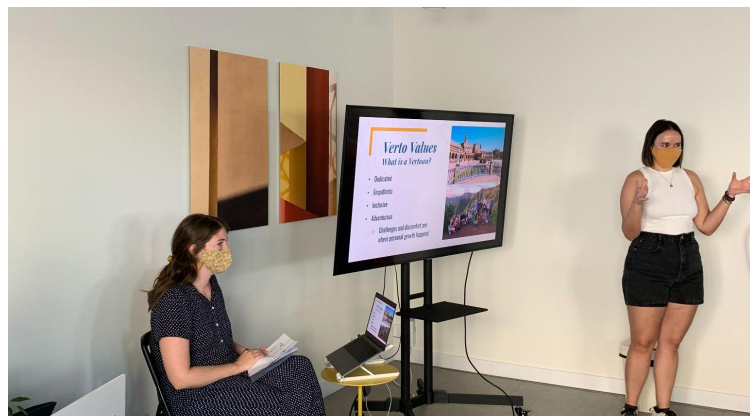
- Get ready for an exciting and informative week!
- Orientation starts the day after arrival and your attendance is required
- We'll cover everything you need to know to get the best start to the program



Verto Discovery Week

August 28th - September 3rd

- Full cohort, Care Team, and Small Group Sessions
- Expect to be engaged all day from 9AM (but we'll have breaks too)
- Informative sessions, chances to meet staff, professors, and fellow students
- Activities in the city and an excursion nearby!
- Lunches and free time, too



What if ...

MY FLIGHT IS DELAYED?

- Because you will have submitted your flight information via the student portal, our staff can track your flight
- Email prague@vertoeducation.org
- If you arrive after 8pm, Verto staff can help you with transit to your destination

I ARRIVE OUTSIDE THE ARRIVAL WINDOW?

- You will have the address of your accommodations on August 22, so you'll be able to take an Uber/Bolt to your accommodation
- Check your Student Portal, Pre-Departure Resources folder for **Arrival Guide**



PROGRAM- SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS



Community Values

FOLLOW YOUR CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Community values, Care teams and Verto discovery

TIPS FOR LIFE IN PRAGUE

- Life in Prague: a magical and historical city!

Safety:

- Don't make yourself a target by walking with airpods, flashing your phones, or carrying your wallet in your back pocket
- Walk with friends after dark
- Let others know where you're going
- Use the independent travel form when traveling outside of Prague
- Don't accept drinks from strangers
- Carry a bag with a zipper and keep it in front of your body



Alcohol Safety

FOLLOWING YOUR CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- If you are 18 years of age, you have reached the legal drinking age in the Czech Republic
- If you are 18, you are legally allowed to consume alcohol in the Czech Republic (not possess or consume it in Verto facilities)
- Expect periodic and random checks at the residence hall
- You are NOT permitted to use alcohol in an irresponsible way or to abuse alcohol
- Being a “drunken American” wandering the streets puts you and your peers at risk and makes you a target
- Code of responsibility violations can lead to serious consequences up to dismissal



ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS



ACADEMIC FACILITY: STUDY CENTER at UNYP

In the Classroom you can expect to...

- Engage in discussions with your instructor and peers
- Collaborate on group projects and assignments
- Take ownership of your learning
- Gain a different perspective by learning from a diverse group of people



Things to keep in mind:

- Verto will cover the cost of textbooks needed for courses.
- Each course includes experiential learning activities that may take place on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

ACADEMIC FACILITY: STUDY CENTERS

- You will take courses at our Study Center at the University of New York in Prague, located within the heart of Prague's commercial and social center.
- The facility includes classrooms, study space, indoor/outdoor common areas to hang out and study, air conditioning, a rooftop terrace, and WIFI.



Things to keep in mind:

- Verto will cover the cost of textbooks needed for courses.
- Each course includes experiential learning activities that may take place on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE: COURSE RELATED ACTIVITIES



The National Museum




Lennon Wall

LIVING IN PRAGUE



Student I.D

- Needed for following:
 - Metro Pass
 - UNYP I.D (gym & other services)
- Upload by Monday August 21st
 - Form on Campus Groups

**Site Specific Checklist Items** Manage Filter Tasks Show All ▼

0%

The items below are specifically for your location program for this upcoming semester.

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Site Specific Checklist Items Manage Filter Tasks Show All ▼

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☐ **Upload a Passport Style Photo: Due Date June 15th**

Our teams on site will use this picture to help find you at the airport on arrival day!

This photo may also be used for a student ID after you arrive onsite for your program.

