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### Study Abroad Office

Principia College

Elsah, IL 62028

T: 618.374.5214

T: 800.277.4648

ext 2831

[www.principia.edu/abroads](http://www.principia.edu/abroads)

# Prague & the Czech Republic

## *Metamorphosis:*

## The moral vitality of creativity and the arts

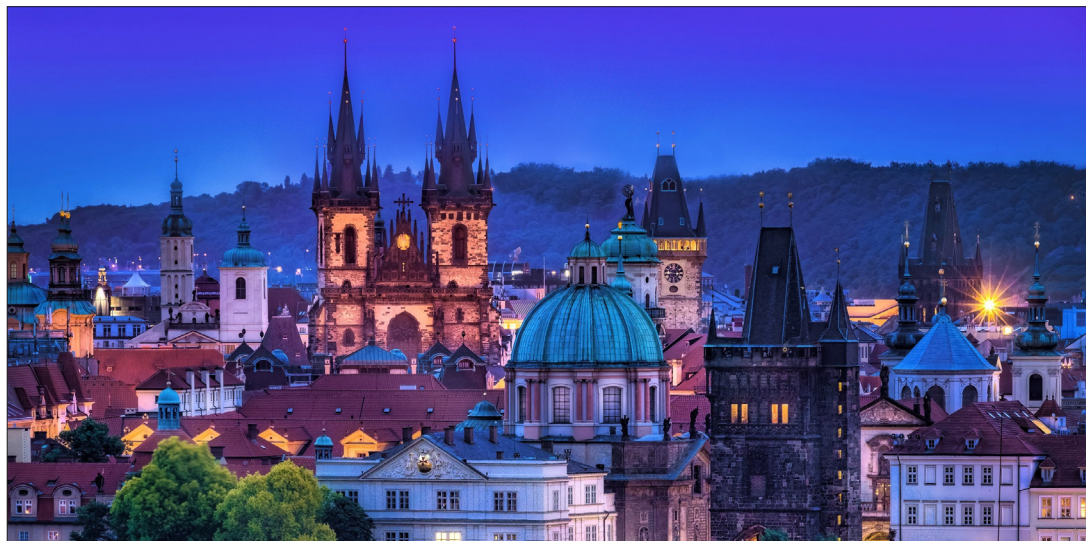
### **Program Focus**

This abroad emphasizes the vital connections between creativity, critical thought, and responsible citizenship through creative writing, studio art, and the study of modernist and contemporary Czech literature and visual art.

Students will explore the idea that the arts make a difference in the world and are not just entertainment. The program seeks to serve Principia's unique educational mission. Policy 6 of The Principia states that the institution "shall dedicate its service to the task of training its students to think – and to think clearly, vigorously, fearlessly, tolerantly, and unselfishly." In "A Word About Words," the late playwright and former president of the Czech Republic Václav Havel said, "...self-awareness, our ability to generalize and think in concepts, to perceive the world as the world (and not just as our locality)...surely all these are meditated...by words" (acceptance speech for the Peace Prize of the German Booksellers Association, Frankfurt, 1989).

These statements suggest a powerful rationale for Principia College students to study creative writing, studio art, and literature in Prague and surrounding sites in Moravia and Bohemia: it is vital for students to learn to think independently and to have a practical understanding of creative and fearless responses to human difficulties.

This program is open to all students from any major or minor. Prior experience in creative writing or studio art may be useful, but isn't necessary for success in this program. Dinah and Paul Ryan work well with students at every level of experience, from beginners to advanced students.



### **Applications** *(see instructions on page 5 for more information)*

Applications can be found directly from this link: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22](https://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22)

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, September 21, 2022.**

**Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

## Program Staff

This program will be directed by professors Dinah Ryan and Paul Ryan. Dinah is Professor of English at Principia College. As a practicing fiction writer, art critic, and independent curator, she has the experience and knowledge to direct a program that emphasizes the links between creative writing, visual art, and culture. Dinah has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Virginia. She has a background in modernist and postmodernist critical theory and practice, as well as a strong knowledge of Central & Eastern European writers.

