

Annual Report 2019

Charles University







**Albertov,
16.11.2019**

The photo on the cover was taken on 16 November 2019 in Albertov, Prague, where the Free November initiative organised a concert entitled Velvet Eve to celebrate 30 years of freedom.

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Rector's
Introduction

Photographs from Charles University's "Our November 89" exhibition, which took place in the Carolinum in 2019 and was part of the Free November initiative. Photographer Vlastimil Pilař said of the picture: "As a bus driver in public transport, I worked on shifts. I kept my camera on me at all times and went for walks both through and outside the city centre. The picture shows the strike at the National Theatre".



Dear colleagues and friends of Charles University,

The story of 2019 is closely connected with the historical anniversaries of our country, the events of 17 November 1939 and 1989. It is in these years that resistance formed against evil, injustice and oppression, and the fascist terror and totalitarian practices that devastated our country and society for many years. Charles University organised a number of public events, memorial gatherings and conferences to mark these important milestones, through which we paid tribute to all those who did not hesitate to speak up for truth and freedom at key turning points in our history.

It was the students and teachers of Charles University who stood in the front lines of the resistance in November 1939 and 1989. Many of them sacrificed the most precious thing they have – their lives – to this struggle. The names of Jan Opletal, Jan Palach, Jan Zajíc and many others must never be forgotten, as must the deeds of hundreds and thousands of anonymous heroes who won justice and freedom through their, sometimes even minor, deeds. I would like to express my deep respect and gratitude to all of them.

I also thank all those who help to promote democratic principles and the values of civic society through their daily work. This is extremely important because our freedom is not permanent or eternal, and cannot survive without the attention of every one of us. In 2019, we celebrated 30 years of freedom. We recalled the great importance of free universities and free knowledge and research for the development of our society and country. The Annual Report on the Activities of Charles University in 2019 serves as a symbolic celebration of this freedom. We have compiled it from 1 + 9 stories and topics that were of crucial importance to the University in 2019.

The first and most fundamental topic is devoted to the celebrations of freedom and the events and activities organised by CU to commemorate the events of 17 November, the Day of the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy and International Students' Day. The coordination of all events in the Free November initiative was undertaken by students themselves, who organised eleven unique events, including conferences, exhibitions and special meetings. For the first time, for example, a musical was staged in the historic premises of the Great Hall in the Carolinum. The musical was based on songs by Karel Kryl and was prepared and performed by students of the Charles University Faculty of Education. On the occasion of the celebration of 30 years of freedom, the Carolinum hosted a debate between three Czech ex-Prime Former Ministers entitled Three Decades of Democracy, an exhibition of historical photographs entitled Our November

89, visited by people from all over the Czech Republic, and international conferences entitled Europe, International Students' Day, and From Barbed Wire to Schengen.

Events held by the University to mark 17 November included the traditional commemorative events at the Hlávka Student Dormitory and on Národní třída and Albertov, culminating in an evening gathering of members of the academic community at the Carolinum. I was delighted that over 20,000 people were able to take part in the Free November events.

I am delighted about the increase in the number of applicants for study at Charles University. While in 2018 we recorded 35,810 applicants, in 2019 this number had risen to 39,583. Of these, 18,821 were interested in bachelor's courses, 18,891 in master's courses, and 1,871 in doctoral studies. The total number of new enrolments was 15,418.

We organised a number of events at which we presented options for how and what to study at Charles University to potential applicants. In 2019 CU participated in the Gaudeamus student fairs, which took place in Prague, Brno and Bratislava, and organised the fifth year of the Junior University, at which applicants can acquaint themselves with individual subjects, teachers and the University's own facilities. At the Open Day all faculties offered information to potential applicants, and an Information Week also took place.

In 2019, 45,456 students studied at Charles University, 9,021 of whom came from abroad. They could choose from a total of 830 accredited degree programmes. 156 degree programmes were offered in a foreign language.

In 2019, CU had 7,892 graduates, of whom 2,958 graduated from bachelor's, 4,231 from master's, and 703 from doctoral programmes.

The Charles University Centre for Information, Counselling and Social Services, recently named CU Point, has undergone a major transformation, providing important services to applicants, students, graduates and employees. In 2019, it moved from the Carolinum to the newly reconstructed Millesim Palace in Celetná street in Prague, where it will operate in a new, modern facility. Its many tasks include maintaining contact with graduates of Charles University through the Alumni Club, for which we organised a number of meetings during 2019.

Another topic of the annual report are Charles University's international partnerships. In 2019, we achieved extraordinary success with the 4EU+ university alliance. The group, which is made up of Heidelberg University, Sorbonne University, the University of Warsaw, the University of Milan, Copenhagen University and Charles University, was chosen from a total of 54 submitted proposals. 4EU+ can therefore expect to receive funding for projects aimed at transforming individual member institutions into "European universities of the future". The success of the 4EU+ alliance was primarily due the enthusiasm, energy and efforts of the university staff involved, which did not go unnoticed by the supreme body of the European Commission. The success of 4EU+ in the first wave of the Erasmus+ European University project was also aided by support from more than two dozen organisations and business partners.

The universities involved in the 4EU+ alliance started their cooperation in 2017. A year later they officially presented a plan of cooperation, not only in research and innovation, education and services, but also for the free movement of students and academics.

We implemented the Internationalisation Strategy 2018–2021, which focuses on the development of international cooperation through Charles University's strategic partnerships, and cooperation with the League of European Research Universities, as well as on strengthening the mobility of students and academics. In 2019, a total of 2,307 of our students and 4,743 academics travelled through international mobility. At Charles University, on the other hand, we received 4,551 incoming students and 1,028 academics.

Rector's Introduction

In 2019 CU continued to be ranked in the top 1% of universities world-wide. We were placed 291st in the prestigious international QS: World University Rankings, with the following fields of study ranked among the 150 best in the world: philosophy, geography, linguistics, media and communication studies, modern languages, and political science and international studies. In the Academic Ranking of World Universities, CU is ranked 200th to 300th, and in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, we are among the 450 best universities in the world.

We give considerable support to the University's staff, because the best university is made up of the best people. In 2019 Charles University had a total of 12,336 employees (individual, academic and non-academic staff), of whom 667 were professors, 1,059 associate professors, and 3,009 assistant professors.

In 2019 Charles University became a holder of the prestigious HR Excellence in Research Award certificate, also known as the HR Award. The European Commission awards the certificate to only those research institutions that successfully implement the HR Strategy for Researchers. In practice, this means that institutions must be compliant with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. It also entails regular external evaluations.

Our long-term endeavour is to improve employees' working conditions, as well as provide various forms of employee benefits in culture, sports and leisure. We have recently added the MultiSport card, a variant of working from home, known as home office, assistance with nursery school fees, and more to the list of benefits.

We organised a number of events for students, employees and their families, such as the Rector's Sports Day, the annual CU Ball, Children's Day, a St. Nicholas' Day party, and a traditional Advent meeting full of Christmas carols and sweets. The development of employee education is provided for by the Centre for Lifelong Learning, which in 2019 organized a total of 577 courses in various specialisations, from social care to information and communication.

In 2019, CU continued to provide comprehensive support for excellent science and research activities at the University in the form of a number of university grants, competitions and grant projects. One of the important tools for this is the research funding provided through the Donatio Universitatis Carolinæ, which was also obtained by prof. Ing. Zdeněk Strakoš, DrSc. from the Charles University Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, who in the fourth story of this annual report describes the importance of this funding for accelerating the research team and completing research. Funding was also obtained in 2019 by prof. MUDr. Zuzana Motovská, Ph.D., from the Charles University Third Faculty of Medicine, prof. RNDr. Bohumír Janský, CSc., from the Charles University Faculty of Science, prof. David Storch, Ph.D., from the Charles University Faculty of Science, and prof. Ing. Evžen Kočenda, MA, Ph.D., DSc., from the Charles University Faculty of Social Sciences.

Other tools used by CU to support science and research activities in 2019 included the Progres and Primus programmes and the UNCE competition.

In 2019 an evaluation of research work was initiated at Charles University. The new evaluation consists of five modules, is based on scientometric data and peer review of selected results, and incorporates both the assessment of individual disciplines across the University and the evaluation of individual faculties and constituent parts.

The chosen benchmark universities are the University of Heidelberg, Copenhagen University, the University of Milan, the University of Warsaw, the Catholic University of Leuven, the University of Leiden and the University of Vienna.

The evaluation is performed by expert panels composed of outstanding Czech and international academics and researchers. The members of these panels were recruited on the basis of recommendations from the International

Council and partner universities. Subject evaluation panels for the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and medical sciences were constituted on a similar basis. The evaluation was launched in March 2019 and its results will be available by the end of 2020.