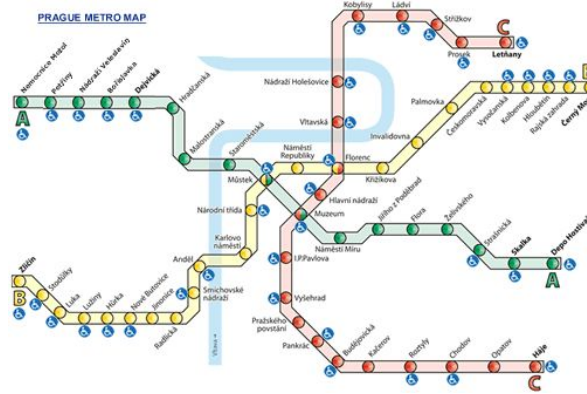
Tips for a good photo:

- Submit one color photo, taken in last 6 months.
- Use a clear image of your face. Do not use filters commonly used on social media.
- Have someone else take your photo. No selfies.
- Take off your eyeglasses for your photo.
- Use a white or off-white background without shadows, texture, or lines.

IMPORTANT: Please rename your photo with the following formatting: LAST NAME, FIRST NAME. Example: TRAVERS, MATTEO

TRANSPORTATION

- The best way to get around Prague is by foot or tram.
- There are also buses and 3 metro lines connecting you to various parts of the city.
- Download Google Maps when you arrive on site
- You will receive a semester long metro pass as part of your program. You will receive this during onsite orientation.
- With your metro pass, you can rent a bike for free for 15 minutes



TYPICAL FOOD

- Czech food is very good, but very heavy. Perfect for the long winter!
- Famous dishes include guláš, česnekova polevka (garlic soup), řízek (schnitzel), knedlíky (bread or potato dumplings), svíčková (meat in a carrot cream sauce), smažený sýr (fried cheese) trdelník (hot rolled spit cake coated in cinnamon and sugar) and so much more!
- For Vegetarians/Vegans: CZECH out [Střecha](#) in Old Town
- Prague is also known for its Vietnamese food and offers authentic cuisine from all over the world



CITY SPOTS

- **Beautiful architecture with rich history:**

- Astronomical Clock
- Prague Castle
- Charles Bridge
- National Museum
- CAMP (architecture and city planning center)

- **Some of the most beautiful natural parks and nature reserves in the world:**

- Riegrovy Sady
- Stromovka Park
- Letna Park
- Grebovka

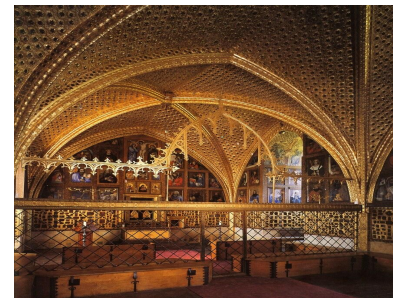


PROGRAM EXCURSIONS

These exciting excursions are part of your program. Meals are included!

Day Trip to Karlštejn Castle

As part of your orientation week, we will take a day trip to the famous summer residence of Charles IV, Karlštejn Castle. It has a beautiful facade and inside you can see the Chapel of the Holy Cross where the King's jewels were housed.



Overnight trip to Cesky Raj

Known also as Bohemian Paradise or Bohemian Switzerland, this area was declared as the first nature reserve in the country in 1955. Here you can find soaring rock pillars, forests, rivers, and hiking and cycling trails. We will spend one night at a local "penzion" and spend the day enjoying outdoor activities like hiking and a ropes course!



CULTURAL ADAPTATION

- **Things to keep in mind when interacting with locals:**
 - Be respectful!
 - Things are just different, not wrong.
 - Quickly learn the basic words.
 - Also learn the taboos or “no-no’s” in conversation.
 - Don’t expect them to speak English – but don’t be surprised if they do.
- **Things to keep in mind about your behavior:**
 - Be accountable for your actions.
 - Use a lot of common sense.
 - You are not exempt from the law in other countries.
 - Your behaviour affects you and those around you.
 - Be willing, flexible and open to new adventures.



OPTIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Want to do more? Your Site Coordinators will also organize lots of other activities for you to join!



Traditional Czech dinner in a medieval style restaurant



Travel Journal Workshops



Czech National Ice Hockey game

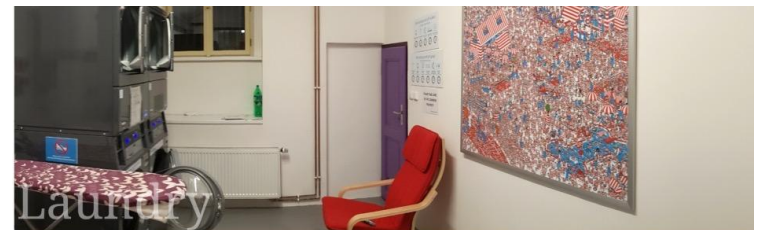
PRAGUE RESIDENTIA AND KARLÍN RESIDENCES



PRAGUE RESIDENTIA

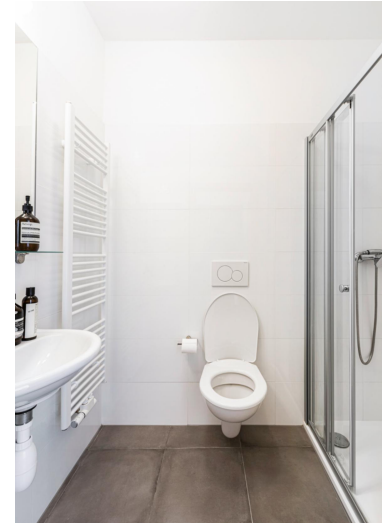
SHARED ROOM (DORMITORY STYLE)

