



University of Hradec Králové
Philosophical Faculty





100 km

BERLIN

WARSAW

Poland

DRESDEN

WROCŁAW

PRAGUE

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

KRAKÓW

OSTRAVA

Germany

Czechia

BRNO

Slovakia

MUNICH

VIENNA

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Austria

BUDAPEST

Hungary

Italy

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Welcome to the Heart of Europe

University of Hradec Králové would like to invite all potential partners to visit, study or stay for research. As the Czechs have a reputation of being a hospitable and friendly people, we would like to take you on a short trip around our beautiful country and the university town of Hradec Králové, to assure you that you have something to look forward to, and that we fully deserve the national characteristics centuries have attributed to us.

Czechia, officially known as the Czech Republic, is a country in the very heart of good old Europe, whose culture has been shaped over the millennia by the great legacies of the ancient world, Jewish traditions and Christian values. The country is placed right in the middle of Eastern and Western cultures, which in past centuries was a crossroad for variety of people and nations, who left their imprints in the soul of the local folk. Thanks to these external influences, the Czech nation has been shaped into an open and

friendly society, highly tolerant towards other cultures and values.

As you will see in the pictures throughout this book, Czechia is a country with rich **history**, diverse **culture**, a land flowing with many natural beauties, but also with rich **tradition** of cutting-edge **science**, art and **advanced economy**. All this can be found in just 78 000 square kilometres (48 750 sq mi). Although this figure may look small indeed, at the same time, the short distance of only a few hundred kilometres between the state borders could be seen as an advantage. Mountains, forests and lakes offer variety of natural recreational and sport activities, in addition to lively urban centres bustling with fun — not just Czech towns and cities for that matter, but also major European cities. The map will show you how surprisingly close Berlin, Vienna, Munich, as well as Paris, London, Rome or St. Petersburg are. Czechia is simply a small **jewellery box** with a rich content.

When a stranger hears the name of our country, in most cases, he will recall its beautiful capital city of **Prague**. Countless visitors and tourists instantly fall in love with her (for Prague is a maiden), a royal panorama with hundreds of towers and spires, an ancient castle towering above the **Moldau** (Vltava) river with a medieval bridge connecting the Old and the New town. It is the city of dreams for countless tourists, visitors, art lovers and romancing couples. Marvels of past centuries written in stone by different artistic styles gave the city the nickname **Golden Prague**. No doubt that you soon, as well, will love the unique atmosphere of that city, which is at any time easily reachable from Hradec Králové, in a matter of mere tens of minutes, via motorway by car, or by the convenient bus and train public services.

Life in Czechia offers all the comforts and conveniences of modern developed society. The currency is the **Czech crown** (CZK) with an approximate exchange ratio of 20 crowns per U.S. dollar, 35 crowns for one British pound, and 27 crowns towards Euro. Details of average general pricing and the cost of living can be found in the practical information section later in this booklet. The Czech **nation** of ten million citizens is **democratic**, homogeneous — socially and nationally, egalitarian, extremely tolerant, emancipated, honouring the **equal rights** of men

and women and children's rights, favouring civic involvement, with atheistic worldview for the major part. However, the most common religion is Roman Catholic Church, which is followed by other Christian churches.

Countless visitors and tourists instantly fall in love with Prague.

The advantage of living in the heart of Europe is the fact that in one year you can experience the continent's mild climate spreading through all four seasons. As indicated on the attached temperature chart, during the **Spring** you can take advantage of calm weather with pleasant temperatures that allow for walks in the city or countryside, dressed lightly. The **Summer**, with sunny days and high temperatures, invites one for refreshing dips in open water areas built in urban areas, or in many ponds in the picturesque countryside. **Autumn** in Czechia brings in the atmosphere of melancholous mists brightened up by coloured leaves of trees, naturally preparing for hibernation. The **Winter** alone is inevitably linked with all nature peacefully resting under white veil of snow, and frozen lakes and rivers, which make the country an ideal place to enjoy winter sports, such as skiing or skating. (Not surprisingly then, that the Czechs, although

Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge



a nation small in number, are traditionally excellent hockey players.) Thus, traveling to our country mean that you may need to pack a small variety of clothing required for each season. On the other hand, that will allow you to make regular changes of style and image.

And who can we expect to meet here, dressed either in light summer clothes or muffled in a winter scarf and hat? From the perspective of research and studies, there are some interesting figures who in the course of time re-wrote the history of science. Czechs certainly have something to build on! Did you know, for example, that the first **sugar cube** was produced in Moravian town Dačice in 1843? Or almost completely unknown to the wider world, a Czech priest called **Václav Prokop Diviš**

Czechs certainly
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(1698–1765) engineered in the 18th century the **lightning rod**, independently of the better known Benjamin Franklin? Or that inventor **Josef Ressel** (1793–1857) tried here the first **water propelled turbine** in one of Prague's fountains? And

that friar **Gregor Johann Mendel** (1822–1834), who in the Augustinian monastery in Brno discovered the very idea of the **genetics** using pea plants, setting foundations for an entire scientific discipline? At the beginning of the 20th century, the world renowned inventor **Otto Wichterle** (1913–1998) invented and developed eye **contact lenses**, and **Jaroslav Heyrovský** (1890–1967) won in 1959 the Nobel Prize in chemistry for the discovery and development of the **polarographic method of analysis**. You simply cannot avoid the Czech spirit of creativity! A propos, the world famous word **robot** coined writer **Karel Čapek** (1890–1938) in his fictional drama **RUR** (Rossum's Universal Robots), a term that refers to an artificial intelligent working machine. It first came to life on the stage in 1920, quickly adapted by a number of other languages.



Jiří Bělohlávek, conductor laureate of the BBC Symphony Orchestra

And as the Czech mind is inventive, the Czech soul is creative in the realm of art. There is no need to explain why the famous passage of the Symphony's No. 9 **From the New World**, immortal music written by composer **Antonín Dvořák** (1841–1904) was played when the crew

Culture and creativity
play a very important
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of Apollo 11 successfully landed on the Moon in 1969. The nation's musicality is widely recognized and according to an old saying that "Every Czech is a born musician", the cities here resonate with music. A fact once acknowledged by no one smaller than the ingenious **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791), who during one of his visits to the metropolis in 1787, said these memorable words: "My people of Prague do understand me".