Paul is Professor of Art at Principia College and Professor Emeritus at Mary Baldwin University. With an MFA in painting from Virginia Commonwealth University, he is a practicing painter with an extensive exhibition record. He is also an art critic, who has been publishing art criticism since 1989. Profoundly engaged with issues of modernism and postmodernism, their impact on the contemporary, and the uses of the arts in culture, he has been dedicated in his teaching career, as Dinah has been, to sharing the vitality and practical importance of the arts with students.

A Resident Counselor (RC) will travel with the group, to be named at a later time.



## Program Preliminary Itinerary

### A typical day will look like this:

- Classroom study (75 minutes of either ENGL 243 or ENGL 263) and then either ENGL 345 or ARTS 251 as a longer studio class period in either visual art or creative writing. Students will be expected to work independently in both creative areas daily.
- In addition to classroom study, each day will include one or two of the following activities:
  - A visit to an important site in the city
  - A visit with a practicing Czech writer or visual artist
  - One hour of language study.
  - Time for the students to draw or write on their own on location. ENGL 345 and ARTS 251 will frequently be conducted in the field and, because growth in both areas requires practice, we will structure protected time for students to work creatively on a regular basis.
- In most weeks, one entire day will be taken for a day trip to an important site near the city, either as a group or as independent day trips in small groups.

### The focus for each week:

**Weeks 1-4:** In Elsas we will begin classroom study of Czech history, literature, art, and language, and—in the studio—build a shared creative vocabulary and explore experimental writing and studio art processes.

**Weeks 5-10:** We fly to Prague, our home base for the next seven weeks. Living in apartments in the Josefov neighborhood, we will have classes, explore the city's literature, visual art, and architecture in the context of the Czech Republic in the 20th century, conduct studio visits with artists and writers, spend daily time in creative work, and take side trips to Terezín, Lidice, Telč, and Kutná Hora. Our studio will be at the well-known contemporary art center, The Meet Factory.

**Week 11:** We travel by train to Moravia and the university city of Olomouc, Moravia's medieval former capital city. We will continue creative study and work at faculty at Palacky University and the curatorial staff at the Olomouc Museum of Art. Students will continue to make independent day trips in this location.

**Week 12-14:** We return to Prague by train for our final days in the city, where regular study will continue, and a farewell dinner.

*The program ends just before Thanksgiving, in Prague, and students are free to travel in Europe after the program ends.*

# Academics

A total of **17** semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 15 SH during Fall 2023 and 2 SH during Spring 2024. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program faculty.

## FALL 2023

### **ENGL 243: Theory as Practice on Location: Prague**

SH: 3 Attribute: GEH

This course explores the links between critical theory and creative practice in contemporary literature and visual culture. It is the “cultural integrator” course for the abroad in which we interact with the culture and meet practicing artists, writers, and scholars.

### **ENGL 263: Literature of Conflict**

SH: 3 Attribute: GEH

The study of Czech writers such as Franz Kafka, Václav Havel, Karel Čapek, Ivan Klíma, Milan Kundera, Jaroslav Hašek, and Bohumil Hrabal, especially as their work reflected and influenced a century of social upheaval, totalitarianism, world wars, and political change.

### **ENGL 345: Creative Writing on Location: Prague**

SH: 3 Attribute: GEA

This on-location creative writing course offers students the opportunity to write poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction with. Emphasis on experimental writing processes and techniques of the avant-garde. The course includes a journaling component (equivalent to a sketchbook in a studio art class) in which students respond to the location, events, people, and readings in locale. Students will compile a portfolio of finished works by the end of the quarter. It is equivalent to a fiction or poetry course within the sequence of courses in the creative writing track, and will meet a requirement for English majors and minors in that track.

