

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly
Newsletter for
International
Students



IMPORTANT DATES

April 2-4

Easter Holidays
Friday and Monday shops
are closed

April 22

Day of Faculty

April 28

Zoom Call

April 30

MA and PhD
application deadline

April 30

Erasmus+ Traineeship
application deadline

EASTER IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Why we have Monday off

The first weekend of April this year is Easter weekend. The Czech Republic has some pretty unique traditions - although many will not take place this year. Typically, Easter weekend starts with Zelený čtvrtek (Green Thursday) with the monuments lit up green...and green beer is on tap. For those of you who are familiar with Christian holidays, Good Friday, White Saturday and Easter Sunday are for Christians the most important holidays.

However, Easter Monday is one of the more unique aspects of Czech (and Slovak) culture. This time of year you would see pomlázka (whips) sold throughout the city. Feelings on this tradition are very mixed, as it originated during pagan times when boys would whip girls lightly on the legs to chase away illness, bad spirits and to bring about health and youth for the next year. This tradition is still kept in villages around the country, though fewer people believe the tradition should remain. Although some boys and men strive to keep the skills of creating the pomlázka - maybe the whipping part can be left behind. :)

A MESSAGE ON STUDENT CONDUCT

By Dean Stanislav Balík

Dear Students,

I take this opportunity in your monthly newsletter to address the student community. Last month the faculty learned of inappropriate conduct by some of our students in a large student WhatsApp group. I want to take this moment to soundly condemn such speech that would make others in our community, or those outside, feel unsafe or uncomfortable. It is imperative that we remember that we are always part of a larger community and that the words and actions we choose to take matter.

Masaryk University is an educational institution which accentuates not only education in various disciplines but also pays attention to commonly shared values and ethics. We take legacy of our first president Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, after whom our university is named, very seriously. We do our utmost to bestow his legacy to new and new generations of students. We support open debates, but never behind-the-back attacks. Students who do not respect these values will face consequences.

As the FSS community, we strive for an environment where all feel welcome, it is equally important that as an educational institution we take this opportunity to learn from experiences and dedicate ourselves to be better in the future. The students in question have all been communicated with and have shown remorse, the students who were in the chat have partaken in calls with their program to discuss this incident and are making efforts to make sure that this does not happen again, and to ensure that they all are heard. I want to thank the students who brought this to our attention so that it could be dealt with and urge others to feel comfortable to always speak out against violence, discrimination, and hate speech.

Thank you,
Dean Stanislav Balík

SUGGESTION BOX

For FSS students

This is an opportunity for students to share any suggestions, comments, or concerns with the International Relations Office. We are committed to making the international student experience at FSS a positive one, and welcome any thoughts from students. If there is something you are particularly happy with, please also share this, so we can make sure it stays!

You can share any suggestions with us using this form [here](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN

MA and PhD applications are currently open

If you are graduating and want to continue your studies you can review FSS [MA](#) and [PhD](#) programmes on our website. A full list of the study opportunities at Masaryk University can be found on the university [website](#). Programme introductions for most MA programmes can be found on the MA programme [website](#).

When applying please use your current UČO number!

Applications for MA programmes at FSS are due **April 30**

Applications for PhD programmes at FSS are due **April 30**

Other faculties may have different deadlines.

STUDENT MOBILITY

Summer and Fall 2021

Other current calls for applications where students look for the study or work placements on their own:

- [Erasmus+Traineeships \(summer+fall\)](#): application opened for II. cycle 2021. Deadline is on **30th Apr 2021**.
- Freemover – [study](#) as well as [internships](#): application opened for mobilities 1 month and longer in 2021. Deadline is on **1st June 2021**.
- [Special grant for short term placements](#): application opened for mobilities up to 30 days in 2021. The CZS evaluates Special Grant applications regularly after the 15th day of the month (from April onwards) until the funding is exhausted.

All opportunities are for physical mobilities not virtual.

Applications can be found in ISOIS (use the links on the web pages to access the application).

Spring 2022

Applications for mobility programmes going **outside the EU** open in April. The deadline to submit is June 1 for ISEP, Erasmus ICM, and University Partner Agreements. These three programmes are all managed by the Centre for International Cooperation (CZS), however the application is in ISOIS.

There will be a webinar at the end of April to discuss these mobility options with students and compare the different programmes. We will share this when we have more information. In the meantime you can visit our [website](#) for an overview or the CZS website for specific information on [ISEP](#), [Erasmus ICM](#), and [Partner Universities](#).

