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Being the oldest university in Central Europe, the history of Charles University goes almost seven centuries back. Its narrative is tightly interwoven with that of the Czech nation, as many defining moments in the country’s history have steered the university’s course since the medieval times until today.

**1348** – By a Charter from April 7, the King of Bohemia and future Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV establishes a university with four faculties (free arts, medicine, law and theology)

**1654** – By the Decree of Union, the Emperor Ferdinand III sets up the Charles-Ferdinand University

**1882** – by an Ordinance of the Emperor Franz Joseph I, the Charles-Ferdinand University is divided into two separate universities, one having Czech and the other German as the teaching language

**1920** – The Czech university is renamed as “Charles University”

**1939** – After the Nazi occupation followed by demonstrations on the 17th November, Charles University is closed and re-opens only after the Liberation in 1945

**1950** – A law on universities abolishes academic autonomy and subjects higher education to the control and supervision of the Communist party

**1989** – A student demonstration to commemorate the events of 17 November 1939 triggers the Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Communist regime

**1990** – A new law on universities renews university autonomy and freedom of research and teaching

**2000** – With the founding of the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University becomes a university of 17 faculties
Many renowned personalities associated with the university have contributed to the good name of the university with their knowledge and professional achievements. These include the following:

**Charles IV (1316–1378)**
Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, founder of Charles College and Prague University – the oldest university in the Holy Roman Empire north of the Alps

**Jan Hus (c. 1371–1415)**
Master of the Faculty of Arts, Bachelor of Theology, later Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Rector of the university, preacher and church reformer

**Jan Jesenius (1566–1621)**
Physician, Rector of Prague University, executed for his part in the rebellion against the Habsburgs

**Bernard Bolzano (1781–1848)**
Professor of Philosophy of Religion at the Faculty of Arts of Charles-Ferdinand University

**Jan Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869)**
Natural scientist and physiologist, one of the fathers of Czech scientific terminology

**Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850–1937)**
Philosopher and sociologist, professor at the Faculty of Arts of the Czech Charles-Ferdinand University, the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic

**Albert Einstein (1879–1955)**
Physicist, author of the theory of relativity, Nobel Prize laureate, Professor of Physics at the Faculty of Arts of the German part of Prague University

**Franz Kafka (1883–1924)**
One of the most influential novelists and short-story writers of the 20th century

**Karel Čapek (1890–1938)**
Renowned Czech writer, journalist, playwright, translator and photographer

**Jaroslav Heyrovský (1890–1967)**
Chemist and physicist, inventor of the polarographic method, professor at the Faculty of Science, laureate of Nobel Prize in Chemistry

**Jan Patočka (1907–1977)**
One of the most influential Czech philosophers, spokesman for Charter 77

**Jan Palach (1947–1969)**
Student at the Faculty of Arts, who committed suicide by self-immolation as a political protest against the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact forces

**Petr Eben (1929–2007)**
Distinguished composer of contemporary classical and organ music
Today, Charles University is acknowledged as a prestigious, cosmopolitan and dynamic university. Out of all Czech universities, it is the largest and most renowned and achieves the best scores in international rankings.

Structure of Charles University

- 17 faculties – 14 of these are in Prague, one in Plzeň (Faculty of Medicine) and two in Hradec Králové (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Pharmacy)
- 3 university institutes
- 6 other departments for teaching, scientific, research, development and other creative activities and for provision of information services
- 5 university-wide facilities (including Department of Dormitories and Refectories)

Staff

When converted to full-time job equivalent, the university has more than 7,800 employees, more than half of which are academics and researchers.

Budget

The annual budget of Charles University amounts to more than 8 thousand million CZK, 32 % of which are governmental subsidies for teaching activity, 39 % are funds obtained in open competition from grant agencies and in other areas of science and research and 29 % are Charles University’s own earnings.
Thanks to its broad selection of study programmes, the value of its degrees and excellent job prospects of its graduates, there is a great interest in studying at Charles University each year both from domestic applicants and foreign prospective students.

Charles University Students in Numbers

- every year, Charles University receives more than 64,000 applications for degree programmes
- almost 54,000 students are studying at Charles University (around 1/6 of all students in Czech higher education)
- almost 25,000 students are enrolled in Master degree programmes
- more than 21,000 students are studying for Bachelor degrees
- more than 8,000 students are enrolled in Doctoral degrees (around 1/3 of all Doctoral students in the Czech Republic)
- the annual number of graduates from Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes is higher than 8,500
- there are over 300 accredited study programmes, further divided into more than 600 study subjects (in all degree levels)
- in a 2010 survey of the relative success of graduates of 25 Czech universities on the job market, Charles University placed second, behind the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
- each year, Charles University offers almost 300 lifelong learning courses (paid preparatory courses, language courses, job-related courses, courses for teachers, courses for senior citizens and many others), attended by up to 13,000 participants

Study Programmes and Subjects

Top quality teaching and the interconnectedness of theoretical knowledge and practical research have always been the cornerstones of Charles University. The university offers a wide range of study programmes and subjects, many of which are unique in the Czech Republic (such as Addictology, Egyptology, Climatology and others). Some of the programmes can be studied as double majors, some can be combined with programmes at other faculties. Bachelor and Master degrees follow the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) rules. This system allows students to choose optional lectures or seminars in other programmes or faculties, furthering the openness, variability and the interdisciplinary nature of education and facilitates student mobility among partner institutions.

