

THE PRAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The Prague Photography Program is an enclave program designed for highly motivated Graduate and Undergraduate photography students. Set in the beautiful capital of the Czech Republic, the curriculum of the Prague Photography Program was developed for intermediate and advanced students who want to immerse themselves in their studies while living in one of the world's most fascinating cities.



Jessi Bautista

A RICH PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE

The Prague Photography Program is part of the CET Central European Studies program. Originally established in 1998 by the American University's School of Communication (SOC), students learn from masters of their craft in an environment that is rich in culture, art and history.

During the course of the 20th Century, Prague emerged as the center of the famous Czech Avant-garde Photographic movement which rivaled the Bauhaus of Germany for inspiration and innovation throughout the photographic world. In keeping with this reputation at the forefront of creative photography, the CET faculty invite students to explore photography as a medium of both artistic and technical expression. From art history to alternative photographic methods, such as platinum and palladium printing, students explore photography as an integration between the form and the function of the photographic medium.

The Prague Photography Program is based upon an understanding that the best instruction comes from the dialogue that develops between teachers and their students. CET's award winning faculty members take a 'Mentor/Apprenticeship' approach towards learning, working to develop and strengthen each individual's photographic 'Vision'.

The heart of the program is centered around the Photography Technology and Practice seminar. Interdisciplinary in nature, the Photography Technology and Practice seminar focuses on the personal and professional development of each student's work. At the core of the seminar are a pair of courses taught by renowned photographer and educator, Miroslav Vojtechovsky.* The Practicum course is designed to give students a chance to hone their photographic skills through lectures about the history of photography and technical information, demonstrations, presentations, and critiques.



Jessi Bautista

PHOTOGRAPHY AS A TOOL OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION



Jessi Bautista

The philosophy of photography is taught in the Image, Ambiguity and Culture course. In this class, students explore photography as a historical turning point and discuss how photography can both "mirror" as well as "create" reality.

As part of this course, students attend exhibitions and artists talks. Prague is rich in galleries where students can examine the work of such luminaries as Jaroslav Rössler, Josef Koudelka, Frantisek Drtikol, and Josef

Sudek, the 'Poet of Prague'. Sudek's studio is still located in Mala Strana (the Little City) and regularly houses exhibitions of photography from around the world.

CET faculty work hand-in-hand with students every step of the way, from their first images to the final presentation of the completed portfolio projects. Students build their skills while focusing and expanding their portfolios based upon individual need and assessment by the faculty. The curriculum provides highly motivated students with an opportunity to study photography in one of the most artistic cities in the world. Students leave the program with a broader photography portfolio and an expanded understanding of the historical and philosophical undertones of photography.

*Professor Vojtechovsky served as chairman of the prestigious FAMU photography program in Prague, as a distinguished professor at the American University in Washington, D.C. and at Charles University in Prague.

A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF STUDY

The Prague Photography Program is an integral part of the Central European Studies curriculum. All CET classes are taught in English and are designed to give students a solid foundation in the political, artistic and cultural history of the region, and to create a broader understanding for the students' photographic explorations.

Prague Photography Program students begin with an introduction to the 'personality' of the Czech Republic. Classes, lectures and a wide range of activities enable students to examine the history, language and the people of the Czech Republic on both personal and professional levels. Students can then move on to take courses in Art and Architecture, European Film, Intensive Czech Language, Central European History, Politics and Culture, and the History of Photography.

Sara Neufield



Czech evenings are remarkable. The lights that fill the city reflect off Prague's Vltava River, illuminating the romance of the local couples scattered throughout the historic metropolis. I wanted to capture the changing tones and moods of this dynamic place through the enchanting lights of the city. Long exposures and saturated colors allowed me to use the surrounding light to capture the feel of the city after the sun goes down.

– Sara Neufield

Prague Photography Program students can also choose from a wide range of elective offerings at FAMU, the prestigious Film and Television School of the Czech Republic. If enrollment permits, additional courses, such as Studio Photography and Photojournalism will be offered.

Casey Pallenik



Prague Photography Program classes and seminars are held in the CET Center in the heart of Prague, just steps off of historic Wenceslas Square. The CET Center contains well-equipped classrooms, a computer lab, screening rooms and a library. Wi-fi Internet access is available throughout the center for easy research and communication. Photography students also have 24-hour access to their own darkroom facilities at the Charles University.

The photo courses in Prague are intense. Miroslav is more than a master photographer, he is also a master teacher. He will give you more individual attention than any teacher you have ever had. As a result, I've improved my photo skills and built a portfolio full of shots from Prague and other European cities. I've gained independence, self confidence and a new perspective on a completely different way to live – one that appreciates the moment. Would I go back? In a heartbeat.

– Casey Pallenik

**A
WIDE
RANGE
OF
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
STUDENTS**

The CET philosophy is to use the context of Central Europe itself as a classroom, to take advantage of all of the Czech Republic's resources. Students are housed with other Central European Studies program participants in apartments located in neighborhoods close to the center of Prague. Using public transportation, students can commute to the CET Center in about 15 minutes. When available, students share their apartment with Czech students, allowing for cross-cultural exchange and the development of international friendships.

CET arranges extracurricular activities on a weekly basis, ranging from volunteer work to fine art events and hockey games. The program also features several organized excursions throughout Central Europe. Students hit the road for a week long traveling seminar in art, history and politics through Moravia and Slovakia, then continuing on to Vienna, Austria, the former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Other excursions include a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Cesky Krumlov, the West Bohemian town of Pilsen, as well as a three-day excursion down the Danube to the ancient city of Budapest, Hungary.



Jessica Hall

For more information on the Prague Photography Program, please visit:

For additional program information, costs and how to apply, please visit CET:
<http://www.cetacademicprograms.com>

The American University's School of Communication website for the Prague Photo Program:
<http://soc.american.edu/content.cfm?id=785>

American University students should visit the AU Abroad website for additional program information and the online application form: <http://auabroad.american.edu/enclave/prague.cfm>



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