The painter **Alfons Mucha** (1860–1939) is globally recognized for his posters, large canvases and small art works in the fashion of the late **Art Nouveau**, giving epochal expression to the world standing on the doorstep of modernity. And because the Czechs are also men and women of the pen, as well as avid readers, we cannot forget to mention work of one of the most influential

writers of the 20th century, Jewish citizen of Prague writing in German language — **Franz Kafka** (1883–1924), or writings of more contemporary author, the widely translated **Milan Kundera** (born 1929), or the fact, that the first democratic president after the end of the totalitarian regime, **Václav Havel** (1936–2011) viewed the world through the prism of the philosopher and author of an absurd drama. Among the globally recognized individuals surely belongs the movie director and winner of two Academy Awards for best direction **Miloš Forman** (born 1932). Certainly, it is no coincidence that culture and creativity play a very important role in Czech life.

The picture of the Czechs as a nation with a healthy inner drive would not be complete without mentioning **sport**. Among many outstanding athletes who competed in the history of **Olympic Games**, achievements of **Emil Zátopek** (1922–2000) and **Věra Čáslavská** (born 1942) remain in live memory; the former world number one tennis players **Martina Navrátilová** (born 1956) and **Ivan Lendl** (born 1960) remain important figures of the white sport. Of course, that we cannot miss name of one of the best **ice-hockey** players of all times and member of the victorious Olympic team **Jaromír Jágr** (born 1972), or most recently name of **Petra Kvitová** (born 1990) who in 2014 won the Wimbledon

championship for the second time. Passion for sports can be seen everywhere. Almost every village and small town has its own football pitch, and during the ice-hockey season families are glued to television screens, if not encouraging their team at the stadium, and sport is certainly favourite topic for a chat around here.

The adjective **Czech** is inseparably linked to **beer**, which, according to the place of origin, gave a few general names for this traditional drink all around the world. For example, **Pils** is nothing else but the original beer from the West Bohemian town of **Pilsen** (Plzeň), and **Bud** is abbreviated from Budweiser, the name of the brewery in the South Bohemian metropolis **Budweis** (České Budějovice). You cannot mistake the zesty smell of hops and dense foam of the Czech brew. Be prepared for the fact that in many pubs you will be automatically served refills with freshly tapped beer because **one pint is never enough!**

Another namesake is **Czech crystal**, appearing in many forms. From splendid glass chandeliers to beautifully cut and engraved drinking glasses — usually raised to a toast of good health, or noble glass vases that multiply the beauty of any flower bouquet, or even as an original piece of art decorating the interior of a number of public and private places. By mentioning these decorations, we should not forget the beautiful dark

ruby gemstone — the **Czech garnet** — which completes many jewellery masterpieces.

A unique place within the lifestyle and culture is occupied, of course, by **traditional cuisine**. Those who have already tasted its flavours find

King of the Czech dishes
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the meals very tasty, hearty, rich in meat and generous on sauce. King of the Czech dishes is **roast beef with cream sauce and dumplings**, typically cooked for special occasions and celebrations throughout the year. The meal should not be missing on the menu of any good restaurant, and certainly not in the repertoire of an experienced housekeeper who takes pride in their work. Give it a try! And to entice the opposite range of your taste-buds, there is a pure delicacy in the form of sweet **fruit dumplings** with cottage cheese and melted butter. Especially those with freshly picked strawberries or blueberries — making this dish an irresistible treat.

Regarding traditional drinks, with the exception of beer, one renowned throughout the world is probably the herbal liqueur — **Becherovka**, which can be recognized instantly by its



Roast beef with cream sauce and dumplings

uniquely-shaped dark green bottle with a yellow label. This favourite export item and souvenir is made according to an old secret recipe, from a mixture of more than twenty herbs, thus widely consumed for invigorating and therapeutic effects. No wonder that in the most famous Czech spa **Carlsbad** (Karlový Vary) Becherovka is referred to as the thirteenth natural spring.

And if you ask for a purely local culinary treat which you can enjoy while staying at the University of Hradec Králové, then we can reach out for the traditional **wafer rolls** that could be prepared in many different ways. The secret of its production was allegedly left in eastern Bohemia by one of the personal chefs to Napoleon Bonaparte, who was at the time returning with the retreating French army and entrusted the original recipe for these delicacies to a local peasant girl as thanks for help in a difficult situation. Whether served with whipped cream or coated in chocolate, it is always delightfully crunchy and tastes just great. Please tuck in!

Choices on how to spend one's free time in Czechia are limitless. Many of the natives prefer to depart to their **weekend cottages**, built in areas of dense forests, or **gardening** and **relaxing** in garden areas around cities. Resting on the porch of a wooden hut hidden somewhere in the river valley, or growing your own vegetables are the most common activities in which the

Choices on how to spend one's free time in Czechia are limitless.

Czechs like to get involved to on a Saturday afternoon. The fall is high season for those who have fallen in love with **mushroom picking**, wandering through the woods and groves enjoying a small adventure in the bosom of nature, excitedly collecting many types of edible mushrooms

that taste so good, for example, if fried only in butter! If you see a number of cars parked along a road leading through a forest, you have clear evidence that the mushroom season is in full swing.

Let's stay for a few moments in nature and look around the Czech countryside. Did we not promise that our small country has many colourful experiences on offer, when one is longing to escape the rush and noise of big cities? The countryside offers plenty of opportunities for **leisure**. Forests cover a good third of the country, but you do not have to fear to

Czechia has one of the densest and fully signed networks of hiking trails.

getting lost. Czechia has one of the densest and fully signed **networks of hiking trails** that make all marvels of nature easily accessible, as well as his-

torically important places. One weekend you can follow the blue trail to the protected area of the **Czech Paradise** to admire the sandstone rock formations and enjoy the magical atmosphere in a fantastic maze of so-called **rocky towns**. Another time you could, for example, follow a green line that will take you through countryside between ponds that are freely accessible for bathing, or towards mountains, with a viewpoint built right on the top offering views of the entire region.

Since the Czech landscape is beautifully corrugated and hilly, you can easily explore the countryside using a **bicycle** which is very popular means of transport around here. And as you will learn in the following pages Hradec Králové itself benefits from a relatively **flat terrain** which is ideal for moving around the city and the surrounding area on a bike.