Scholarships

Charles University supports its students by granting the following kinds of scholarships:

- Scholarships awarded for outstanding study results
- Scholarships for specific purposes
- Doctoral scholarships and grants
- Contributions to cover accommodation costs
- Need-based Financial Aid

Awards

Charles University awards outstanding achievements in the course of study and research and other accomplishments, both on the faculty and university-wide level. It also nominates its students for non-university awards. Among the most prestigious awards at Charles University are:

The Bolzano Prize

(awarded to students in Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees for exceptional original work with outstanding creative content and interdisciplinary aspects carried out in the course of and based on their studies)

The Rector of Charles University Prize

(awarded for exceptional results in scientific research, sports or cultural activity)

The Rector of Charles University Special Prize

(awarded for acts of exceptional civic courage or self-sacrifice)

Other student awards include a whole range of faculty-level awards, the Award for Representation of Charles University, the Minister of Education Award and the Josef Hlávka Prize for the best students and graduates.
Charles University in Prague is specific in not concentrating its facilities on a single campus. Some of its faculties are situated not in the city of Prague, but in Plzeň and Hradec Králové; its buildings are integrated organically into the cities, often in their historic centres.

**Facts and Figures**
- Charles University has a total of 142 buildings used for teaching, research, administration, accommodation, cafeterias, sports facilities and training centres.
- Its long-term policy is not to abandon its historical sites, but to concentrate on renovation and extension of existing complexes and construction of so-called “mini-campuses”.
- The required investments for the development of Charles University for the next 20 years are estimated at 40,000 million CZK.

**Notable Projects**
- Reconstruction of the large cafeteria in the Prague neighbourhood of Pelc-Tyrolka, which will serve the Faculty of Humanities.
- Reconstruction of the Opletalova Street building for the Faculty of Arts.
- Reconstruction of the mini-campus in the Albertov location, construction of new buildings – the Globcentrum and the Biocentrum.
- Construction of theoretical, pre-clinical and research institutes of the Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň (UniMeC and the Biomedicine Centre).
- Construction of shared facilities of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové: the Charles University Teaching and Research Centre in Hradec Králové (MEPHARED) and the Science Centre for Applied Biomedical Research (CeBioMed).

**Knowledge and Technology Transfer Centre (CPPT)**
CPPT was launched in 2007 as a part of the university infrastructure. Its mission is to systematically track the knowledge and technologies produced at Charles University that have commercial potential. Among the achievements of the Centre are the following:
- A strategic partnership has been established with notable industry players and their associations, aiming at future collaboration in the commercial application of research (e.g. the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, Siemens, Olympus, Zentiva, Orbit Merret, Brain Logistics, etc.)
a spin-off company AB Pharma has been founded in the field of Pharmacology and drug testing; two joint research and development projects, one with a smaller and one with a medium-sized industry partner, have been launched in the field of biomedical technologies

the centre has helped file 7 national and 5 international patent applications, while the Industrial Property Office has already granted 4 patents and 3 utility models

the centre has sold a licence to manufacture and retail a device generating trigger signal for heart monitoring of patients with cardiac stimulators

the centre has sealed a partnership with the Biological Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in České Budějovice thanks to its participation in the Certified Technology Transfer Manager project, Charles University is now one of the 15 partners in the resulting European Knowledge Transfer Society (EuKTS) consortium

**Strategic Development**

- Charles University continuously writes and revises strategic and position documents and replies to the plans of the Ministry of Education and the government concerning the higher education system; it also gathers data for its own evaluation reports
- the university also monitors the developments in the EU and in the OECD countries, contributes to the design and development of their performance indicators and collaborates with agencies that produce international rankings (UNICA, Coimbra Group, EUA, QS World University Rankings, Thomson Reuters, etc.)
- Charles University’s strategy is to support project agendas (including EU Structural Funds and the Czech Ministry of Education development programmes)
- Currently, over thirty projects are being undertaken in the framework of European Social Funds Operational Programmes (the Education for the Future OP, the Prague Adaptability OP, and the Prague Competitiveness OP) with a combined value of over 240 million CZK
- in 2010, 119 Ministry of Education development programme projects with a combined value of 233 million CZK were being undertaken at Charles University; the funding is mostly invested into development of equipment and research technologies, development of international cooperation and support of disadvantaged students and applicants
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Charles University collaborates with many renowned universities all over the world. Its priority is to allow every student interested in studying or doing research abroad for a certain period of time to do so.

Facts and Figures
- Every student can study abroad for at least 1 or 2 semesters, either under the LLP / Erasmus programme or inter-university, faculty-level or government-level agreements.
- Currently, Charles University has signed 1,543 bilateral agreements in the EU LLP / Erasmus programme framework and 185 international partnership agreements with foreign universities.
- Among Charles University’s partners are top universities from 49 countries ranging from Canada to New Zealand.
- Almost 2,700 students depart every year for long-term study stays and internships, while up to 4,000 students and around 5,000 staff members study abroad each year.
- In 2011, the 10,000th outgoing Charles University student – a student of the Faculty of Law – went to study abroad.
- Over half of Charles University’s study programmes are offered also in English or other languages (German, French).

The Mobility Fund
It was set up in 2001 by Charles University, providing funding for:
- Study stays at foreign universities for a period of one to two semesters.
- Visits by academics and researchers from abroad.
- Student participation in international study or research related events.
- Visits and study stays of foreign students at Charles University.
- Short-term research visits abroad.