### **ARTS 251: The Language of Drawing**

SH: 4 Attribute: GEA

An immersive study of on-location drawing practices and techniques where drawing becomes a tool for observation and recording of cultures, historical sites, and landscapes. Substantial work is also done in our Prague-based studio.

### **LANG 100: Elementary Language Study: Czech**

SH: 2 Attribute: none

This course will offer an introduction to Czech so that students can navigate the country. Students will begin language study during the four weeks on campus and will have weekly classes in the Czech language with a hired instructor during our stay in Prague.

## SPRING 2024

### **SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Prague**

SH: 2 Attribute: none

Taught on campus during spring semester, 2024, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to internalize, integrate, and formulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study in Prague. Through reflection, writing assignments, and the creation of a documentary presentation for the college community, students will interpret and articulate their growth and experiences.

## Program Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2022. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date.

See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 8, fall semester 2022, regarding the decision on their application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put them on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the Principia Conduct Standards or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Eligibility and Prerequisites

This abroad is open to **all** students in good academic and social standing (preferably having a GPA of 2.5 or better), regardless of major, who show a commitment to creativity, openness to interdisciplinary ideas, flexibility, and a commitment to a sense of community. We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character, independent thought, and a strong work ethic.

The program is broadly designed to meet the interests of English majors in the creative writing track, studio art majors, and the general student body. In field studies in the creative arts, students can work at individual levels of growth. In addition, the arts deal with every human activity or field (politics, science, commerce, religion, social systems, etc.), so students from all backgrounds will find relevance in the arts on this program. The Prague Abroad, in particular, explores the relationship of the arts to the broader culture.



## Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward tuition, room, and board. Your PrinBill will also include the Study Abroad administrative fee (\$500). *\*See Study Abroad Grant for additional funding opportunity.*

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, November 23, 2022**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **August 26, 2023**.

### Study Abroad Grant\*

Students who receive Principia need-based aid are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.



## Cost

The cost of this study abroad program will be the same as tuition, room, and board for fall semester 2023, plus airfare (up to \$1,500), and a \$500 Study Abroad administrative fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: tuition; all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$500 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the "Financial Aid and Responsibility" section to the left to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

## Vaccination Information

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges that require an informed approach to ensure ongoing safety for Principia College study abroad programming. Recent positive progress is encouraging and, to the extent risks can be mitigated, the Principia Study Abroad Office is committed to offering opportunities to study abroad through our approved upcoming programs should travel conditions improve as anticipated.

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 (or other) vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to Covid-19 vaccination may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect COVID-19 vaccination information, from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

# Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22](http://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22)
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email address**.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21 (Week 4)**.  
*No late applications will be accepted!*
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
  1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including P01 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
  2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
  3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature](http://bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature)
  4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature](http://bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature)
  5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
  6. **Essay Questions:**
    - a) What is your interest in this particular abroad to Prague and the Czech Republic?
    - b) A specific instance where you have interacted with someone from a culture other than your own in a culturally sensitive manner and an insight you gained from doing so. What qualities do you think are important for cultural understanding? Which of these are you strong in already and which do you want to strengthen?
    - c) A description of your commitment to both group learning and independent learning. Specifically cite a previous experience with both types of learning. In particular, give an example of your ability to support others in a collaborative learning community, and an example of your ability to push yourself independently in your academic work.
    - d) An example of your intellectual and/or creative capacity. For example, you might relate an experience in which an idea in a course has affected your approach to daily life, or a creative experience that has caused you to grow. How strongly are you committed to the work ethic required by such experiences? If you are new to the arts, why do you want to explore creative writing and studio art on this abroad?
    - e) Discuss your commitment to ethics, social justice, and/or a spiritual practice as relevant to this application.

*The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:*

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines. *\*If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
  8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
  9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Mary Jane Hoff with any questions – [maryjane.hoff@principia.edu](mailto:maryjane.hoff@principia.edu) or 618-374-5214 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).