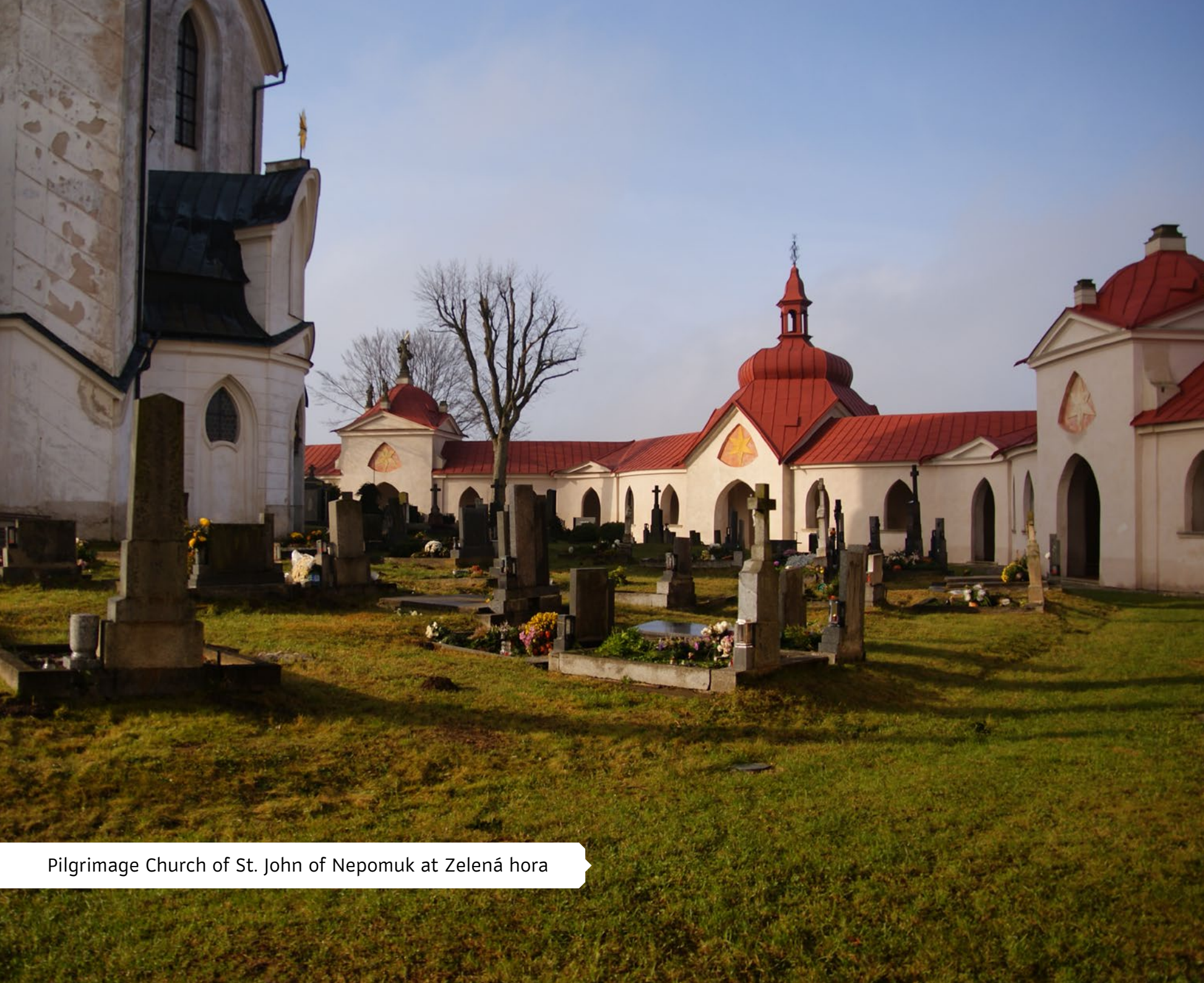
But what would the Czech landscape looked like without the work of human hands! Natural scenery is enhanced by silhouettes of rural churches

Recreational cycling in mountains





Winter near Martínkovice, Adrspach-Teplice Rocks



Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora

with bulbous **baroque** domes, majestic medieval **stone castles**, the silent witnesses of the past, and numerous **chateaus** carefully nestled in beautiful **parks and gardens**. There are twelve unique memorial sites entered on the list of

UNESCO with such gems as the medieval mining town of **Kuttenberg** (Kutná Hora), renaissance town of **Crumlaw** (Český Krumlov),

the pilgrims' church of **St. John of Nepomuk** (sv. Jan Nepomucký) built on the Green Mountain in the Czech unique and a seemingly incompatible combination of baroque and gothic style, or **Lednice-Valtice** area with a large landscaped park, to name a few.

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The **heritage** of old folk knowledge and **cheerfulness** is nowadays reflected in the **music** and **theatre**, with its unique form of **puppet theatre**, which has a long and rich tradition around here. Various traditional story-tale characters can take — in the realm of puppets — mind blowing designs, shapes and characters. Some of the quirky characters are popular even abroad, like the serious **Mr. Spejbl** and his son, the adorable rascal **Hurvínek**, who together with a dog named **Žeryk** and a little girl from neighbourhood **Mánička** accompanied generations of children on their way towards adulthood. The **wit** and kind **humour** of Czech artists also gave birth to a specific cartoon character that won hearts of children around the world and beyond, because a few years ago he accompanied the American astronaut Andrew Feustel on his way to space. It is the good-natured black **Little Mole** (Krteček) by Zdeněk Miller.

However, the country does not live only on beauty, spirituality and ancestral heritage. As a reminder of its modernity could serve the traditional **automotive** industry, one of the most developed in Central and

Eastern Europe. Since 2010, Czechia annually produces more than one million cars. Especially automobiles made by **Škoda** (now a part of the Volkswagen group), which have become an internationally valued brand, and export cars to every continent. Almost all production of **Hyundai** cars manufactured in **Nošovice** head for the foreign market. And one last example of the automotive industry — thousands of cars roll off the production line plant at TPCA Kolín every day, which is a joint venture between the Japanese company **Toyota** Motor Corporation and PSA **Peugeot Citroën** French. Let us now bring up to the light an example of engineering industry in the direct surroundings of the University of Hradec Králové, where hands of skilled craftsmen at the **Petrof** factory produce for more than 150 years pianos and **grand pianos** whose sound is championed by interpreters and listeners alike. You can meet these creations at various locations around the world, for example at the Norwegian Opera in Oslo, the Children's Palace in Beijing, and many U.S. university's concerto halls.