LLP (Lifelong Learning Programme) Erasmus
- The programme was founded in order to support cooperation among universities in the European area and is co-funded by the EU and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

- Student exchange works on the basis of bilateral agreements signed between departments (or faculties) of Charles University and partner universities involved in the LLP programme.
- According to the official European Commission statistics, Charles University is one of the ten European universities with the highest numbers of exchanges of both students and staff in the Erasmus Programme.

More information about studying abroad is available at [www.cuni.cz/UK-315.html](http://www.cuni.cz/UK-315.html)

Membership in International Non-governmental Organisations
- Coimbra Group.
- Danube Rector’s Conference.
- Europaeum.
- European University Association (EUA).
- OECD / IHME.
- International Association of Universities (IAU).
- Network of Universities from Capitals of Europe (UNICA).
- European Association for International Education (EAIE).
- Magna Charta Observatory.
Charles University’s Rankings

- in The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2011–2012, Charles University ranked 305th, the only Czech school to make it into the top 500.

- in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (www.arwu.org), or the so-called Shanghai rankings (that compare over 1,000 top universities in the world selected from over 17,000 world’s universities), Charles University placed 258th, ranking among the world’s 2% top universities and 100 top European universities.

- Charles University was one of the two Czech institutions of higher education (the other being the University of Economics, Prague) to make it into the Excellence Group of the German Centre for Higher Education’s (Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung) ranking that evaluates the level of advanced research in a number of fields at about a hundred European universities, stressing the international nature of research. Charles University ranked in the excellence groups in the fields of Mathematics, Economics and Political Science.

- the University of Leiden Centre of Science and Technology rankings place Charles University among the top 500 universities (2% of the world’s best universities) with the highest output of scientific papers in the Web of Science database.
RESEARCH

Research is one of the cornerstones of Charles University, whose priority is to further develop its role as a research university. The university boasts many top research teams that collaborate on international projects. Students can also take part in their respective faculties’ research projects.

Facts and Figures

- Research output of Charles University comprises more than one quarter of the Czech Republic’s output; in 2010, Charles University-affiliated scholars published 3,198 articles in prominent academic journals (e.g. journals listed in the Web of Science database)
- 37 large-scale research plans are underway at the university, 29 of which started in 2005 and 8 in 2007
- Charles University takes part in thirty centres of basic research, ten of which it coordinates, and in eleven research centres, out of which it coordinates three
- According to official evaluation of research output (e.g. by the Research and Development Council), Charles University is the most productive research institution in the Czech Republic

International Research Cooperation

Charles University’s faculties host many top research teams that collaborate internationally. Their results are published in international journals and monographs and receive notable international awards. Charles University’s scholars take part in international projects, such as the CERN programme. Currently, Charles University participates in 72 projects funded by the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme. The most important success in this respect is the prestigious 2010 European Research Council grant in the Ideas Section, received by two Charles University researchers, doc. RNDr. Daniel Kráľ, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics with his Classes of Combinatorial Objects: from Structure to Algorithms (CCOSA) project, and doc. Jana Roithová, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Science with her Ion Spectroscopy of Reaction Intermediates (ISORI) project.

Notable Projects in the Seventh Framework Programme

- Cooperation (48 projects)
- People (14 projects)
- Capacities (6 projects)
- Ideas (2 projects, see below)
- EURATOM (3 projects)

The Charles University Grant Agency

- Students’ scientific and research work, especially at the doctoral level, is supported by funding from the CU Grant Agency.
**BIOCEV**

BIOCEV is a collaboration between Charles University and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the university’s main partner in science and research. Its aim is to create a joint Charles University and Czech Academy Biotechnological and Biomedical Centre. In 2011, the EU approved a 2,300 million CZK subsidy for its construction, which will finish in 2015 in the location of Vestec u Prahy. Using state-of-the-art equipment, the centre will undertake competitive basic research combined with application of resulting knowledge and technologies. Its research will focus on identifying the genes responsible for heart and liver diseases and hearing impairments, along with research into viral infections, the development of new biomaterials for blood vessel and heart valve replacements and the development of new treatment and diagnostic procedures, etc.

**The ELI-CZ Consortium**

The consortium brings together Charles University and other Czech universities and research institutions that are interested in the new European project ELI (Extreme Light Infrastructure). Under the ELI consortium framework, new Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes are being introduced at Charles University, aimed to meet the ELI specifics. A team at the Faculty of Mathematics and
Physics will be using an internationally unique laser system in femtoscience of biology, chemistry and physics of solids.

SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING SCIENCE

UNCE
In 2011, Charles University announced the first annual University Research Centre (UNCE) competition to support young and promising researchers in the best basic research groups. More information is available at: http://www.cuni.cz/UK-3756.html.

Science Day at Prague Universities – Scientia Pragensis
The mission of the annual autumn Science Day is to present science and research at Prague’s universities to the general public and especially high school students through practical demonstrations. Charles University participates in the event along with Czech Technical University, Czech University of Life Sciences, Institute of Chemical Technology and University of Economics.

Don’t Be Afraid of Science
Charles University scholars and experts participate in the lecture series organized by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, mostly aimed at high school students. The topics are usually related to current issues and new research findings.

