

# MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

monthly  
newsletter for  
International  
Students



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## THE END OF THE SEMESTER

by **ErinAnna Smith**

Coordinator for PR of Mobility and English Study Programs

Dear Students,

I hope this finds you well as the semester comes to an end, much different than we had all expected at the beginning. While we will all look back on this time with different memories, some better than others, I hope you know that you have all come out of this resilient.

No one could have imagined at the beginning of the semester that we would all have to switch to remote learning and I would like to commend each and every one of you for sticking with your assignments and continuing your studies, while also taking care of your mental health and wellbeing. I would also like to take this moment to thank all of the professors who also switched to remote learning in a matter of days. This has been definitely a learning curve for us all.

As a fellow international living in Brno, I know these months have added more stress than any of us could have predicted when we choose to live abroad. Keeping track of what is happening at home and in the Czech Republic takes a lot. Know that you have come through this and for that, you should be proud of yourself.

All the best,  
Erin

## MAY 1

### Labor day or Love Day?

May 1st is officially Labor Day in the Czech Republic, but it is unofficially known as the Day of Love where people in love are meant to kiss under a blooming cherry tree.

Ancient legends say that a girl who is not kissed on this day would wither and die in twelve months. In countryside, there are village balls and people erect decorated maypoles while students in cities organize Majáles, a celebration of students' life (this normally happens but unfortunately has had to be postponed this year).

Shops can be open on this public holiday.

## MAY 8

### Liberation Day

May 8th celebrates the end of WWII in the Czech Republic when the Prague was liberated and WWII ended in the Czech Republic.

This year would have marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the war.

Shops over 200 meters must be closed on this day, so do your shopping beforehand!



## RENEW YOUR VISA - PLANNING AHEAD

*\*Updated information\**

### For full degree students

Masaryk University is working with the government to ensure students are able to renew visas as soon as possible. We know this is stressful waiting to know when you can complete your immigration requirements. Please review the Ministry of Interior website for changes and look for emails from the Faculty. We also would like to stress that there is no information about when embassies will reopen, and start processing visas. As soon as we have updated information, we will share it with you.

**Students who are leaving the Czech Republic before Fall semester** should have received an email from Klara on Friday, March 27 with a request to complete a form putting your visa application on hold until October if you will be returning home between now and the start of the fall semester.

**Students who will be staying in the Czech Republic** can submit their visa extension via registered mail (in Czech "doporučeně"), again please see the email from Klára.

We know this is a very confusing situation, and every student's case is different. Please contact Klára directly regarding any questions you have with your visa and she will help you figure out what makes sense for you.

It is the students' responsibility to make sure they have a valid visa in order to study in the Czech Republic. It's necessary to submit the application for resident permit/extension of resident permit **before the current one will expire**.



## FALL 2020 DELAYED START

**Classes October 5 -  
January 17**

Since the exam period is pushed back for Spring 2020, the fall semester will now start on October 5. Additionally, this year classes will not end before Christmas, which means you will need to be in Brno during January. Please keep this in mind as you think about going home.



## TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE WEATHER

### Visit the Brno Dam, Pálava, or Explore Brno

Now that some of the measures are starting to be lifted, and the weather is nice, visiting some of the nature around Brno is highly recommended. If you do go on a hike, please be sure to wear your facemask and be in groups no larger than 10 people.

1. Veveří castle: While the castle itself doesn't open up until later in the year, it is still a nice (although) long hike around the lake is great for both exercise and wonderful views.
2. In a few weeks when more things start opening up, take the Bus down to Pavlov and hike in the Palava hills to the castle ruins.
3. Reserve a BBQ in Špilberk, Lužánky, and other places and hang out with friends while eating some good food. Don't forget to bring stuff to clean the grill and foil to cook on!

## REGISTRATION FOR FALL SEMESTER

**June 22-August 31**

If you have ever wished to have a club or organization at FSS or the University level, now is a perfect time to brainstorm how it would work. International students, same as Czechs, are able to propose new organizations. Find out more about the process [here](#) or email Erin at [smith@czs.muni.cz](mailto:smith@czs.muni.cz).

As a reminder...

