

Czech nurses enrich their careers with attractive international experience



Due to the phenomenon of an ever-rising aging population in developed countries, along with the increasing quality of health care, the nursing profession ranks among the most respected and demanded professions internationally. Therefore, professional education and knowledge of English opens doors for Czech nurses to international careers in many attractive countries of the world. Socially, as well as financially, the work of a nurse is rewarded the most in the USA. However, it is a difficult road to obtain a nursing license and a working permit for the USA. **G5 Plus** is the only company in the Czech Republic which has firmly marked the best path to this goal with the program **Nurses to the USA**. Prior to being registered as a nurse in the USA, Czech nurses can also participate in the program "Au-pair & Study in the USA" – 12-24 months long Au-Pair stays in the US with American families combined with an intensive preparation for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination). Successful Au-Pairs will return to the Czech Republic and apply for a permanent work permit (Green Card) as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the USA. Another possibility is to work in chosen hospitals in Saudi Arabia or Ireland.

According to a yearly nation-wide survey published in the US World News and Report, nursing has been the Number 1 most respected profession in the United States for the last eight years (except in 2001, when US firefighters were voted Number 1 because of their bravery during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.) Despite their daily dedication and effort, such a high standing seems unreachable to Czech nurses. Also out of reach for many years is the opportunity to work and gain experience as a registered nurse in the US. Thanks to the synergy that has ignited in several (mainly demographic and political) factors, and intensive international cooperation under the umbrella of **G5 Plus**, this possibility is now real.



Doors of U. S. hospitals are open to Czech nurses



Praha – Czech capital of Texas

The beginning of 2005 gave birth to a unique nursing program, which set the goal of enriching the career of Czech nurses by providing valuable and attractive international working experience while simultaneously fostering the Czech culture and language in Czech communities within Texas. The program has been received with great support by the professional public who are united in the belief that each nurse who takes part in this long-term project and brings their knowledge and skills back to the Czech Republic brings us one step closer to raising the level and prestige of the nursing profession throughout the entire Czech Republic. The biggest supporters of the programs are:

Sestra (Nurse)

the most popular Czech nursing monthly which publishes information on the program on a regular basis,



U. S. Business School Praha

which provides its premises for all necessary nursing trainings, and



Dell

the computer company which, as a technology partner, equips Czech nurses with up-to-date technology and enables them to be connected to their friends and families whenever they want and wherever they are.



After their return from abroad, **G5 Plus** will provide nurses with a type of deployment service, a framework where nurses with international experience will be offered to hospitals within the Czech Republic so they can take advantage of their new knowledge and expertise as well as their English language skills.

Developed countries, and particularly the United States, have been struggling with a nursing shortage for many years, which has occurred mostly due to a demographic trend. US statistics stress mainly the following data:

- extended length of life of the American population;
- decreased birth rate of the American population;
- aging of the large generation of "baby boomers";
- an increase in the average age of nurses (which is now over 43 years, in 2010 more than 40% of nurses will be older than 50);
- nursing colleges and universities struggling to expand enrollment levels to meet the rising demand for nursing care in the US (number of educated nursing school graduates who sat for the NCLEX, the national licensure examination for registered nurses, decreased by 20% from 1995-2003);
- in 2001, 126,000 nurses were needed; for the year 2020, a shortage of more than 400,000 nurses is predicted.

Problems are even greater in warm weather southern states such as – Texas, Florida, and California – where a large number of Americans move from cold Northern states to retire. Nurses are offered a very attractive salary. In 2003, the average annual income was \$45,500 and is rising. Many employers offer flexible work schedules, child care, educational benefits, and attractive financial bonuses.

The American government is helping to ease the problem by offering a very attractive immigration policy. Foreign nurses with the appropriate education and sufficient level of English are awarded a Green Card (unlimited working permit) by the US government not only for themselves but also for their family members.

Every American state has different regulations concerning the access of foreign nurses. The process of obtaining an American nursing license and working permit is interconnected with studying the complicated regulations and high administrative effort. **G5 Plus** has a team of experts available on both sides of the Atlantic, consisting of experienced lawyers, HR specialists and health care managers and directors. Thanks to the team's methodology



The teaching methods of certified NCLEX lecturers are very illustrative

and adept professionalism, it is possible to circumvent particular bureaucratic obstacles. The result is the maximum “comfort” of participants who can spend most of their time concentrating on English and professional preparation rather than wrangling with complicated administration work.

G5 Plus has decided to make Texas an entrance gate to the USA. According to statistics, today’s Texas (the second largest US state, after Alaska, with twenty million inhabitants) is comprised of up to one million residents with Czech ancestry, making Czech Texans the fourth dominant Texas ethnic minority.

Ancestors of most of today’s Czech Texans began their journey across the ocean in the first emigrant wave about 150 years ago. Despite the generations that have passed since, it is still possible to hear fluent Czech across Texas, often with a strong Moravian dialect. You can even hear a Czech poem or a song you’d never hear in the Czech Republic because it was forgotten many years ago, but in Texas it has been passed on from generation to generation for a century and a half.

Czech Texans are appropriately proud of their origin, traditions and history and make a maximum effort to keep and build their original identity. **G5 Plus** supports them in this effort. Help and support has also been offered by regional bodies of the Czech Ministry of Culture and the City of Prague. These institutions supported the official visit of **G5 Plus** representatives to Czech communities in Texas in spring 2005, when Czech Texans were given many souvenirs and promotional material. Through **G5 Plus** the Mayor of Prague, Pavel Bém, presented Czech compatriots with several copies of a memorial plaque with an official greeting and expression of support for increased relations between the old and the new home of Czech Texans. The original city sign “HLAVNÍ MĚSTO PRAHA” (Capital City Prague) will represent this support to Czech Texans forever.

Representatives of Czech Texans were very well prepared for the visit, so that within only a few days, **G5 Plus** was able to have many official, as well as unofficial, visits and listen to the wishes and suggestions of Czech compatriots concerning how to best maintain and improve relations between their old and new homeland. Texas counts among the climatically kind southern states with a problematic nursing shortage. During a visit to one of the healthcare centers, the Judge of Fayette County, Edward Jan-ecka, suggested the idea to consider the possibility of employing Czech nurses in the local hospitals and medical centers. Czech Texans are also enthusiastic about the culture and language contribution that would result from the long-term stay of Czech nurses.

G5 Plus turned this impulse into a successful result – the unique program Nurses to the USA was soon created. The Czech cultural dimension of the project minimizes the usual problems of moving to a new country, culture and environment, which is so often a barrier when working in other countries that may be geographically closer to home but differ significantly from Czech society and culture. At the end of a long flight nurses can look forward to a warm welcome and stay in a virtual “home” environment, as well as a very quick and respectful integration into American society to which Texas is an absolutely ideal entrance gate.

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