SELECTION OF NOTABLE AWARDS RECEIVED BY CHARLES UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

Medal of Merit in the Field of Education and Science
2007
- doc. PaedDr. Pavel Kolář, Ph. D., a renowned expert in the field Physiotherapy, director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Sport Medicine of the 2nd Faculty of Medicine

Medal of Merit in the Field of Education and Science
2008
- prof. PhDr. Ludvík Armbruster SJ., catholic priest, a notable scholar and philosopher, former Dean of the Catholic Theological Faculty

Medal of Merit in the Field of Education and Science
2009
- prof. MUDr. Michael Aschermann, DrSc., a renowned Czech cardiologist working at the 2nd Department of Internal Cardiovascular Medicine of the 1st Faculty of Medicine and the General University Hospital

Medal of Merit in the Field of Culture and Education
2011
- prof. PhDr. Martin Hilský, CSc., a notable Czech English literature scholar, a Shakespeare expert, translator and professor of English literature at the Faculty of Arts
prof. RNDr. Petr Mandl, DrSc., a world-renowned mathematician working in the field of probability theory at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

2010
prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Nešetřil, DrSc., a notable Czech mathematician, professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, internationally respected expert on combinatorics

prof. MUDr. Milan Šamánek, DrSc., an important figure of Czech child cardiology and cardiac surgery, founder of the Child Cardiology Centre at the Motol University Hospital

State Award for Achievements in Translation
2010
prof. PhDr. Oldřich Král, CSc., Faculty of Arts (for his lifetime translation work)

2011
prof. PhDr. Martin Hilský, CSc., Faculty of Arts (for the complete translation of the works of William Shakespeare, also noting his other translations)

Descartes Prize for Science and Research
2007
the prize was given to the HESS international project, in which prof. RNDr. Ladislav Rob, DrSc. from the Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University was involved

Humboldt Research Award
2008
prof. PhDr. Jiří Holý, DrSc., Faculty of Arts (for lifetime achievements in research)

The Scopus Award
2010
RNDr. Jana Poltierová Vejpravová, Ph.D., Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (the world’s largest academic journal and database publisher Elsevier Science awarded five best research papers by young scholars under 35 years of age for the first time in the Czech Republic)

The Fernando Gil Prize International Award in the Field of Philosophy of Science
2010
prof. RNDr. Ladislav Kvasz, Dr., Faculty of Education, for his book Patterns of Change: Linguistic Innovations in the Development of Classical Mathematics

The Česká hlava (Czech Mind) Competition
2010
PhDr. Markéta Růčková, Faculty of Arts, received the Gaudeamus Poštovní Spořitelná Award for her thesis Students of the Unity of the Brethren at the Beginning of the 17th Century or Young Priests from the Archives of Matouš Konečný

2011
prof. MUDr. Petr Widimský, DrSc., Cardiocentre of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine and the Královské Vinohrady University Hospital of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine (III. Internal-Cardiology Department),
The National Award of the Government for new methods of treatment of acute myocardial infarction and routine application of coronary angioplasty in acute myocardial infarction patients

A SELECTION OF HONORARY DOCTORATES GRANTED BY CHARLES UNIVERSITY

The university awards distinguished personalities, whose work is linked to Charles University, with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa. Since 1990, Charles University has been granting honorary doctorates according to the democratic principles of the free Czechoslovakia.

1990
■ Rudolf Firkušný (Switzerland) pianist
■ Rafael Jeroným Kubelík (USA) conductor and composer, co-founder of the Prague Spring festival
■ prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (France) professor at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, Nobel Prize in Chemistry laureate

1992
■ prof. MUDr. Josef Švejcar, DrSc. (then Czechoslovakia) pediatrician, Professor Emeritus at the 2nd Faculty of Medicine

1993
■ prof. Dr. Ing. Otto Wichterle, DrSc. (Czech Republic) chemist, then President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
■ prof. Dudley Herschbach (USA) professor at Harvard University, Nobel Prize in Chemistry laureate

1994
■ prof. Petr Eben (Czech Republic) composer

1997
■ Simon Wiesenthal (Austria) director of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna
■ Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma) General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, holder of the Nobel Peace Prize

1998
■ prof. James Dewey Watson (USA) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, holder of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine

2001
■ prof. Paul Maxime Nurse (United Kingdom) General Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine
2004
- prof. Torsten Nils Wiesel, M.D. (USA)
  laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physiology
  and Medicine

2007
- Erika Abrams (France)
  editor, translator and promoter of the work
  of the Czech philosopher Jan Patočka

2008
- prof. Johan Albert Ankum (Netherlands)
  professor of Roman Law and the History
  of Law at Universiteit van Amsterdam

- Ing. Ivan Chvatík (Czech Republic)
  director of the Jan Patočka Archive, Centre
  for Theoretical Studies of Charles University
  and the Academy of Sciences

- prof. Salvador Moncada, M. D., Ph.D.
  (United Kingdom)
  director of the Wolfson Institute for
  Biomedical Research, University College
  London

2009
- prof. Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux, Ph.D. (France)
  professor at the Centre National de
  la Recherche Scientifique, Centre de
  Recherches Historiques (EHESS)

- prof. Salomon Albert Snyder, M. D. (USA)
  Distinguished Service Professor of
  Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry,
  Johns Hopkins Medical School

- Adam Michnik (Poland)
  historian, writer, journalist

- prof. Dr. Karel A. Deurloo, Drh.c. (Netherlands)
  Dean Emeritus of the Theological Faculty
  of Universiteit van Amsterdam

2010
- prof. Dr. Anne Hudson (United Kingdom)
  medieval history scholar, professor emeritus
  at Oxford University

- prof. Dr. Walter Pape (Germany)
  professor at Universität zu Köln

- prof. Endre Szemerédi (Hungary)
  professor at Rutgers University and a member of the
  Hungarian Academy of Sciences

2011
- prof. Patrick Anthony Riley (United Kingdom)
  professor at the University of London

RECENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

2009
- the Science journal published the fascinating
  results of the HESS experiment, co-authored
  by prof. RNDr. Ladislav Rob, DrSc. and
  Mgr. Dalibor Nedbal, Ph.D. from the Faculty
  of Mathematics and Physics, that contribute
  to our understanding of the mechanisms of
  particle acceleration to very high energies
  in the immediate proximity of a black hole
in the M87 Galaxy) and on the surge waves of supernovas (in the NGC253 Galaxy).

