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# Charles University

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## About Charles University



## History and profile

**Charles University (CU)** belongs among the oldest and largest universities in the world. It was founded in **1348** by the Holy Roman Emperor **Charles IV** as the first university to the north of the Alps and to the east of Paris. The University

originally consisted of four faculties: Faculty of theology, of arts, of law, and of medicine. It is the oldest and also the largest university in the Czech Republic.

## Ranking

Charles University is **one of the world's top universities**, a fact that has been confirmed repeatedly by the international university rankings. It is No. 1 in the Czech Republic according to The Academic Ranking of World Universities.

In the "Webometrics Ranking of World Universities" Charles University in Prague ranks as **#2 in Central and Eastern Europe**.

In the [Shanghai University's Academic Ranking of World Universities](#), which evaluates over 1000 top universities, Charles University has been placed **213th** this year (2017) and it also belongs among **100 top European universities**. It is the only Czech institution of higher education to be placed in the published list of 500 universities.

## Structure

Today Charles University has **17 faculties** in 3 different cities (14 faculties are located in Prague, 2 in Hradec Králové and 1 in Plzeň).

CU has 3 university institutes, 6 further centres for educational, scientific, research, development and other activities or for provision of information services and 5 university-wide special facilities and the Rectorate as the administrative centre of the whole university. The Faculty of Social Sciences is the second youngest faculty, founded in 1990.



## Staff and students

The University as a whole has more than 7 500 employees, half of which are academics and research staff. About **53 000 students** are studying at CU (which is roughly 1/6 of all students in the Czech Republic).

Almost 25 000 students are enrolled in Master's degree programmes, more than 21 000 in Bachelor's degree programmes and over 8 000 in Doctoral degree programmes. Also, more than 7 000 students originate from foreign countries.

There are over **300 accredited degree programmes** and **660 study disciplines**. Charles University covers the full spectrum of fields – medicine, pharmacy, science, humanities and social sciences, theology and sport at bachelor, master and doctoral levels. **Over 150 academic programmes are taught in a foreign language, mainly in English but also in German or French.**



## International cooperation

The University is dedicated to international cooperation with prestigious educational and research institutions. CU has signed a total of **450 bilateral agreements** on the Erasmus programme framework and **190 international partnership agreements** with foreign universities. Among Charles University's partners are top universities from 49 countries ranging from Canada to New Zealand.

## Further Information

For more information about the Charles University in Prague please visit the [university website in Czech](#) or [English language](#) . For information about student and academic life at Charles University visit the [English Digest](#) of the CU online magazine Forum.