Charles University in Prague
Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové
Czech Republic
Information for international students

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Czech Republic
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The Czech Republic has an advantageous geographical location in the centre of Europe. A pleasant climate and varied scenery, coupled with its rich culture and historical monuments, make the Czech Republic one of the most popular destinations in Europe today.

History of the Czech Republic
In the 10th century A.D. the Czechs, a Slavic people, founded a powerful kingdom called Bohemia in this area. Its capital Prague became a centre of art and learning. In 1526 the throne passed to the Austrian royal family, the Habsburgs. In 1918 Bohemia was united with neighbouring Slovakia as an independent republic, Czechoslovakia. From 1948 until 1989 it was ruled by communist governments under Soviet influence. The Soviets invaded in 1968 when reforms made by the leader Alexander Dubček looked as though they might weaken communist rule. The Communist Party remained in power until November 1989, when Czechs and Slovaks joined in mass demonstrations which forced the government to resign. Václav Havel became the country’s new president, and in 1990 Czechoslovakia held its first free elections since 1946. Slovaks began to demand independence for their region, and in 1993 Czechoslovakia split peacefully into two separate states - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Since 2004, the Czech Republic is a member of the European Union (EU).

Geography of the Czech Republic

| Area:       | 78,866 km²          |
| Neighbouring countries: | Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Austria |
| Population: | 10.3 mil. inhabitants (density 131 inhabitants/km²) |
| Capital:    | Prague / Praha (1.3 mil. inhabitants) |
| Official language: | Czech |
| Religion:   | Predominantly Roman Catholic (39.2 %), nondenominational (39.7 %) |
| Climate:    | Temperate, four seasons, a mix of ocean and inland climate, changeable winters, warm summers. The average daily temperature in January, the coldest of winter months, is about 2°C, in July, the warmest month, about 20°C. |
Charles University

Charles University in Prague consists of 17 faculties of which five are faculties of medicine. Three of them are located in Prague, one is in Hradec Králové, and one in Pilsen (Plzeň).

History of Charles University

Charles University, the oldest university in Central Europe, was founded by Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia on April 7, 1348. In accordance with medieval conceptions of the academic range of a complete university, the newly established university had four faculties - Theology, Law, Medicine, and Arts.

In 1848, the year of revolutions in Europe, Prague University found itself at the centre of national, democratic, and revolutionary upheaval. The upsurge in Czech national life, science, and cultural and political activity forced the government in Vienna to divide the university into two institutions in 1882, one German and one Czech, and the dual arrangement lasted until 1939.

It was only with the establishment of Czechoslovak statehood in 1918 that Charles University gained a status that fully reflected its academic and cultural importance.

The Nazi occupation in 1939 came as a massive blow to the University. One of the first repressive measures taken by the Nazis was aimed at Czech sciences, humanities, and higher education. On November 17, 1939, Prague University like all other Czech institutions of higher education, was closed by force with a large number of students being interned in concentration camps. Some students and teachers were executed or persecuted. After the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945, the University began to develop rapidly in all its aspects. However, university life was soon to be disrupted and distorted by the effects of the communist putsch in February 1948. Only after the anticommunist revolution, which began on November 17, 1989, there was a real change in the situation, which had lasted more than forty years.
Cultural life
Hradec Králové is a town of colourful highlights. In addition to theatres and the Philharmonic Orchestra, today’s cultural life is enhanced by a world famous puppet theatre “Drak”, the excellent choirs “Boni Pueri” and “Jitro” and other artistic organisations.

A number of international theatre performances, music festivals and competitions take place in Hradec Králové during the year. For instance, the international jazz festival “Jazz goes to town” is comprised of numerous concerts both in the open scene and in the facilities of the old town.

Sports and recreation
Hradec Králové is also an important centre of sport. The local football, ice-hockey and basketball clubs participate in top leagues. There are sports areas with modern facilities in town - i.e. the sports stadium, swimming pool, sports fields of Slavie and Sokol, modern tennis courts LTC, the winter stadium with two ice-rinks, etc.

Hradec Králové has always been known for its well-kept parks and gardens. There are also woods, forest parks, ponds, even a state nature reservation, and a large aquarium. All of these make living conditions in the town very pleasant, as well as providing the population with places for recreation and rest.

History
Hradec Králové (with about 100,000 inhabitants), one of the most beautiful towns in the Czech Republic, lies on the confluence of two rivers – the Elbe (Labe) and the Eagle (Orlice).

The first signs of the settling of farmers here date from the 3rd century BC. In the 10th century A.D., the settlement called Hradec (Castle) became a busy one. In 1225 Hradec became a free royal town. In the 14th century it became a dowry town of Czech queens, and later the word Králové (of Queens) was added to its name. A new landmark, the gothic cathedral of the Holy Spirit, arose in the town. Another outstanding monument, the renaissance White Tower, was built in its neighbourhood in 1580.

