



**CASE FOR SUPPORT:**

# **ADVANCING CZECH STUDIES**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

**BOUNDLESS**

## OVERVIEW

At decisive points over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – 1918, 1938, 1948, 1968 and 1989 – Czechoslovakia played a pivotal role in changing the current of European history.

Unlocking the fascinating history, politics, society and culture of Czechoslovakia, and today's Czech Republic, offers valuable insights into the mechanisms of power, nation-building and democratization that are key to understanding the whole of Europe.

This is one of the primary missions of U of T's Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES), Canada's preeminent institution for the study of the member countries of the European Union, the countries of the former Soviet Union, and Central and Eastern Europe.

It is also a key mandate of U of T's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, with which CERES cooperates. U of T is the only university in Canada where the study of Czech language, literature and culture can be undertaken from the undergraduate through to the doctoral level. The graduate program in Czech is ranked among the top three in North America.

## CZECH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO: A COLLABORATION OF COMMUNITIES

Czech Studies has a distinguished presence at U of T. The teaching of Czech language started in 1967 through the joint efforts of eminent political scientist H. Gordon Skilling, first head of what is now CERES, and Josef Cermak, a lawyer and committed Czech community leader.

In 1968, distinguished Czech scholar Lubomir Doležel joined the Slavic department. Over the next 35 years, CERES and the Slavic department became a focal point for the cross-disciplinary study of Czech history, culture, politics and society.

In the early 1990s, CERES launched an internship program which placed U of T students with private- and public-sector and leading civil-society organizations in the Czech Republic. The outcome was a formal exchange agreement with Masaryk University in Brno which gave students at both institutions the chance to study locally. A summer abroad program in Brno now offers courses in history and political science and has enabled over 400 students to witness the dramatic changes in the region.

CERES and the Slavic department have also collaborated with universities in the Czech Republic by hosting visiting scholars and sponsoring major conferences on the Prague Spring 40 years later and on Skilling's work.

This impressive track record of Czech Studies has been made possible in part through the support of the Czech community, which among other things has established scholarships for students, and the post-1993 Government of the Czech Republic.

## CREATING THE FUTURE WITH AN ENDURING LEGACY

For over 150 years, Czechs seeking economic opportunity or fleeing the political and economic repression of Nazism and Communism found a new home in Canada. Here, they built institutions and nurtured their own cultural heritage. They and their children distinguished themselves in many facets of Canadian life. The economic and political transformation in Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall altered the relationship of this community with their native land. No longer isolated from the Czech Republic, they now move freely between their adopted country and their and their forbears' country of birth.

With this "end of exile," we have a unique opportunity to honour and build on the legacy of Czech-Canadians to promote a deeper, more informed understanding of developments in historic and contemporary Czech Republic. Doing so at a preeminent

institution of higher education like U of T, we can be assured that the legacy of Czechs in Canada will endure. A new generation of experts will carry the torch to advance knowledge and understanding of the Czech Republic and build stronger professional and business ties between our two nations.

The University is proposing a strategic enrichment of the educational experience that will inspire U of T students to learn about Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic, and enable students at partnering institutions in the Czech Republic to learn in and about Canada. The goal is to prepare global citizens on both sides of the Atlantic who have the expertise, practical experience and agility to navigate across cultures and to contribute these valuable skills to their chosen professions after graduation.

The expanded program envisages three distinct pillars aimed at building language skills, opening up more international opportunities for U of T students and their Czech counterparts, and creating a visiting scholar program with Czech-based faculty,

**We are seeking philanthropic support to create an endowment of \$4 million at U of T to fund these pillars permanently.**

We hope to reach out to those Canadians with historic and family ties to the Czech Republic, as well as those in the Czech Republic who wish to ensure a Czech scholarly presence in Canada.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

*Every gift at every level can make a big difference in a student's life! You may direct your gift towards general support for Czech Student Initiatives at CERES, or speak with us about how you wish to direct your donation. All pledges may be paid in monthly or annual installments.*

### LEARNING CZECH

Because they live and will work in a world shaped by globalization, tomorrow's leaders must have unprecedented fluency across cultural, business, social and political borders. Gaining knowledge of another language is a critical success factor.

The University is seeking to raise \$500,000 to offer one full course each year in Czech language (introductory and intermediate levels) on a permanent basis through the Slavic department.

In addition, the University is seeking \$250,000 to create an endowment fund that will pay out approximately \$10,000 each year to support students who wish to improve their Czech language skills through specialized training in the Czech Republic.

**Goal: \$750,000, endowed**

### CZECH VISITING SCHOLARS

Visiting professors enhance the intellectual environment and are enriched in turn by interactions with leading U of T scholars. They stimulate debates and energize students by sharing new approaches, different perspectives and insights. They also diversify the course offerings.

