

Monday August 10th 2026

Congratulations on your offer to read Czech at Oxford. You'll be receiving a lot of introductory material from the college, but the purpose of this letter is to give you some help in preparing for your first term and first year studying Czech.

The single most useful thing you can do before coming is to read the Czech Prelim Handbook for 2026-27. You'll find a copy accompanying this letter. The Handbook contains detailed information about the structure of the course, the books we will read during your Prelim year, and other advice to help you with planning and preparation for your studies here.

There is no set work to complete for Czech in advance of coming to Oxford. However, we strongly encourage you to obtain a copy of the textbook we use as soon as possible: **James Naughton, *Colloquial Czech* (Routledge, 2011)**. Please make sure that you get the most recent (third) edition. In language classes, we do not assume that you have studied any Czech before, but familiarizing yourself with the early chapters, specifically Czech letters and pronunciation, initial vocabulary and grammar, will ensure you approach your first classes with more confidence.

Otherwise, we encourage you to immerse yourself in what may be the rather unfamiliar world of the Czechs in whatever ways you prefer; you will find plenty of additional suggestions for advance reading and viewing in the handbook or on the recently updated Faculty webpage: <https://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/czech-slovak/undergraduate-studies>

There will be a compulsory meeting for all First Year Czech students at the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities on Thursday of 0th week at 10:30am (room to be confirmed). Vanda and I look forward very much to meeting you then. Meantime please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, however trivial they may seem, at: rajendra.chitnis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Yours sincerely

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