

SEPTEMBER 2021

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly
Newsletter for
International
Students



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AUTUMN SEMESTER 2021 IS HERE!

Dear colleagues,

I would like to greet you warmly before the beginning of the new academic year and extend a hearty welcome to all of you who are just joining us at the Faculty of Social Studies. I hope that it will be a better year than the previous one and that we will be finally able to meet and interact directly – in person.

Honestly, we can't wait to have you back in Brno. I wish you a successful, joyful, stimulating and prosperous academic year 2021/2022 and an enjoyable fall semester. We very much look forward to seeing you around and to meeting you at various social events that we plan for this fall.

You have my very best wishes.

Sincerely,
Petr Suchý

vice-dean for internationalization and student affairs

ORIENTATION WEEK

The Autumn Semester is here, and this time around students will actually be able to attend Orientation Week in Person. Orientation week will take place from **5th of September till 11th of September**.

Here's what's in store for the newcomers this year:

Compulsory Activities

Admission
 Online Orientation
 Introduction to Faculties
 Learning Agreement seminar (for Erasmus+ students)

Free For Everyone

Second-hand Shop
 (what is left after OW package buyers)
 Student Activities Fair
 Tour de Dormitory
 Chill out day with ESN

Paid Activities

(free for OW package buyers, entry fee for non-payers):
 Karaoke
 ESN Welcome Party

Paid For Everyone

(FREE if you bring food and beverages from your home country):
 International Dinner

Activities for the OW Package Buyers:

Pub Crawl & Café Crawl
 Movie night
 Brno City Tour
 Priority at Second-hand Shop
 Free entry vouchers + discounts
 MU gifts

Bonus event for those who sign up first:

Czech sign language course – 1 hour (10 students)

All new students should register to receive their individual schedule for the activities.

FACULTY INTRODUCTION

Wednesday, 8 September - part of orientation week

Both new first years, and returning students who are new to Brno are welcome to participate in our faculty introduction to get to know a little more about FSS, and how to get around the building. There will be two sessions, one for full degree students, and one for exchange/Erasmus students. Both sessions will have a tour of the faculty and a presentation about important FSS specific topics.

Exchange/Erasmus session:

- 10:00 room P51 (5th floor)
- Tour after the presentation

Full Degree student session:

- 10:15 outside the Faculty - tour of Faculty
- 11:00 Presentation room P51

Social Media

Faculty Social Media:

 [fss.muni.eng](https://www.facebook.com/fss.muni.eng)

 [fss_masaryk](https://www.instagram.com/fss_masaryk)

 [MUFSS](https://www.youtube.com/MUFSS)

 [MUNI_FSS](https://twitter.com/MUNI_FSS)

University Social Media:

 [fss.muni.eng](https://www.facebook.com/fss.muni.eng)

 [masaryk_university](https://www.instagram.com/masaryk_university)

 [MasarykUniversity](https://www.youtube.com/MasarykUniversity)

 [MasarykUni](https://twitter.com/MasarykUni)

FSS BBQ

23 September 16:00

We are excited to once again host an international student BBQ at Špilberk Park. Join your fellow students and professors in this social outing. Please RSVP by 16 September so we can order enough food. Rain date: 30 September



ZOOM CALL

17 September 13:00

We will be continuing our zoom check in calls throughout the semester to keep our virtual students connected to the faculty. Please join us if you have any questions and to hear some updates from the faculty. As we have before, we will send minutes to all students.



JOIN ESN

All students, both new full degree and returning, are welcome to join ESN. Students should write to Janko Stefkovic if they want to be involved, or can sign up for a buddy here.

FALL 2021

FSS International Student Social Activities

- **BBQ:** 23 September (rain date - 30 September)
- **Hike to Veveri Castle Around the Brno lake:** 9 October (rain date - 16 October)
- **FSS Breakfast:** 10 November
- **Czech Christmas Cookies Fair:** 9 December

28 SEPTEMBER

St. Wenceslas Day (Czech Statehood Day)

On 28 September the country celebrates Czech Statehood day. St. Wenceslas is the patron saint of Bohemia and this day is considered Czech Statehood Day.

