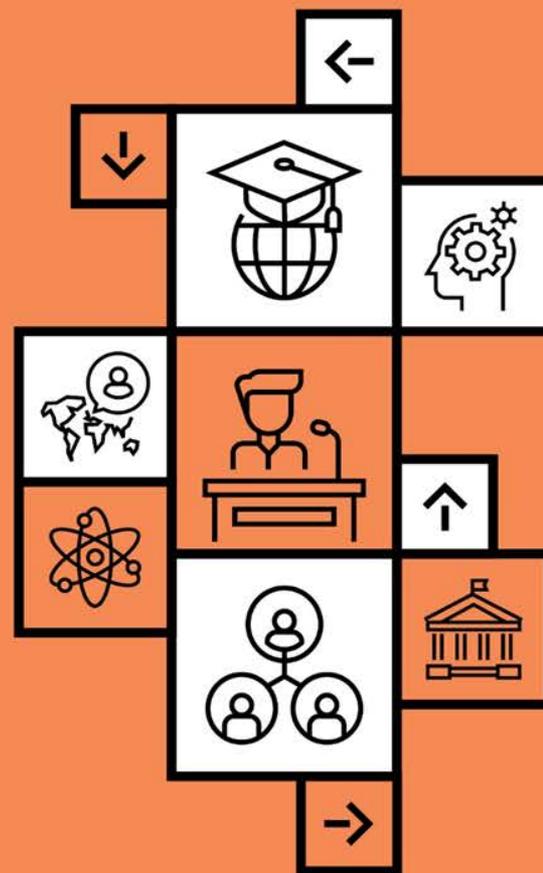


# Serving Diverse American Students in the Czech Republic

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# Session Overview

## US Diversity 101

- Diversity Abroad's mission to support underserved students

## Czech Perspective

- Student Support Services at Charles University

## Student Testimonial



# About Diversity Abroad



**Our Vision** - That the next generation of young people from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and experience to be successful in the 21st century global marketplace.



# Changing Landscape: US Students Abroad

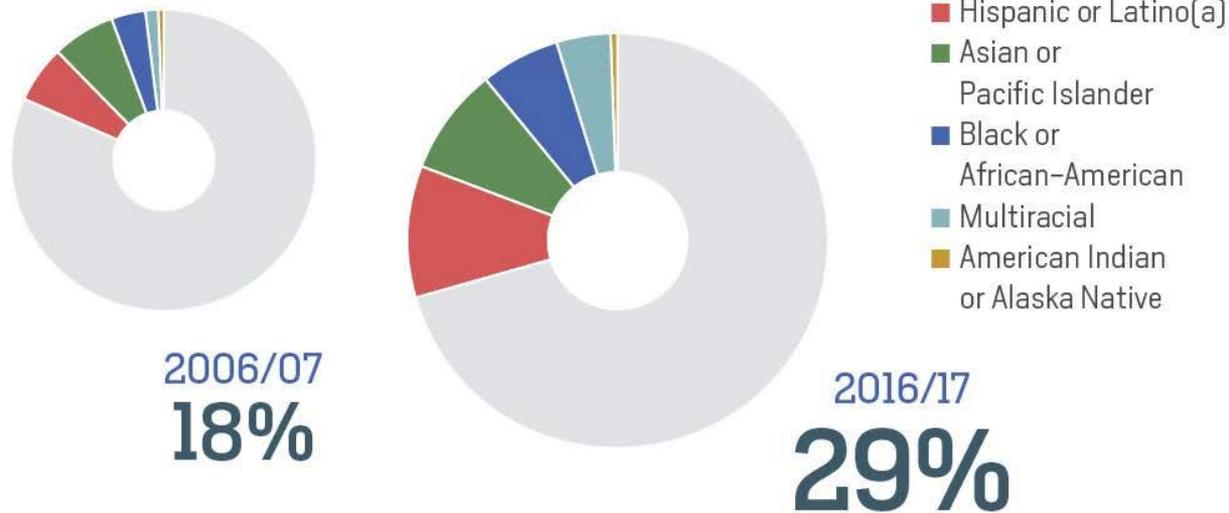
Percentage distribution of U.S. residents by Race/Ethnicity						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
White	60.3	59.3	58.3	57.6	56.9	56.0
Total, selected races/ethnicities	39.7	40.7	41.7	42.4	43.1	44.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976 and 1980; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:90); and IPEDS Spring 2001 through Spring 2017, Fall Enrollment component. (This table was prepared December 2017.)