2010

- **doc. RNDr. Daniel Kráľ, Ph.D.**
  from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics
  received a European Research Council grant
  of 849,000 EUR for his project entitled
  Classes of Combinatorial Objects – From
  Structure to Algorithms from the PEI
  Mathematical Foundations Panel. It is the
  first so-called Starting Independent Research
  Grant in the field of mathematics given to
  an applicant from one of the new EU
  members, which proves the world class level
  of Czech discrete mathematics. The topic of
  the project is the study of structural features
  of various classes of mathematical objects
  and the application of the results in designs
  of effective computing algorithms.

- **doc. Jana Roithová, Ph.D.**
  from the Department of Organic and Nuclear
  Chemistry of the Charles University Faculty
  of Science received the prestigious Junior
  Starting Grant of 1,294,800 EUR from the
  European Research Council for her 60-month
  Spectroscopy of Reaction Intermediates
  project. The ISORI project aims at designing
  an innovative method to identify which
  particles in a solution steer a reaction in the
  required direction, and which in turn lower
  the effectiveness of the reaction.

- **The ThALES Project**
  (Institut Laue-Langevin – ILL) – Since 1998, the
  Czech Republic, represented here by Charles
  University, has been one of the 11 countries
  participating in the ILL. The mission of the
  institute is to run a nuclear reactor optimized
  for the production of intense neutrino beams
  for experiments in basic and potentially
  applied research. The Faculty of Mathematics
  and Physics takes part in the ThALES
  project, aiming at restoration of a three-axis
  spectrometer of slow neutrinos. The goal of
  the project is to build and install a ThALES
  device with internationally unique parameters,
  which will allow ILL and its members to
  secure their leading position in the worldwide
  competition of the upcoming decades.

- **The Malach Visual History Centre**
  is a continuation of the Malach project, whose
  original goal was to test the possibilities
  of automatic indexation of a Holocaust
  witnesses video recordings archive. Czech
  recordings were indexed by a team from
  the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics
  of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.
  The centre and the access point to the
  University of Southern California’s Shoah
  Foundation archive are situated in the
  faculty’s library in the Malostranské náměstí
  25 building in Prague 1. It is available to
  members of the Charles University’s academic
  community and other researchers.
Charles University offers its students a wide range of activities that allow them to pursue their hobbies and interests. Besides hosting a great number of students associations, it provides sports facilities and other meeting places.

**Charles University Student Union (SU UK)**
The Student Union (www.suuk.cz) is the first university-wide student association at Charles University. It was founded in the spring of 2008 to bring together the university’s student associations, to facilitate communication among them and to solidify the university’s identity.

**STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS – MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT UNION:**

**E-klub**
The Economics Club (or E-klub) is an informal association of students of the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Institute of Economic Studies who organise meetings and lectures.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/lenove/e-klub

**FFabula**
An association of students and graduates of history at the Faculty of Arts, aiming at facilitating communication among students by organizing social, cultural and educational events.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/lenove/ffabula

**The Faculty of Humanities Film Club**
The club holds screenings each Monday, following a particular topic. It also takes part in other cultural activities at the Faculty, such as festivals and concerts.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/lenove/filmovy-klub-fhs

**Charlie**
The Charles University Queer Association.
Its projects are aiming at enhancing the students’ solidarity, safety and self-confidence.
www.charlie.li

**Motolák**
Association of students of the 2nd Faculty of Medicine, that puts up sports and cultural events for students and teachers. It assists freshmen, organizes charity fundraisers and art shows.
http://motolak.lf2.cuni.cz/

**POLIS**
A student association that organizes lectures, conferences and seminars in the fields of political science, economics, social sciences and law.
www.i-polis.cz

**The Faculty of Social Sciences Political Science Club**
Its aim is the effective functioning of the Faculty’s Institute of Political Science. It is an independent association that organizes various social and cultural events.
www.pkfsvuk.cz

**SIMS**
SIMS is the student self administration body of the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Institute of International Studies.
http://sims.fsv.cuni.cz/

**SISS**
The student self administration body of the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Institute of Sociological Studies organizes social events and collaborates

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**STUDENT LIFE**

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**The Faculty of Humanities Film Club**
The club holds screenings each Monday, following a particular topic. It also takes part in other cultural activities at the Faculty, such as festivals and concerts.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/lenove/filmovy-klub-fhs

**Charlie**
The Charles University Queer Association.
Its projects are aiming at enhancing the students’ solidarity, safety and self-confidence.
www.charlie.li

**Motolák**
Association of students of the 2nd Faculty of Medicine, that puts up sports and cultural events for students and teachers. It assists freshmen, organizes charity fundraisers and art shows.
http://motolak.lf2.cuni.cz/

