

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly
Newsletter for
International
Students



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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Dear colleagues,

The autumn semester is slowly drawing to a close - the semester that gave us hope that we would not remain forever confined to the isolation of our homes, and were able to meet each other in our academic and extra-curricular activities. I am happy that we were able to maintain in person classes for such a long time, that many of you were able to meet your classmates in person for the first time, and that we were able to have a joint meeting of all the international students of our faculty.

This semester was busy for us and we are happy to share improvements for our PhD students in English degree programmes, who now receive a regular monthly stipend similar to students in Czech programmes. This is also complementary to the newly established scholarships for students in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes.

On behalf of the faculty leadership, I can promise you that we will continue to strive for the best possible conditions for quality studies in the months ahead, and to prepare you for future studies and best possible employment.

I wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year full of joy, good health, and resilient spirit.

prof. PhDr. Stanislav Balík, Ph.D.
Dean

UNIVERSITY LIGHT IS YELLOW: WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FSS

MU is operating following the university traffic-light system. The risk assessment level is currently YELLOW.

- MU buildings are closed to the public.
- Classes are limited to a maximum of 200 people at FSS. Please see all current measures in this [document](#).
- People with symptoms of infectious viral infections are prohibited from entering MU buildings.
- Students and employees are obliged to inform MU about their return from a foreign country.
- Students who reside at MU dormitories must get tested every seven days. The exception includes people who have been vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19 (within the last 180 days), or tested.
- MU asks [students](#) and [employees](#) to fill in information about their vaccination status.

Foreigners entering the country should see instruction for [students](#) and [employees](#). See also current [restrictions](#) in the Czech Republic.

We urge students to remember that entry requirements may change, and should keep their travel plans in mind so they can return for classes in February.

Exam period and state exam

- Examinations - they can take place in person, but it is necessary to prove O-N-T/V-D-T in the IS and maintain a space of min. 1.5 m in all directions
- Teachers are obliged to offer an online form of exams
- by 29 November 2021, teachers are obliged to inform students about the conditions of the end of the course, and by 19 December 2021, to announce exam dates
- Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral state final exams will be held exclusively online in January and February 2022
- For the autumn semester 2021, the obligation to submit one copy of the printed bachelor's or master's thesis is canceled, it is to be submitted only digitally via the IS

TIPS FOR WRITING A THESIS

1. As you're writing, be sure to write down any book or author you cite so you do not miss a citation. In the best case scenario, write the full citation to make it easier in the end.
2. Reading out loud helps with proofreading.
3. Start putting your thesis into the template at least 2 days before submission to avoid stress around formatting.
4. Finalize your page numbers, photos, and all content prior to creating your Index.
5. Check headings and page breaks.
6. Make sure you know your departments requirements regarding word count. Are spaces included? Does the index and acknowledgements page count? The final edits and pages add a lot to word counts at the end.

FEEDBACK ON DOCTORS !

The Centre for International Cooperation is looking to gather feedback on students experiences with doctors in Brno. This will help them in further ensuring access to medical services for our students, and to know what doctors to promote.

Please complete this [survey](#) (short 3 questions). Please only complete it once, you may see it shared in multiple forms.

SPRING 2022 SEMESTER

The University is at this point counting on in person teaching for the spring 2022 term. Students are responsible to ensure that they are able to be in person in Brno at the start of the term. We see maintaining in person teaching as a priority and switching online would be an absolute last resort.

Apply for being Enrolled in the term: 3.1.2022 - 21.2.2022

Term Enrolment: 1.2.2022 - 21.2.2022

Registration for courses: 3.1.2022 (17:00 CEST) - 31.1.2022 (please note registration opens by seniority, you may not be able to register the first day.)

Course enrolment period: 1.2.2022 (17:00 CEST) - 13.2.2022

Enrolment for seminar groups: 1.2.2022 (17:00 CEST) - 27.2.2022

Course Enrolment changes: 14-27.2.2022

Timetable released: 31.1.2022

Teaching: 14.2.2022 - 15.5.2022

Examination period: 16.5.2022 - 26.6.2022

BA and MA state examination period: 23.5.2022 - 24.6.2022

CHANGES IN THE STUDY DEPARTMENT

New point of contact for international students

Starting 1 December students the study department contact for students will no longer be Ludmila Polášková. Mrs. Polášková will stay working with the faculty but will now work under the Office for International Relations. Questions regarding tuition fees will still be handled by Mrs. Polášková.

Students of English taught programmes will now utilize the following study department advisors:

- BA study advisor: Mgr. Kateřina Hermannová, hermannova@fss.muni.cz, room 1.19
- MA study advisor: Mgr. Pavla Pavelková, pavelkova@fss.muni.cz, room 1.21

Office Hours

Monday 9:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 15:00

Tuesday 9:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 15:00

Wednesday 9:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 15:00

Thursday 9:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 15:00

The study department will be closed from 20.12.2021-2.1.2022

VISAS AND RESIDENCY PERMITS

Make sure you are able to travel back

Please double check the expiration of your student visa or residence permit before traveling during the break. You will want to be sure you will be able to return in case you plan to stay home until the start of the Spring semester. It isn't possible to predict what will be the travel regulations, but having valid legal status to enter the Czech Republic will be important!