In the middle of this colourful mosaic lies the town of Hradec Králové with its **young** and budding university. Czechia was built upon three historic provinces, namely **Bohemia**, **Moravia** and **Silesia**, with Hradec Králové situated in Bohemia near Prague. Only some 100 km (62 miles) is between the capital city and our charming **Eastern Bohemia** metropolis which is pleasant to live, work and study in. Journey by comfortable **bus** takes about hour and a quarter, operated on regular basis, as well as the direct **train** connection reaching Prague **Main Train Station** in 100 minute's time. Using the **motorway** the journey take less than an hour, with the **International airport Václav Havel** at Prague-Ruzyně accessible by additional half of hour of driving.



Škoda factory hall in Mladá Boleslav

Hradec Králové

The city of **Hradec Králové** was in recent years repeatedly evaluated and voted as the **best place to live** in Czechia. No wonder why. It is all around a **pleasant** city, architecturally **beautiful**, clean and **safe**, with no environmental burdens caused by large industrial zones. A typical resident would be an **office worker, student**, or employee of the residing top **university hospital**. Let us take a closer look! The city unfolds at the **confluence** of two marvellous and mighty rivers, the **Elbe** (Labe) and the **Eagle** (Orlice),

Berlin (DE) 446 km (277 mi) approx. 4 hours of driving
Vienna (AT) 291 km (180 mi) approx. 3.5 hours of driving
Bratislava (SK) 289 km (179 mi) approx. 3 hours of driving
Wroclaw (PL) 173 km (107 mi) approx. 2.75 hours of driving
Dresden (DE) 244 km (151 mi) approx. 2.5 hours of driving
Munich (DE) 496 km (308 mi) approx. 4.5 hours of driving

The whole of Czechia, Hradec Králové included, benefits from a very dense **railway network** that will allow you to travel practically anywhere, from the busy metropolis to rural settlements. Thanks to **comfortable** railway service and high accessibility of the surrounding landscape you

and it is embraced by a **forest-park** from the south-east, both contributing to the convenient range of local **leisure** facilities. When residing in Hradec Králové, you can comfortably **travel** around **Central Europe** from the nearby town of Pardubice by a direct trains to **Vienna, Berlin, Bratislava** and **Warsaw**, for example.

For a better idea, have a look below at some distances and journey times for **traveling abroad** from Hradec Králové:

will have decent number of various **attractions** at hand. Eastern Bohemia combines **natural beauty** with a rich historical **heritage**. Only an hour's drive to the north you will find the **Giant Mountains** (Krkonoše) with the highest Czech mountain **Snowy** (Sněžka) at 1602 m (5255 feet)

above the sea level, which are renowned for winter sports and summer hiking. Another strip of mountain range called the **Eagle Mountains** (Orlické hory) are located even closer, ideal for any ski-beginner to gain initial experience in the exciting **downhill** or the more physically demanding **cross-country** skiing, with trails heading around gentle slopes, mountain ridges and flat plains. A real gem of natural beauty is the complex of sandstone **rock-towns** in **Adrspach-Teplice Rocks** (Adršpašsko-Teplické Skály). This trip is virtually an obligatory point in the itinerary of every visitor of this region. Even if you are not keen alpinist who regularly climbs up on **rock towers**, you can enjoy this wonder of nature as well with convenient visitor footpaths leading through darkened gorges and high ravines with **bizarre** rock formations on every step. Human imagination brought up some original names for many of those **natural arrangements**, and it is up to you to find what **hidden fables** the rock formations have up their sleeves for you.

Right from the city centre you can make a short **cycling** trip to the forest-park with many kilometres of bike trails and a great **in-line** skating circuit, right in the middle of **nature**. Hradec Králové is nicknamed as a **paradise** for cyclists. The rather flat disposition of the surrounding terrain goes hand in hand with decent network

of bike-ways, which together, strongly favour the **bicycle** as the **ideal** means of transport. From a residence to the school, or to the train station,

Hradec Králové
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where you can leave your bike in a secure robotized **bike tower**, you can travel everywhere just by using your own legs.

Some may be tempted to try a **golf** course either in the city, or in one of the large resorts spreading over the nearby foothills, or maybe the one which has been created in a romantic English park attached to a **neo-gothic castle**. Hradec Králové also benefits from a beautiful **open-air** swimming pool, **Flošna**, a modern indoor **swimming pool** with sauna, spa and **aqua-park** fitted with a sophisticated artificial wave system. Followers of winter sports can enjoy the **ice-skating** ring. Without going into any more detail on this topic, rest assured that in Hradec, everyone can find sport to his, her or its liking. Yes, that includes **open-water** rowing too.

On the account of historical **sightseeing**, we have picked only a small representation linked to the major historical **periods**. A very impressive



witness to the **knight's** medieval period is the castle **Kost** (Bone) in the romantic setting of the rocky valleys area in the **Český ráj** (Bohemian Paradise). The **renaissance** period is represented, for example, by the UNESCO protected chateau in **Litomyšl** built in the 16th century with stunning **sgraffito** decoration on its facades. One can really feel the mystical power of hidden symbols embedded in the work of the dynamic **Baroque** era when visiting the former 18th century spa in **Kuks**, or the monumental Benedictine abbey in **Broumov**. If you are looking for something a bit different, and are also perhaps fan of our ancestor's **craftsmanship**, there is a unique wooden, moving **Nativity scene** (Betlém) in **Třebechovice pod Orebem**, a technical marvel that received accolades of admiration at the World's Fair EXPO in Montreal, Canada in 1967. In the context of the global world, we must not forget one more memorable event of the past, which is closely associated with Hradec Králové. Not far from the city, on 3rd June 1866 the **final battle** which ended the war between Prussia, Austria and Saxony took place. Bloodshed — known to the world as the **Battle of Königgrätz** — which is also the German name for Hradec Králové, was one of the greatest conflicts of the 19th century and caused a completely new arrangement of forces in Central Europe with far-reaching consequences in the 20th century.

But let us return to the **contemporary** Hradec Králové, because there is really no need to go anywhere outside the city in order to find amusement. For example, the city's **theatre** scene is on the top national level. Although the plays are staged in the Czech language, at least once a year at the **International Theatre Festival of European Regions**, thanks to international staging, performances can be understood by everyone. Thanks to the vast number of diverse theatre companies, the city is during this time nicknamed the Czech Avignon. All the town becomes alive with street **performances**, concerts, spontaneous **improvisations** on squares, streets and literally on every corner. If you have not listened to

an **alternative** concert on a hot night in a bar on the square, has really not experienced the uniqueness of the city and its **cultural spirit**. Try it next time with us! And we must not forget the **magnificent**, world-renowned puppet theatre **Drak** (Dragon). Their performances are based on the precise mastering of puppets and their gestures, mime and body language symbolism, thus opening the space for imagination equally to both a local and an **international** audience.

