

DZS – Czech National Agency for International Education **Academic Information Agency** Na Poříčí 1035/4 110 00 Prague 1 Czech Republic <u>aia@dzs.cz</u> www.dzs.cz/program/ucitele-anglictiny

Information for teachers of English

Dear Madam or Sir,

Thank you for your interest in teaching English in the Czech Republic.

Academic Information Agency assists people interested in teaching English in the Czech Republic in finding teaching posts, mainly at primary and secondary public schools. We are not able to help you, if you are looking for a job at a university or if you wish to teach subjects other than the English language.

Most of the teaching positions are offered by schools in smaller towns. The chances of obtaining a teaching post in Prague are very limited.

Teachers are required to take up their post for the whole school year (September 1 to June 30). During this time, there are two longer school holidays – one is around Christmas and the New Year (about 10 days) and one is a week-long Spring holiday (in February or March). In addition, there are also six state holidays within the Czech school year.

A few job openings may also occur during the school year, in particular around mid-term (January / February). Teachers starting to teach during the course of the school year will be expected to stay until the end of the term. There is no possibility to arrange for a short-term teaching position during the school year. Similarly, we cannot help you to obtain a teaching post at summer courses, as we do not administer these.

For teaching at primary and secondary schools, we need experienced teachers. Professional teachers are preferred. All candidates are required to have a college or a university-level degree, preferably in English or a related field. Additional qualification in teaching English as a foreign language (e.g. RSA TEFL Certificate) is necessary for those applicants who are graduates in non-related subjects. Previous experience in teaching English in a classroom setting is greatly welcome. High motivation is expected. Applicants fulfilling the above criteria will be given priority.

A primary school teacher, as well as a secondary school teacher, is expected to teach approximately 24 hours per week. The age of primary school pupils is from six to 15 (they usually start to learn a foreign language in the 4th grade – e.g. at the age of 10.) The age of secondary school students is from 15 to 19. When they enter secondary school, some of them may already have a basic knowledge of English from primary school. However, some are beginners, because learning English is not obligatory at primary schools in the Czech Republic. Students are divided into smaller groups, according to their level of knowledge. Commonly used textbooks are provided.

Teachers from abroad are not expected to speak Czech. They teach mostly conversation classes, but some schools with no Czech teacher of English, may require their teacher to also teach grammar.

Foreign teachers receive a salary according to the same principles as Czech teachers – approx. 30,000 - 35,000 Czech crowns per month before taxes and deduction of mandatory medical and social insurance payments. While the salary is sufficient for living in the Czech Republic, it will not be enough, for example, to travel around Europe.

Teachers must pay their own travel expenses to and from the Czech Republic. Most schools, however, will provide transportation to their location after your arrival in the Czech Republic, if agreed upon in advance. Public transportation in the Czech Republic is very good, with a wide network of buses and trains connecting almost every town and village.

Accommodation, which is generally scarce, will be arranged for by the school. It should be reasonably priced or free of charge. The housing depends on the local possibilities and is usually quite simple and suitable mostly for one person, for example, a small furnished apartment, a room with a toilet and bath facilities in a dormitory or accommodation with a Czech family. There is no possibility to arrange accommodation for a whole family, such as a family house. Schools can usually afford to employ only one teacher from abroad. This is why it is very difficult to place two friends or a married couple together at a single location.

Schools will help the teacher to get acquainted with the new surroundings. Most schools offer inexpensive meals in their school cafeterias.

Kindly fill in our on-line <u>REGISTRATION FORM</u>.

Our agency supplies a list of applicants for English teaching positions to secondary/high schools and to primary schools with extended language teaching. Please note that you may receive offers from several schools. Most schools will, however, contact more applicants in the first round and then, on the basis of a closer direct contact, select what they consider to be the best offer. Therefore, we suggest that you reply to each of the offers made to you as soon as possible. The school contacts the applicant directly and together they discuss all the issues related to the future work contract. The contract is then signed between the respective school and the applicant.

Foreign citizens seeking any kind of employment in the Czech Republic who are nationals of:

- A. **countries that are members of the European Union** can be employed on the same conditions as Czech nationals (e.g. they do not need an Employee card)
- B. countries that are not members of the European Union must obtain an Employee card. Please read carefully the information on the website of <u>the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic</u>. This document must be obtained in advance, before your arrival in the Czech Republic.

Essential documents to bring to the Czech Republic

We recommend all candidates for a teaching post in the Czech Republic to bring the following documents:

- 1. diploma original or a verified copy;
- 2. teacher certification/registration (if you have one) original or a verified copy;
- 3. TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate (if you have one) original or a verified copy.

We hope our agency will be able to help you to obtain a teaching position at one of Czech schools. Thank you again for your offer to teach in the Czech Republic.

Yours faithfully,

Academic Information Agency