Individual faculties and constituent parts of Charles University participated in grant programmes and research projects, and development and innovation projects funded by targeted financial support made available by the largest grant providers in the Czech Republic – the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (GA CR and TA CR), as well as departmental programmes and targeted support provided by individual ministries and regions.

A very significant success for CU was the obtaining of a new ERC

Grant, which is held by Mgr. Filip Kolář, Ph.D. from the Charles University Faculty of Science, who received financial support to investigate the importance of multiplying genetic information, also known as polyploidisation, in plants. The results of his work will help to understand the mechanisms of plant evolution, with further possible use in selective breeding. Along with this, Charles University submitted applications for a total of 8 ERC grants, being overseen by the following researchers: doc. RNDr. Jana Kalbáčová Vejpravová, Ph.D. (MFF), doc. Mgr. Vladimír Hampl, Ph.D. (PřF), doc. Mgr. Libor Barto, Ph.D. (MFF), Mgr. Jiří Klimeš, Ph.D. (MFF), Mgr. Matyáš Fendrych, Ph.D. (PřF), Mgr. Ondřej Pejcha, Ph.D. (MFF) and prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Nešetřil, DrSc. (MFF).

As a research-oriented university, Charles University offers a large number of doctoral programmes;

in 2019, we hosted 5,473 doctoral students, with 711 successful doctoral graduates. Last year there were a total of 10 coordination councils of doctoral programmes in the following thematic areas: biomedicine, historical sciences, social sciences, philology, philosophy, didactics, law, medicine, pharmacy and health sciences, mathematics, physics and information science, and the natural sciences.

We strive not only to continuously develop the quality of individual doctoral programmes, but also to strengthen the skills and knowledge of doctoral candidates, for example with regard to so-called transferable skills. These are important for their future careers in academia and commerce. In 2019, we therefore introduced the doctoral platform, through which doctoral students receive a comprehensive offer of professional training courses and seminars from all providers (UK Point, Central Library of Charles University, Centre for Lifelong Learning and Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer).

In the course of 2019, Charles University underwent a follow-up evaluation as part of the Institutional Evaluation Programme, the conclusions from which will be used in the preparation of a new strategic plan for the years 2021–2025. In the first half of the year, it first prepared a self-evaluation report, which focused on changes that had been made since the initial evaluation; at the turn of October and November, the university was visited by an evaluation team from the European University Association, which will prepare a final evaluation report for CU.

In 2019 CU achieved significant success in the field of sports.

These successes are stories of hard work, determination and self-denial. One of the strongest of these was written in 2019 by Tereza Kmočová, a deaf skier and student of the Faculty of Science at Charles University. At the 19th Winter Deaflympics, which took place in Italy in December, she won one gold and four silver medals and rounded her medal gain at the Deaflympics at a total of 15 (eight gold, six silver, one bronze). This is a phenomenal achievement that deserves great respect.

Many thanks to all the athletes of Charles University who won the Czech Academic Games, at which they gained the most points from all schools in all disciplines. The sports teams of the Charles University were also very successful: the rowers of Charles University won gold in the University Eights race,

Rector's Introduction

CU won the ice hockey battle between the four largest Prague universities, as well as the Prague Mayor's Cup, and the CU team again won the silver medal in bridge at the European Academic Championships.

CU is strongly committed to supporting sports across all faculties, allowing students to have individual study plans, and also gives full support to applicants with special needs. Charles University operates a large number of sports facilities, such as the Hostivař Sports Centre, the boat house in Prague-Troja, as well as many others in Pilsen and Hradec Králové, where other faculties are located.

In 2019 we focused intensively on fulfilling what is called the third role of the University in society. I am delighted that we were able to successfully transfer knowledge and research results into practice. A large part of this work is carried out by the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (CPPT) and the newly established subsidiary, Charles University Innovations Prague s.r.o. (CUIP). Thanks to this, in 2019 we managed to file a total of 18 patent applications, receive a grant for 11 patents, register 11 utility models, and we recently concluded 3 licensing agreements. In total, CU received income totaling almost 24 million CZK in this area.

We launched a new discussion platform of Charles University, called "Czech Republic! And what next?", the aim of which is to present the work of individual faculties in the form of public debates in the regions and to involve prominent figures at CU in dealing with fundamental issues affecting society. At every event, the University operated a stand at which students presented the activities of the University as well as information of options for study at CU. In 2019, 7 public debates were held on 7 topics, organised by 6 faculties of Charles University. We organised the debates in cooperation with 11 universities from all over the Czech Republic, professional institutions, civic and non-profit associations, cities and regions. 11 universities, 61 speakers and over 800 guests took part in the events.

In 2019, Charles University organised a total of 178 conferences on various topics and a total of 112 international conferences. We also welcomed a number of important foreign guests, such as President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska, who received the Gold Commemorative Medal of Charles University, and former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Joachim Gauck, who received the International Charles IV Award, awarded to those who have achieved extraordinary European significance through their cultural, scientific or political work, in the Carolinum.

Three large exhibitions dedicated to important anniversaries took place at the Carolinum in 2019. We celebrated the 100th anniversary of Czech Egyptology with a unique exhibition entitled *Between Prague and Cairo*, prepared by the Czech Institute of Egyptology of the Charles University Faculty of Arts. The exhibition mapped the beginnings of Czech Egyptology and the path to current research in desert locations, as well as the significant successes achieved along the way. Visitors could view unique photographs, documents and copies of rare artefacts discovered by Czech researchers in Egypt.

The six hundredth anniversary of the death of King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Wenceslas IV was marked by an exhibition entitled *Wenceslas IV – A King Between Two Ages*, at which visitors could view a facsimile of the bible of Wenceslas IV, copies of the so-called "beautiful style" sculptures, and copies of paintings by the Master of the Třeboň Altar, the Madonna of St. Vitus and the Madonna of Old Town Square (*Madona Rynecká*). The unique exhibits also included precise copies of the Czech Crown of St. Wenceslas and the crown of the Kings of Rome.

The twentieth anniversary of the Czech Republic's accession to NATO was marked by the photographic exhibition *The Other Life*, which showed the demanding work of Czech soldiers in missions abroad. The photographs were taken by Sergeant Daniel Hlaváč, who himself has completed several missions abroad.

In 2019, a total of six issues of the award-winning university magazine *Forum* were published – four in Czech, two in English. The last issue focused on the events of 1989 and featured interviews with people who were there at the time,

memories of events surrounding the Velvet Revolution, unique historical photographs, and testimonies. This issue was printed in a special bilingual edition.

Dear Colleagues,

in conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your work, commitment and the energy you devote to our alma mater. The University is a community of people, and its activities and successful development are at all times the result of joint work and joint performance. I would also like to thank you for the trust that I have gained from you for my second term as Rector. I want to assure you that I will continue to work for our alma mater with the highest possible commitment and, together with my colleagues, will strive to make it even better, more successful internationally, and to develop freedom and quality of research and education.

I look forward to us working together next year to ensure that our alma mater continues to maintain its internal integrity, autonomy, independence, and status as one of Europe's most prestigious universities.

prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., MBA

Rector of Charles University

Prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., MBA, is the **508th** rector of Charles University. 2019 was his **6th** year as Rector, a post that he has occupied since 1 February 2014.





Stories
of Charles
University
2019

FaF UK, November 1989: Gottwald (now Ulrich) Square in Hradec Králové in November 1989.



On 16 November 2019, the Free November student initiative organised a concert entitled "Velvet Eve" at Albertov in Prague.



On 15 November 2019, the Great Hall in the Carolinum hosted the premiere of a musical for the first time in its history. It featured the theatrical piece The Unknown Soldier, prepared by students of the Faculty of Education of Charles University. The work was loosely inspired by the life of Karel Kryl.

On 12 November 2019, the Political Science Club of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University organised a debate entitled "Three Decades of Democracy: Debate between former Czech Prime Ministers". Former Prime Ministers Vladimír Špidla, Jiří Paroubek and Petr Nečas took part in the discussion.



Thirty years of a free university

A leader in research, number
of students and international
cooperation

In 2019, we celebrated thirty years of public, civil liberties, and this year we want to look back on how this gradual, yet quite profound, transformation of Czech society was reflected in its oldest university. The University has already experienced many such, more or less sudden, reversals or revolutions, from the Kutná Hora Decree through the Josephine reforms and linguistic division, to the reforms of Zdeněk Nejedlý. They mostly came from outside, they seldom meant some kind of relaxation and increased freedom, but they always brought something new and, of course, took it away.