It seems that the city **loves** festivals. The nearby **festival park** on the outskirts of the town regularly fill up with tens of thousands fans devoted to rock **music**, hip-hop and many other genres. Students themselves, always at the turn of April and May, celebrate the arrival of the spring with

It seems that the
city loves festivals.

a traditional feast called **Majáles** (Rag day). The spontaneity of this feast a few decades earlier, in 1965, impressed the famous American poet of the **Beat Generation** Allen Ginsberg to the extent that he immortalized his impression in the poem **King of a May Day parade**, in which he expressed sympathy with Czech students oppressed by the then totalitarian regime. And

in the autumn, the streets resonate with music thanks to the **Jazz Goes to Town** festival.

From the wide array of festivals is obvious that Hradec Králové is a city of **young** folk. The academic year brings each year to the town thirteen thousand students from three different universities, **rejuvenating** the population of slightly less than one hundred thousand regular inhabitants. In addition to four **faculties** of the University of Hradec Králové, the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Pharmacy of the Charles University, and Faculty of Military Health Sciences from the University of Defence resides here. Such a **large community** of youngsters certainly has a beneficial effect upon the atmosphere of the city and — quite frankly — on the number and style of many restaurants, pubs and bars too. For example, on the main square and adjacent streets of the old city, you can choose from dozens of restaurants, all different in style and cuisine. From cosy clubs for intellectuals, such as the stylish **Knihomol** (Bookworm), through sports, cocktail or retro design bars to fine wine cellars. Let your taste, mood and **appetite** make a choice! (A traditional Czech beer cost here literally a few coins.) In some pubs and clubs you can find live music played by local bands, art **exhibitions**, listen to travelogues or lectures and participate in engaging discussions in the student's AC club, for

example. And finally, you can take a **picnic** basket and go to a large central park named **Šimkovy sady** (Simek's orchards) where you can — under the beautiful blue sky — enjoy a merry barbecue with a bunch of your friends. You can easily meet there, maybe on the grassy field while waiting for a beer from the local kiosk, other **international** visitors, because hundreds of pupils from dozens of countries from **all continents** live and study in Hradec Králové. So there is no chance that you will lack the opportunity to **share** joy and views on some aspects of living abroad with other internationals.

Well, while we're talking about life in the **city**, we still did not manage to discuss the setting in which all these happenings takes place. Our wait for the introduction of the town's **architecture** does not mean, however, that Hradec Králové lacks something in this regard. There certainly are many beautiful and much more famous European cities, but our Hradec is architecturally clearly **unique**.

Originally the **royal** dowry town, whose former glory resembles a gothic cathedral of the **Holy Spirit** (Svatý duch) and the renaissance belfry called the **White Tower** (Bílá věž), which got a completely new look during the 19th and 20th century. The reason for the renovation was

closure of the huge military **fortress**, which in the 18th century gripped the whole city within its massive walls. Their removal gave the city

Hradec Králové is
architecturally unique.

council an opportunity not to leave the expected construction **boom** to a chance, but to take advantage of the extensive surrounding open areas for organized and thoughtfully planned **development**. This lucky decision began to unfold a remarkable story of courage and **great visions** that have become reality. The city commissioned the best architects and urban developers of that time to develop the town's empty green meadows into a city for the 20th century.

In the following decades, a generous city grew around the preserved medieval settlement, with wide boulevards cleverly respecting the ancient city landmarks; new embankments lined with trees, imaginative squares and magnificent public buildings, as well as residential districts. Architecturally, the city has become a storefront of Art Nouveau, **Cubism** and especially the typical Czech design and art style **functionalism** and constructivism. The main monuments that reminding the glorious era of the city, praised for

its urbanistic value and widely referred to as the **Salon of the Republic** (Salon republiky), are in particular the buildings of the **Museum of East Bohemia** (Muzeum východních Čech) created by architect Jan Kotěra, respected founder of Czech modern architecture, and then the purposefully austere building of the **priest Ambrose congregation**, built by Kotěra's pupil and successor Josef Gočár. Hradec Králové gives thanks to these architectural achievements, characterized by high **aesthetics** and **elegance**, and makes a positive imprint on **the quality of life**; and carrying almost a festive feeling within its streets. We are sure you will agree once you will know the city personally.



Museum of East Bohemia in Hradec Králové



The Research Library in Hradec Králové

Practical Information

Previous passages revealed some aspects of life in our Central European country. Now we would like to provide you with some additional details with focus on everyday **life** in Czechia. The whole country is, in the terms of living standards, among developed societies enjoying high **quality of life**. This fact can be demonstrated, for example, on the absolute literacy of the population, complete technological **infrastructure** unimaginable without reliable 3G mobile network coverage giving oomph to the latest smartphones, dependable **high-speed** internet connection, and trouble-free payments available through major credit card companies with cash withdrawals from ATMs readily available.

Living costs are reasonable for a developed economy, and similarly, as in every other country, life may be both relatively **inexpensive** or costly, depending on the location, your type of accommodation, lifestyle, personal diet and **entertainment**, etc. Let us show you some examples directly from Hradec Králové.

A two course **lunch** in a restaurant comes in at around 100 CZK from a lunch-time menu, lunch or dinner **à la carte** together with drinks is widely available for 150—200 CZK, a menu at a fast food restaurant is usually around 140 CZK. Similarly, the same amount of money will buy you a **cinema ticket**. Beer and soft drinks are typically around 30 and

cup of good **coffee** about 40 crowns. According to statistics we spend monthly around 5 000 CZK on food alone. But again, the final amount will depend on the extent of your appetite. Prices for accommodation in university **dormitories** comes in around 2 500 CZK per month. When renting a **flat**, the monthly sum needed to pay the bills depends on the location and condition of the accommodation, typically somewhere between 4 000 and 10 000 crowns. One ride on the city's public transport costs 18 CZK.

There is **top-quality** medical care easily **accessible** throughout the whole country, with the population properly **vaccinated** against basic infectious diseases. Every student or employee can reach first-class help, whether it is a consultation with a qualified general practitioner or more complex medical treatment, free for EU citizens. Clean **drinking water** is easily accessible from the public conduit. As in most European countries, electrical appliances in Czechia use the single-phase power supply via **two pins plug**. All other questions related to everyday life in Czechia will be gladly answered by our international office before your arrival. Please find list of contacts in the last section of this booklet.