**POLIS**
A student association that organizes lectures, conferences and seminars in the fields of political science, economics, social sciences and law.
www.i-polis.cz

**The Faculty of Social Sciences Political Science Club**
Its aim is the effective functioning of the Faculty’s Institute of Political Science. It is an independent association that organizes various social and cultural events.
www.pkfsvuk.cz

**SIMS**
SIMS is the student self administration body of the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Institute of International Studies.
http://sims.fsv.cuni.cz/

**SISS**
The student self administration body of the Faculty of Social Sciences’ Institute of Sociological Studies organizes social events and collaborates
The Matfyzák Association
An association of students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. It supports and develops cultural, sports, social and study-related activities for its members and the wider academic community.
www.spolek.matfyzak.cz

The Society of Czech Medical Students
An association of students of the 1st Faculty of Medicine. It organizes a range of social and charity events, runs a library of foreign literature and a computer lab in the Faust House and co-organizes Erasmus exchanges.
www.lf1.cuni.cz/smc

Students of the Faculty of Humanities
The association offers institutional backing for student activities at the faculty.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/clenove/studenti-fhs-uk

The Student Council of the Charles University Faculty of Arts
Its mission is to support cultural life at the faculty, advocate interests of its students and promote faculty events.
http://strada.ff.cuni.cz/

SÚPOL
Informal association of students of the Institute of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts. It mainly organizes social, cultural, informational, educational, study-related and sports events and supports student activities.
http://suuk.cz/o-studentske-unii/clenove/supol-ff-uk

UK media
UK media is the largest independent student association at Charles University. Focusing mainly on media, it publishes two printed magazines (Faculty of Social Sciences’ Sociál and Faculty of Arts’ FFakt) and it runs the university-wide web portal UKacko.cz.
www.ukacko.cz

UNIpoker
UNIpoker is the largest student poker league, in which even a total beginner can learn at an almost professional level. UNIpoker holds training tournaments and weekly on-line tournaments.
www.unipoker.cz

The University Christian Movement and the Christian group at the Faculty of Arts
The movement organizes meetings of Christian students, regular biblical studies seminars and cultural events. The movement is a member of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, offering training, courses and both short-term and long-term study visits abroad.
www.ukh.cz/praha-ff

VŠ LIGA – University League
The University League is open to students, graduates, academics and friends who are interested in playing squash, badminton and beach volleyball at all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players.
www.vsliga.cz

The Všehrd Club of Czech Lawyers
The purpose of the club is to encourage the efforts of members to deepen their education in the field of legal and constitutional sciences. Its activities include lectures and seminars, publishing of books and journals and establishment and administration of endowment funds.
www.vsehrd.cz

OTHER STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Hamba
The theatre association of students of the Faculty of Science. Founded in 2006, it has performed two plays.
http://hamba.tym.cz/
Charles University Student Fair
**Student Union Science**

Its aim is to support student activities at the Faculty of Science, promote the faculty and collaborate with the university's other student associations.

**SELECTED ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION**

**Democracy Check**
A student initiative that coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. Its aim was to combine a celebration of the anniversary with a critical reflection upon the twenty years of the democratic state. Besides Charles University students, students of the University of Economics, Czech Technical University, Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and Masaryk University in Brno also took part.

**Charles University Student Fair**
The fair takes place every autumn. Targeted at freshmen, it provides information and entertainment and is connected to the Orientation Week (see the Information Services section). It is also a place where various student associations present themselves, as well as a showcase of arts and music performances.

**OTHER MEETING PLACES**

**The K4 Student Club**
Situated in the recently reconstructed basement of the Celetna 20 building in the centre of Prague and funded by Charles University, its programme consists of concerts, art openings, film screenings, theatre performances, etc. It serves as a café during the day.

http://www.k4klub.org/

**St. Salvator Church of the Old Town**
Each Sunday and Tuesday, student services take place here.

www.salvator.farnost.cz

**The Charles University Orchestra and Choir**
The outfit performs regularly and collaborates with other musicians and charities.

http://www.sboraorchestruk.cz/

**CU Film Seminar**
The seminar offers preview screenings of new Czech and international films before their theatrical release. It is open to all students and staff of CU and held in the Blue Lecture Room in Celetna 20, Prague 1.

fs.cuni.cz

**SPORTS**

**The University Sports Club of the Charles University Faculty of Physical Education and Sport**
The club offers a whole range of sports from aerobics to floorball, rock climbing, yachting, diving and surfing to tennis and karate.

**The Hostivař Sports Centre**
- this sports complex covering almost 70,000 square metres is located on Bruslařská Street – Prague 15 close to the Hostivař Hall of Residence
- it offers a range of sports facilities: an indoor swimming pool, a multipurpose hall for indoor sports, a fitness centre, a sauna, an outdoor sports centre, ten tennis courts, a football pitch, etc. It is used primarily for teaching purposes or for recreational use organised by the faculties' sports clubs.

www.cuni.cz/UK-672.html

**The Faculty of Medicine in Plzeň**
offers squash, volleyball, floorball, football, aerobics, tennis, basketball and badminton

www.lfp.cuni.cz
The Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové
offers yoga, hockey, skating, body-building / fitness, tennis, floorball, etc.
www.lfhk.cuni.cz

The Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové
offers kalanetics, canoeing, football, croquet, lacrosse, table tennis, etc.
www.faf.cuni.cz

The Charles University Faculty of Physical Education White Water Centre
situated at Vodácká 789/8, Prague 7, the centre offers a slalom track, a gym and an indoor climbing gym. It is possible to enrol in a kayaking course or sign up for rafting trips
http://troja.kanoe.cz/

The Sports Centre for Disabled Students
- opened in 2004 in the Regata boathouse in Prague 4 – Podolí as an educational academic and specialist centre for graduate and postgraduate students, focusing on practical, sports, advisory, publishing and promotional activities.
- it offers courses such as skiing, yachting, canoeing, cycling and other sports
www.cuni.cz/UK-1657.html
Charles University is committed to helping its students overcome any potential problems, both at school and in personal life.