As an outsider who only studied at CU through three years of distance learning in mathematics in the mid-1960s, I don't know if I'm the right person to properly appreciate the transformation in the last thirty years. On the other hand, my life with the University in this period was very intensive, as I progressed through its various institutes and levels, starting with a mechanical workshop, through the post of assistant, then up to dean and minister. The view from the outside may not be completely pointless either, so I'll start with that right away, however unsatisfactory it may be.

The most striking change that all Czech universities have experienced is the sharp increase in the number of applicants and students. This occurred as early as the beginning of the 1990s, when the Ministry [of Education] decided to fund schools "per student", and the increase was so sharp that in a few years, the excess pressure of demand turned into a shortage of students. It may be less noticeable at CU than at other schools, faculties and subjects, but it certainly does not benefit the standard of study and increases the proportion of students who do not complete their studies. At most universities the increase in the number of students was reflected in the construction of new buildings, with the unfortunate exception of CU. Perhaps this is related to the rather cold attitude of Prague City Hall, which cannot be compared to the town halls of other university towns.

In recent years, private schools have also contributed to the extensive development of higher education, albeit in numbers rather than in size. As everywhere in Europe, the inspiration was American, but marked by a characteristic misunderstanding. Everyone knows that America's most famous universities are not public, which is why many thought that they were private or for-profit companies. In fact, in our terms they are self-governing non-profit organisations that receive significant support from the state. While our business schools probably won't create an Ivy League, they've helped spark a lively discussion on tuition fees. So far, it doesn't seem to have done much damage, and the Western experience is leading to a more sober perspective. However, the situation in which some nursery schools collect ten times the ministerial allowance per pupil is not sustainable.

In creating new subjects and faculties, public universities are, perhaps, more inventive and take advantage of the main internal transformation, namely the freedom of learning and research. Although Charles University mostly continues to exist within its old buildings, it quickly seized new opportunities for university science and research, which the previous regime sought to separate from schools. Today, Charles University, together with the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, is clearly at the forefront of Czech research, to the extent that some disciplines are struggling with the temptation to devote themselves more to research than to teaching. That would, in my view, be a pity.

The development of international cooperation and mobility of students and teachers is closely related to the opening-up of new opportunities for learning and research. We can only be happy that Charles University is in the forefront in this area, too, although cooperation is hampered by language barriers and, surprisingly, a certain comfort zone on the part of students. At international conferences you will meet significantly more Poles and Hungarians, who may not be afraid to speak English, albeit with a little bit of stumbling. What we can only be happy about is the fact that Charles University is doing well with very limited resources, even considering the high level of interest from students abroad in studying in the Czech Republic. However, its reputation is above all a commitment to the future.



prof. PhDr. Jan Sokol, CSc., Ph.D.
Dean Emeritus, CU Faculty of Social Sciences

17 November 1939

A day of overwhelming Nazi repression against students, teachers and universities. It was provoked after the funeral of Jan Opletal, a student in his fourth year at the CU Faculty of Medicine, on 15 November 1939 turned into a demonstration against the occupation.

Czech universities were closed.

The Gestapo occupied university dormitories in Prague, Brno and Příbram and arrested students and members of the teaching staff.

Nine representatives of student associations were shot dead and over 1,200 students were taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In response to these events, 17 November was declared International Students' Day in London on 17 November 1941.

In **1945** branches of the Faculty of Medicine was founded in Pilsen and Hradec Králové.



Voxel, Jen, Tomáš Klus
and Chinaski performed
at the Velvet Eve
concert.



Students and the
general public
commemorated the
events of 17 November
together at the
traditional location in
Albertov, Prague.

On 17 November
2019, a number of
academics, students
and prominent
personalities spoke
about the importance
of freedom and
democracy in Albertov.



Thirty years of freedom Anniversary celebrations at Charles University

The legacy of 17 November relates not only to 1989, but especially to 1939. Following the events of 1939, this day was engraved in the memory of the world as International Students' Day. It was the memory of 1939 that, fifty years later, gave the impetus to the organisation of a student march that set in motion the events that led to the fall of the totalitarian regime. It is our most important holiday.

Every year, Charles University commemorates this important day, for example with commemorative event in Albertov and a concert in the Great Hall of the ancient Carolinum. However, the preparation and concept of the celebrations of the 30th and 80th anniversaries of 17 November changed significantly in 2019, and this transformation represented a unique opportunity and challenge not only for the University, but also for the organisational team.

Events were organised by students and it was a great honour for me to be the coordinator of the whole activity. Thanks to their excellent cooperation and great support from the University, the Free November initiative was created. We prepared a total of eleven individual events and a number of subsidiary activities. During the preparations we faced many unexpected obstacles, and I owe the success of the whole event mainly to the perseverance, enthusiasm and diligence of all the organisers. For some of us, this project was actually a key point in our lives, a unique experience.

The main motive of Free November was what is called the freedom generation, i.e. the generation of young people who were born after 1989 and have only indirect information about the totalitarian period.

The Freedom Generation was also the title of a sociological survey we conducted last autumn. It looked into how this generation perceives life security, the political situation in the country, and the opportunities that their parents did not have. And what were the results? For example, only 11% of young people are satisfied with the current political situation in the country, 70% view the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union as important, and only 43% view the Czech education system as a good preparation for future occupations. All of which is definitely food for thought.

Other important activities of Free November included the debates between former Czech Prime Ministers, the multi-genre Faculty Night student festival at the Charles University Faculty of Law, a conference on Czechoslovak dissent, the Unknown Soldier musical, a conference on Czechoslovak economic transformation, and the Velvet Eve event in Albertov. The programme culminated with the commemorative event in Albertov on 17 November followed by the Velvet Parade, a reenactment of the 1989 student march from Albertov to Národní třída.

I am delighted with the massive support that we received from the University, both from the management and across the faculties, and we were able to get more than 20,000 direct participants, the media, important personalities, foreign guests and, above all, students involved in Free November. Many thanks to our partners, who made it possible to hold the celebration of freedom in this format. These include the City of Prague, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Česká spořitelna, the CEZ Group, ČSOB, IOCB Tech, and Sherlog.



Mgr. Michal Zima

Coordinator of the Free November initiative

In 2019, students and representatives of Charles University prepared a total of 11 events to mark the anniversary of 17 November 1939 and 1989

Free November in Albertov (17.11.2019).

Faculty Night (13.11.2019).

Velvet Eve (16.11.2019).

Three Decades of Democracy: Debate between Czech Prime Ministers (12.11.2019).

Conference: Czechoslovak Dissent and its Social Reach (15.11.2019).

Our November 89 (15.11–15.12.2019)

Economic Transformation in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic 1989–2019 (15.11.2019).

The Unknown Soldier (15.11.2019).

Europe and International Students' Day (16.11.2019).

From Barbed Wire to Schengen (19.11.2019).

Memorial Gathering (13.11.2019).

Event at CU organised by the Free November initiative were attended by more than **20 thousand** people.





Charles University Rector Tomáš Zima, together with other representatives of the University, commemorated the anniversary of the events of November 1989 at the memorial plaque on Národní třída.



On the evening of 17 November 2019 a gala concert was held at the Carolinum on the occasion of the 80th and 30th anniversary of the events in November.



Hundreds of people took part in a procession which, as in 1989, headed from Albertov to Národní třída.

**How will universities
change in the next
30 years?**

I tied my study and professional life to Charles University many years ago. Although in many ways the University has remained the same, in a lot of ways I see a significant shift towards the better. Progress has been made not only in the approach of teachers to teaching, but especially the way of thinking and involvement of a new generation of students in the University's activities.

The past year has been full of events and challenges, thanks to which we are probably even more aware than ever that the University's role is not only as a place of education, but also as a centre of progress and a guardian of social values. My personal wish is that these and other implied roles be preserved. However, I expect that, in line with global developments in technology, the face of the University will change in some areas.

Many of the University's activities will move into the digital environment. It is already clear that online seminars or the creation of electronic study materials are inevitable steps towards facilitating the greatest possible access to knowledge for not only our students, but also the general public. I have attended several webinars myself, and can confirm from the position of a student and a teacher how powerful and effective they are. Nevertheless, I do not think that the time of "classic" seminars with a full class of listeners has passed. It takes much more effort and discipline to maintain one's attention and really perceive the teacher on the screen than if the student (and the teacher) is forced to interact live in the classroom and leave their comfort zone. Let's not forget practical teaching, which is an integral part of the curriculum in many disciplines. Even the most faithful models of the human body, virtual reality or chemical reaction simulators cannot yet replace work at the patient's bedside or in the laboratory, and I cannot imagine that this will be different in thirty years' time.