War events in the 18th century made it necessary to turn the town into a fortress. This halted the development of Hradec Králové for 100 years and had decisive influence on further building activity. The fortress was abandoned and dismantled in 1884.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the town embarked upon well-planned construction with the urban conception of famous Czech architects Jan Kotěra and Josef Gočár. The city reached its pinnacle of modern architecture during the twenties and thirties becoming one of the most beautiful and modern cities of the Czech Republic.

A number of prominent personages studied and worked in Hradec Králové, e.g. Karl. Rokitansky, a pathologist of world-wide reputation and co-founder of the Second Vienna Medical School, was born here in 1804.

Hradec Králové is the home of six university faculties. In 1945 the town gained its first university, the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, and later also the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University, the Faculty of Military Health Sciences, and the University of Hradec Králové (with the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Informatics and Management, and the Faculty of Arts).
Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové

The Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové started its educational activities on November 25, 1945, as the first University faculty in East Bohemia. Because of the “Cold War”, the faculty was transformed in 1951 into a Military Medical Academy. However, in September 1958, the faculty returned to Charles University. For its over 60 years of existence, the Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové has been among the top Czech university institutions.

Undergraduate studies
The current information for each particular academic year is provided separately in the attached leaflet inside this brochure.

Medical degree study programs in General medicine (6 years) and Dentistry (5 years) cover studies in 42 theoretical departments and clinics. The clinical instruction takes place in the University Hospital. Since 1992 the faculty has organised medical degree study programs in the English language for international students. In the academic year 2008/2009 there are 1324 students, including 296 international students studying at the Faculty of Medicine. Curricula of Czech and English study programs are entirely parallel and fully comparable with the current international standard. They are accredited by EU and in the USA.

One academic year has two semesters (each includes 15 weeks of instruction and four-week examination period), it starts at the beginning of October and finishes at the beginning of July.

How to apply
Students who have completed a secondary school education are considered eligible for the studies. Prospective students are requested to fill in an application form and to provide us with the other specified documents. The application form and further details are available on our web page (www.lfhk.cuni.cz — Admission Process / Undergraduate Study).

Entrance procedure for international students
An obligatory entrance procedure (held in English) is based on a written test of the applicant’s knowledge of basic science (biology, chemistry, and either physics or mathematics – according to individual preference) and an oral interview oriented towards the personality and motivation of the applicant. Holders of particular A-level certificates (or equivalents) in these subjects may be admitted without written tests. Requirements for the entrance procedure are specified on our web page www.lfhk.cuni.cz.

The entrance procedure takes place at our Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové (Šimkova street 870), Czech Republic, usually in May. Around the same time, there are also entrance procedures held in some other countries according to arrangements with co-operating agencies. A list of the co-operating agencies and all the details are available on our web page.

Preparatory course
Premedical preparatory course of Charles University is available in Poděbrady. For details see www.ujop.cuni.cz/
part of the curriculum in the first two years of study. An elective course in the Czech language is available also for students of the higher years.

**General medicine program**
The General medicine program in basic theoretical disciplines is organised into four terms during the first two years of studies. It includes biophysics, biostatistics, biology, genetics, chemistry and biochemistry, anatomy, histology and embryology, and physiology. Teaching is oriented towards a detailed knowledge of the structural and functional relationships of the human body from the molecular level to the level of organs and systems. Even during the first two years of studies students visit the University Hospital, where first aid and the basis of patient care are introduced. During the summer vacation after the second year of study, students are required to pass a one-week practice in the University Hospital.

The third and fourth years of study are devoted to preclinical disciplines such as pathological anatomy, pathophysiology, microbiology, immunology, and pharmacology. The introduction to clinical medicine includes internal and surgical propedeutics. Some of the clinical subjects (e.g. neurology, psychiatry, dermatovenerology, and radiology) are also taught. During the summer vacation after the fourth year of study, students are required to pass a four-week practice in the University Hospital. In the fifth year, exclusively clinical disciplines are taught. The sixth year is organised in the University Hospital as a bedside practice in internal medicine, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, pediatrics and in preventive medicine and hygiene. The instruction in the above subjects is completed by the state exams.

**Language of the provided courses**
The language of all instructions is English. However, basic knowledge of the Czech language is also necessary, since great attention is paid to the bedside teaching that takes place in the University Hospital and students have to communicate with patients from the third year onwards. Therefore, the Czech language is an obligatory part of the curriculum in the first two years of study. An elective course in the Czech language is available also for students of the higher years.
Graduation ceremony
The graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine takes place in the historical Carolinum Hall of Charles University in Prague. After the graduation pledge in the presence of the University rector and the other academic representatives, graduates in General medicine are awarded the title MUDr. (abbreviation from Latin = Medicinae Universae Doctor), which is the equivalent to the title M.D. (Doctor of Medicine). Graduates in Dentistry are awarded the title MDDr. (abbreviation from Latin = Medicinae Dentium Doctor).

