



Charles  
University

# Charles University

The oldest university in Central Europe



# Did you know that...

- Charles University (CU) is one of the oldest universities in the world. It was founded in **1348** by Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. It is referred to as the oldest university north of the Alps and east of Paris, and at the time of its foundation had four faculties – liberal arts, medicine, law and theology.
- Charles University is the largest university in the Czech Republic and currently has **17** faculties, the newest of which is the Faculty of Humanities, which was established in 2000. There are **14** faculties in Prague, **2** faculties in Hradec Králové and **1** faculty in Pilsen.

## In addition, the University consists of:

- **4** higher education institutes
  - **17** dormitories, **18** canteens and other catering facilities
  - Karolinum Press publishing house
  - **6** sport and **7** sport and recreation centres
  - **8** faculty museums and **1** exhibition on the history of the University
  - **2** botanical gardens
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- Charles University has **8 800+** employees – more than half of them in academic and research positions.
  - more than **50 000** students at Charles University – that's more than **16%** of all students in the Czech Republic.
  - Charles University has long been ranked in the top **1.5-2%** of universities around the world in prestigious international rankings, making it the best-rated Czech university.
    - 1st place in the Europe University Rankings – Eastern Europe
    - 79th place (out of 685 ranked European universities) in the QS World University Rankings: Europe 2025
    - 246th place (out of 1 500 rated world universities) in the QS World University Rankings
    - among the 250 best universities in the world (out of 23 000 institutions evaluated) in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings
    - Charles University is ranked in the top 200 education institutions in the world in the criteria of academic reputation, reputation among employers, employment rate of graduates, sustainability and international research cooperation according to the QS World University Rankings 2025
  - Charles University owns a total of **190** buildings in Prague, Pilsen and Hradec Králové, including:
    - **Carolinum** (the historic building in the centre of Prague) is the main seat of the university and also a national cultural monument. Exhibitions for the public are regularly held in the Carolinum Cloister, and an exhibition on the history of the University is located

in the basement of the building.

- **Profesní dům (House for the Professed)**: One of the buildings of the Charles University Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in the Lesser Town in Prague. Also a venue for bachelor's graduations. The remains of the Romanesque rotunda of St. Wenceslas can be found in the cellars.
- The **building of the Charles University Faculty of Humanities** in the Libeň district of Prague (awarded the National Prize for Architecture in 2021).
- **New campus and Biomedical Centre of the Charles University Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen**. The building won the Building of the Year award for the Pilsen Region in 2023.
- The newly renovated and expanded **teaching area of the Faculty of Social Sciences** in the Jinonice district of Prague.

## Currently under construction:

- **Mephared 2** – a joint campus of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in Hradec Králové Charles University.
  - **Campus Albertov** – a joint project of the 1st Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics and the Faculty of Science of Charles University.
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- prominent personalities in history of the University include Jan Hus, Bernard Bolzano, Alois Jirásek, Eliška Krásnohorská, Karel Hynek Mácha, Karel Havlíček Borovský, Gerty Cori, Albert Einstein, Franz Kafka, Jan Werich and Jiří Voskovec, Alois Rašín, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Milada Horáková, Jaroslav Heyrovský, Karel Čapek, Bohumil Hrabal, Milan Kundera, Antonín Holý and many others.
  - and important alumni of the University include, among others translator Martin Hilský, Egyptologists Miroslav Bárta, theologian and philosopher Tomáš Halík, parson Martina Viktorie Kopecká, geneticist and molecular virologist Ruth Tachezy, astronomer and astrophysicist Jiří Grygar, biochemist Helena Illnerová, Olympic medallists Eva Adamczyková, Miroslava Knapková and Martin Doktor, actors Zdeněk Svěrák, Martin Myšička, Jiří Macháček and David Švehlík, winner of the National Award of the Government of the Czech Republic, cardiologist Zuzana Mořovská, economist Tomáš Sedláček, writers Kateřina Tučková, Radka Denemarková and Michal Veivewgh, journalists Daniela Drtinová, Martin Veselovský and Daniel Stach, television presenter and teacher Václav Moravec, Commissioner of the Czech Republic in the EU Eva Jouravá, composer Vladimír Franz, Chief State Prosecutor Lenka Bradáčová, psychiatrist Radkin Honzák, influencers Kovy, Jan Vojtko, Vilém Franěk and Bé Hà Nguyen, and many others.