# Changing Landscape: US Students Abroad

RACE/ETHNICITY OF U.S. STUDENTS ABROAD



The proportion of U.S. minority students studying abroad has increased modestly over the past ten years.

Open Doors is conducted by the Institute of International Education with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Online at: [www.iie.org/opendoors](http://www.iie.org/opendoors)

opendoors®



# Considerations for students from diverse backgrounds abroad

- Ethnically/Racially Diverse,
- High Financial Need,
- Students with Disabilities,
- First Generation College,
- LGBTQI+,
- Students of Faith

**Goal:** Sense of Belonging



Health & Safety  
Academic Success





# Why is this important?

Most study abroad professionals know that support for students does not end when the student boards the plane to their study abroad location. On-site support for students is part of what goes into making a quality program. Students from diverse backgrounds may face unique concerns when they are in-country that other students may not.

Ensuring that diverse students are aware of these concerns and have the support they need on-site is important to facilitating a positive learning experience while abroad.





# Best Practices

- Discuss relevant current events, local traditions, political rhetoric, that may impact diverse students
- Consider optional sessions to openly discussion around specific topics
- Ask for student feedback
  - Modify existing resources with student input
- Have multiple mechanisms for students to communicate with staff; report incidences
- Develop resource lists & share on web, handbook, in-person
- Providing safe spaces for students from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences managing the new host culture as well as their peer group culture.



# Join Us

GLOBAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION  
INSTITUTE – LONDON, UK

JANUARY 16 & 17, 2020

HOSTED BY: LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



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# Czech Perspective

Charles University offers several support services for serving diverse students abroad –

## Student Organizations

- o Charlie - The Charlie association is a new club at Charles University, welcoming all members of the gay community and providing a network for support and information
- o ESN International Club - Organises various social, cultural and sport events for both international and Czech students, such as Language Cafe



# Czech Perspective

## Psychological Counselling for International Students

- o Individual counseling sessions and a group activity in English during spring and fall semesters

## Students with Special Needs

- o The university has specialist units and counselling/advisory centres to assist with specific target groups, whether it's a student who is hard of hearing or has a learning difficulty



# ECES

With a student population primarily from the US, Canada and Asia, in addition to English-taught courses, ECES provides comprehensive student services including:

Pre-departure and visa advising, on-site orientation, 24-hour emergency support, English-speaking staff, and a wide variety of extracurricular activities for ECES students to fully immerse themselves into life at Charles University.



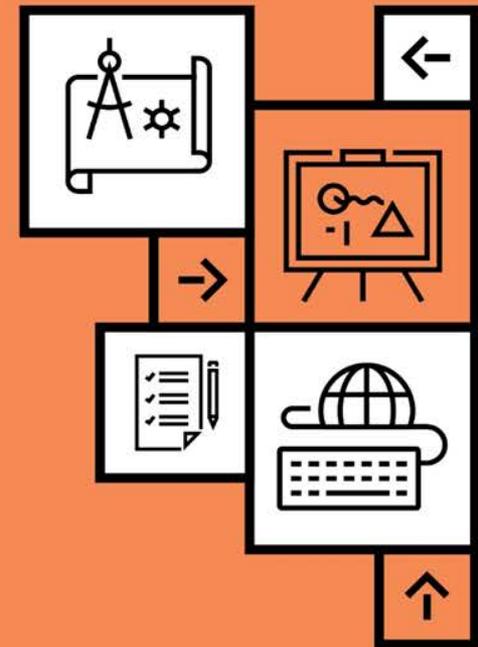
# Student Testimonial

"My experience in Prague has been incredible. From studying here two years ago, until now, I have noticed an increase in diversity in the city. Of course it hasn't been perfect; I still get stared at on the tram because I look different or people will touch my hair. But I have positive experiences of many people interested in asking me about where I am from and my culture. At ECES, the students and staff have been nothing short of amazing. Professors have encouraged me to use my experiences as an African-American in class discussions to show different and unique perspectives. In general I believe that cultural and racial inclusivity for international students is important and from my experience I have only felt support from my faculty."



# Any Questions?





# Thank you!

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