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

5 December is St. Nicholas Day (Mikuláš). On this day you will typically see people dressed up as one of three characters: St. Nicholas (Mikuláš), the Angel (anděl) who represents the Good, and the Devil (čert) representing the Evil and will visit children. The characters will ask children if they will be good, and children should say yes and sing a song to get sweets.

The Christmas holiday season is very important to the Czech Republic. The Christmas days last 3 days, 24-26 December. Christmas Eve in the Czech Republic is the most celebrated day. The typical day will be spent decorating the tree, baking vánočka (Christmas bread) and eating the traditional meal of Carp and Potato Salad. After dinner, many families will sing Christmas carols and open presents.

There are a series of Christmas traditions and superstitions that are followed throughout the years which can be found [here](#).

25-26 December are typically spent now a days relaxing with family.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Bring a bit of Brno back

Not sure what counts as a "traditional Czech gift" a great starting place is the Christmas markets for your friends and family back home, otherwise you can always check out these suggestions from Brno Daily:

- Krteček – Little Mole (books as well as stuffed animals and figurines)
- Bohemian crystal glass
- Alphonse Mucha themed souvenirs
- Czech literature (English translations are available)
- Kometa merchandise

WHO IS JEŽÍŠEK?

Czech Christmas Traditions

In the Czech Republic it is Ježíšek (baby Jesus) who brings children their presents, not Santa Claus. In some families it is believed that Ježíšek decorates the tree and leaves the presents while the children are eating dinner or playing outside. A ringing of the bell will tell him that he can come, which is why you see so many bells being sold in the Christmas markets (virtually). In Zelný trh you can write your letter to Ježíšek and see if he will come and visit you :)



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WHATS HAPPENING WITH MARKETS

Unfortunately, Christmas markets in Brno had to be closed due to worsening epidemiological situation. What you can look forward to though are the Christmas Trams that should already be running by the time you're seeing this. The Christmas Trams will operate from 4pm to 9pm on weekdays and from 11 am to 9pm weekends until December 23rd. You can purchase tickets with the standard fee on the tram. Take a look at the Christmas Tram routes on the picture.



Vánoční tramvaj

Christmas tram



OD SOBOTY
from Saturday

27. 11. 2021

V PRACOVNÍ DNY
on workdays

16:00 – 21:00

DO ČTVRTKY
till Thursday

23. 12. 2021

O VÍKENDECH
on weekends

11:00 – 21:00

zvláštní linka / special line

Přejeme příjemnou jízdu a krásné svátky. We wish you a pleasant ride and happy holidays.

Vánoční tramvaj je v provozu od soboty 27. listopadu 2021 do čtvrtka 23. prosince 2021 v pracovních dnech vždy od 16:00 do 21:00 a o víkendech vždy od 11:00 do 21:00. Ve Vánoční tramvaj platí běžný tarif IDS JMK. Cestující mohou používat běžné jízdenky a šalinkarty. Tramvaj je také vybavena terminálem pro placení bezkontaktními kartami v rámci systému Pípní a jed. Doprava je zajišťována vysokopodlažním retro-vozem T3.

Christmas tram operates from Saturday 27 November till Thursday 23 December 2021, between 16:00 – 21:00 on workdays and between 11:00 – 21:00 on weekends. Regular IDS JMK fares apply, passengers may use regular tickets and passes. Contactless card payment is accepted. The vehicle is not wheelchair-accessible.

Náměstí Svobody	11:00	11:30	...	20:00	20:30
Zelný trh	11:02	11:32	...	20:02	20:32
Hlavní nádraží (Padouetz)	11:03	11:33	...	20:03	20:33
Hlavní nádraží (kotel č. 2)	11:04	11:34	...	20:04	20:34
Malinovského náměstí	11:07	11:37	...	20:07	20:37
Česká (u kostela)	11:10	11:40	...	20:10	20:40
Náměstí Svobody	11:12	11:42	...	20:12	20:42
Náměstí Svobody	11:15	11:45	...	20:15	20:45
Zelný trh	11:17	11:47	...	20:17	20:47
Hlavní nádraží (Padouetz)	11:18	11:48	...	20:18	20:48
Nové sady	11:19	11:49	...	20:19	20:49
Šilingerovo náměstí	11:21	11:51	...	20:21	20:51
Česká (v ulici Joštově)	11:24	11:54	...	20:24	20:54
Česká (u kostela)	11:25	11:55	...	20:25	20:55
Náměstí Svobody	11:27	11:57	...	20:27	20:57

v pracovní dny první odjezd až v 16:00
First departure on workdays at 16:00



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app: DPMBInfo



But this does not mean an end to all Christmas celebrations. You might still be able to purchase some of the Christmas market goods through Rohlink.cz! - An online supermarket, which has offered its platform to small and medium businesses that were supposed to have kiosks on the Christmas Market. We also suggest looking at Facebook Groups, where vendors might be selling their Christmas goodies!