You will find that almost every restaurant will offer roasted goose with red cabbage and potato dumplings, the traditional meal for this day.

Stores larger than 200m² are required to be closed on this day.

ISIC CARDS

Renewing and purchasing

Returning students MUST renew their ISIC cards by purchasing a new sticker for their card. Without a revalidation sticker to 12/2022, the ISIC school card is invalid for the upcoming year! Students can purchase the sticker for FSS in the IS system, it is called "Revalidační přelepka ISIC". It costs 180CZK.

New students will take their photo during orientation week, however they would have needed to purchase the ISIC card for 180CZK, it is called "Průkaz ISIC – první průkaz (prezenční studium) na Fakultě sociálních studií"



LANGUAGE AND SPORTS CLASSES

Open to FSS Full degree and exchange students

Students can enrol in the Physical Education courses offered by University Sports Centre and take classes such as Zumba, Table Tennis, Football, etc. To see the full list of courses, visit the FSpS website.

Full degree students are also able to enrol in free French and Spanish introductory language courses taught in English. Other language courses are offered at the Language Centre in Italian, Chinese, Swahili, German, and Czech, however there is a fee for these courses.

PRIOR DEGREE RECOGNITION

Required for all NEW Full Degree Students

According to Czech law, all full degree students must have their prior degrees recognized in order to study in a degree program in the Czech Republic. FSS students can submit this recognition to Klára when they arrive, however they should be sure to have all the necessary paperwork with them from their home country.

To view the required documents, please visit our website here.

REMINDER: ENROLL AND REGISTER FOR THE SEMESTER AND COURSES

Course enrollment is from 1.9 to 12.09 and changes to your courses can take place between 13-26 September.

Quick Reminder - Registration and Enrollment are separate actions

- Registration: The registration period determines the interest of students in courses. Students can obtain better time stamps for capacity-limited courses.
- Enrollment: During this period there is an automatic enrollment / confirmation of subjects for which enrollment conditions have been met (capacity, prerequisites, etc.). Only at the moment of enrollment do you acquire the right and obligation to study the course.

TEACHING AT FSS

Fall 2021 - in person, online an option for some

The semester will start on 13 September with in person teaching. All students are expected to follow the guidelines set out and attend classes in person. Exceptions will be made only for international students who are unable to travel to Brno due to visa restrictions. Accommodations will be set up for these students, and teachers will communicate with students directly how the teaching will take place. Please keep in mind that these exceptions will only be in effect until 31 October as long as the pandemic situation stays as it is. If it worsens, the Faculty will take this into account.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Regulations by Government and University

Governmental Regulations

- Facemasks (N95) are required inside all public buildings and in public transportation
- Recognized vaccination OR a negative test (within 72 hours for anti-gen or 7 days for PCR) is required to eat at restaurants, swim in pools, etc. Cultural and social events may require proof of vaccination or a negative test.

University and FSS Regulations

- Students staying in the accommodation are required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative covid test before entering. Students are sent this information from the accommodation services with information on how to upload it into the IS.
- Currently, the university is at a 'white' risk rating. The university will monitor this closely and change it as needed. To better understand the different rankings, please visit the university [website](#).

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](#).

Limited Movement: Students who are required to receive a negative covid test will need to observe a ban of free movement until their negative covid test. This means that you can only go to get groceries and other necessities, go to the bank, post office, the doctor's and pharmacies, deal with inevitable administrative tasks (like the foreign police/OAMP registration) and travel to your place of stay.