Information and Advisory Centre (IAC)
- available to prospective and current students, future graduates and the general public
- gathers, updates and provides information about the activities and organizational matters at Charles University and about study opportunities, including information for disabled students and information about lifelong learning courses
- organizes regular seminars about the opportunities of studying abroad and various other lectures and workshops
- represents the university and its programmes at education trade fairs
- issues ID cards for students, staff and external users
- offers Internet access, self-service copy machines and printing
- organizes the distribution of Charles University promotional materials

Specialized Counselling Centres at IAC
Besides providing basic information, the IAC also provides specialized counselling services – psychological, career-related, legal; a counselling centre for international students and for students with special needs

The IAC regularly organizes the following events:

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Information Day
The Information Day takes place every autumn and is targeted at the general public. Prospective students are given comprehensive information about all types of study programmes at all seventeen faculties and about the possibilities of lifelong learning.

Information Week
Every January or February, the so-called virtual Information Week takes place. Anybody who is interested can get all the information about admission requirements, about particular study subjects, preparatory courses offered by the university, accommodation, etc.

FOR FRESHMEN

Orientation Week
During the first week of October, a series of lectures is organized for first year students under the title of Orientation Week. These help students get familiar with all kinds of study-related or leisure activities and find their bearings in the university environment. Some faculties provide the services of tutors – student advisors who can also assist new students.

FOR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

The Graduate Programme
The Graduate programme assists future graduates in preparing for their professional careers and allows them to gain specific additional skills required by the job market. The Graduate (Absolvent) website (http://www.cuni.cz/UK-968.html) is an invaluable source of information about the opportunities graduates have after finishing their degree (including internships, further studies, etc.)

Charles University graduates have the opportunity of meeting and keeping in touch with other students and teachers thanks to Karolinum – the alumni association of Charles University (www.sapuk.cuni.cz).
Accommodation

- CU has 20 halls of residence
  (13 in Prague, 3 in Plzeň, 2 in Hradec Králové and 2 in Brandýs nad Labem)
- the total capacity is more than 13,400 beds in various price ranges
- accommodation can be paid via bank transfers
- some halls of residence offer wheelchair accessible rooms
- the Hvězda dormitory in Prague offers accommodation for young families and mothers with children

Cafeterias

- Charles University provides subsidised meals for students in its 15 cafeterias
- the cafeterias offer a choice of several different menus
- the modern cafeteria systems allow for non-cash forms of payment for selected meals, the possibility of ordering meals via the Internet up to 14 days in advance, electronic monitoring of one’s account, etc.
- the Jinonice, Budeč and Troja cafeterias are completely wheelchair accessible

www.kam.cuni.cz
Production of the university press is mostly based on the educational and research activities of the university. Some faculties have their own publishing outlets.

**The Karolinum Press**
Karolinum, the Charles University press, was established in 1990. To date, it has released more than 4,000 publications. Its output consists mainly of teaching texts, academic monographs, 27 academic journals and proceedings in all fields studied at the university. Some publishing projects are realized in cooperation with other publishing houses. Karolinum’s own publication series include Limes, Litera, Sources on the History of Czech Thought and Media Studies. The press continues to publish Czech fiction and translations of Czech works into foreign languages.

All books published by Karolinum can be purchased in the university bookshop in Celetna 18 in Prague or in the Karolinum Internet Bookshop (www.cupress.cuni.cz). ISIC and ITIC card holders get 10 % discount on all titles.


**FACULTY PRESSES**

**Matfyzpress**
Founded in 1994 at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, it publishes mainly textbooks and other publications for the faculty’s students. It releases around ten titles a year.

**The Faculty of Arts Press**
The Faculty of Arts Press publishes academic monographs, textbooks and academic journals in the fields of humanities. The press maintains six book series: Opera Facultatis Philosophicae (representative works from all fields), Fontes (history), Humanitas (in the fields related to society and education), Mnemosyna (art theory), Trivium (philology and philosophy) and Varia (grant-related publications). The press also publishes ten journals and distributes publications and journals produced by individual departments and institutes, including the philosophical and philological periodicals in the Acta Universitatis Carolinae range.

**The Faculty of Education Press**
It has existed for many years and became independent in 2003. It publishes study materials, textbooks, proceedings, research publications, occasional prints as required by the faculty, and four academic quarterlies: Pedagogika (Pedagogy), Speciální pedagogika (Special Pedagogy), Hudební výchova (Music Education) and Výtvarná výchova (Art Education).
UNIVERSITY-WIDE MAGAZINES

i-FORUM
The university online magazine launched in the autumn of 2003. It provides news from Charles University, responds to current issues and comprehensively covers all areas related to the university – including education and research, higher education in general, legislature, etc. Its most popular sections are Projects and Teams, Students, Interviews and Portraits. An English Digest for foreign students is also being published.
www.iforum.cuni.cz

FORUM
Published since 2005, it is a representative monothematic quarterly targeted at the academic community and the general public. Its topics have included students of Charles University, research at Charles University, twenty years of the free university, benefactors and donators, leisure activities, etc.
NOTABLE BUILDINGS AND COLLECTIONS

The rich history of Charles University is reflected not only in its buildings, many of which are historical monuments, but also in a number of valuable subject-specific collections owned and curated by its faculties, often exhibited in specialized museum spaces.