International students of the University of Hradec Králové

University of Hradec Králové

In this moment we are fully equipped to enter the University of Hradec Králové. It is a **young yet established** public educational institution, founded in 1959. The university consists of five parts which are: the Faculty of **Education**, Faculty of **Informatics and Management**, **Philosophical Faculty**, Faculty of **Science** and the Institute of **Social Work** — all of which offer studies in more than a hundred fully accredited bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree courses taken up around **9 000** students annually.

The rich spectrum of educational activity includes fields of **economy**, **management** and **computer science** at the Faculty of Informatics and Management; **social sciences** at the Philosophical Faculty; **educational** and **artistic** disciplines at the Faculty of Education; **science** and **technology** courses at the Faculty of Science, and studies in a variety of **social work** disciplines accessible at the Institute of Social Work. Faculties and Institute prepare their

students with an emphasis on their **future** successful **professional** life. Regularly monitored and evaluated statistics show that the number of graduates without job is small.

The continually **developing** university campus **Na Soutoku** (At the Confluence), is very conveniently located right in the city centre and is easily accessible for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike, and is linked by public transport to all parts of Hradec Králové. At the time of this publication, the university is setting foundations for a brand new pavilion designed primarily for our natural scientists. The campus, currently populated in two large modern buildings, is the **hub** of life and information at the university. You can find there, for example, the central **library** or the **assembly hall** where students have regular lectures, but could also freely discuss various topics with important personalities of the scientific and social world — with local or international reputation — including Czech presidents. And in the evening

the space regularly changes into a **movie** theatre, accommodating needs of the Academic film club. In addition to classrooms dedicated exclusively to international students, you can relax in the university gallery or have a pleasant chat in the office of the student organization **ESN Buddy System** with Czech peers dedicated to giving a helping hand to international students.

Directly next to the campus sits the brand new **Study and Research Library** (Studijní a vědecká knihovna) with a modern information centre of international standards. Within ten minutes of walking distance lie other important university buildings, like the Faculty of Education and Philosophical Faculty; the rectorate; **grandiosely** conceived studios of art disciplines, which were re-built from the former town brewery; and classrooms dedicated to musical disciplines residing in the **noble** and **inspiring** environment of the former Jesuit College originally built in the 17th century.

Since the university is closely linked to the city and the rest of the **region** and their institutions and companies, you come across its activities virtually everywhere. An example is the **unique** museum of **prehistory** in nearby village **Všestary** — a joint venture of the University of Hradec Králové and the Eastern Bohemia region — equipped with the **Centre of experimental**

archaeology with replica of a **Neolithic settlement**, brainchild and actively supported by the Philosophical Faculty. Technology Centre and companies represented in the **Hradec Králové IT cluster**, of which the University is a founding member through its Faculty of Informatics and Management, and together with the **Centre for Biomedical Technology transfer** represent another area of science and **applied research**, with the university's direct participation or serving as a start-up **think-tank**.

The university pays great deal of attention to the care of its human **potential** (we tend to see potential in humans, rather than a resource), including international students and employees, so all international students in each academic year are **automatically** booked in for accommodation at the university dormitories. As well as the university's dedicated international office and the Buddy System, people interested in scientific cooperation and research could turn to a local office of the EURAXESS network, aiming to promote **international relations** by removing potential barriers whether formal or cultural. The university Counselling Centre also offer reliable and comprehensive service covering many areas of life.

The indisputable **advantage** of the university is its relatively intimate **environment** that allows



Students in the auditorium at the University of Hradec Králové

students and teachers to establish **personal** contact, which helps to discover each pupil's individual needs and set specific learning **targets** according to the student's **performance** and the chosen specialization.

Although we are modern school with focus on the future, we are proud to keep alive the **legacy** of the old European academic tradition. Therefore, at the faculties of the University of Hradec Králové you will be invited to join some **rituals** and **ceremonies** to underline the **importance** of further education. Students become members of the academic **community**, and as such, they later receive their **diplomas** at ceremonies, which are held in a **festive** spirit, with music and participation of the university dignitaries in their gowns appropriate to their authorities of the Rector, Vice-Rector, Dean or a member of the Scientific Council. One of the key attributes of the university's higher status, dignity, sovereignty and independence is the **mace** of the Rector or the Dean of each faculty, an insignia of a special and **symbolic** meaning, upon which students take an **oath** of allegiance to the ideals of **moral** and scientific **principles** in their field of study and work. We look forward to meeting you **soon** at this memorable ceremony.

The University campus "Na Soutoku" in Hradec Králové



Philosophical Faculty

The Philosophical Faculty University of Hradec Králové offers BA, MA and PhD study programmes taught in Czech language as full and part-time courses which include Archaeology, Archival Science, History, Philosophy, Political Science (with specialization in the regions of Africa and Latin America in MA and PhD study programmes) and Sociology, together with interdisciplinary study fields focused on informatics and multimedia in Archival Science.

Students of the faculty can benefit from contact with foreign universities and spend part of their studies abroad at one of our partner institutions which are located all over the world. The Philosophical Faculty also provides instruction in history and social sciences for the students of teaching study programmes at the Faculty of Education. Graduates of the faculty acquire first-rate knowledge in humanities and social sciences, and find a broad range of job opportunities in

public institutions, non-governmental organizations, commercial agencies, media, or various research and development assignments.

Study programmes for international students

The Philosophical Faculty offers full-time MA and PhD study programmes in English, i.e. MA study programmes Central European Studies and Philosophy and two PhD study programmes Latin American Studies and African Studies.

Departments and Institutes:

- Chemistry Institute of History
- Department of Archaeology
- Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences
- Department of Foreign Languages
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archival Science
- Department of Sociology

Dean's Invitation



Dear foreign friends,

It gives me great pleasure to know that you are about to discover the possibilities for learning at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové. I would like to briefly introduce our faculty and the city as well, because it is possible, and indeed likely, that you have not had the chance to hear about our institution, or about Hradec Králové at all. So this gives me a wonderful opportunity to highlight the advantages of studying at the Philosophical Faculty, and outline the opportunities we offer in the fields of research, opening the doors for excellent educational and social development.

Our faculty does not belong to the oldest or largest institute in Europe, but we are building its reputation which is based mainly on providing top quality education in an open and friendly environment.

