



Charles University in Prague opens its doors wide to the world - computer science taught in English (press release)

Prague, 3 December 2012 – Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, draws on its high reputation in the international arena and introduces a prestigious course in computer science in English.

In 1952, when the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, became a separate entity from the Faculty of Science, no one could have anticipated that after sixty years it would become one of the most powerful scientific institutions in the Czech Republic. Conscious of its position in the Czech Republic, but also abroad, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, with the arrival of its new dean Prof. Kratochvíl in September 2012 has begun vigorous promotion of bachelor's and master's study programs in computer science with English as the language of instruction. Attention will primarily be focused on students from the UK and selected Asian countries, who are seeking an opportunity to work abroad or gain a foothold in a multinational corporation.

A ceremony unveiling this exciting new development takes place on Monday 3 December from 13:00 at the recently renovated Baroque refectory on the Lesser Town Square (Malostranské náměstí) in the historical building of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. It will be attended by foreign ambassadors and their representatives, from countries such as India, Pakistan, Thailand, Chile, Tchai-wan, Korea, Israel, South Africa, Mexico, Italy and Ireland, and also by representatives of major technology companies (Yahoo!, IBM, Oracle, and others).

Those present will be welcomed by Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prof. RNDr. Jan Kratochvíl, CSc. Ceremonial speeches will be given by Rector of Charles University, Prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl, DrSc. and by former Dean of the First Faculty of Medicine at Charles University, Prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc., MBA, under whom the First Faculty of Medicine expanded its range of highly successful programs by offering general medicine and dentistry courses in English. The new computer science degree programs at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics will be presented by Vice Dean for Education, Doc. Mgr. Petr Kolman, Ph.D., who further revealed, "We shall also be launching a new promotional video, featuring Prof. Nešetřil, Head of the Computer Science Institute of Charles University, and winner of the Medal of Merit in Science, state decoration of the Czech Republic."

Computer science at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University recently enjoyed another global success story. As part of their practical work students at the faculty developed the BIRD routing system, which has become the most widely used tool of its kind among internet peering centres around the world this year. "We believe that this success has helped raise the profile of Charles University in the eyes of the world and convinces more international applicants to study at our faculty. The influx of non-resident students will surely be enriched by other students and teachers, for it will foster intensive development of student exchanges under such programs as Erasmus," said current Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Jan Kratochvíl.

Webpages for the forthcoming study programs: <http://www.mff.cuni.cz/admission>

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Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

The Faculty of Mathematics and Physics is a highly respected school, usually ranking first in assessments of scientific institutions in the Czech Republic. The word "Matfyz" – abbreviated form of the faculty's name in Czech - is considered synonymous with excellence in science and education. Charles University graduates can be found in many top companies (Facebook, Oracle, Generali, Ernst & Young) and world-famous universities (Oxford, Cambridge, Wyoming, Chicago, etc.). Apart from the grounding it gives in the fundamentals of computer science, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics has access to the latest knowledge and technology. The faculty guarantees the participation of the Czech Republic in international physics institute ILL in Grenoble, enables experimental use of the Trieste synchrotron, has a significant stake in CERN, is a mentor for the prestigious Google Summer of Code 2012, and gives significant support to talented students in applied mathematics in collaboration with RSJ Algorithmic Trading, one of the world's largest financial traders and marketmakers. A new development is the forthcoming launch of parallel versions of our established undergraduate programs in computer science taught in English. Join the best company!

Charles University

Charles University in Prague was founded in 1348 and is one of the world's oldest universities. Today it has 17 faculties (14 in Prague, 2 in Hradec Králové and 1 in Plzeň), 3 university institutes, 6 further centres for educational, scientific, research, development and other activities or for provision of information services, 5 university-wide special facilities and the Rectorate as the administrative centre of the whole university. The university has more than 7,500 employees, 4,000 of these being academic and research staff. Over 51,000 students are studying at CU (which is roughly a sixth of all students in the Czech Republic), in more than 300 accredited degree programmes and 660 study disciplines. More than 18,000 are studying in bachelor's programmes, 25,000 in master's programmes and more than 7,000 in doctoral programmes. Over 6,000 students are from abroad. Various courses in lifelong learning programmes organised by CU attract more than 15,000 people each year.

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The university is dedicated to international co-operation with prestigious educational and research institutions. CU has signed a total of 450 bilateral agreements and 190 international partnership agreements with foreign universities. Charles University is one of the world's top universities, a fact that has been confirmed repeatedly by the international university rankings. In the Shanghai University's Academic Ranking of World Universities, which evaluates 2,000 universities, Charles University was placed in the top 300 out of the total of 17,000 universities and colleges. Charles University is therefore among the 2% of the best universities and the 100 top European universities. It is the only Czech institution of higher education to be placed in the published list of 500 universities. The university fared just as successfully in The Times THES ranking, being placed 229th. The status of Charles University can also be characterized by its income, which is roughly 8 billion Czech crowns per year. 45% of this amount comes from educational funding, 29% from competitive research grants, and 26% is its own income. Charles University is an accredited public university, and so an autonomous scientific and educational establishment. Charles University is headed by a Rector, while the Academic Senate is its supreme self-regulating academic body. Its other organs include the Academic Council and bursar, and the Board of Directors which is responsible for the implementation of public interest in Charles University's policies. The Senate consisting of the prorectors, the bursar and the chancellor make up the advisory body of the rector. The deans are heads of faculties which enjoy a large measure of independence. Other component parts of Charles University are managed by their directors.