The Karolinum Building
The Karolinum is a National Cultural Monument and the main seat of Charles University. The building has belonged to the university since 1383. One of its most important rooms, where most ceremonies and social events take place, is the Great Hall on the first floor. Its front wall is adorned by a tapestry designed by V. Sychra, which incorporates motifs of the oldest seal of Charles University and excerpts from Charles IV's founding charter of 1348 as well as the symbols of the 4 original university faculties. Another important architectural feature of the Hall is the Gothic oriel, along with the original university chapel. Also notable are the Small Hall, the Patriotic Hall decorated by portraits of important figures from the university history, the Imperial Hall with portraits of the emperors Maria Theresa, Joseph II and Leopold II by Barbara Kraft-Steiner from 1799 or the cloister with the original Gothic ceiling, now serving as an exhibition space.

The Profession House
The building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics on the Malostranské square is an important Baroque monument. It was built in the last third of the 17th century as a profession house of the Jesuit order of the St. Nicholas Church based on the blueprints by Giovanni Domenice Orsi and Francesco Lurago. The building houses a number of ceremonial spaces, including an extensively ornamented refectory, which serves as an assembly hall. Since 2008, Bachelor graduation ceremonies have been taking place here.

The Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Science
The Botanical Garden is one of the oldest European university gardens. It covers 35,000 square metres. Its most valuable exhibit is its collection of Central European flora, founded in 1904.

The Hrdlička Museum of Man
The Faculty of Science's Hrdlička Museum of Man consists of a museum section (open to the public) and a depository (for research purposes). The museum houses approximately 4,000 exhibits – for example a selection of casts of Native American face masks and a collection of trepanned skulls.

The Map Collection of the Charles University Faculty of Science
The Map Collection was founded in 1920 as the State Map Collection of the Czechoslovak Republic. The cartographic fund is among the most important in the Czech Republic – it consists of more than 2,000 atlases (dating from the 16th century onwards), 60 globes, and around 100,000 sheet maps.

The Mineralogical Museum of the Charles University Faculty of Science
Founded in 1775, this collection currently houses over 22,000 items. It is used in teaching Mineralogy and is open to the public.

The Museum of Plaster Casts of Ancient Sculpture
The collection of plaster casts of ancient sculpture, originally placed in the Museum
of Ancient Sculpture and Architecture in Litomyšl (a department of the Faculty of Arts’ Institute for Classical Archaeology), moved to the reconstructed building of the Museum of Ústí nad Labem in the spring of 2011. A new exhibition has been opened in the spirit of the original one in Litomyšl. Some exhibits were moved into the central library in the basement of the main building of the Faculty of Arts, making for a small representative exhibition. Other casts were added to the existing collection in the Gallery of Ancient Art in Hostinné.

**The Gallery of Ancient Art in Hostinné**
A permanent exhibition of the university collection of casts of ancient statues.

**The Museum of Normal and Comparative Anatomy of the 1st Faculty of Medicine**
The Museum of Anatomy Institute houses preserved examples of specimens relating to normal human anatomy. The collection dates back to the mid 17th century and consists of cross-sections of organs or body parts, plastinated specimens, casts, etc.
The Museum of the Anatomy
Institute of the Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové
Established in 1945, the museum specializes in bone specimens. It is being used mostly for the instruction of students of medicine and healthcare professionals.


The Czech Pharmaceutical Museum
The historical collection of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové at the Kuks Hospital includes a wide range of exhibits, such as drugs and compounds from the pharmaceutical industry (as many as 6,000 registered items), pharmacists’ vessels, tools and instruments, and several sets of equipment and furnishings from pharmacies. Apart from these exhibits, the museum owns a large archive and 14,306 catalogued books and journals. This makes it the largest pharmaceutical history library in the Czech Republic.

www.ceska-apatyka.cz

The Chlupáč Museum of Earth History
The museum, run by the Faculty of Science, serves mostly teaching and research purposes in the fields of historical Geology, Paleontology, General Geology and other related subjects.

www.natur.cuni.cz/geologie/chlupacovo-muzeum

Faculty Chapels
www.ktf.cuni.cz/KTF-41.html
(the Sedes Sapientiae Chapel in the building of the Catholic Theological Faculty, Thákurova 3, Praha 6)

(the chapel in the basement of the building of the Protestant Theological Faculty, Černá 9, Praha 1)

The Faust House
The oldest records of this building date from the 12th century. In the 16th century, two subsequent owners of the house, Edward Kelley and Mladota of Solopysky, conducted experiments in alchemy in it, contributing to the myth of Doctor Faustus. In the early 20th century, the house became the property of the General Hospital. Today, it belongs to the Charles University 1st Faculty of Medicine.

http://www.lf1.cuni.cz/faustuv-dum-historie-a-legendy
QUOD BONUM FELIX FAUSTUM FORTUNATUMQUE SIT
Let it bring forth goodness, happiness, prosperity, and success!