**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.

# RE-OPENING SCHEDULE BY CZECH GOVERNMENT

Please note, this is subject to change

Below is a reopeningschedule edited by the Brno Expat Centre. Please keep in mind that Masaryk University and the Faculty of Social Studies has additional limitations to openings. Additional information can be found on the Masaryk University [website](#).

RE-OPENING SCHEDULE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES			
Monday April 20	Monday April 27	Monday May 11	Monday May 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Farmers markets</b></li> <li>• <b>Tradesmen</b> with shops</li> <li>• <b>Car shops</b> and showrooms</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor athletic areas</b> for professionals, without spectators</li> <li>• <b>Weddings</b> of up to 10 people, following hygiene rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shops</b> under 2,500 square meters in size, except for those in shopping centers over 5000 square meters and those specified to open at a later date</li> <li>• <b>Gyms and fitness centers</b> (but not changing rooms or showers)</li> <li>• <b>Driving schools</b></li> <li>• <b>Spiritual services</b> for less than 15 people</li> <li>• <b>Libraries</b></li> <li>• <b>Zoos and botanical gardens</b> (outdoor areas only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail stores <b>in shopping centers</b></li> <li>• Retail stores larger than 2,500 square meters outside of shopping centers</li> <li>• Outdoor areas of <b>restaurants, cafes, pubs, buffets, wineries and beer shops</b> with outdoor sales and garden seating areas</li> <li>• <b>Barbershops, hairdressers, nail salons, tanning salons, cosmetic salons, massage parlors</b></li> <li>• <b>Museums, galleries, and art halls</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor areas of <b>restaurants, cafes, pubs, buffets, wineries and beer shops</b></li> <li>• <b>Hotels</b> and other accommodation providers</li> <li>• <b>Taxi services</b></li> <li>• <b>Tattoo and piercing studios</b></li> <li>• <b>Theaters, castles, chateaux</b> and other cultural activities according to the current regulations</li> <li>• Cultural, business, and sports <b>events</b> for a specified number of people (50?)</li> <li>• <b>Weddings</b> following specific hygienic protocol</li> <li>• Indoor areas of <b>zoos and botanical gardens</b></li> </ul>
Edited from <a href="#">expats.cz</a> by  <b>BRNO EXPAT CENTRE</b>			
Other activities will be permitted depending on the current epidemiological situation.			

## UNIVERSITY AND FSS POLICIES

Entry to FSS remains limited

The Faculty of Social Studies, under the recommendation of the Rector has decided to continue limiting contact between staff and students. Further information can be found [here](#).

## INFORMATION ON FINAL EXAMS

Extended exam period:  
Mid-May-September

All exams until the end of June will be offered online only. Exams taken past this period may also be offered in person, however the online version will remain possible through September.

The exam period will last from mid-May until the end of September. Students, as in the past, will have multiple exam periods to sign up for, which will be offered throughout the summer. As such, if you want to be done earlier, you do not need to wait until September to take your exams.

As always, please reach out to your professors if you have any questions.

## 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 Mondays and Thursday from 13-15:00 in the FSS MU lobby.

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

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

## INFORMATION ON SUBMISSION OF THESIS AND FINAL STATE EXAMS

### June or September options available

In the spring semester 2020, in all fields/programs of the Bachelor's and Master's degree studies, there will be two regular dates of the final state exams: the originally-scheduled one between 25 May – 24 June 2020, and the newly-set one between 1 – 30 September 2020. With no limits set, it will be left to the discretion of students to decide which term to choose.

**Updated:** Final State Exams in May and June will only be offered remotely.

In the spring semester 2020, in all fields/programs of the Bachelor's and Master's degree studies, the deadlines for the final submission of the final theses are precisely 14 calendar days before the first day of the thesis defense of the given field/programme.

In the spring semester 2020, Bachelor's and Master's theses are submitted **only in electronic version** via IS MU both for the May/June and September dates. As such, they **do not have** to be submitted in print version.

**Updated:** Students who will defend their bachelor's, master's or dissertation theses in June or September can enter the building for essential consultations with supervisors, however it is strongly encouraged to continue these consultations remotely.

More information can be found on the FSS webpage [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.

# HOME OFFICE AT FSS

The majority of the University and FSS is currently working from home office. This means that we are all doing our normal work, but from home. Students can still contact us, particularly by email, and we will be able to help you with anything you need.

You can reach out to any of us in the Office for International Relations with any questions.

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