



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
*Charles University in Prague*





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# Charles University in Prague

**Charles University in Prague was founded in 1348 by Charles IV, the King of Bohemia and future Holy Roman Emperor.**

When founded, the University had four faculties: arts, medicine, law and theology. Seven centuries later it consists of 17 faculties. The Faculty of Social Sciences is its second newest faculty.

Today, the oldest university in East-Central Europe has more than 53,000 students studying in more than 300 accredited degree programmes. There are over 7,000 foreign students studying at Charles University in Prague.

“The number one university in Eastern Europe”

*The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities*

“Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Central and Eastern Europe”

*The Academic Ranking of World Universities*



# About the Faculty of Social Sciences

The second newest faculty of Charles University in Prague was founded in 1990, shortly after the Velvet Revolution. It soon became a regional centre of teaching and research in area studies, economics, international studies, journalism, media studies, political science and sociology.

The Faculty offers a full range of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes in area studies, communication studies, economics, international studies, political science, sociology and social policy. While the languages of instruction are Czech and English, students can choose from classes in a wide range of other languages, namely German, Russian, Spanish and French.

Currently, the Faculty has more than 4,000 full-time students. Approximately 150 of them are enrolled in one of the English language degree programmes.

Faculty of Social Sciences has one of the highest international mobility participation rates of all the faculties of Charles University. Each year it welcomes around 500 exchange students from all over the world.



One of the many leading figures of Czech political, economical and cultural life who taught at the Faculty was **Václav Havel**, the first post-communist President of Czechoslovakia and the first President of the Czech Republic.

# Why...

## Why the Faculty of Social Sciences?

- **Academic excellence:** Charles University in Prague is **the only Czech university** in the Academic Ranking of World Universities.
- **Top lecturers:** Members of our Faculty include **distinguished academics as well as leading figures** in the policy making, economics and social life of the region.
- **Talent:** We seek **the best in students** and develop their potential. Every year, students of our Faculty are granted competitive awards and scholarships.
- **Hands-on experience:** Our graduates not only receive a firm grounding in theory but also have numerous opportunities to get involved in various **practical projects** as well.
- **Friendly environment:** The Faculty of Social Sciences is a place where students and Faculty members **meet and interact**. Moreover, students benefit from the **young, dynamic and interdisciplinary** environment of the Faculty.



# Selected Faculty Lecturers



## **Zdeněk Tůma**

From the Institute of Economic Studies is the former Governor of the Czech National Bank.



## **Miroslav Novák**

From the Institute of Political Studies is one of the founders of political science in the Czech Republic and a key figure in the field.



## **Lenka Ravná**

From the Institute of International Studies is a recipient of the title Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam, established by the European Commission to award top professors in European Studies.



## **Václav Moravec**

From the Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism is one of the most popular and influential Czech journalists. His Sunday political talk show, Otázky Václava Moravce, draws nearly 750,000 viewers each week.



## **Martin Potůček**

From the Institute of Sociological Studies is the eminent professor of public and social policy and the head of the Centre for Social and Economic Strategies at FSS CU.



# Studies

**Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences are intended primarily to prepare students for a professional career in the private sector, public administration, national governments, European institutions, academic research or the media. They are divided into three separate cycles:**

- **A bachelor's degree cycle** (3 years), which leads to a bachelor's degree (Bc., equivalent to a BA)
- **A master's degree cycle** (2 years), which leads to a master's degree (Mgr., equivalent to a MA)
- **Doctoral studies** (4 years), which leads to a Doctorate (Ph.D.)

The Faculty offers a full range of degree programmes at all levels in all its subject specializations in both Czech and English. This not only gives classes a cosmopolitan character but also enables international and Czech students to get to know each other and benefit from mutual interaction.

"When studying there, I loved it. The school taught me how to dislearn, how to think alone and critically and not buy into mainstream propaganda called education."

**Tomáš Sedláček**  
Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB,  
the largest Czech bank

"... The quality of lecturers and their individual approach to students, a great selection of German language lectures and the possibility of studying abroad, linking study to practice and the standard of other students, who I continue to meet frequently in my job. All this, along with interesting studies, provided me with invaluable qualifications for my professional life."

**Tomáš Jelínek**  
Director of the Czech-German Fund for the Future

"I think the Institute of Economic Studies provides its students with a useful and comprehensive curriculum. It has an appropriate emphasis on modern economics and quantitative techniques, which I found essential in my subsequent career."

**Martin Čihák**  
International Monetary Fund, Washington, D. C.

# Research

As well as educating future social scientists, the Faculty of Social Sciences also encourages and promotes advanced research in social sciences. The research activities of the Faculty are very diverse.

“The Faculty of Social Sciences and its Institute of Economic Studies provided a completely new approach to the economics education after 1990 as compared to the previous period. It offered standard economic lectures, renewed relationship with universities in developed countries and basic grounds for research of high quality.”