Hradec Králové, often called the “Salon of the Republic”, is a relatively hidden gem, a unique place with distinctive charm, a joyful student atmosphere, beautiful architecture, and an interesting history, with many parks and bike trails, and pleasant pubs which seem to invite one to sit down for a chat with friends or colleagues from the faculty. Hradec Králové repeatedly tops the polls as a city with the highest quality of life in the Czech Republic, which is, largely thanks to the unique mix of a healthy environment, high economic standards and the high quality of education. Everyone can feel at home in Hradec Králové.

But let us go back to the university and the opportunity to study and research at the Philosophical Faculty. If you are interested in Master's degree courses, the Central European

Studies and Philosophy programmes would be your choice. If you are aiming higher, then we can offer Doctoral degree courses in African Studies and Latin American Studies. For other international students, especially those coming through the Erasmus programme, and within the framework of our bilateral exchanges with universities in Africa and Latin America, we offer a range of optional courses in English, which span the social sciences (including Political Science, Philosophy and Sociology) and historical disciplines (History, Archival Science and Archaeology). In addition to subjects conducted in English, we teach several courses in Spanish as well.

Another great advantage of our faculty is the stimulating multicultural environment, which is a result of our intensive international cooperation. As already mentioned above, the Philosophical Faculty works closely with other European universities, but also with universities in Africa, Latin America, USA and Asia. And it is because of this worldwide cooperation you will have the chance to become part of an inspiring academic environment.

Pavlína Springerová

Dean of the Philosophical Faculty
the University of Hradec Králové

International Studies

The Philosophical Faculty at the University of Hradec Králové is very pleased to liaise with other international universities through a network linking Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia, and we are fully open to further collaboration through the Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus programmes, as well as cooperation with organisations outside the EU.

a) Erasmus+

Studies in English for incoming Erasmus Students

The Philosophical Faculty offers courses in English together with a few courses in Spanish for a one term stay (approximately four month long) designed for both undergraduate and graduate students of Humanities, Social Sciences, Political Science, Philosophy, History and Archaeology.

Classes in English are attended by both Czech and foreign students. Czech lessons for foreign students are available too. We offer a number of courses focusing mainly on the issues of the Czech Republic and Central Europe enabling students to acquire knowledge of important topics within the European, and also within a global context. Any incoming student may freely combine courses in order to achieve the required number of evaluation credits.

Courses for incoming exchange students

New students may select from a variety of courses. The Department of Political Science offers, among others, the following courses taught in English: Central European Politics; Political System of the Czech Republic; Conflict Resolution; Political Culture in Africa: Variety and Unity; Latin American Politics; Theory of Coalitions and its Application; Política económica de América Latina; and Analysis of Political Parties.

The Department of Philosophy offers, among others, the following courses: Ludwig Wittgenstein's Philosophy, Philosophy of Social Science, Ancient Greek Democracy and its Legacy, Body-mind Problem: from Descartes to Davidson, The problem of Relativism in Philosophy, and Ecological Ethics.

The Department of History offers, to name a few, the following courses: Aspects of State; Cultural and National Changes in the Czech Lands and Central Europe (16th-19th Century); Czech and Czechoslovak Modern History within the Central European Context; Central European History (19th-20th Century); History of Bookish and Printing Culture; Brief Outline of Contacts between the Ottoman Empire and the Czech Lands from the 15th to the 18th Century; Josef Dobrovský and European Intellectual History in the 18th and 19th Centuries; Czech Royal Towns in Context of Central Europe (16th–18th Century); and Czech language for foreigners.

Application deadline for the winter term is June 30 (exceptionally, the deadline may be postponed). The application deadline for the summer term is December 1.

Any student who is a full-time or part-time student at one of our partner universities can come to study in Hradec Králové as well.

The Philosophical Faculty is open to arranging new Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus partnerships to further develop international cooperation.

List of current partner universities:

- Alps-Adriatic University of Klagenfurt
- University of Cyprus
- Justus Liebig University Giessen
- University of Koblenz-Landau
- University of Granada
- University of Salamanca
- Tallinn University
- University of Tartu
- Paris West University Nanterre La Défense
- University of Szeged
- University of Palermo
- University of Eastern Piedmont “Amedeo Avogadro”
- University of Latvia
- University of Oslo
- University of Coimbra
- Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra
- University of Évora
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin
- Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
- University of Wrocław
- “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia
- Transilvania University of Braşov
- Babes-Bolyai University
- University of Bucharest
- Dalarna University
- University of Ljubljana

- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
- Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
- Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra
- Başkent University
- Mugla Sitki Koçman University
- Sakarya University
- Karadeniz Technical University
- Balıkesir University
- The University of Sheffield

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b) Self-funded Students

The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové offers full-time MA and PhD study programmes conducted in English especially for international students, i.e. MA study programmes: Central European Studies and Philosophy and two PhD study programmes: Latin American Studies and African Studies.

Central European Studies

About the study programme

The Philosophical Faculty offers a full-time Master's degree programme which is designed for students who already have a Bachelor's degree. The study is designed as a multi-disciplinary overview of Humanities and Social Sciences in which Central Europe is characterized in a broad context.

Basic information about the field of study

Follow-up Master's degree study programme:
International Territorial Studies
Study duration: 2 years, full-time study
Tuition Language: English
Tuition start: every September
Tuition fees: € 1500 per semester, i.e. € 3000 per academic year

What are the Central European Studies about?

Inter-disciplinary studies within the scope of humanities and social sciences.

Central Europe is comprehended and studied in a broader, especially historical-political and socio-economic context. Courses of Czech, Polish

and German language are offered as a part of the studies.

Students of Central European Studies will obtain detailed knowledge about wide range of facts linked to Central Europe, especially in areas of modern history, politics, political systems (including transformation of Central European countries), culture, society and economics.

Graduates will be able to analyse the current social, economic and political events in this region as well as in individual Central European countries.

For more information contact:

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Latin American Studies

About the study programme

The Philosophical Faculty offers a full-time PhD degree programme which is designed for students already awarded with a Master's degree in Political Science and related study disciplines. The study is designed as an overview of Area Studies and Political Science focusing on Latin America.

Basic information about the field of study

Study programme: Political Science
Study field: Latin American Studies
Study duration: 4 years, full-time study
Tuition language: English
Type of study: PhD
Tuition start: every September
Tuition fees: € 1500 per semester, € 3000 per academic year

What are the Latin American Studies about?

The PhD route of Latin American Studies aims to create qualified specialists with a primary focus on Latin America and is designed especially for students with a Master's degree in Political Science or related disciplines. The study concentrates primarily on comparative research of Latin America, while applying theoretical and methodological knowledge to social, political and economic issues specific to the Latin American region.