During the 2nd, 4th, and 5th year, the students are required to spend several weeks in general dental practice.

Socrates/Erasmus program
The EU Socrates/Erasmus program was created to support mutual relations among universities in Europe and our faculty participates in this program. Detailed information is available at: www.lfhk.cuni.cz/article.asp?nArticleID=471&nLanguageID=2

Tuition fee and cost of living
There is an annual tuition fee for either of the medical degree study programs. Accommodation, study materials, board, and other expenses are not included. For details see the attached leaflet.

Dentistry program
The revised dental curriculum is based on the needs of the modern dental professional with respect to the requirements of European educational standards.

The program has undergone a major change in its concept as well as in the details of each subject. Some of the new features are:
- Holistic view of the patient
- Resolution of a problem based on learning theory
- Contact with patients early in the course of study
- Emphasis on behavioural sciences
- Participation of dental practitioners in clinical education.

The dental program is composed of preclinical and clinical studies.

The preclinical segment consists mainly of theoretical subjects (biology, biophysics, statistics, anatomy, histology, and embryology). Starting in the first semester, the students begin preclinical dental work in a phantom laboratory (preclinical dentistry, preventive dentistry, cariology), and they have their first contact with patients.

The structure of the clinical part has two main areas of interest: the general medicine courses are tailored to the needs of future dentists (pathological anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, internal medicine, general surgery, ophthalmology, ENT). Both theoretical and clinical dental education are included (orthodontics, periodontology, endodontics, paediatric dentistry, restorative dentistry, prosthodontics, dentoalveolar and maxillofacial surgery, dental radiology).

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There is an annual tuition fee for either of the medical degree study programs. Accommodation, study materials, board, and other expenses are not included. For details see the attached leaflet.
The Faculty of Medicine has a long tradition of research with considerable activity. This is mainly aimed at the following areas: nutrition and metabolism, oncology, cardiology, surgery, age-related diseases, immunology, pharmacology, physiology, cell biology, and biochemistry.

Determined students can take part in research activities in all departments and clinics during their study. They are encouraged to present their research results at the yearly organised Students’ scientific conference. In the last three years of study, the best students may have the opportunity for an experience in a hospital abroad. In this respect, the faculty co-operates e.g. with the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. (USA).

Postgraduate doctoral study program (Ph.D.)

Postgraduate doctoral study (Ph.D.) at our faculty is organised in accredited study fields covering most theoretical and clinical branches of medicine. Conditions for admission, dissertation thesis topics, content of entrance exams, etc., are different for individual study fields and are adapted every year according to the requirements of the Subject Co-ordinating Boards. Admission proceedings for Ph.D. study for the following academic year are announced by the Scientific Board and by the Academic Senate of the Faculty usually at the beginning of January. Specific information about conditions of admission and topics of dissertation theses in particular study fields, including a list of required documents are also available via the Internet (www.lfhk.cuni.cz). There is an annual tuition fee for study conducted in the English language. For details see the attached leaflet. Although it is possible to complete the postgraduate doctoral study program in English, basic knowledge of Czech for international students is necessary for communication with patients at clinical departments.

Postgraduate (Ph.D.) study is concentrated on scientific research and independent creative work in the field of research or development. The standard duration of study is four years. The State doctoral exam and a successful defence of a dissertation thesis duly complete the study. This thesis should provide evidence of the student’s ability to perform independent theoretical and practical activities in the given field of research and/or development. It must contain the student’s original published results. Before the student hands in his/her dissertation thesis and before its defence, basic requirements must be fulfilled, among these, the student must have published a minimum of 3 original scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals.

Science and research activities

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Determined students can take part in research activities in all
University Hospital

Clinical instruction for general medicine and dentistry students takes place in the University Hospital in Hradec Králové. This hospital is one of the largest and most modern health care institutions in the Czech Republic. Physicians working in clinics with state of the art equipment can make reliable diagnoses and provide the patients with treatment that fully meets the demands of contemporary medical science.

The University Hospital is a 1,500 bed facility with a staff of 3,800, of which 570 are physicians. In the 23 inpatient departments of the hospital more than 42,000 patients are admitted every year. In the outpatient clinics and other specialised departments of the hospital more than 660,000 patients are treated yearly.

With 37 departments the University Hospital provides a broad range of health care with extensive professional activity. Services include the full range of contemporary medical treatment (e.g. a broad variety of neurosurgical operations, cardiosurgical operations, complex oncological and hematological treatment including the transplantation of bone marrow, endovascular radiological intervention etc.).

