



# Owensboro Sister Cities/Regions

Summer Study Program 2009  
Olomouc, Czech Republic

## GENERAL DETAILS:

- TIME:** Czech Republic based, May 21 - June 23, 2009
- CREDIT:** Required enrollment in 3 to 6 hours of undergraduate coursework in Political Science, History or Psychology offered through Owensboro Community and Technical College for summer 2009 session.
- COSTS:** Tuition (course enrollment or audit enrollment required)  
to be paid directly to: OCTC \$121.00 per hr.

\*\*\*\*\*

Air fare	\$1100.00
Lodging	\$925.00
Food (3 meals a day)	\$420.00
Local ground transportation for trips	\$660.00
Contingency (covers entrance fees, etc.)	\$370.00
Administrative expense to run program, secure instructors	<u>\$200.00</u>
	\$ 3675.00

**PREREQUISITES:** Permission of instructor, and recommendation from advisor or other faculty member from your home academic institution. Acceptance by Owensboro Sister Cities and the registering academic institution. **BACKGROUND CHECK.**

**PRINCIPAL LOCATION:** Olomouc, Czech Republic (Owensboro's Sister City)

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Approximately 4 days cultural orientation by professors and Olomouc teachers, including lectures on such topics as: sociology, history, politics, architecture, music, theatre, and language combined with local field trips.
2. Classroom instruction provided by your course professors as the schedule permits, discussions and visits to cultural institutions daily.
3. Approximately 11 days of group overnight trips to: Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; Kracow, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic.

## TIME TABLE OUTLINE OF PROGRAM:

### PRE-DEPARTURE:

1. All participating students are expected to turn in applications and correspond with Sister Cities by mid-December in order to confirm flight ticket deviations and to insure that those without passports apply for them promptly, to get information, etc.
2. Starting in January (but not during any Spring Break) participants will be expected to attend monthly orientation meetings dealing with general background, language, and additional information in preparation for visiting Olomouc and foreign travel.
3. Students will be supplied with a briefing booklet by Sister Cities and Regions on Olomouc and the Czech Republic. Professors will supply any course reading / listening / viewing lists, including materials relating to art, architecture, music, theatre, literature, politics, history, psychology, and current events in the Czech Republic.

### TRAVEL ITINERARY:

#### DEPARTURE:

Excepting unusual circumstances, students will travel together, departing from a regional airport by regularly scheduled airlines and arriving in Prague. Upon arrival, the group will be met by our Czech travel company bus. If all travel circumstances are in order, the group will depart by bus to Olomouc, stopping for a meal along the way. Should there be travel problems (i.e. lost luggage, etc.), the group may go by bus to a nearby restaurant for a meal. Allowing this time to deal with the problem, you will then depart directly for Olomouc. Upon arrival in Olomouc, students will move into their lodgings, which will be home for the entire stay in Olomouc.

#### ORIENTATION:

During your orientation first week, tours of Olomouc and nearby towns & cities, lectures of Czech history, politics, culture will be experienced. You will be told how to get tram passes, how to communicate home, and explore Olomouc.

#### FULL GROUP FIELD TRIPS:

The group will travel together to locations within the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary. These trips serve as a time to reflect on the various cultures you encounter and discuss comparisons.

Note: While final authority rests with your course professor, the full group trips are essentially run by the team of professors. Room assignments, meeting deadlines, meals, problem solving, conflict prevention / resolution, and independent small - group travel planning are expected to be handled by this team and the Sister City coordinator if available, with the full participation and cooperation of all participants.

**Keep in mind that this is a study experience not a general travel trip.** You are required to do your reading and to maintain a journal during your experiences. The idea here is to both reflect on the cross-cultural awareness and for you to have the journal to reflect back on in the years ahead.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR POST PROGRAM TRAVEL:

While our program ends on June 23 this summer, we encourage those who are able, to extend their stay in Europe. We make the following recommendations and observations.

Poland, Austria, Germany and the Slovak Republic border the Czech Republic and groups may travel in those areas following the Summer Study Program if desired. Germany and Austria are prohibitively expensive for Czech & Slovak students; therefore, only short trips to these areas are encouraged if accompanied by Czech friends.

The Ukraine also borders on eastern Slovakia; however, because of poor communication links, visa issues, and undependable transportation links, travel to the Ukraine is not recommended unless the participants have done substantial advanced booking, planning, and identification of hosts in that country. You are encouraged to consult the U.S. State Department webpages dealing with travel warnings or restrictions.

All participants must carry at least 4 working emergency contact numbers: 2 in Olomouc and 2 from their home. Additionally, all participants will carry Internet contact addresses for Olomouc and Owensboro. Participants must also identify if their travel will end in Prague, in order to insure transportation to the airport.

## DEPARTURE TO U.S.

While it is possible for group participants to travel independently after the program, this must be arranged far in advance of the trip. For most participants, departure will be on June 23th from Prague for the airport we departed from in the US. Participants are required to be at the airport two hours prior to departure. No delays are possible and you will not receive any refunds if you do not meet your deadline obligations during our program.

In addition to participating in all events, each student will be **required to write a journal of her or his individual experience**. The journal may be part of your course requirements.

**During the Owensboro Sister Cities Summer Study Program, all participants are expected to comport themselves in a manner appropriate to being a guest in another country and as a representative of the United States of America, your home academic institution, OCTC and Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions. Students are expected to fully participate in all group activities, and to be cooperative within the group with which they travel.**