

HISTORY OF UVPS BRNO



The University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno was founded on December 12, 1918 by Act no. 76/1918 Coll. on Creation of the Czechoslovak State Veterinary University in Brno. It was the first university to be established after the formation of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. It was founded within the premises of what used to be cavalry barracks and a provincial reform school. The university's founder and its first rector was Professor Eduard Babák. Classes began on November 17, 1919. From its start, the university developed as a single-faculty university aimed at veterinary medicine (veterinary sciences). In 1975, two fields of study were introduced: the General Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Medicine – Foodstuff Hygiene. In 1990, two faculties were created – the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, focused on veterinary medicine, and the Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology aimed at veterinary hygiene. In 1991, a third faculty was added – the Faculty of Pharmacy, geared towards human and veterinary pharmaceutical sciences. Since 1994, the university has been officially called the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno (UVPS Brno).

LOCATION AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

UVPS Brno is the only university in the Czech Republic specializing in veterinary medicine, veterinary hygiene and ecology, and one of two universities that teaches pharmaceutical sciences. The school campus is found on unique premises with a special atmosphere formed by the building's enclosed spatial layout combining the character of 19th century structures with modern buildings from just the past fifteen years. The park with its mature trees adds to the campus atmosphere. The campus also features a greenhouse, botanical gardens and certain rare or interesting tree species.

UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION

The rector is the head of the UVPS Brno. Subordinate to the rector are three vice-rectors – vice-rector for education, vice-rector for science, research and foreign relations, and the vice-rector for development and construction of UVPS Brno, contact with job training and university agricultural farm. The registrar handles economic and administrative issues. Autonomy of the university is provided by the University Academic Senate. A university body is the University Board of Supervisors. The issue of education and scientific activity is taken up in the University Scientific Board. The university is divided into the Rector's Office, including other working locations, and three faculties, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology (FVHE), and the Faculty of Pharmacy (FP).

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine provides university education, research and specialized activities focused mainly on clinical veterinary medicine. In terms of organization, the faculty is divided into the Dean's Office, sections with individual clinics and departments, and specific faculty facilities. The FVM organizational structure is as follows:

- ▶ Section of Morphology and Physiology (Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Department of Physiology)

- ▶ Pathobiology Section (Department of Pathological Morphology, Department of Parasitology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Animal Genetics, Department of Infectious Diseases and Epizootology)
- ▶ Section of Small Animals Diseases (Dog and Cat Clinic, Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic, Department of Pharmacology)
- ▶ Section of Large Animals Diseases (Equine Clinic, Ruminant Clinic, Swine Clinic)
- ▶ Specific faculty facilities (Central Clinical Laboratory)

At the FVM, education is realized within the framework of the Master's degree programme of Veterinary Medicine in the languages of Czech and English. The form of study is daily and its standard length is 6 years. Studies include subjects from the group of basic fields, mainly biology and chemistry, group of animal breeding fields, mainly animal nutrition, livestock breeding and animal hygiene, animal welfare and protection, group of pre-clinical fields, mainly anatomy, histology and embryology, physiology, pathological anatomy, pathological physiology, microbiology, immunology, parasitology, genetics, pharmacology, toxicology and epizootology, group of clinical fields, mainly diseases of dogs, cats, horses, cattle and small ruminants, swine, poultry, fish, bees and exotic animals, infectious diseases, legal and veterinary public health, as well as a group of subjects of food hygiene and professional education subjects. Studies include a wide spectrum of veterinary medicine, but they are strongly oriented towards diagnostics, therapy and prevention of diseases of various types of animals. Studies are completed by an advanced state exam which is comprised of component tests from several clinical subjects based on the student's choice, and possibly a thesis defence, and also component tests from infections of animals and legislation, and component tests from food hygiene. Graduates are bestowed the title of *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine* (lat. *medicinae veterinariae doctor* abbreviated to MVDr. preceding the graduate's name). The FVM graduates have traditionally asserted themselves mainly in the private veterinary practice sector. In the Czech Republic, private veterinary practice is a business regulated by specific directives and decrees; therefore the number of places in this practice is not limited by employment capacity in enterprise or state administration, but by the demand of citizens and enterprise for veterinary diagnostic, treatment and preventative activity which is substantial especially in small animal veterinary practice. At the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a doctoral post-graduate study programme is also offered in 16 selected fields of veterinary medicine in the Czech study programme, and in 5 fields in the English study programme. Entrance exams include an interview with the applicant in which mainly the person's prospects for scientific work are verified. The standard length of study is 3 years. Studies end with a State doctoral exam and a Doctoral thesis defence. Graduates are bestowed the academic title of *Doctor* (abbreviated to Ph.D. introduced after the graduate's name). Lifelong Learning is realized within the framework of the so called University of the Third Age with its degree study programme in the area of Man and Animal. The standard study programme lasts 2 years. Lifelong Learning is also further implemented as a part of educational and training courses mainly for veterinary practitioners.

STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY

Applicants for a Bachelor's degree study programme, a successive and/or standard Master's degree study programme must submit their applications by the end of February. Bachelor's and Master's degree study programmes entrance exams are scheduled in the month of June, and the entrance requirements include a State leaving exam diploma and successful passing of a test from the subjects of biology, chemistry and physics. Post-graduate degree study programme entrance exams are scheduled in the month of July. Applicants are ceremonially accepted into the academic community during the act of matriculation when

they take the oath of university students. Education at the university is based on a credit system principle (ECTS – European Credit Transfer System). It is carried out in the form of lectures, seminars, practical exercises, laboratory training, in the form of education at clinics, and in meat, fish and dairy workstations, in the faculty pharmacy, and in specialized laboratories. It is also provided in the form of practice training at the agricultural school farm, in companies and job training in the form of internships at university institutions and clinics, and in the form of internships in private veterinary practices, at veterinary organizations, and in pharmacies or other institutions. Such approach to teaching and education enables students to gain practical experience in their respective fields of study. Emphasis is placed on practical training, leading to students attaining professional skills applicable in their future veterinary profession. Nevertheless, more traditional teaching procedures are also used in education. Teaching is supported by multimedia mainly during lectures and seminar training. During practical training, however, preservation of traditional approaches is essential in specific laboratory work, in dealing with biological material, handling of animals, performing autopsies, in work in examination rooms, in veterinary activity in veterinary practice as well as in pharmacological activity in pharmacies. The studies are terminated by a graduation ceremony. The university holds traditional academic graduation ceremonies which are considered to be the most impressive in the school's history. The event takes place in the University Hall, and is attended by academic officials of both the university and the faculties. During the graduation ceremony, graduates take a ceremonial oath, and they are presented diplomas for the degrees that they have earned, as well as their academic titles and a bilingual diploma supplement certifying the course of study to facilitate graduates' placement abroad.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A student support programme has been developed at the UVPS Brno. A part of such activities is the scholarship programme which includes merit scholarships awarded on the basis of academic performance without regard for financial need and given for student scientific efforts, for excellent scientific research, development and/or other creative results, accommodation scholarships and financial need scholarships, and special scholarships in cases worthy of special consideration. One such example are athletic scholarships for exceptional results during sports representation of the university. Doctoral scholarships are granted to students of post-graduate study programmes. The same applies to scholarships supporting students sent abroad.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION, INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION AND RECOGNITION OF STUDIES BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

National assessment of the university education quality at the faculty level is performed by the Accreditation Commission of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. The last assessment of all three faculties was affirmative and all its requirements and criteria were met. The quality of education at the university is verified at the international and national level. Both the FVM and the FVHE are mentioned on a prestigious list of affirmatively assessed veterinary faculties and universities, as compiled by the European Association for Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE). Both faculties attained this prestigious placement on the basis of foreign expert international evaluation. The final assessment report presented to the university at a meeting in Brussels stated that both faculties meet requirements for veterinary education established by EU legal regulations and additional EAEVE requirements and that their education quality standards are high. This ranked the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno among the top veterinary universities in Europe. After the meeting of the international commission, the Faculty of Pharmacy was ranked amongst the pharmaceutical faculties that meet the EU pharmaceutical education requirements. Education at all UVPS Brno faculties is

recognized within the EU framework by Directive no. 2005/36/EC, on recognition of professional qualifications. This directive lays out conditions for attaining education for performance of an occupation for which providing a determined level of education is required (so-called regulated profession amongst which veterinary and pharmaceutical professions belong).