# Study

- **50 000+** students
  - **20 000+** in bachelor's degree courses
  - **15 000+** in master's and **9 000+** in post-bachelor programmes of study
  - **6 000+** in doctoral studies
- **600+** study programmes
- **1000+** Lifelong Learning courses with over **30 000** participants.
- **Microcertificates**
  - Charles University is one of the first in the Czech Republic to offer a new way to expand one's knowledge, increase one's qualifications, or strengthen one's competences and competitiveness.
  - Digital credentials can also be obtained through highly specialised, internationally recognised courses, related to the application sphere

and with interdisciplinary overlaps, many of which are available online.

- **Graduates**
  - Every year, **8 000+** graduates successfully complete their studies in bachelor's, master's, post-bachelor and doctoral programmes, which represents approximately **15%** of the total for the Czech Republic.
- **Employment**
  - The unemployment rate of graduates of Charles University has long been among the lowest – **99%** of graduates find employment between six months to a year after graduation.

# International cooperation

- Charles University has partnerships with prestigious universities from all over the world. Currently, Charles University has **3 400+** interinstitutional agreements (Erasmus+) and **200** international partnership agreements with universities around the world – the highest in the Czech Republic. Charles University also has the highest number of out-going and incoming students and employees in the Czech Republic.
- Through the Erasmus+ programme, every around **2 000** students go to universities abroad and **2 300+** students come to Charles University to study.
- The most popular countries for both incoming and outgoing students are Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom.
- Charles University has long been one of the most sought-after destinations within Erasmus+.
- **International students**
  - **11 200+** students from abroad, of which **5 000+** study in a foreign language in **350+** foreign-language study programmes.
- **19 joint/double/multiple degree** study programmes realised jointly with universities abroad.



- **Membership in international organisations, clusters and networks**

- CU is a member of CE7 (close cooperation between LERU and seven leading Central European universities), CELSA, UNICA, Coimbra Group, EUROPAEUM, CENTRAL, CoARA, EUA, and others.

- **Strategic partnerships**

- University of Zurich, MacQuarie University, University of St Andrews.

- **EAPUC: The Eastern Partnership University Cluster**

- Collaboration of CU with partner universities from associated Eastern Partnership countries.

- **4EU+ Alliance**

- Since 2018, Charles University, together with Universität Heidelberg,

Sorbonne Université, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Università degli Studi di Milano, Københavns Universitet, Université de Genève and Université Panthéon-Assas Paris, has been a member of the European 4EU+ first-generation university alliance. Universities associated in this group cooperate closely in the areas of research, innovation and education.

- **Study in Prague**

- Charles University, along with six other Prague universities (AMU, CTU, CULS, UMPRUM, VŠCHT, VŠE), is part of the Study in Prague consortium ([www.studyinprague.cz](http://www.studyinprague.cz)), which focuses on the joint promotion of foreign-language study programmes and studying in Prague. The consortium also works with the City of Prague.



## Science and research

- Charles University is, together with the Czech Academy of Sciences, the best-performing domestic research institution. Charles University contributes to more than **1/5 (22.8%)** of research results in the Czech Republic as recorded in Web of Science, the recognised international bibliographic and citation database.
- **International research cooperation**
  - Charles University is involved in a number of global research infrastructures, such as CERN, the Pierre Auger Observatory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, etc.
  - Academic and research staff make up more than half of the University's staff and many of them belong to prestigious international research teams.
- **17 prestigious grants from the European Research Council (ERC)**
  - 2 – Social sciences and humanities
  - 9 – Physical science and engineering
  - 4 – Life sciences
  - 2 – Interdisciplinary character



Educational and research centre MEPHARED

## ○ Examples of significant scientific achievements of the University

- participation of scientists from the CU faculty of Mathematics and Physics in the discovery of the Higgs boson using the Atlas detector at CERN
- discovery of a unique ship from the time of the pyramid builders in Abusir and a set of statues of high-ranking dignitaries from the Egyptian Fifth Dynasty (Charles University Faculty of Arts)
- series of discoveries of genes responsible for severe hereditary metabolic diseases (contribution of scientists from the 1st Faculty of Medicine)
- discovery of a protozoan of the genus *Monocercomonoides* (contribution by scientists from the Faculty of Science)
- experimental article in the *iScience* journal describing the high antitumour efficacy of third-generation taxane derivatives in pancreatic cancer cell models both in vitro and in vivo (contribution by scientists from the Biomedical Centre of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen and the 3rd Faculty of Medicine)
- article about research into long Eneolithic burial mounds around Mount Říp in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (contribution by scientists from the Faculty of Arts)
- a study in *Trends in Molecular Medicine* describes new approaches to the treatment of cancer (contribution by scientists from the CU Faculty of Science and Biocev)
- *Nature Communications* journal highlights the discovery of species diversity (contribution by scientists from the CU Centre for Theoretical Studies)

