

Facts about Researcher-in-Residence programme

- Run by the Prague Office of the OSCE Secretariat since 1998
- Offers academics, researchers, graduate and postgraduate students, NGOs, media an opportunity to study CSCE/OSCE documents
- Duration: two-three months (or other, subject to prior agreement)

Researchers are provided with:

- Access to major CSCE/OSCE documents issued since 1973 in hard copy and digital files, most of which are available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish;
- Office space and computer with Internet access, fax and copying machines.

Other costs **not** covered (transportation, visa, accommodation, etc.)

To apply, send the following information to the Senior Assistant for Documentation and Information by e-mail to docs@osce.org, fax +420 233 085 487 or post to Náměstí Pod Kaštany 529/2, CZ-160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic:

- **Full outline of the project** you are working on;
- **Curriculum Vitae** including publications and/or academic credentials, as applicable;
- **Statement of intention** including sources of funding and **preferred dates**.

On completion of the research project, the participant should provide to the Prague Office two copies of the completed work (whether published or unpublished) to be deposited in the Researchers' reference library and become a part of the CSCE/OSCE archive.

More information about the programme and application procedures: www.osce.org/networks/111435

Researcher-in-Residence Programme

The Programme was created in 1998 and initially aimed at academics in need of primary source materials. Now, the Office helps professors, teaching assistants, representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as humanitarian workers, election monitors and journalists to conduct research for academic and professional purposes.

Registered researchers are provided a fully equipped office, a personal computer and access to special collections organized by topic, theme or geographical location. High-performance search engines, internal databases and catalogues, as well as a set of adjustable search tools allow researchers to quickly identify documents in their categories of interest, and staff is at hand to locate and retrieve documents. An extensive reference library with secondary-source materials is also at researchers' disposal.

Contacts:

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PRAGUE OFFICE OF OSCE SECRETARIAT
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

RESEARCHER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME





Prague Office of OSCE Secretariat

The OSCE Prague Office is one of the oldest and smallest parts of the Organization, comprising a Head of Office (currently Ambassador Jiří Parkmann seconded by the Czech Republic) and seven staff members.

At the Paris Summit of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) in 1990 a decision was taken to establish the CSCE Secretariat in Prague. Shortly afterwards the Secretariat was set up and stayed at the forefront of the institutionalization process of the CSCE until 1994. During that time Prague was the venue of almost all meetings of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials, including emergency meetings on the crisis in Yugoslavia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 1994, the Secretariat was moved to Vienna, while the Prague Office remained the official CSCE/ OSCE historical archives and documentation centre, which has been tasked with supporting, preserving, enhancing and making available the institutional memory of the OSCE ever since.

In addition to providing research possibilities and reference services, the Office staff members offer presentations about the history of the OSCE to students on study trips to Prague. The Office has deployed a network of 67 depository libraries throughout the world and regularly distributes the OSCE Magazine to more than 2,900 subscribers.

Ongoing projects of the Office include digitizing the Organization's archives and making them available on the OSCE intranet and on the public website. A CSCE/OSCE Oral History project is based on recorded interviews with ex-CSCE diplomats who were active during the negotiation of the Helsinki Final Act.

In co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat, the Prague Office also organizes and provides logistical support for annual meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum hosted by the Czech Foreign Ministry – the key event of the OSCE's work in economic and environmental security dimension. Up to now, the Prague Office has helped organize 18 such meetings, each bringing together some 400 participants.

Archives

The Prague-based CSCE Secretariat became a repository for all CSCE conference documents in the early 1990s. Before that, between 1975 and 1990, foreign ministries that had hosted CSCE events acted as executive secretariats and stored conference or meeting documents in their own archives. Once the CSCE Secretariat was established in 1991, these executive secretariats sent their respective archives to Prague, where they were processed and catalogued. Acquisitions include personal records of ambassadors, chairpersons and meeting officers who attended the CSCE process in its early stages.

All paper records and documents from 1972 to 1995 have been digitized and consolidated by the Prague Office and are now chronologically classified in series containing policy documents issued by the negotiating and decision-making bodies that met during the CSCE years. These collections constitute the basis of the primary source material that sustains the Organization's institutional memory.

Another part of the archives holdings are records from closed OSCE field operations which are kept in a remote depository.