Look out for a second call for Erasmus+ Europe for fall 2021 at the end of April/early May

WASTE FEE

in case of any questions contact the City of Brno waste fee unit at odpady@brno.cz

All people living in Brno for longer than 3 months, including both EU and non-EU foreigners, must pay the municipal waste fee. Please see the [attached document](#) for the instructions in English. The electronic forms are available at www.brno.cz/odpady.

CZECH CENSUS (SCITANI)

Deadline to complete extended to May 11

Take part in the once-every-ten-years census to help improve the lives of both native and foreign residents of the Czech Republic - and to avoid a fine which you may face if you fail to enumerate yourself. Participating in the census that starts 27 March is obligatory for foreigners residing in the Czech Republic for longer than 90 days – that means both exchange and full-degree foreign students.

In other words:

1. Everyone who has a registered stay in the Czech Republic for over 90 days or has been granted an asylum in the Czech Republic (or rather had it at the decisive moment at midnight from 26th March to 27th March 2021) must get counted. It does not matter where such person lives in the world, what his/her citizenship is or where he/she is registered to stay abroad.
2. Everyone who is present in our territory at the decisive moment (at midnight from 26th March to 27th March 2021) gets counted, unless he/she is a diplomat or tourist present only for a short time (up to 90 days) in the Czech Republic. It does not matter whether he/she has a registered stay in the Czech Republic.

How, when, and where?

From 27 March – 11 May you can fill in an online questionnaire available on the census [website](#), an Android or iOS app, or you can enumerate yourself later (27 April – 11 May) with a [paper form](#).

IMPORTANT: only students with a Czech VISA or residence permit can do it online. Those without this documentation (EU citizens) will have to do the paper version.

Useful links

- Czech Census 2021 official [website](#).
- Summary of what you need to [know](#).
- [Detailed info](#) on the participation of foreigners.

NEW CLUB

For FSS international students

A new international student club has been created for FSS students. The Homme Associate is an international student's club at FSS MUNI. It aims at promoting overall diversity and inclusiveness at the Faculty by creating platform for active engagement in student life. It also helps members to develop both academic and social skills, expands their network outreach and fosters their future career growth. Another important role it plays is to promote the international presence of MUNI and FSS and to strengthen their brand awareness. For more information please email Shengyue at 491701@muni.cz.

STUDENT GROUPS

Student to student advice

One of the students shared a [facebook group](#) for students to join in our Zoom check in last week. The group's goal is the following: "This is a group for students of the International Programs (programs taught in English) at the Social Studies Faculty (FSS). Especially during this time of distance learning, where many of us are not in Brno or are unable to go to the uni, we wanted to create a community group where we can share resources, ask questions, and meet other people on our courses. New students, please feel free to ask questions about the Czech Republic, Brno, the Uni or any of the programs or courses. Existing students, share your experiences and expertise! Of course, Czech and Slovak students on these programs are also welcome."

TO DO LIST

- Find a **general practitioner** at the beginning of your studies (if you have been here for a few semesters - find one now!). It is always better to have one while you're healthy so if you feel sick you know who to call!
- Have on hand basic first aid: thermometer, Band-Aids, medications you may want, tea, etc.
- Starting your studies? Look out for emails from your department and programmes for informal discussions and welcoming you.
- Use your university email either in the IS or set up Outlook through [Office 365](#). Emails sent to and from personal accounts sometimes end up in the spam folder, meaning communication may be missed.

ZOOM CHECKIN

Next one scheduled for April 28

Please join us for our next zoom call on Wednesday, April 28 at 10:00 CET. We will discuss updates, and students will be able to ask any questions that they may have. Students will receive the link in their email. Students received the minutes from the last zoom meeting in their email. If you would like them resent, please email Erin at smith@czs.muni.cz

FINAL SEMESTER CHECKLIST

- Make sure you know when you should submit your thesis. There are multiple deadlines: 80% completion, final submission, registering for your thesis defense, registering for state exam. Each department is responsible for sharing the deadlines with students, as every programme has different deadlines.
- Start studying for your state exam - definitely by the time you submit your thesis. Programmes provide literature that you should be prepared to on the exam.
- Schedule an appointment with the career centre to review your CV and help you prepare for interviews. Their website is not yet available in English, however you can schedule consultation appointments by emailing them at poradenstvi@kariera.muni.cz.
- Check your visa status - make sure you know when the date expires and have your plans made. If you want to apply for the 'searching for employment' visa make sure you understand the materials you will need to do so.
- Check your information is correct in the IS - including your full name. This will ensure all documents get printed out correctly

QUIET HOURS AND CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS

We want to remind students of the importance to follow the regulations put in place by both the government and the accommodation services. Czech law has national 'quiet hours' from 22:00-5:00 nightly to regulate the noise level. This exists in both private accommodation and in the dormitories. In dormitories this has often resulted in the dormitory employees having to break up parties.