Despite (or perhaps because of) my slight scepticism about modern technology, I believe that universities should remain bearers of progress who determine the trends that society will follow, as well as how to deal with technological advances. In my opinion, at universities modern technologies will not only develop, but mainly be actively used in teaching, communication and other aspects of university life. While we probably won't travel to lectures on hovercraft, virtual seminars across continents are feasible, and even desirable. As a result, I can imagine that, thanks to all available online forms of teaching and cooperation between Europe's top universities, all students will have the opportunity to learn from the greatest experts in the field, whom they would probably not have met without distance learning.

As the relative distance between students and the university, as well as the public, shortens, interaction in foreign languages will be a matter of course, which will bring greater demands on the language skills of both students and all employees. Therefore, let us now attach the same importance to the teaching of languages as to the teaching of professional knowledge and skills, as they serve as a tool for the development of other parts of our personality.

Despite the growing importance of technology and distance forms of education, I believe that the next generation will not miss out on the experience of the university as we know it today – full of personal contact with interesting personalities, inspiring friendships for life, and unforgettable experiences at the faculties.



MUDr. Anna Malečková

Member of the Academic Senate of Charles University, doctoral student, CU Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen

17 November 1989

The day the so-called Velvet Revolution, i.e. far-reaching changes in the political, social and economic order of Czechoslovakia, started.

University students gathered in Albertov, Prague, to honour the memory of student Jan Opletal, who was murdered by the Nazis in 1939.

The peaceful meeting turned into an anti-regime demonstration. On Národní třída, the state riot police brutally intervened against its participants.

The changes were set in motion.

On 24 November 1989 the leadership of the Communist Party resigned, on 7 December the federal government resigned, and on 10 December the last Communist President, Gustav Husák, resigned. On 29 December he was replaced by writer and dissident Václav Havel.

17 November is today a national holiday and is commemorated as the Day of the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy.

In 2019, **45,456** students studied at the Charles University, **9,021** of whom came from abroad.





In June 2019, the European Commission selected the 4EU+ alliance as one of the pilot European Universities projects. This success fully triggered work on projects aimed at transforming the individual members of the alliance into the “European universities of the future”.



4EU+ university alliance

An opportunity worth taking advantage of

It was an honour for me to be present at the very genesis of the 4EU+ university alliance, a unique project that sets the highest goals in the field of international interlinking of science, research and quality of education. The strongest experience the project has given me is seeing and helping the best universities in Europe and in the world to realise the vision of common European integration in higher education. In the project I, as a member of Working Group Education, help to prepare of strategies and tools for innovation in education.

The 4EU+ university alliance came into being in 2018 following the signature of a common plan and commitment by the partner universities. Initially, four institutions joined forces: the Sorbonne University, Heidelberg University, the University of Warsaw and our alma mater. The project was subsequently joined by the University of Milan and the University of Copenhagen. The fact that four universities are part of the highly prestigious LERU (Leading European Research Universities) network of research universities, a grouping to which only the best of the best are admitted, speaks of the highest quality of the alliance.

2019 was a year of several tests for the newly established university alliance, one which tested the determination of all involved partners, the load-bearing capacity and ambition of the planned goals and activities, as well as members' ability to reach a mutually acceptable consensus.

The first test was the finalisation of the application for the announcement in the European University Erasmus+ programme. The roles to be fulfilled by this initiative in the long term are not inconsiderable: "European universities could play the role of flagship in shaping the European educational area as a whole" and "should become key elements in stimulating its excellence". Therefore, even the intended visions and activities of the 4EU+ alliance could not be standard or unambitious; on the contrary, the phrases "it's not business as usual" and "only sky is the limit" were heard very often at the beginning of 2019. At the same time, however, one had to bear in mind the words of H. L. Mencken: "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong". When it was announced in June that the 4EU+ alliance had been selected by the European Commission as one of the pilot projects for European Universities, it was clear that there was no time for procrastination and that the alliance was facing its second major test of the year. It was necessary to step up a gear, start turning words into deeds and gradually develop joint activities.

What the 4EU+ alliance is to become in the future and the visions and values that it has set itself to fulfil can be summarised as follows:

- To be a proud bearer of common European values and to strengthen elements of European identity.
- To build a common interuniversity academic space enabling the meaningful mobility of students and staff within our institutions.
- To equip our students and graduates with key competencies for living and working in 21st-century society.
- To seek to respond and seek solutions to European and global challenges through mutual cooperation.

Whether we will be successful in this will be tested in the coming years. In my opinion, this is an extraordinary opportunity and it is our duty to make the most of it. The vision is clear; let's get started!



MUDr. Josef Fontana

Member of the Rector's Board, Third Faculty of Medicine of Charles University

The 4EU+ Alliance

- Charles University
- University of Heidelberg
- Sorbonne University
- University of Warsaw
- University of Milan
- University of Copenhagen

CU membership of prestigious international organisations

- UNICA – Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe
- CG – Coimbra Group
- The Europaeum
- EUA – European University Association
- LERU CE7
- CELSA – Central Europe Leuven Strategic Alliance
- EAIE – European Association for International Education
- EUF – European University Foundation
- EARMA – European Association of Research Managers and Administrators
- IAU – International Association of Universities
- The Forum on Education Abroad
- CENTRAL

In 2019 CU students travelled to study in **53** countries through the Erasmus and Erasmus+ programmes.





The HR Award certificate is granted by the European Commission as a mark of high-quality human resources management, which guarantees a professional, friendly and ethical working environment.



HR Award

The best people make the best university

When, at the end of 2017, I first heard about the HR Award and the involvement of the University as a whole, I thought it would be a major challenge for our highly decentralised institution. Over time I realised that, thanks to cooperation across the entire University, we can progress much further than universities whose faculties applied individually.

HR Excellence in Research, known as the HR Award, is granted by the European Commission to research institutions that successfully implement the HR Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R). This means that they are compliant with the principles enshrined in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and undergo regular external evaluation.

We received the prestigious certificate in February 2019. I was delighted when we received the e-mail with the message. Although the team of people who worked on the whole process had to overcome many obstacles, we still believed that we were going in the right direction. Not only do we now have an advantage in some grant schemes, but most of all it is a great commitment for us: we must constantly strive to modernise our university, create a better working environment for all employees, and implement the principles of strategic human resource management, otherwise we will lose the certificate.

What I especially enjoy about the project is its diversity. One of the main objectives was to be more open to the world and to attract more academics from abroad. That is why we have amended our Rules of the Tender, which are based on the principle of open, transparent and substantive competition, and we are continuously translating internal regulations, strategic and internal documents, websites, and systems. A new Staff Welcome Centre has also been set up to provide support and information services for employees from abroad.

In the interests of greater coordination and provision of information, a manual for employees and a unified education portal, on which all courses and seminars organised by the Rectorate are advertised, have been created. We cooperate with the Doctoral Study Platform, which offers courses for doctoral students, especially in the field of soft skills. Furthermore, for example, the Code of Ethics and the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics Committee were amended.

The acquisition of high-quality staff and ensuring the well-being of existing ones is absolutely crucial for all institutions. That is why I am glad that one of the main mottos of the Strategic Plan of Charles University 2021–2025, currently in preparation, is “The best people make the best university”. If the best people work for us, we will be much better as a whole. We still have a lot of work to do.



Mgr. et Mgr. Tereza Svobodová

*Lawyer and coordinator of the HR Award,
Rectorate of Charles University*

HR Award in 2019

12,336: number of employees of CU
(individual, academic and non-academic staff)

506: number of HR Award holders

40: number of HRS4R principles

23: number of steps in the action plan

In 2019 **667** professors, **1,059** associate professors and **3,009** assistant professors worked at CU.





A total of five prominent Charles University researchers received the Donatio Universitatis Carolinae award in April 2019 at a ceremony commemorating the 671st anniversary of the founding of Charles University.



Donatio Universitatis Carolinæ

How important is support for
researchers?

In 2019 I entered the distinguished company of holders of the Donatio Universitatis Carolinae award. I thank everyone who nominated me and supported the nomination. However, my journey to Charles University itself was a long and winding one. I am a graduate of the Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering (FNSPE) of the Czech Technical University and postgraduate studies at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. I obtained a habilitation at the FNSPE and my professorship at the Technical University in Liberec. I only started teaching at MFF UK in 2006. Thanks in particular to my colleagues Josef Málek and Vítek Dolejší, my fortunes has been fully tied to Charles University since 2010.

I am educated in mathematics and computer science and I am not affiliated to any established scientific school. For that reason, I don't like divisive and restrictive approaches. Apart from my studies at university, I am self-taught and, in many ways, also a semi-scholar. Thanks to the friendship and the challenge of happy cooperation with many excellent people, I try to do my part as well as I can because of the work itself. I try to look at things in depth and look for unexpected connections. I like the consistency and transparency of original sources. I do not walk the beaten path and the results I contribute to are not always accepted with enthusiasm by all. Some of those results refute generally proclaimed and very widely quoted claims. My students don't have it easy with me. But I warn them in advance.