**Zdeněk Tůma**


KPMG, Former Governor of the Czech National Bank

The **Centre for Social and Economic Strategies (CESES)** is an interdisciplinary research think-tank engaged in the development of theory, methodology and practice to explore possible future developments and apply analyses and forecasts in decision making. The Faculty's other research centre, the **Centre for Media Studies (CEMES)** investigates changes in the Czech media structure, contemporary news content analysis and the influence of the media.

The Faculty of Social Sciences publishes the influential economic journal, the **Czech Journal of Economics and Finance** and six peer-reviewed journals: **AUCO Czech Economic Review** (Institute of Economic Studies), **AUC - Studia Territoria** (Institute of International

Studies), **Acta Politologica** and **The Annual of Language & Politics and Politics of Identity** (Institute of Political Studies), **Media Studies** (Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism) and **Central European Journal of Public Policy** (Centre for Social and Economic Strategies).

Regular Faculty conferences contribute substantially to research integration and coordination efforts as well as interdisciplinary communication. Broader involvement of master's and doctoral students in particular in the Faculty's scientific activities is yet another prominent objective. Such a broadening of research capacities is assisted above all by joint endeavours to implement the research projects and by the newly conceived Doctoral Studies Series. Master's and doctoral theses are geared towards the main research goals of the Faculty but the Faculty also support other high-quality projects.



"The Faculty of Social Science has been my second and sometimes the first home since 1989 when I was enrolled as a student of journalism. Although I stayed as a teacher and a researcher, the school inspired me never to stop being a student. Its people, inter-disciplinary perspective and focus on excellence in research have helped me to permanently re-discover media studies as the most exciting field of inquiry."

**Irena Carpentier Reifová**

CEE Communication and Media Conference 2012, Chair of the Executive Board, Research Coordinator, Faculty of Social Sciences

# International Cooperation

**The Faculty is an active participant in many international student exchange programmes, in particular ERASMUS and CEEPUS. Some students also arrange to visit the Faculty individually, outside the framework of international agreements.**

The Faculty also invites students to apply for its English language **bachelor's** and **master's** programmes in economics, international area studies, media studies, political science, sociology and social policy.

As of 2013, more than 150 foreign students studied in one of the Faculty's degree programmes. Full details of all programmes can be found on our website.

Moreover, several institutes of the Faculty also offer doctoral studies in English. It is thus now possible to study at all levels without having any previous knowledge of the Czech language.

The Faculty's **International Office** facilitates and co-ordinates the international mobility of both students and teaching staff and the international activities of the Faculty at all levels. It is the Faculty's administrative centre for a whole range of international programs (undergraduate and graduate degree programmes, ERASMUS, CEEPUS, the international scholarship programme of the Czech Ministry of Education, etc.). It also acts as a clearing house for information about scholarships offered by independent agencies. More information about the International Office, including contacts and office hours, can be found on our website.

Throughout the academic year, several guest lectures, seminars and workshops are organized in English, which enables international students to get involved as well.

When it comes to **extracurricular activities**, the Charles University International Club organizes various social and cultural events for both international and Czech students, namely parties and trips or excursions around Prague and the Czech Republic. It also assists the faculties during the Orientation Week, and generally helps international students to settle in during their stay in Prague.



# Institutes and Research Centres

The Faculty consists of five institutes, each responsible for its subject specialisations.

- **The Institute of Economic Studies (IES)**

The Institute offers a university education in economics, finance and banking and European economic integration and economic policy at all levels. Soon after its establishment in 1993, the IES became one of the Czech Republic's most prestigious economic teaching and research centres. The IES is unique in its international character (for example, an overwhelming majority of master's courses are offered in English) and in the number of leading Czech economists and policy-makers who teach in the Institute.

- **The Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism (ICSJ)**

The Institute offers degrees at all three levels offered by the Faculty. Its research activities focus on the analysis and the history of the media, with a special emphasis on the Czech Republic, the former Czechoslovakia before 1989 and its historical neighbours. The ICSJ offers programmes in marketing communication and PR, media studies and journalism. They are the most attractive programmes when it comes to the number of applicants.

- **The Institute of International Studies (IIS)**

The Institute offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral programme in modern history and area studies. In both programmes, the Institute concentrates its activities on four primary regions: the countries of the former Soviet Union and East-Central Europe, the German-speaking countries of Central Europe, Western Europe and North America.

- **The Institute of Political Studies (IPS)**

The Institute offers a fully-fledged university education in political science, international relations and security studies. The Institute is made up of two departments, the Department of Political Science and the Department of International Relations. It takes a very active part in research and regularly organises international conferences in its field.