Experience studying in Latin America

The objective of the Latin American Studies programme is to educate and prepare scholars interested in research and teaching with focus on Latin America. The study is aimed at theoretical and methodological knowledge as well as practical skills, partly acquired during an exchange visit at one of our partner universities and research

institutions residing in Latin American countries. Students are supposed to carry out extensive field research as part of Latin American studies related to the topic of their doctoral dissertation. The direct experience of this study and research abroad will enable the graduates of the PhD programme to take up various research projects, thus absorbing knowledge better and maximizing its practical usage.

Graduates

Graduates will be professionally and also linguistically fully prepared for independent scientific research and teaching; work in public institutions, such as government ministries with agendas focused on Latin America; in media; non-governmental organizations; diplomacy; as well as other foreign or home institutions searching for experts articulate in this area.

For more information contact please:

Department of Political Science
Lenka Špičánová
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African Studies

About the study programme

The Philosophical Faculty at the University of Hradec Králové offers a full-time PhD degree programme which is designed for students already awarded with Master's degree in Political

Science or related study disciplines. The study is designed as an overview of area studies and political science focusing on Africa.

Basic information about the field of study

Study programme: Political Science

Study field: African Studies

Study duration: 4 years, full-time

Tuition language: English

Type of study: PhD

Tuition start: every September

Tuition fees: € 1500 per semester, i.e. € 3000 per academic year

What are African Studies about?

The PhD course of African Studies aims to prepare qualified specialists in area studies with a primary focus on Africa. The PhD study is designed especially for students with a Master's Degree in Political Science or related disciplines. The study concentrates primarily on comparative research of Africa with the objective to apply theoretical and methodological knowledge to social, political and economic issues specific to the region.

Experience studying in Africa

The objective of the African Studies programme is the education and preparation of scholars interested in research and teaching with a focus on Africa. The study is aimed at theoretical and methodological knowledge as well as practical

skills, partly acquired during an exchange visit to one of our partner universities and research institutions residing in an African country. Students are supposed to carry out an extensive field research in African studies, related to the topic of their doctoral dissertation. The direct experience of the study and research abroad will enable the graduates of the PhD programme to take up various research projects, thus absorbing the knowledge better and maximizing its practical usage.

Graduates

Graduates will be professionally and also linguistically fully prepared for independent scientific research, teaching and work in public

institutions, such as government ministries with agendas focused on Africa, in media, non-governmental organizations, diplomacy, as well as other foreign or home institutions searching for experts articulate in this area of study.

For more information contact please:

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In near future we are going to offer more study programmes lectured in English focused on humanities and social sciences.

c) Other Students

Scholarships

The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové welcomes all students from our partner universities in Latin America and Africa to study one or more terms within various exchange programmes.

List of partner universities in Latin America and Africa with established scientific research, available for exchange visits:

- Universidade Jean Piaget de Cabo Verde, Praia, Cabo Verde

- University of Ghana, Legon-Accra, Ghana
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Lima, Lima, Peru
- Universidad San Cristóbal de Huamanga, Ayacucho, Peru
- Universidad de los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela
- Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Resistencia, Argentina
- Universidad Autónoma de Nicaragua, León, Nicaragua

- Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Mexico
- Universidad Mayor, Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Sucre, Bolivia
- Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Cochabamba, Bolivia
- Universidad de Desarrollo, Santiago de Chile, Chile
- Georgia College & State University, US
- Howard University, Washington D.C., US
- Soochow University, Taiwan

Student Testimonials

Xochilt Anielka Vanegas Cisneros, 25, from the Unan-León Universidad, Nicaragua, studied two semesters at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové:

“Always, always will stay in my mind each moment I experienced at the Philosophical Faculty and lived in Hradec Králové and the new friends I got to know there. I will never forget my second home-town Hradec Králové and its beauty.”

Sarah Esther Rimer Labarca, 23, from the Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela, studied two semesters of the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Hradec Králové:

“For me, was really interesting to contrast how different the Czechs and Venezuelans are, culturally. The first thing that was surprising was the efficiency of the public transport and the facilities to move around the country. I loved the time I spent in Hradec Králové. I was studying, planning some trips

inside and outside the Czech Republic, going out with friends — simply enjoying life as a foreign student. One of the things that I will miss is the feeling of complete peace and tranquillity of the city — the sensation of security that you feel in the streets.”

Silvio Leonel Balmaceda Osejo, 23, from the Unan-León Universidad, Nicaragua, studied two semesters at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové:

“I like Hradec Králové so much, it is a beautiful city. I love the culture and history of the Czech Republic. It is so amazing that the Czech Republic is a free country and has a long history of this. I appreciated the technology at the faculty which is much better than at my faculty in León. Also classes of Latin American Politics were really great. It was a wonderful experience for me to study at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové.”

Scientific Research

The staff at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové is for a long time intensively involved in various research projects carried out in many cases internationally. In addition to the “strict science” grants (GACR – Czech Science Foundation) our faculty put into practice a number of other projects financed by the European Union (in particular the European Social Fund) and has access to range of experts within the Fulbright scholarship programme. So conferences and seminars in Hradec Králové often feature visiting top experts in their fields, such as African or Latin American studies, Philosophy, and History.

The international dimension of our scientific collaboration reflects the nature and direction of the individual disciplines. Historical disciplines (Archaeology, Archiving and History) and Sociology focus on cooperation within Central Europe (Poland, Austria and Slovakia), but also develops specific links with various French and Italian specialist institutions. The extra-European overlap of scientific research is then logically linked to disciplines such as African Political Studies and Latin American Studies. Our faculty annually hosts the major international

conference Viva Africa, traditionally taking place in Hradec Králové. Professional ties are constantly reinforced through a dense network of partner universities and institutions across Africa and Latin America. One of the highlights of the Latin American scientific cooperation is organizing an international conference, hand in hand with the Red Latinoamericana de Estudios de Calidad de la Democracia, which brings together the top Latin American experts exploring issues of democracy.

At the faculty, our own research projects could also engage students in Master and Doctoral degree levels available through dozens of annually awarded student grants, allowing them to open the door to the international scientific community.

In addition to research and other academic projects, the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové published a number of important monographs and articles in international journals and journals in Scopus and ERIH databases. Part of the scientific production of the Philosophical Faculty is published in English, Spanish and German.

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