The Donatio allowed me to take an informal sabbatical and focus on research. Together with doctoral student Tomáš Gergelits and two colleagues from Norway, we looked at the vital issue of determining the spectrum of preconditioned operators from a fresh perspective. Erin Carson, a researcher on the Primus project, and I published an article in *Philosophical Transactions A*, which is published by the British Royal Society. Reflecting on the different conceptions of the price of iterative calculations, we asked serious questions concerning several fields. The work is growing in breadth and depth in both directions, with contributions by new collaborators.

I very much appreciate the granting of funding through the Donatio Universitatis Carolinae. However, its benefits may be even greater when spread over a longer period of time.

I know from personal experience how difficult it is to come up with new ideas that change the established state of affairs, especially in the domestic environment. That is also why, for example, I try to help my younger colleagues across disciplines and institutions who are preparing a high-quality application for an ERC grant. Charles University was founded for the ennoblement, honour and benefit of the Kingdom of Bohemia through the fruits of knowledge. If I can contribute by even a small amount to fulfilling this duty, I am very grateful for that.



prof. Ing. Zdeněk Strakoš, DrSc.

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University

Support of excellent science at Charles University in 2019

GA UK

The internal Grant Agency of Charles University and the Competition of Student Research Projects and Conferences supports scientific and research work by students, especially in doctoral programmes.

Progres

A programme of basic institutional funding for research activities, which supports the development of scientific disciplines fostered at Charles University and interdisciplinary and interfaculty cooperation.

Primus

A competition for the provision of funding to researchers (usually with experience abroad) in setting up new research groups and laboratories at the University.

Unce

Competition organised by the University Research Centres to support young, promising academic staff in the highest quality basic research groups.

Donatio Universitatis Carolinae

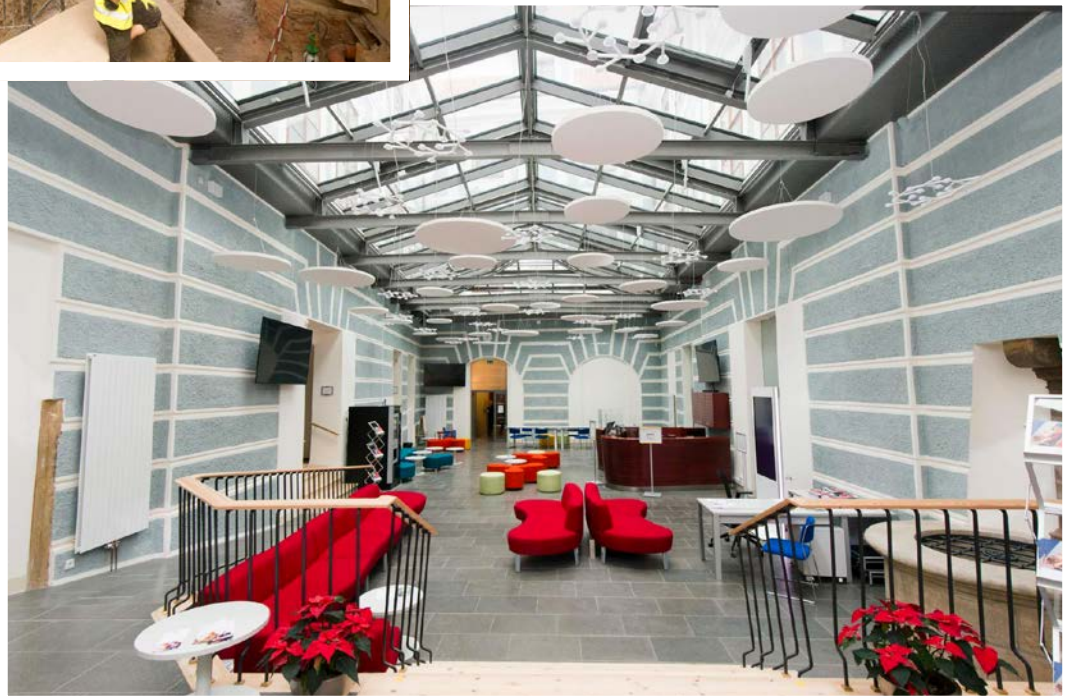
A programme to support important personalities in research who make an extraordinary contribution to the professional prestige of Charles University.

In 2019 students had a total of **34** representatives out of the total **70** members of the Academic Senate of Charles University.





The oldest part of the Millesim Palace, a Romanesque house under the west wing, dates from the 12th century. Charles University has owned the premises since 1990.



Millesim Palace

A historical gem again in the service of Charles University

I was overjoyed when I first entered the newly renovated Millesim Palace. Not just because the architects managed to sensitively interweave all the modern elements needed for the day-to-day running of the University with the historical authenticity of the building, but also because we, together with the Faculties of Arts and Education of Charles University had the opportunity to return “home” after two years. However, one change did await us in connection with the return – the IPSC, i.e. the Centre for Information, Counselling and Social Services of Charles University, became CU Point. We believe that for applicants, students, graduates and employees, this is a clearer designation for the point where they will find information and services of the University in one place. In our new premises we will continue to cater for handicapped students and students with children. The new classrooms, fitted with modern equipment, also open up new opportunities for student associations and members of the Alumni Club. Visit us and a completely barrier-free and functional work space, in which the genius loci has been fully preserved, awaits.

Working in the Millesim Palace is a lovely privilege, and one is surrounded by real history at every turn. The history of the building dates back to the 12th century. Since that time the building has undergone a number of changes of style, from Gothic to Baroque, with the most recent renovation completed in September 2019.

The building has been host to a very diverse range of tenants. In the 19th century an aristocratic casino and a luxury restaurant were located in the building, and in the 20th century a library of Marxism-Leninism. However, since 1990 the palace has belonged to Charles University and thanks to its oldest part, the Romanesque house, it is the oldest premises owned by the University. Within this Baroque cultural monument you will currently find offices and classrooms of the Faculties of Education and Philosophy of Charles University, CU Point, and the Carolina Centre.

The Faculty of Education has situated the Departments of English, German, Russian, Linguistic Didactics, and its library in the building. The building is also home to the CU Faculty of Arts' Institute of Theoretical and Computational Linguistics. Visitors to our CU Point, will find a well-coordinated team of experts with the maximum amount of information at their disposal, allowing them to give fully qualified advice in both Czech and English. At the Carolina Centre, we provide assistance to all students who find themselves in difficult life situations. Our goal is to support students with health issues or social disadvantages and students with children. We try to arrange visits to Charles University counselling centres for all those who are interested in our services, or otherwise mitigate issues that may lead to the premature termination of their studies.

And what am I personally happy about, and most looking forward to? I am glad that the new premises are barrier-free. I am also looking forward to all the events organized by CU Point, student associations or members of the Alumni Club that will take place in them. In the future, we would like to open them even more to students and the general public. Discussions on current topics or bazaars and swapping events are planned. But we'll tell you about them next time.



Mgr. Ludmila Součková
Head of CU Point

Renovation and development of University premises in 2019

- completion of the renovation of the Millesim Palace
- completion of the Mephared Hradec Králové campus
- preparation of the new Albertov campus
- foundation stone laid for UniMec II in Pilsen
- renovation and completion of the FSV complex in Jinonice
- construction of the FTVS campus in Veleslavín

In 2019 students had at their disposal **18** dormitories, **9** canteens, **5** food services and **3** buffets. On average, **3,500** meals a day were served at all CU canteens this year!





In 2019, botanist Filip Kolář from the Charles University Faculty of Science received an ERC grant. The results of his research will help us to better understand the mechanism of plant evolution.

ERC Starting Grant

A unique opportunity for independence in research

European Research Council (ERC) grants are among the most prestigious in basic research. In addition to their prestige, they also bring an unprecedented degree of stability and flexibility to their holders in the Czech Republic. Holders receive financial support for five years, which is not divided into individual calendar years, and an optional starting time – in my case, timed to coincide with my return from an internship and parental leave – and reduced bureaucracy. Despite these advantages, there are currently still very few recipients of ERC grants in the Czech Republic; for example, in 2019 only one grant was awarded in the junior category (2–7 years after the award of the Ph.D. title). However, the chances of a higher success rate grow every year as the research atmosphere in the country gradually changes.

A key prerequisite for a successful project is, of course, the supporting idea, which must be sufficiently new and innovative, but also defensible in front of a panel of top experts at an interview in Brussels.

