

# EDUCATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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# BASIC FACTS

- School attendance in the Czech Republic is compulsory from the age of six to fifteen. Most children attend state school, but there are also private and church schools. Education at state schools up to eighteen is free of charge, but students at secondary schools must pay for their textbooks. Private and church schools charge school fees. All schools are coeducational. Students do not wear uniforms.

- The school year starts on 1st September and ends on 30th June of the following year. The school year is divided into two terms. The average number of lessons at a secondary school is around thirty a week, primary schools have fewer lessons of course.
- Classes usually begin between eight and eight-fifteen. There are usually six lessons in a row followed by a lunch break and then afternoon lessons. Breaks between lessons last from five to twenty minutes.
- Pupils and students are evaluated by marks from 1 to 5, 1 is the best, 5 is the worst. Each term they get school report with marks of each subject.

# Pre-school, primary and secondary education

Some children go to crèches (for children up to 3 years) and some attend a kindergarten (for children aged 3 to 6). At 6 they start to go to primary schools and they stay there until 15.

At the age of 15 pupils transfer from primary to secondary school. There is another way. Pupil can transfer to grammar school at the age of 11 after they have passed an entrance exam.

- At the age of 15 pupils can choose among variety of secondary schools :
  - a) grammar schools with general and rather academic education which prepare students for university study
  - b) special schools which include technical colleges, specialized in building, chemistry, engineering etc., business academies, agricultural schools, music and art schools and many other
  - c) vocational schools training to-be workers for practical jobs
- Secondary education usually lasts 4 years and at grammar and specialized schools it is finished with a school-leaving exam, which is required by all universities and colleges.

# UNIVERSITIES

- Universities and colleges provide tertiary education which lasts from 4 to 6 years. Before a student is accepted they have to pass an entrance exam. The exam usually consists of a written test and an interview.
- Our oldest university is Charles university in Prague and it's also the most renowned university in our country, but it's renowned also around Europe. It was founded in 1348 by the Czech and Roman king Charles IV.
- Other notable universities are Masaryk University in Brno, Palacký University in Olomouc and Technical University in Brno.

- The university college students can enrol at three-year courses for a Bachelor's Degree or four and five-year courses for Master's Degree. Medicine usually takes 6 years. Doctoral Degrees are awarded after another few years of study, which may be also individual, and completion of another thesis.
- Full time university students are expected to bear the expense of their tuition and they must also pay for their accommodation and board. The students from distant places usually stay at a residence (dormitory / dorm). Only a limited number of students get a grant or a scholarship.