## ○ Scientific fields at CU listed in international rankings

- Astronomy; Biological Sciences; Botany and Zoology; Economics and Econometrics; Ecology; Endocrinology and Metabolism; Physics; Geography; Chemistry; Immunology; Cardiology; Clinical Medicine; Linguistics; Mathematics; Metallurgy; Microbiology; Modern Languages; Oncology; Political Science and International Studies
- Charles University was the only university in the Czech Republic to be classified\* in the following fields: English Language and Literature; Philosophy; History; Modern Languages; Media and Communication Studies; Political Science and International Studies; Sociology; Pharmacy and Pharmacology; Geophysics; Geography; Geology and Earth Sciences

- Charles University ranked\* among the best 150 universities in the world in four fields (Archaeology; Philosophy; Political Science and International Studies and Geography)

*(\*QS World University Ranking by subject /Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2024)*

## ○ University support for science and research:

- **Cooperation programme** – 43 research areas; covers all disciplines at Charles University
- **Primus** – for promising researchers in the early stages of their careers, supports the establishment and development of new research groups
- **UNCE** – primarily supports researchers in the early stages of their careers within the best existing basic research groups under the guidance of prominent personalities in the relevant areas
- **Charles University Grant Agency and Specific University Research** – support for students in their research work
- **Competition for high-quality monographs at Charles University**

## ○ Examples of major university research centres

- **BIOCEV** (Charles University together with the Czech Academy of Sciences) – headquarters in Vestec near Prague, over 50 research teams, almost 40 patents, 850 publications, new laboratory for research on deadly viruses
- **Mephared 2\*** (CU Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové + Pharmaceutical faculty) – a modern joint campus organised by two faculties of Charles University in Hradec Králové, linking their clinical and pedagogical bases
- **New campus of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen and Biomedical Centre** (Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen) – focus on biomedicine, replacement and regeneration of vital organs, 9 teaching institutes, Simulation Centre allowing students to practice real procedures on dummies/simulators
- **Biocentrum\*** (Albertov Campus – 1st Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Mathematics and Physics) – focus on research into living systems for human health, new biotechnologies and biodiversity protection

*(\*under construction)*



# Transfer of knowledge and technology into practice

## • Charles University Innovations Prague, a. s. (CUIP):

- 100%-owned subsidiary of Charles University
- implemented since its establishment in 2018: **132** licences granted, **23** patents sold, **10** spin-offs

### Examples of specific projects:

#### • Additive Appearance

Offers unique software for high-quality appearance processing using 3D printers under the guidance of experts from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.

#### • Tap2U

An app that helps with translations of the written and spoken word. The project was created on the initiative of a student and teacher at the CU Faculty of Arts.

#### • Charles University Innovations Technologies s. r. o.

Data modelling, setup of data processes: design, development and integration of software systems.

#### • FutureBooks

A tool that builds on the findings of the Faculty of Education and offers pupils and students a wide range of options for the collaborative creation, publication or distribution of interactive teaching materials and books.

#### • GeneSpector s. r. o.

Development of new diagnostic approaches for the detection of Covid-19 and other viral diseases. A significant contribution was made by the innovative transport solution of the research team from the CU 1st Faculty of Medicine.

#### • Charles Games

The first university spin-off – an independent game studio in Prague that focuses on the development of games with a social overlap.

#### • Flexicare

System developed by researchers from the 1st Faculty of Medicine and the Czech Technical University that helps patients to convalesce at home. Flexicare s.r.o. provides know-how and licences in the field of telemedicine technologies.





# Equal opportunities, sustainable development, wellbeing

- **Creating a healthy working environment:** onboarding training for new employees, flexible working hours, home office, days off and development, comprehensive care for international employees and children's groups for parents who are employed at the University.
- **Emphasis on personal development and soft skills:** coaching to support the development of personal and professional potential, foreign language courses, educational programmes...
- In 2019, Charles University received the prestigious European Commission **HR Award – HR Excellence in Research**
- **Harmonisation of economic, social and environmental factors:** energy saving, responsible public procurement, electronisation and digitalisation, responsible waste management...
- **Equal opportunities for all students, staff and employees:** University Ombudsman
- **Social and psychological support:** Carolina Counselling and Advisory Centre, Soul Care Centre, Resilience Centre
- **Science and research:** new study programmes and courses in the field of sustainable development, support for both basic and applied research projects...