In addition to this, however, I would also like to highlight the “mycelium” from which it grows, i.e. the previous practical experience of the petitioner and their network of contacts. Particularly Czech characteristics are a certain pessimism (“it’s not worth submitting”) and a hesitancy to generalise (“it doesn’t matter whether my question is interesting for the field as a whole”). An internship abroad can help people to free themselves from these attitudes and gain more experience.

The frequently mentioned previous achievements in research (assessed by the number of articles in Science) are certainly not a requirement, and what was decisive in my case was more the consistency of previous experience with the theme of the project. On the other hand, one key advantage of the Czech environment may be the relatively recent acquisition of independence in research, symbolised at Charles University by the Primus project. I obtained this research start-up in its first run and thanks to it I was able to start a group immediately after I returned from my postdoc and get the first preliminary results, on which my ERC project is based.

One amazing experience was the support I received during preparation from the scientific community, whether it was the Czech community, centred around workshops organised by the Technology Centre of the ASCR and Professor Zdeněk Strakoš from MFF UK, as well as internationally, i.e. colleagues from the field who had already obtained an ERC. The importance of the environment is also evidenced by the fact that, for example, in biology, Czech ERC grants are currently dominated by evolutionary-ecological disciplines, which have a strong tradition and an international reputation in our country.

I would definitely wish future applicants an optimism and the courage to deviate from the comfort zone of thinking, and for their host institutions to provide effective support for young, independent researchers with ambitions to start something novel and new. The high number of newly submitted applications of the first “generation” of Primus projects, which are coming to an end, offers great hope.



RNDr. Filip Kolář, Ph.D.

holder of ERC Starting grant, Faculty of Science of Charles University

ERC grants to CU in 2019

TSuNAMI – Trans-Spin Nano-Architectures: from birth to functionalities in magnetic field, researcher Jana Kalbáčová Vejpravová (MFF)

Amitochondriates – Life without mitochondrion, researcher Vladimír Hampl (PřF)

CoCoSym – Symmetry in Computational Complexity, researcher Libor Barto (MFF)

APES – Accuracy and precision for molecular solids, researcher Jiří Klimeš (MFF)

CELLONGATE – Unraveling the molecular network that drives cell growth in plants, researcher Matyáš Fendrych (PřF)

Cat-In-hAT – Catastrophic Interactions of Binary Stars and the Associated Transients, researcher Ondřej Pejcha (MFF)

DYNASNET – Dynamics and Structure of Networks, researcher Jaroslav Nešetřil (MFF)

DOUBLE ADAPT – Whole genome duplication – the gateway to adaption?, researcher Filip Kolář (PřF)

In 2019, CU was ranked amongst the top **1%** of universities in the world. In the prestigious international QS: World University Rankings, CU was placed **291st**.





Charles University defeated the University of Economics 4:0 in the final of the Hockey Battle tournament. The CU hockey players won the cup for the seventh time!

Sport at CU

Passion, hard work and deserved victories

My name is Tereza Kmočová and I am deaf. I am studying for a master's degree in Immunology at the Charles University Faculty of Science. At the same time, I represent the Czech Republic internationally in alpine skiing. Over the last decade I have been trying to combine study at university and skiing at the highest level.

I have been very lucky. The management of the University and the faculty, teachers and classmates always helped me. A individual study plan allowed me to spread out and obtain my bachelor's degree over five years without continuous checks for the completion the year. Over the years I have found that I can only achieve success in my studies and skiing if I devote myself 100% both things at a given time. As I like to say: "I ski in winter and I study in summer".

This approach pays off for me in the long run. In skiing, I have successfully represented the Czech Republic at elite events – for both deaf and able-bodied athletes – for a long period of time. I am the best deaf skier in the world; I have won a number of gold medals at the Deaflympics (Olympic Games for the deaf) and the World Championships. I have represented the Czech Republic alongside healthy athletes at elite world competitions – the World Championships, the World Cup, the Continental Cups and international FIS competitions. I have participated in three editions of the university games, and in 2017 I contributed to winning a gold in a team competition in Kazakhstan.

The year 2019 was extremely challenging for me. I managed to finish all my exams and started work on my diploma thesis at a laboratory for the study of rare diseases, which is part of the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Charles University First Faculty of Medicine. I am trying (so far, fairly successfully) to elucidate the genetic and molecular causes of a unique form of familial renal amyloidosis.

At the same time, I was preparing for the top sporting event of the whole year – the 19th Winter Deaflympics, which took place in Italy in December. My preparation was successful. In Italy I won one gold and four silver medals, rounding out the number of medals I won at the Deaflympics to a total of 15 (eight gold, six silver, one bronze). Diligence in training and good form were also reflected in my participation alongside healthy athletes. I have won the last three Czech national championships and two Czech university championships.

I want to believe, and I will do all I can to achieve it, that I will conclude the beautiful years I have spent so far at Charles University with the successful completion of my master's degree and other successes in my beautiful sport.



Bc. Tereza Kmočová

deaf skier and student, Charles University Faculty of Science

Selected sporting achievements of CU in 2019

Victory of CU at the Czech Academic Games 2019 (most points from all institutions across all disciplines)

Total at the Czech Academic Games:

gold medal for CU:

athletics (women) · badminton (women) · badminton (mixed) · basketball (women) · bouldering (women) · MTB cycling (women) · floorball (women) · handball (women) – shared · orienteering (women) – shared · finswimming (mixed) – shared · climbing (men) · rowing (women)

silver medal for CU:

frisbee (mixed) · futsal (men) · handball (men) · swimming (women) · climbing (women)

bronze medal for CU:

finswimming (men) · finswimming (women) · tennis (women)

Silver: Bridge players at the European Academic Championships

Gold: Tereza Kmočová in the giant slalom at the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Santa Caterina

Gold: CU won the Hockey Battle between the 4 largest universities in Prague, gaining the Prague Mayor's Cup.

In 2019, the female crew of Charles University took **1st** place in the rowing race University Eights rowing race, with the CU men's crew finishing **2nd** in their race.





In 2019, the main topics of CU public discussions in the regions included, for example, education, food quality, security, debt and foreclosures, and drought.

Czech Republic! And what next?

The third role of the University in the form of public discussions

The third role of the University in society

I consider the fulfilment of the third role of the University in society and the effort to transfer scientific knowledge into practical life to be one that is extremely necessary. One of the projects that is to fulfil this role at Charles University is called Czech Republic! And what next? Its main goals include not only an effort to present the activities of the University and individual faculties to the general public, but also to formulate and mediate opinions, possible solutions and the visions of Charles University for major issues that currently affect the whole of society in the form of public discussions.

In 2019 the project addressed seven important topics. These included debts and foreclosures; security; agriculture and food quality; the Czech Republic, Europe and the world; drought; education in the Czech Republic, and 30 years of freedom! And what next? The topics were addressed in the form of a public discussion in seven regional cities – Ústí nad Labem, Pilsen, České Budějovice, Brno, Jihlava, Prague and Olomouc. According to the records of the CU Rectorate, these meetings were attended by over 800 people.

As a member of the Rector's Advisory Board, I participated in a conference dedicated to drought in Jihlava, the centre of the Vysočina region. This region was chosen mainly because the last few years have seen a significant impact of climate change on water resources, especially the decline in groundwater reserves in shallow and deep aquifers. In a packed hall in the city, representatives of Charles University, led by Rector prof. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., and vice-rector prof. Miroslav Bárta, Dr., met leaders of the region and the city, members of both the regional and the city council, teachers from local universities and secondary schools, and their students. The event was also attended by a large number of citizens of the city.

I had the opportunity to speak on the topic of water stress in the world and in the Czech Republic. I was pleased with the many questions and the wide-ranging discussion that followed. Today, water problems resonate with our entire society, especially after five dry years that have convinced us of the vulnerability of our society. In the future it must prepare a number of adaptive measures in the landscape, especially in the field of agriculture and forestry. We addressed the issue of water in towns, especially in terms of ensuring sufficient high-quality drinking water, supporting the capture of rainwater, or greening the roofs of houses. And all this will not be possible without a number of technical measures, the construction of new, smaller reservoirs, and the restoration of defunct historic reservoirs in mountain areas, the restoration of defunct artificial ponds, and the construction of artificial infiltration facilities.

As a member of the National Drought Panel at the Office of the Prime Minister, I very much appreciate the involvement of experts in constitutional law from our university's Faculty of Law in the preparation of the Constitutional Water Act. This, too, significantly increases the visibility of our alma mater.

Water is our common property, and its value must be recognised by all. And Charles University, too, should consistently promote this idea in society, for example with similar projects such as Czech Republic! And what next?



prof. RNDr. Bohumír Janský, CSc.