- Shared furnished rooms with 2 Verto students
- Single rooms with shared bathrooms
- 2 students per room
- twin beds (linens provided, NO towels)
- 1 wardrobe, desk, lamp per student
- Handicap accessible
- Shared common areas within the residence:
- kitchen and living space (couches, tv)
- Shared bathrooms on each floor
- Fully fitted common kitchen in basement
- Each floor has communal kitchenette (sink, stove top burner, mini fridge)
- Coin operated communal washing machines and dryers, drying racks also available
- Located 5 minute walk to UNYP



KARLÍN RESIDENCES

- Shared furnished rooms with 2 Verto students
- Single rooms
- twin beds (linens provided, NO towels)
- 1 wardrobe, desk+chair, lamp per student
- Fully fitted, modern kitchen (large fridge, oven/stove top, dishwasher)
- Shared bathrooms in each unit
- Coin operated communal washing machines
- Located 2 minute walk to the metro, and a 10 minute ride to UNYP!



CARE TEAMS

- **Who is in your Care Team?**
 - Your Academic Success/Student Life Coordinator
 - About 30 other excited Verto Prague students
 - When will you meet with your Care Team?
 - You will receive an email from your Coordinator very soon
- **In the Care Team Circle, you'll meet them, your new group, and get a jumpstart on your semester together**



Verto Discovery

- **Verto's Values in Action**
 - Compassion
 - Responsibility
 - Transformation
 - Vulnerability
- **Experiential learning activities**
- **Taking control of your semester**



Verto Transformation

- Our goal at Verto is to create a more connected, empathetic world of engaged global citizens.
- We hope you walk away from your semester in Prague, with much more than incredible memories and transferable credits; we will help you build confidence, self-awareness and clarity to thrive in college and in life.
- We want to spark your natural curiosity and desire to engage in the world around you!



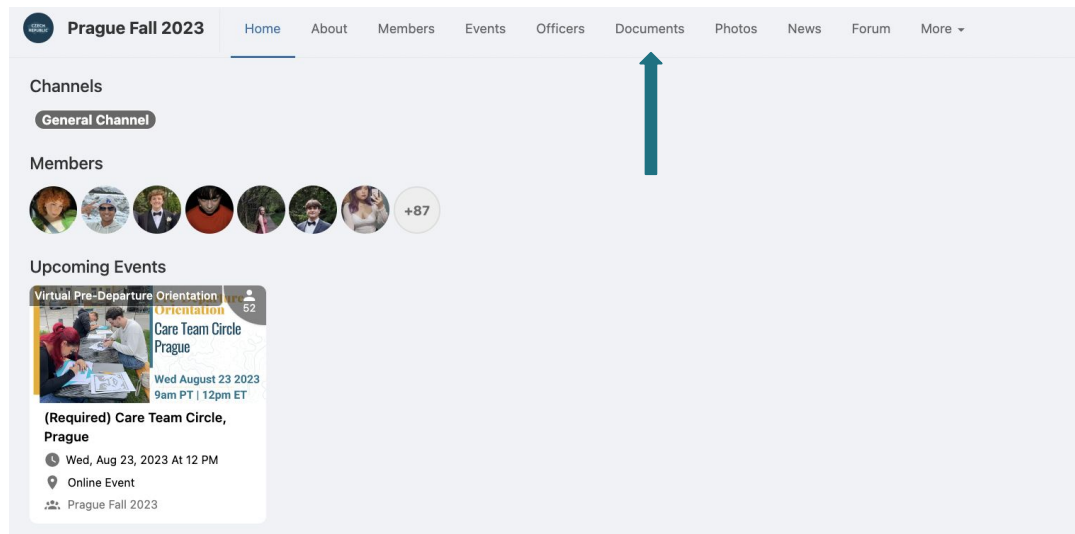
NEXT STEPS & QUESTIONS



PRE-DEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

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 - Verto [Location] Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in [Location]
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)



 Documents (5)

 Pre-arrival Documents (1)

MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE

IMPORTANT: Report Your Attendance
before the end of the Session

(Required) Care Team Circle Date

August 23 at vertoeducation.org/orientation

Location Resources

- In Student Portal

To access, visit
bit.ly/vertoattendance23