While this has always existed, the additional regulations as a result of the coronavirus situation make gatherings of more than **2 people** in your room not possible. Due to the seriousness of the coronavirus regulations, students who are caught (or recorded) breaking these rules can be turned over to the police for breaking national laws. We urge students to follow the regulations, not just for themselves, but also so we can all have the lockdown eased as soon as possible. The faculty has no control if students are kicked out of their accommodation.

RENEWING VISAS AND WORK VISAS

Employment visa workshop coming soon!

Renewing your student visa/residence permit

As we enter the spring semester it is good to keep in mind what is necessary to renew your study visa. As a reminder, you cannot submit the application to renew your study visa until 120 days before the expiration date (i.e. if it is for September 4, you earliest you can apply is May 4), however it is always good to review what you will need for the application (proof of funds, health insurance, etc.) so you can plan ahead.

- For information about applying for a **Long Term Residence Permit for the first time**, please go to the MOI website [here](#).
- For information about applying for **extending a Long Term Residence Permit**, please go to the MOI website [here](#).

Are you graduating? 'Purpose of seeking employment' visas allows you to stay in the Czech Republic for up to 9 months to find a job and transition to a work visa.

Foreign nationals who are residing in the territory of the Czech Republic with a long-term residence permit for the purpose of studies and who successfully completed their university education are eligible to file an application for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment or, as the case may be, an application for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of starting a business. For more information on the requirements for obtaining a visa for the 'purposes of seeking employment', please visit the MOI [website](#). The application **MUST** be started prior to your residence permit expiring. **If you have any questions about obtaining the necessary documents for the visa, feel free to email Klára Němečková at 217236@muni.cz.**



LIBRARY RESOURCES

A list of online databases available [here](#)

The [FSS library](#) may not be available to work in, but many of the resources are still available for students.

Students are able to pick up and drop off books at the circulation desk.

- Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00-16:00
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00-14:00

If you need any help, advice, or support from the library, please, do not hesitate to contact them at library@fss.muni.cz or through their [Facebook chat](#).

More information from the library is [here](#).

TIPS FOR WRITING A THESIS

Tips from someone who recently submitted 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.

TIPS FOR STAYING PRODUCTIVE DURING SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social isolation is hard for everyone, and staying productive is definitely not easy. Here are some tips that we hope will help.

1. Create set times when you will work, and try to stick to a routine to give your day some structure.
2. Set small goals, particularly for those with writing a thesis or large papers, see if you can break them down into small steps.
3. Stay on top of your reading. Final exams will still be taking place at the end of the semester, you don't want to push the stress to later.
4. At the same time, give yourself permission for down times. It is okay to take a nap. This is a very emotionally stressful time and listening to your body is important.
5. Open the window for fresh air, sit in the sun if you can.
6. Call friends and family, create virtual book clubs (or movie watching sessions).
7. Many streaming services have extended their 'free' subscription period. Czech classics are on Netflix.

COVID VACCINATIONS - MU STATEMENT

Currently, anyone (student and non-student) who wish to obtain the vaccination in the Czech Republic must meet the government-set criteria and have Czech public health insurance (not commercial insurance).

Information for students with commercial insurance: The commercial insurance companies providing travel health insurance for international students in the Czech Republic will respond as soon as the vaccine is released for free sale (i.e. to non-citizens of the Czech Republic) according to the agreed insurance contracts, i.e. mainly according to the limit of medical expenses. The commercial insurance companies must provide further details about the vaccination steps and the costs for the insured person.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

State of Emergency extended to April 11 (may be extended)

The Czech Government has created a [Covid Portal](#) in English that we encourage students to look at and us.

New regulations for entering the country have been created. Students are able to arrive in Brno, however they must follow any testing requirements created. You can find specific entry requirements on our website under '[conditions for entering the Czech Republic](#)'.

We encourage students to stay up to date with the current restrictions on the [MUNI website](#), specific regulations regarding FSS can be found on our [website](#).

TESTING FOR COVID-19

where to go

We've been recommended that [Cytogenetická laboratoř Brno](#) at Veveří 39 is a good location to go to be tested. They may not speak English when you go there, however there is an online form you can complete to schedule an appointment. e. Please note that this test is only to see if you currently have Coronavirus, it DOES NOT test antibodies.

Other testing locations can be found [here](#).

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.