*Deputy Head of the Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology,
President of the Czech Ibero-American Society,
Charles University Faculty of Science*

Czech Republic! And what next? in 2019

7 topics

7 public debates in 7 regions

7 special supplements in the Deník newspaper on CU

6 faculties of CU prepared the topics

11 participating universities

61 speakers

800 guests

CU events as part of the University's third role in society

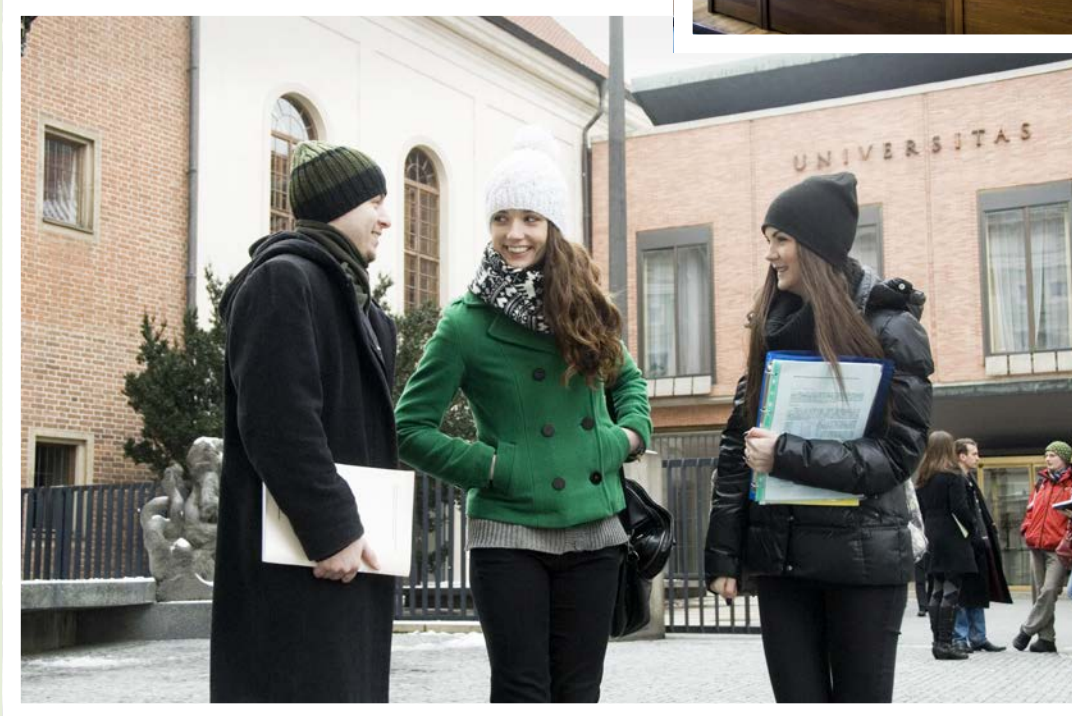
- Czech Republic! And what next?
- Most Successful Athlete of 2018 project – Charles University Award for the best regional athletes up to the age of 20
- Between Prague and Cairo – exhibition to celebrate 100 years of Czech Egyptology
- Wenceslas IV – exhibition to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the death of Wenceslas IV
- The Other Life – exhibition presenting an authentic look at military missions

Note: Set of events for 2019 provided by the Rectorate of Charles University University.

In 2019, **39,583** applicants applied to study at the CU, of whom a total of **17,907** were accepted to study. **7,871** students successfully graduated from the University this year.



The Welcome Day event for new doctoral students, where they receive a large amount of important information on topics such as the financing of research, academic integrity, and the organisation of studies.



Doctoral studies at CU
We are improving conditions for the education of young researchers

As a research-oriented university, Charles University offers a large number of doctoral study programmes; doctoral students have long constituted about 15 % of our students. Of course, a key factor in the education and scientific training of doctoral students are professional knowledge and skills, which they acquire in more broadly conceived methodological courses, as well as in specialised courses according to their professional orientation.

However, an integral part of the education of doctoral students should be the development of skills that are not directly related to their research focus and field of dissertation, but are also important for their further application in academia and commerce – by this, I mean those skills that are collectively referred to as “soft” or “transferable skills”.

Our students have traditionally been able to choose from a relatively wide range of transferable skills courses. The growing emphasis on the quality of doctoral education presents us with the task of further developing this traditional range.

In 2019, we therefore introduced the Doctoral Study Platform, which provides us with a framework for the comprehensive, conceptual consideration of the portfolio of courses that we offer. Following the example of major research universities, our goal at the central level is to supplement the offer of individual faculties to include all relevant aspects important for the training of our young research colleagues: from presentation and pedagogical skills, through a basic overview of research funding and evaluation, to personal development. Important tasks also include the gradual creation of a full portfolio of courses in English and the expansion of the range of full-time courses to include modern e-learning forms of teaching.

The Doctoral Study Platform covers and coordinates the services offered by various providers (especially CU Point, the Central Library of Charles University, the Centre for Lifelong Learning and the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer), which is a basic prerequisite that allows a conceptual approach to a comprehensive set of transferable skills courses and their more effective promotion amongst students.

The proper functioning of the Doctoral Study Platform assumes long-term conceptual activity. I am delighted that the centralised range of courses has already brought results in the first period (autumn 2019), when we managed to identify and plug the basic “gaps” in the offer and increase the interest of doctoral students in the courses provided. I consider this crucial to the further development of doctoral studies.



doc. RNDr. Markéta Lopatková, Ph.D.

Member of the Rector's Board, responsible for doctoral studies

Doctoral studies at CU in 2019

5,473 doctoral students

711 successful doctoral graduates

1,007 interrupted doctoral study programmes

Coordinating boards of CU doctoral study programmes in 2019

Biomedicine

Historical Sciences

Social Sciences

Philology

Philosophy and Theology

Didactics

Law

Medicine, Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Mathematics, Physics and Information Science

Science

In 2019, CU students could choose from a total of **830** accredited degree programmes.





In 2019, Czech Egyptologists worked, for example, on the valley temple of Pharaoh Nyuserre. The picture shows a view of the southeast corner of the massive wall adjacent to the masonry of the temple.

Between Prague and Cairo

One hundred years of Czech Egyptology

April 2019 marked one hundred years since František Lexa, a newly appointed private associate professor, began lecturing on Egyptology at the Faculty of Arts of what is now Charles University. We celebrated this historic moment – the centenary of the genesis of Czech Egyptology – with an exhibition entitled *Between Prague and Cairo*, which took place on the premises of the ancient Carolinum in August 2019. Visitors could view photographs and video projections from research projects, experience the atmosphere of a shaft tomb, and also see replicas of important archaeological finds.

The story of Czech Egyptology has seen a number of important moments. As early as 1919, the name of Jaroslav Černý appears on the list of students of Associate Professor Lexa. In 1925, Černý became the first Czech Egyptologist to work in Egypt itself, where he worked with a French archaeological expedition engaged in the study of Deir el-Medina, the village of craftsmen who worked on the pharaonic tombs in what is now the Valley of the Kings. Černý then dedicated his entire life to this topic. Together with Lexa, he lectured on Egyptology in Prague, but from 1946, thanks to his fame, he became a professor of Egyptology, first in London and then in Oxford.

Despite his stay in England, Černý also made a significant contribution to the further development of Czech Egyptology. He led his and Lexa's post-war student Zbyněk Žába, who eventually became Lexa's successor at the CU Faculty of Arts, to the idea of starting his own Czechoslovak archaeological research project in Egypt at the ancient Egyptian burial ground near Abusir, which to this day remains the flagship of Czech Egyptology. He also supported Žába during his participation in UNESCO's international campaign to save the monuments of ancient Nubia in the early 1960s, which put Czech Egyptology fully within the mainstream of international research and established it as an important component of national science and culture in the Czech Republic.

Further development of the field since the mid-1970s has been associated with the name of Miroslav Verner, under whose leadership the Czech Egyptological team in Abusir have made a number of important discoveries, such as the discovery of the pyramid complex of the Fifth Dynasty pharaoh Raneferef, with an original royal archive and dozens of fragments of statues of the monarch, and the discovery of the burial chamber of the priest Iufay from the middle of the first millennium BC. Since the beginning of this millennium, Czech Egyptology under the leadership of Miroslav Bárta has expanded its activities to other locations in both Egypt and Sudan and became strongly multidisciplinary, with major contributions to the theoretical comparative study of civilisations and the history of human adaptations to changes in the natural environment over long periods of time.

Celebrations of the centenary of Czech Egyptology will culminate in summer 2020 with a wide-ranging exhibition in the National Museum in Prague, at which many of the most important artefacts discovered during Czech archaeological surveys in Abusir will be presented to the public for the first time. The exhibition will present Abusir as one of the most important locations for the study of the ancient Egyptian civilisation.



prof. PhDr. Ladislav Bareš, CSc.