U of T proposes to establish a Czech Visiting Scholars Program. A highly regarded professor from a Czech university will be invited to teach an intensive course or workshop on a Czech topic that will be open to senior undergraduate as well as graduate students. The visiting scholars will also share their knowledge at a public lecture.

Securing permanence of this program will require \$250,000 in endowed philanthropic support from a donor whose name may be attached to this prestigious biennial appointment.

Alternatively, a time-limited naming opportunity may be offered for an expendable commitment equivalent to \$10,000 per annum for a minimum of 10 years, or \$100,000.

**Goal: \$250,000, endowed**

### INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Another critical success factor is gaining first-hand experience living, studying and working in another country. U of T plans to expand international learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and has identified the Czech Republic as a priority destination.

U of T has student exchange agreements with stellar universities like Masaryk in Brno and Charles in Prague. A major obstacle to participation, however, is financial. The same holds true for university students in the Czech Republic who are eager to take advantage of a world-class university like U of T to do research, study and improve their English language skills.

Gifts to this fund will give U of T students of Czech Studies a chance to travel to the Czech Republic for study, research or an internship, and provide interested students from the Czech Republic with an opportunity to gain essential global experience at U of T.

***For U of T students going to the Czech Republic, funds will provide financial assistance for participation in the following programs:***

**Undergraduate Summer Abroad or Exchange Program:** A \$750,000 endowment will generate approximately \$30,000 each year to support 12 students from across the University.

**Graduate Term Study or Internship Abroad:** A \$750,000 endowment will generate approximately \$30,000 each year to support 6 students.

**Doctoral Dissertation Research:** A \$450,000 endowment will generate approximately \$18,000 each year to support up to 2 students.

***For Czech students coming to U of T:***

**Undergraduate Study Abroad Program:** A \$750,000 endowment will generate approximately \$30,000 each year to support 12 students.

**Graduate Study or Research Abroad:** A \$300,000 endowment will generate approximately \$12,000 each year to support 3 students.

### STUDENT AWARD NAMING LEVELS:

A minimum donation of \$25,000 is needed to name and endow an undergraduate award at U of T.

Naming and endowing a graduate award requires a minimum donation of \$50,000.

**Goal: \$3 million, endowed**

## RECOGNITION

The University of Toronto is committed to building an enduring partnership with our benefactors.

All donors will receive a charitable receipt for the full value of their gift to U of T.

Various recognition opportunities, including naming\*, are available depending on the level of the gift (\*subject to approval in accordance with U of T's Policy on Naming). The University will work with our donors to craft a tailored recognition and accountability program that reflects the spirit and impact of the gift.

***The name of any donor who contributes a minimum of \$1,000 will be inscribed on a "Building the Future of Czech Studies" wall of honour at CERES.***

*Individuals who donate \$1,827 or more annually become members of the Presidents' Circle, while those giving \$2,500 or more annually are also recognized with membership in the Dean's Society. Both societies offer unique benefits throughout the year.*

## BOUNDLESS

Boundless: The Campaign for the University of Toronto is the largest fundraising campaign in Canadian university history.

With a historic \$2 billion goal, the campaign will help expand U of T's global leadership capacity across critical areas of knowledge and help develop the talent, ideas and solutions for the defining challenges of our time.

## TO DONATE ONLINE

<https://donate.utoronto.ca/ceres>

## PLEASE CONTACT US

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# BOUNDLESS

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Founded in 1827, the University of Toronto (U of T) is Canada's largest and most distinguished university. U of T generates more research publications than any other publicly-funded university in North America, second only to Harvard. In 2011 Newsweek ranked U of T number three in the world, just after Cambridge and Oxford, as the best international school outside the United States.

## CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN, RUSSIAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES (CERES)

CERES is one of North America's leading academic institutes for the study of the member countries of the European Union, the countries of the former Soviet Union, and Central and Eastern Europe. Housed within U of T's Munk School of Global Affairs, it provides students with a unique opportunity to study the history, politics and economics of countries that are building democratic systems of governance and opening their economies. Through its intensive relations with the European Commission, the German Academic Exchange Service, the wider community in Toronto, and institutions of higher learning across Europe, Ukraine and Russia, CERES supports the exchange of ideas, scholars and students across the Atlantic.

## DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

U of T's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Croatian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Serbian and Ukrainian languages and literatures, as well as a graduate program in Slavic linguistics and undergraduate courses in Macedonian. This constitutes one of the broadest ranges of Slavic languages, literatures and cultures among North American universities. The department is also home to a highly regarded Finnish program. With its strong tradition in scholarship, its high standards for student performance and its exemplary record in teaching, U of T is recognized as a leader in North America in providing an integrated Slavic program.