- **The Institute of Sociological Studies (ISS)**

The Institute offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes in both sociology and public and social policy. Moreover, on the bachelor's level it also offers a programme in social anthropology. ISS graduates are trained to perform high-level analysis of social, political, economic and cultural issues and to carry out

public opinion polls, market research and anthropological research. In addition, the Faculty also has two research centres, the Centre for Media Studies and the Centre for Social and Economic Strategies.

- **Centre for Media Studies (CEMES)**

The Centre was established in 1996. It focuses on three interlinked issues: the modern history of the Czech media, the role and the status of the media under the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century and media literacy.

- **Centre for Social and Economic Strategies (CESES)**

The Centre was founded in 2000. It is an interdisciplinary research and education unit engaged in the development of theory, methodology and practice to explore possible future developments and the application of analyses and forecasts in decision making.





# Student Life

The **Pavlač Festival** is a popular student arts festival held every year in May. Those looking for a mixture of music, stage performances, a bit of literature and some author readings (not to mention sausages and beer) should not miss this event. It is not surprising that the festival has a long tradition. The first one was held in 1996.

Every May, the rector of the university organizes an annual **Rector's Sports Day** with each participating Faculty being in charge of one sport activity. The Faculty of Social Sciences usually organizes a joint bicycle and inline ride with the management of the faculty. In 2013, approximately 40 students, including several international students, joined the dean and several vice-deans on their bikes or inline skates.

The annual **Faculty Ball** attracts more than a thousand students each year. The combination of great music, dancing and a friendly crowd makes this event unforgettable.

The annual **Faculty Steamship Cruise** usually takes place at the end of the summer semester and gives students and academics an opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal level while sailing on the Vltava river.



# Alumni

**Institute of Economic Studies** graduates work in great numbers for international financial or consulting companies. IES graduates can be found in governmental institutions (both national, such as the Czech National Bank or international, such as the European Union) and non-governmental organisations (such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund).

**Institute of Political Studies** as well as **Institute of International Studies** graduates typically acquire positions in the public sector, non-governmental organisations and the media.

**Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism** graduates work in all media-related fields (press, radio, television) in the public relations departments of commercial and non-commercial institutions.

**Institute of Sociological Studies** graduates make careers not only in universities and research institutes but also in public opinion research agencies or as civil servants, public and policy analysts, social policy consultants at the highest levels of public administration and consulting, multinational companies and foreign institutions.

Besides these career opportunities, some Faculty graduates continue their studies abroad or undertake teaching and research work at universities.

"I am very proud to be alumni of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. Long tradition, highest academic standards, strong commitment and discipline make it a unique school. My experience was both fun and challenging. The background I received at Charles University gives me the confidence and potential I need to go where I want to be."

**Aleksey Bozhko, Uzbekistan**  
graduate of IEPS

"What an amazing experience!"

**Claire Hughes, Australia**  
graduate of IEPS

"I have learned how to solve problems both on my own and in teams, which proved crucial in my career... I still co-operate with many of my classmates who hold important positions at various companies and universities around the world."

**Jan Valenta**  
CFO at EVRAZ Highveld Steel and Vanadium, South Africa  
graduate of BEF and MEF

# Prague

**Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the world. It is a city with more than one thousand years of history and over 1.2 million inhabitants. Prague is famous for its beauty and cultural wealth. It is often called “golden”, “hundred-spined” or “the heart of Europe”.**

The city boasts a well preserved historic centre incorporating all existing architectural styles and features: Romanesque rotundas, Gothic and Baroque churches, Renaissance palaces and gardens, Art Nouveau, Cubist and Modern buildings. Prague is also full of parks and beautifully landscaped gardens.

The historic centre and Prague Castle are protected by UNESCO. The river Vltava, running through the city for a distance of 31 km through hills and valleys, enhances the beauty of the landscape.

The city lies in the middle of the Central Bohemian Region, offering good opportunities for leisure and entertainment activities on the weekends. The protected nature reserves of Křivoklátsko and Kokořínsko and the river basins of the Sázava and Berounka are among the most popular destinations.

Prague has a dynamic modern urban life. Important congresses and cultural, social and political events of international importance take place here. In terms of tourism, Prague is one of the most visited European cities.

As the cultural, political and economic centre of the Czech Republic, Prague enjoys a rich cultural scene and diverse nightlife. Being a very multicultural city with over 130,000 students, it offers thriving student life with a wide range of theatres, galleries, entertainment centres and sports facilities. Local nightlife is based on music clubs and bars that are open until the early morning hours.

The cost of living in Prague is fairly low. Transportation, food shopping, dining and accommodation are still considerably cheaper than most West European capitals. Prague is a safe city with a highly efficient and well integrated public transport network. Prague is also well connected with a large international airport with direct flights to over 125 destinations in 47 countries.

More detailed information about Prague: <http://www.praguewelcome.cz>



## Further Information

- **Please visit:**  
www.fsv.cuni.cz for more information about the Faculty of Social Sciences and all programmes offered or address your enquiries to **info@fsv.cuni.cz**.
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