MEET THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE STAFF



LUDMILA POLÁŠKOVÁ

Study support for full degree BA and MA students.

email: lpolasko@fss.muni.cz
room 1.16



DAGMAR HÁBOVÁ

Erasmus Coordinator, study support for PhD students

email: habova@fss.muni.cz
room 1.14



ERINANNA SMITH

Non-academic support

email: smith@czs.muni.cz
room 1.14



KLÁRA NĚMEČKOVÁ

Assists students with degree recognition and visas

email: 217236@mail.muni.cz
room 1.14

Contact Hours - Ludmila

Monday: 13:00-15:00
Tuesday: 13:00-15:00
Wednesday: 9:00-11:00
Thursday: 9:00-11:00

Contact Hours - Klára & Dagmar

Monday: 13:00-15:00
Tuesday: 13:00-15:00
Wednesday: 9:00-11:00
Thursday: 13:00-15:00
Friday: 9:00-11:00

COURSES

Don't forget to change your courses by **26 September**. After this date no changes to your course schedule (adding or dropping) can be made. If you have any questions about a course, or being enrolled, please reach out to the appropriate departmental coordinator.

ERASMUS DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATORS

- **Environmental Studies:** Zbyněk Ulčák, Ph.D. (ulcak@fss.muni.cz)
- **Media Studies and Journalism:** Michal Tkaczyk, Ph.D. (245062@mail.muni.cz)
- **International Relations and European Studies:** Veronika Zapletalová, Ph.D. (137853@mail.muni.cz)
- **Political Science:** Michal Pink, Ph.D. (pink@fss.muni.cz)
- **Psychology:** Michal Čevelíček, Ph.D. (173055@mail.muni.cz)
- **Social Policy and Work:** Dr. Blanka Plasová (plasova@fss.muni.cz)
- **Sociology (Gender Studies and Social Anthropology):** Csaba Szaló, Ph.D. (szalo@fss.muni.cz)

LIBRARY HOURS FOR FALL 2021

6th to 12th September

Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm
Sat-Sun CLOSED

From 13th September

Monday to Friday 8am to 9 pm
Saturday 8 am to 3 pm
Sunday CLOSED

For more information, visit the
[library website](#)

JOBSPIN JOB FAIR

Join the biggest LIVE career networking event
in Brno for expat and bilingual job seekers!

Jobspin Job Fair will take place in person, on
October 9th,
from 9:00 AM till 4:30 PM at Trznice Zelny trh,
Brno.

Make sure to fill out the registration form if
you're interested in attending the job fair.

Click the [link](#) for more information

GO ABROAD DURING YOUR DEGREE

Mobility options

Did you know that full degree students are able to participate on mobility options outside the Czech Republic during their studies? International students are eligible for the same funding opportunities as Czech students and FSS encourages all students to participate, whether it is a summer school, internship, or semester abroad! Find out your options on the FSS [webpage](#), and for more university wide agreements, on the [website](#) for the Centre for International Cooperation.

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!

P.S You can now contact Inga Kakulia, our new assistant, or any suggestions or questions

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

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).

It is possible to continue through the Governmental registration system, however to make the process even easier a number of walk-in vaccination centres have opened up around the country. In Brno, two locations are at the Olympia Shopping Centre and Janacek Theater. It is also possible to receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccination at Olympia, the one shot vaccination, which may be particularly helpful for our students who still wish to travel home this summer and would like to not have to quarantine upon return. (It is important to remember that students living in the dorms must quarantine at the special area and pay nightly for this).

Both individuals with access to the public health insurance, and self payers can take advantage of these vaccination centres. Payment for the vaccine can only be done with a card.

More information can be found in the Brno Daily's [article](#) about the new vaccination centre.

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.

Quick note on the vaccination

At the moment the Czech Republic, like much of Europe, is highly relying on the vaccination (or negative tests) to participate in every day life. At the same time, the Czech Republic is only recognizing vaccinations approved by the EMA, or similar agencies. The government may change this opinion, but it is not guaranteed.

If students are in Brno, we strongly encourage them to receive their vaccination here to make their experience in Brno easier.