## The third role of the university

- Transfer of knowledge and technologies into practice: innovations, patents, licences (see also CUIP): e.g. unique set of tests for Covid-19 and other viral diseases, Foga fire blanket, Atentát 1942 and Svoboda 1945 educational computer games, Charles Translator for Ukraine app/translator, etc.
- Provision of professional services and consultation
- lifelong learning: **Didaktikon** science and popularisation centre at the Hybernská Campus, **lifelong learning courses, Junior University**
- Organisation of events for the general public: open days, lectures, exhibitions...
- Popularisation of science: Czech European **Researchers' Night**, **FameLab** science and popularisation competition,...
- **Hybernská campus:** cultural centre, joint project of the City of Prague and Charles University
- **Charles University Endowment Fund:** support and financing of educational, scientific and research activities at Charles University, including events and projects related to it
- Activities of university experts in the media: expert statements, comments, expertise, participation in discussions, raising awareness
- Involvement of CU students and researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Assistance to Ukrainian students and teachers



Carolina Centre



Soul Care Centre



Didaktikon



Hybernská campus



Endowment Fund CU

1348

**1348** – King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV founds a university with four faculties by a charter dated 7 April

**1383** – Charles College acquires a house in the Old Town (the Carolinum), which becomes the headquarters of the entire university

**1654** – The Carolinum and the Clementinum (the Jesuit academy) are united into a common university (Charles-Ferdinand University) by a unification decree of Emperor Ferdinand III.

**1901-2** – The first female graduates (doctoral graduation of Maria Zdenka Babarová from the Faculty of Arts of the Czech university and graduation of Anna Honzáková from the Faculty of Medicine)

**1939** – Milada Paulová appointed the University's first female professor

**1939** – Charles University and other Czech universities closed following the Nazi occupation of the Czech lands

**1950** – The Higher Education Act abolishes academic autonomy and makes activities in higher education subject to supervision by the Communist Party

**1959** – Jaroslav Heyrovský, professor at the CU Faculty of Science, receives the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery and development of the analytical polarographic method

**1989** – Student demonstrations commemorating the events of 17 November 1939 contribute to the fall of the Communist regime

**2000** – The Academic Senate of Charles University approves the establishment of the seventeenth faculty – the Faculty of Humanities

**2012** – Start of construction of the MEPHARED joint complex of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové and the UniMeC University Medical Centre of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen

**2014** – Completion of the construction of the University Medical Centre and Biomedical Centre of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen

**2018** – Start of the 4EU+ international cooperation project

**2018** – Founding of Charles University Innovations Prague, s. r. o.

**2021** – Prof. Milena Králíčková elected as the first female rector of Charles University

**2023** – Establishment of the CU Volunteer Centre and the Soul Care Centre

**2023** – Tragic event – shooting at the Faculty of Arts (21/12/2023)

**1409** – King Wenceslas IV promulgates the Decree of Kármán Hora, by which the Bohemian university nation gains preferential status (followed by the departure of members of other university nations)

**1882** – By decree of Emperor Franz Joseph I, Charles-Ferdinand University is divided into two separate universities, with Czech and German as the languages of instruction

**1920** – The Czech university is officially named Charles University

**1945** – Activities of Charles University resume, foundation of branches of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen and Hradec Králové. The German University is disbanded.

**1953** – The Faculty of Medicine is divided into the Faculties of General Medicine, Paediatrics and Hygiene (renamed the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Faculties of Medicine in 1970)

**1968** – The University participates in the events of the Prague Spring

**1990** – The Higher Education Act restores university autonomy and freedom of research and teaching

**2004** – Discovery of the remains of the unique Romanesque rotunda of St. Wenceslas in the building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics on Malostranské náměstí in Prague. In 2018, the rotunda wins the Europa Nostra award.

**2013** – Start of construction of the BIOCEV centre, a joint workplace of Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences in Vestec near Prague

**2016** – Hybberská Campus – initiation of a joint project of Charles University and the City of Prague

**2020** – establishment of the CU Endowment Fund

**2022** – Following the attack by the Russian Federation on 24 February, Charles University immediately becomes involved in helping Ukraine

**2024** – First micro-certificates awarded at Charles University

**2024** – Start of construction of the Biocentre in the Albertov Campus



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