*Czech Institute of Egyptology,
CU Faculty of Arts*

100 years of Czech Egyptology in 10 milestones

1919 – Beginning of teaching of Egyptology in Czech at Charles University

1925 – Beginning of the Egyptological Seminar

1958/59 – Establishment of the Czechoslovak Institute of Egyptology in Prague (1958) and in Cairo (1959)

1960 – Beginning of research into the mastaba of Vizier Ptahshepses in Abusir

1976 – Discovery of the tomb of Princess Chekeretnebte

1980 – Research into the pyramid complex of Pharaoh Raneferef begins

1998 – Opening of the intact shaft tomb of Priest Iufay

2012 – Discovery of the funeral complex of the family of Princess Sheretnebte

2015 – Discovery of a funerary ship from the turn of the Third and Fourth Dynasties

2019 – Discovery of the tomb of the sage Kaires in Abusir and the beautifully decorated tomb of the dignitary Khuyi in Saqqara

In 2019, **9,021** international students studied at Charles University. The highest numbers of students came from Slovakia, Russia and Germany.



My 2019 in 19 words

What was CU students' experience of 2019? What does it symbolise for them? What keywords would they use to express it? We asked students from each of the 17 faculties of Charles University to describe to us in 19 words how they perceive the year 2019.

For me, 2019 was really symbolic because in September I started my ninth year at our university.

Kateřina Volfová,
Catholic Theological Faculty

For me, 2019 meant a high-quality internship where I chose the target group that I want to work with.

Petra Procházková,
Protestant Theological Faculty

Academically and socially, 2019 was a liminal year, associated with the unhappily joyful ambivalence of necessary changes.

Kateřina Hlaváčová,
Hussite Theological Faculty

For me, 2019 represented one long ride on a winding rollercoaster, with only one stable point – the Faculty of Law.

Anna Matoušková,
Faculty of Law

Preparation of a new, more practical curriculum, a new anatomical institute, increased student numbers, Medics for Vaccination and 17 November.

Ondřej Hubálek,
Second Faculty of Medicine

(New) year, ball, visas, exams, Erasmus, experiences, people, practical, final year in medicine, anatomy, revolution, elections, plans, review, New Year...

David Kulišiak,
First Faculty of Medicine

Making progress, broadening my horizons in all respects, and also jointly marking 30 years since the revolution.

Kateřina Grygarová,
Third Faculty of Medicine

My 2019 in 19 words

Challenge, adventure and science – 2019 was, for me, an inspiring challenge to acquire new skills and useful knowledge.

Drahomír Kolenčík,
Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen

For me, 2019 was marked by development in my personal and professional life, with an emphasis on high-quality coffee.

Pavel Petraš,
Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové

high-quality research, new knowledge, good experiences, friendships, and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the faculty.

Eliška Voříšková,
Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové

Greater international permeability, easier recognition of foreign qualifications, new friendships with Milanese students and intensive work in academic administration.

David Pavlorek,
Faculty of Arts

Last year, I encountered many great colleagues and inspiring research facilities at interesting lectures, conferences and internships abroad.

Jan Pačes,
Faculty of Science

During my first year I joined a team of capable people who help me move forward in my research.

Jan Hrabovský,
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Transfer of experience at Information Day, a sense of community in the celebration of freedom on November 17, and the opportunity to further develop teaching skills.

Nela Pastrnková,
Faculty of Education

For me, 2019 represented new experiences: teaching from the position of teacher, project activities and insight into the structures of how Charles University works.

Eliška Černovská,
Faculty of Social Sciences

The joy of being able to continue and develop cooperation with colleagues, teachers and mentors who have supported me since I began studying.

Dan Thiel,
Faculty of Physical Education and Sport

Successful completion of the renovation of our faculty's new building. We'll all be together again in Troja in September!

Zuzana Terry,
Faculty of Humanities

From the lives of students in 2019

Charles University regularly has a stand at Gaudeamus fairs, where prospective applicants can get valuable information directly from CU students.



The traditional Representative Ball of Charles University took place on Friday 25 January 2019. The Prague Symphony Orchestra and the bands NO NAME and the Back Side Big Band all performed at the Žofín Palace.



CU students regularly participate in the Information Day, where they pass on experience and information to applicants. In 2019, the Information Day took place on 23 November on the premises of the Faculty of Science and the First Faculty of Medicine in Albertov.



The Charles University Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen organised the sixth edition of the Summer School of Experimental Surgery. In 2019, the Summer School took place from 1–12 July and was attended by 33 students from 15 countries.

From the lives of students



The Majáles festival is an inseparable part of student life. In 2019, it was held on the Hybernská Campus for the first time, and the programme also included a procession through Prague.



In 2019 Charles University marked the events of 17 November with a number of events – concerts, exhibitions, conferences and commemorative events at Albertov and Národní třída in Prague. Preparations involved dozens of students of Charles University.



On Tuesday 14 May 2019 both students and employees of Charles University took part in the Rector's Sports Day, which was open to nearly forty sports disciplines.



64 institutions throughout the Czech Republic participated in Scientists' Night, which was given the topical subtitle Caring for the Planet. The programme offered activities for the general public, from children to senior citizens.

Management



Rector

prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., MBA



Vice-Rector for Academic Appointments

prof. JUDr. Aleš Gerloch, CSc.



Vice-Rector for Research

doc. RNDr. Jan Konvalinka, CSc.



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Vice-Rector for Public Affairs

(since 20.05.2019)

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Management



Bursar
(until 14.11.2019)
Ing. Miroslava Oliveriusová



Registrar
MUDr. Milan Prášil, MBA



Chairperson of the Academic Senate
prof. Ing. František Zahálka, Ph.D.



Member of the Rector's Board
MUDr. Josef Fontana



Member of the Rector's Board
prof. ThDr. Jan B. Lášek



Member of the Rector's Board
doc. RNDr. Markéta Lopatková, Ph.D.



Member of the Rector's Board
(since 20.05.2019)
Mgr. Anna Shavit, Ph.D.



Member of the Rector's Board
prof. RNDr. Petr Volf, CSc.



Member of the Rector's Board
Mgr. Michal Zima



**Charles
University
in numbers**

FF UK, November 1989: The Velvet Revolution included student debates, meetings and packed lecture halls.

9,156 employees

academic	3,885.7
scientific	1,248.3
other	4,021.9

international academics and researchers	594.4
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46,401 students

bachelor's	16,623
master's	14,470
follow-up master's	8,821
doctoral	6,487

students from abroad	9,095
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special-needs students	530
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students who have been involved in student research projects	6,157
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students who have completed an internship abroad	2,708
--	-------

830 degree programmes

education and training	70
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arts and humanities	166
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social sciences, journalism, information sciences	141
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law and administration	35
------------------------	----

natural sciences, mathematics, statistics	156
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information and communication technologies	19
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technically oriented fields	6
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health and social care, care for a favourable environment	220
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physical education and sport	17
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foreign-language degree programmes	156
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7,892 graduates

unemployment rate of graduates half a year to a year after graduation	0.6%
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Financial support for research from university programmes

development of scientific disciplines	1,289,584,440 CZK
excellent research groups	126,906,000 CZK
young researchers	148,395,982 CZK
visits by postdoctoral academics	6,346,028 CZK
student research	281,183,442 CZK

291st place in the QS rankings

English language and literature	ranked 151–200
biology	ranked 201–250
economics and econometrics	ranked 201–250
pharmacy and pharmacology	ranked 151–200
philosophy	ranked 101–150
physics and astronomy	ranked 251–300
geography	ranked 51–100
history	ranked 151–200
chemistry	ranked 251–300
information science	ranked 251–300
medicine	ranked 151–200
linguistics	ranked 101–150
mathematics	ranked 151–200
material sciences	ranked 251–300
media and communications studies (7202)	ranked 101–150
modern languages	ranked 101–150
pedagogics and education	ranked 251–300
political science and international studies	ranked 101–150
law	ranked 251–300
sociology	ranked 151–200
statistics and operational research	ranked 151–200
environmental sciences	ranked 201–250

International research projects

applications for projects supported by framework programmes	43
ERC grant applications	7
newly acquired ERC grants	1

International cooperation

interuniversity agreements	205
4EU+ ALLIANCE	6
Charles University	
University of Heidelberg	
Sorbonne University	
Copenhagen University	
University of Milan	
University of Warsaw	
STRATEGIC PARTNERS	3
University of Zurich	
Macquarie University	
University of St Andrews	
KEY PARTNERS	9
Leiden University	
University of Oxford	
University of Cambridge	
University of Edinburgh	
McGill University	
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	
University of Melbourne	
Jagiellonian University	
University of Cologne	

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