While it's difficult to predict how the epidemiological situation will progress over the next month or so, in Spirit of Christmas, you can still attend some smaller events. For example check out this event for an Eco-Friendly Christmas practices!



EVENTS AROUND BRNO IN DECEMBER

As mentioned above, we can't be certain that stricter measures won't be put in place over the next weeks, but here's a list of some events that can help you make most out of this December!



MINT Market Brno has revealed its next venue - Tržnice Brno in the city centre! The biggest Czech independent market with fashion, jewelery, design and delicacies will be held on 11th and 12th December. The best shopping in the town! Admission is as always free.
OPENING HOUR
SA 10.00 - 18.00
SU 10.00 - 18.00

Want to experience Pink Floyd under the stars? The band Distant Bells will hold 2 concerts in Brno Observatory during December. You can purchase the tickets for this unique experience [here](#).



Monkey Business is a well-loved Czech music group, made up of composer and producer Roman Holý with strong voices of Matěj Ruppert and Tereza Černochová. The band will play at Fléda on 15th of December! The event is part of Fléda's 20th birthday.

Vaccination - how to get it

If you haven't already been vaccinated against Covid-19 you now have numerous options as a self payer (if you have European Health Insurance or Czech Public health insurance, you should also follow the information on how to [register](#) for the vaccine without paying).

For more information about the possibilities for Self Payers, please visit the governmental [website](#).

As always, test results and vaccination certificates should be uploaded into the IS.

Locations for vaccinations for MU students (easiest way):

- on Friday, 3 December, at the Faculty of Arts, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in room B2.11, Arne Nováka 1/1
- on Tuesday, 7 December, at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., in rooms 003 a 048B
- on Thursday, 9 December, at the Faculty of Informatics, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., in room C304
- on Tuesday, 14 December, at the Faculty of Education, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., in room 1009a, Poříčí 9
- on Wednesday, 15 December, at the Bohunice Campus, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in rooms B22/302 and B22/303

Vaccination - how to pay for it

FSS students should first try to be reimbursed by their health insurance company. Foreigners.cz has written an [article](#) about the process to do so for the different insurance companies.

If your insurance company doesn't reimburse you, you can request reimbursement from FSS. In order to do so, you must have completed both doses of the vaccine (or in the case of Johnson and Johnson just the 1 dose) and have the proof of payment. Please email Klára Němečková at 217236@mail.muni.cz to set up a time to meet with her to fill out the paperwork for reimbursement.

This policy will continue through the fall 2021 semester to give our students more time to get vaccinated.

Vaccination recognition

Please use this [link](#) to find out if the vaccination certificate from your country is recognized in the Czech Republic. Only certificates from countries on the list are recognized here and only vaccination by vaccine authorised by the European Medicines Agency (Vaxzevria/AstraZeneca; Spikevax/Moderna; Comirnaty/Pfizer; Janssen) or a vaccine manufactured in accordance with a patent for the above vaccines that is approved by the World Health Organization for emergency use (the Covishield vaccine) are recognized.

If you are vaccinated by other vaccine or if your certificate is from a country which is not on the list, you are considered as unvaccinated by the Czech government. This means that all current rules apply to you, so you have to stay in 5 days self-isolation after travelling from red/dark-red country and get the PCR test after these 5 days.

REPORTING POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Informing MUNI of positive coronavirus results

Anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by the Hygienic Department with the phone number you provided. Please do not change phone numbers if you are waiting for results.

If students test positive for Coronavirus they must do the following.

1. Report your positive test in [IS System](#).
2. Contact your study department and the IRO office at FSS that you have tested positive.

If you live in the university dormitories, the dormitories will be alerted by the FSS IRO office that you have tested positive and they will contact you if new arrangements need to be made.

Testing locations can be found [here](#).

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use this [app](#).

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Regulations by Government for the country

- Facemasks (N95) are required inside all public buildings and in public transportation
- Recognized vaccination OR recovery from Covid-19 (within the past 180 days) is required to eat at restaurants, swim in pools, etc. Cultural and social events have the same requirements. Negative tests will be recognized for people who have already received their first dose and those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.
- PCR tests are now valid for 3 days, and antigen tests for 24 hours.

ENTRY TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

all students should check the current restrictions before traveling

Entry requirements are based on the current ranking of countries you have spent time in, and if you are vaccinated with a recognized vaccine. It is up to each student to determine what procedure they must follow, as it is different in every case. Masaryk University has created a helpful 'app' to help walk through the current restrictions and what steps must be taken. To understand if you need to be tested, self isolate, etc., you can use this [flow chart](#).

Students who are required to receive a negative covid test will need to continue to wear a respirator in dormitories and all public places until their negative covid test. This is the case for students travelling from all locations except 'black countries' these countries have a stricter testing requirement and isolation is required. To stay up to date with what color your departure country falls under, please use the MU [website](#) and always check the Ministry [website](#).

We urge students to remember that entry requirements may change, and should keep their travel plans in mind so they can return for classes in February.