Close inter-disciplinary co-operation and an openness to modern methods and scientific knowledge has long been a tradition in the medical practice of the University Hospital. The University Hospital in Hradec Králové does not have a long history in years – it was founded at the same time as the Faculty of Medicine in 1945, but it can be proud of being a leader in many aspects of medical development. For instance, the first operations on the heart performed in Hradec Králové in the years of 1947 – 1951 by Prof. Bedrna heralded the start of Czech cardiosurgery. In 1952, Prof. Klen founded the first tissue bank in Europe. In the same year Prof. Petr is credited with originating the first neurosurgical clinic in the republic. Starting in 1958, Prof. Procházka was one of the first to use extracorporeal circulation during open heart surgery. In the year 1967, Prof. Erben began the regular use of hemodialysis – also a first in the Czech Republic. We could go on counting historical firsts for a long time. But even today all the departments of the University Hospital continue with their scientific advancements. The physicians of individual clinics are carrying out scientific research projects, and their results are published and presented at international congresses.

In 2008, the University Hospital has been awarded, as the first in its category, a Certificate of Accreditation by the Czech Ministry of Health. The University Hospital can count among its assets, apart from the above mentioned outstanding medical care and scientific results, close scientific and pedagogical co-operation with the Faculty of Medicine. This and the extraordinary support from the town and district government hold out the promise of continued successful development of the University Hospital for the future.
also available. The faculty provides medical consultations for international students in the University Hospital within a GP facilities free of charge.

**Accommodation**

The Faculty of Medicine guarantees an accommodation in the student hostel. Students are housed in two double-bed rooms or two triple-bed rooms, sharing a kitchen and a bathroom. Single rooms are not available. It is not difficult to find a comfortable private accommodation.

**Health insurance**

Students from European countries obtain standard medical treatment on the basis of submitting their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Provisional certificate to the attending physician, otherwise the physician can insist on cash payment. For details see www.cmu.cz/en.

Students from other countries are required to have a valid international medical insurance. Contractual health insurance in the Czech Republic is also available. The faculty provides medical consultations for international students in the University Hospital within a GP facilities free of charge.

**Visas**

Students from European countries are not required any kind of visa. Students from other countries have to apply for study purposes long-term stay. The visa application is submitted and the visa is issued only at the Czech Embassies/Consulates. The whole process can last from several weeks up to about 4 months. A detailed description of how to apply for a visa is available on our web page.

**Travel from Prague’s airport to Hradec Králové**

To get to Hradec Králové from Prague: take a bus from the main bus station (florenc) or a train from the main railway station (hlavní nádraží). To get from Prague’s airport “ruzyne” (located approx. 20 km north-west of the town centre) take bus No. 119 (its stop is in front of the airport - buy a ticket at the airport hall). Get off the bus at the last station called “Dejvická” which connects to the underground network (“Metro” in Czech). Take the line “A” of the underground network to the “Muzeum” station. Change to line “C” in the direction of “Florenc” for the bus or “Hlavní nádraží” for the train. It takes about 100 minutes either by train or bus to Hradec Králové. Both the railway station and the bus station in Hradec Králové are near the centre of the town. Transportation can be also arranged by the faculty for a reasonable price upon request. (Taxis are available but expensive.)

**Useful information for applicants**

Detailed information is provided separately in the attached leaflet inside this brochure.
How to contact us

Address of the Faculty of Medicine:
Charles University - Faculty of Medicine
P. O. Box 38
Šimkova 870
500 38 Hradec Králové
Czech Republic
web: www.lfhk.cuni.cz

Study department for study programs in English
e-mail: students@lfhk.cuni.cz
fax: +420 495 513 597
tel: +420 495 816 487
+420 495 816 178

Doctoral (Ph.D.) study programs
tel: +420 495 816 131
e-mail: pgs@lfhk.cuni.cz

Socrates/Erasmus programs:
tel: +420 495 816 440
e-mail: macourkovae@lfhk.cuni.cz

Division of international relations
tel: +420 495 816 476
e-mail: macourkovae@lfhk.cuni.cz

- Czech Republic international telephone code is +420
- Information regarding telephone numbers in Czech Republic 1180
- International Destination Inquiry 1181
- Taxi (in Hradec Králové)
Tel: 495 513 333, 495 522 222

Books (Undergraduate Study)
The students are provided with a list of compulsory and recommended textbooks needed for the following academic year. First year students can borrow the necessary textbooks in the faculty library for a reasonable price.

Study room and computer / internet facilities
All is available in the main building of the faculty, in the Educational Center in the University Hospital, and in the Medical library. Internet connection is also available at the student hostel. All students have their own e-mail addresses and access to the Internet. (These services are provided free of charge.)
Hradec Králové

city map

HOSTEL "PALACHOVA"
accommodation
HOSTEL "NA KOTLI"
accommodation office,
dining hall, student club

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