FOREIGN STAYS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The university appreciates acquiring international experience, and thus it supports student and teaching staff exchanges within the framework of the international Erasmus programme and Lifelong Learning scheme, or on self-evaluation report and evaluation report within the scope of international evaluation of veterinary faculties, or on the basis of bilateral agreements, or in the form of so-called free movers. Students and professors alike attend both short-term and long-term stays at universities in Europe, and lately, in the United States of America as well. The mobility programme supports active membership of the university in dominant European organizations influencing veterinary and pharmaceutical education in Europe, such as the European University Association (EUA), the European Universities Continuing Education Network (EUCEN), the European Association for Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE), the Veterinary Network of European Student and Staff Transfer, (VETNEST), the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the Europe Union of Veterinary Hygienists (EUVH), and the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP).

SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Scientific, research and creative activities form an integral part of the UVPS Brno and they are carried out at the faculties. They are funded from external sources upon competition with other applicants. The most important source of financing are government grants, internal university grant agencies, contractual research with companies and other possible issuers, as well as shares in resolving international projects. The number of projects is rather high. Another part of the university research activity is work on two research projects and participation in two national research programmes. UVPS Brno is also involved in an extensive, seven-year project aimed at the area of veterinary aspects of food safety and foodstuff quality.

PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

The results of the university research activities are introduced in the form of publications which are documented and subsequently presented in an annual overview – List of Publications of UVPS Brno. High quality papers are published in Impact factor journals included in the international database of scientific literary sources. Recently, the university has been publishing over 200 Impact scientific papers in scientific journals each year. Academic staff also takes part in a beneficial exchange of scientific experience at numerous conferences. When assessing scientific and research activity based on a rough coefficient given by the number of publications in scientific journals with an Impact factor per 100 students or per the number of academicians, UVPS Brno is one of the best-published public universities in the Czech Republic. The university also issues its own scientific journal, Acta veterinaria Brno, an impact journal focusing on veterinary medicine, with a tradition reaching back to 1922.

CONFERENCE

The university holds scientific as well as specialized meetings both for students and for scientific fields specialists. A number of these events have a rather long tradition, such as the Lenfeld and Hökl Days – a conference on food hygiene and technology (since 1967), the Conference on Animal Welfare and Protection (since 1994), the Kábrt Dietetic Days (since 1995), and the Lukeš Days (since 1995).

VETERINARY CLINICAL ACTIVITY

The university clinics have become a centre of veterinary care for clients from all over the country and even abroad. Their clinical facilities, such as the Small Animals Clinic, Equine Clinic, or the Swine Clinic provide a 24/7 veterinary care including emergency care, hospitalization and intensive unit care. With their modern equipment and professionally handled surgical operations the clinics provide the highest level veterinary care. The number of examined or hospitalized patients or those located in intensive care units and the sheer number of patients examined directly in herds of livestock is exceptionally high. The clinics academic staff, veterinary surgeons providing veterinary care and students engage in activities of the clinics which host a number of research projects. The clinics thus satisfy not just the role of surgical veterinary facilities for diagnostics, therapy and prevention of diseases of livestock and pets, but also the role of modern education and training centres.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL FARM

The UVPS Brno also operates an agricultural school farm in Nový Jičín (3,170 ha), and in Nové Dvory and Jinačovice near Brno (179 ha). Vegetable crops focus on wheat, barley, corn, sugar beets, poppy, peas, clover, grasses and perennial fodder crops. Livestock production includes cattle, pigs of all categories and horse breeding. The farm features a game park with breeds of fallow deer, a pheasantry for rearing pheasants and other game birds, and deer hunt. Annually, the end of the riding season in autumn sees a celebration called the Hubert's Ride. The school farm is an important part of educating students in the area of livestock veterinary care.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Among the special university features are the Museum of Anatomy, the Museum of Pathological Morphology, the Museum of History of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, and the archive treasuring documents on veterinary medicine, such as unique documents from the entire history of the university since 1918. The Club of History of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy is a place where emeritus university professors and field enthusiasts meet and hold an entire series of events commemorating historic moments in veterinary medicine and pharmacy. For more than 40 years, the university bestows its so-called Golden Diplomas upon its own graduates 50 years after their graduation. Other events held yearly are the annual university balls. The university holds a unique collection of medals and medallions, representing one of the largest vocational collections in Europe. It is proud of its picture gallery of its rectors depicting each and every university representative. The university grounds are also the place where graduates hold their graduating class reunions.