

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

monthly
newsletter for
International
Students



IMPORTANT DATES

December 15

Deadline for ISEP,
Partner Exchange, and
Erasmus+ICM

December 16

Zoom call

December 21-January 3

Winter Break

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

by **Petr Suchý**

vice-dean for internationalization and student affairs

Dear students,

Let me please wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and all other happy holidays. Thank you for everything we have been through together in 2020 and all the very best for 2021! I could not be prouder of you. It was a genuine privilege to watch you perform in such a tremendous way and try to overcome all the challenges in these difficult times.

Looking forward to everything that lies ahead of us in 2021. May it be filled with hope, health, happiness and exciting experiences!

Take care and kindest of regards,
Petr Suchý

CZECH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

carp, walnuts, lead, and apples

Carp (a fish) and potato salad is the traditional Christmas eve meal in Czech Culture. This stems from the fact that carp was not very expensive, and therefore accessible to the larger population.

Czechs also like to predict their future in multiple ways. Cutting an apple in half will predict your health for the upcoming year: if you see a star, you will be healthy, if you see a cross, well let's hope you see a star. Walnuts can also be used. Traditionally people choose 4 walnuts to predict the health in each of the 4 seasons. If you crack it open and find a healthy and fresh walnut, that season will be good to you.

Other traditions include pouring hot lead into water to read your future depending on the shape - however this one can be dangerous!

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 many families 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. In Zelný trh you can write your letter to Ježíšek and see if he will come and visit you :)



WINTER BREAK - IMPORTANT INFO

December 21-January 3

Due to the delayed start of the semester, classes will resume after the winter break, so students should keep this in mind when making holiday plans.

The Czech Government has reinstated the rule, starting Nov. 9 that students entering the Czech Republic from 'red' countries must produce a negative test. You can find the current regulations on our website under '[conditions for entry](#)', these current regulations will be updated on Nov. 9 when they will become valid, and on the Ministry of Interior's [website](#).

Before you'll travel back to the Czech Republic it's necessary to fill in this [form](#).

It's necessary to undergo a test upon arrival within 5 days at the latest after your arrival and send the result to this email: pendleri@khsbrno.cz

For students who may travel home for the holidays, please keep this in mind if you plan to return to Brno.

CHANGE YOUR VIEW

Study or Work Abroad

If you are not sure what you want to do this summer, or think you may want to explore a new culture/university next fall, now is the time to start looking at your options.

Funding is available for both long abroad stays (semester or year) as well as for international conferences, research, summer schools, and internships. Make sure you check out your options. If you missed the mobility live stream in November, you can view it [here](#).

Deadlines for Fall 2021 start as early as December 15!

ZOOM CHECK IN

December 16 @ 16:00

In the absence of being able to meet with students in person at social events, we would like to take another opportunity to hear from you how it is going. There will of course also be a chance to ask any questions, however if you have something that needs to be solved, please be sure to email the appropriate person so it can be resolved as soon as possible. Please join the meeting using this [link](#).



COURSE REGISTRATION

Starts January 18

Course registration for Spring 2021 is open from January 18-31.
Course enrolment will last from February 1-28.

A full look at the courses offered at FSS can be found [here](#), however full degree students should consult with their study plan.

FINAL EXAMS

Make sure you register

For most programmes, multiple dates are provided to sit for final exams. As such, it is necessary to register for your final exams. Please make sure you know the examination method for your courses. Additionally, it is important to remember to cancel your registration PRIOR to the exam date if you wish to take the exam at a different time. Failure to sit for your exam at the time you registered for may result in a failure. While you will have the option to take the exam again (provided there are additional dates available), both grades may show up (depending on your programme).

THESIS DEFENSE AND FINAL STATE EXAMS

Don't forget any steps.

As the end of the semester nears, it is important to know the different requirements for your specific programme regarding when a final version of your thesis is due, when you must register for your state exam, and when you must sign up for your thesis defense.

Dates are different for every programme, therefore it is crucial for you to reach out to your programme guarantor or department secretary to make sure you don't miss anything!

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](#).

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

State of Emergency extended to Dec. 12 (may be extended)

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

In November, an [anti-epidemic system PES](#) was created to access the risk level of the country, and determine if regulations would be relaxed or implemented. 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](#).



Current information on emergency measures at the Faculty of Social Studi...

 MUI Faculty of Social Studies / Masaryk University

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.