



Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague 8, Ltd. Vysoká škola hotelová v Praze 8, spol. s r. o.

Abbreviation in Czech: VŠH

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- History** ■ The Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague 8, Ltd. (IHM) was established as the first specialized college aimed at the hotel industry, gastronomy and tourism. The IHM gained the state approval in July 1999 as one of the first three private institutes accredited in accordance with the Higher Education Act. The first academic year opened in 1999/2000. The main goal of the IHM is to offer a highly professional education and instruction for applicants wishing to work in an attractive service industry that will enable them to:
- work in middle and top management of hotel chains and other establishments involved in tourism;
 - carry out business in hotel management, gastronomy and tourism;
 - hold managerial posts in many other branches.

In 2003, the Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague 8, Ltd., was the first private college to successfully obtain re-accreditation of its study programmes and disciplines together with prolongation of state approval. The IHM teaching staff are highly qualified and efficient academicians. There are 54 full-time employees, 16 of them professors and associate professors, 21 employees have degrees in science and research, 4 employees participate in doctoral studies. The IHM also employs significant specialists from other colleges, seven of whom are professors and associate professors. Due to the practical profile of its study programmes, the IHM employs a number of professionals in the hospitality industry.

The Institute of Hospitality Management currently has 13 partner schools in nine European countries. Its scientific and research projects are based on the IHM Long-term

Programme of Educational, Scientific and Further Creative Activities for the period 2006-2010. The field of research and development leads to applied know-how. It is a source of social innovations, as well as feedback for the study process. The IHM full-time employees, external specialists from other colleges and institutes, as well as selected students, participate in research projects. In accordance with the Long-term Programme, the IHM established its Research Centre in March 2005. The main goal of the Centre is to assist the renewal process of systematic research activities within tourism and the hotel industry in the Czech Republic and harmonize them with current practical needs. The IHM started publishing its review Czech Hospitality and Tourism Papers in 2005.

In this academic year, the Institute of Hospitality Management celebrates its 10th anniversary. Despite this short period of time, the IHM has educated quite a number of significant specialists in the Czech hotel and tourism industry.

Structure of the Institution

■ In accordance with the Higher Education Act, the IHM has only one faculty, with the following departments:

- Department of Hospitality
- Department of Economics and Economy
- Department of Tourism
- Department of Crisis Management and Law
- Department of Management
- Department of Marketing and Media Communication
- Department of Language Studies

The IHM premises are located in Bohnice, in the northern part of Prague. There are two auditoria, multimedia lecture rooms, two restaurants, several specialized rooms for practical training (kitchen, bars, lounges), two study rooms equipped with 40 PCs, etc. The IHM has its own parking space. There is a sports stadium and plenty of greenery in the neighbourhood of the institute.

Organisation of Studies

- The academic year is divided into two semesters (winter and summer). Each semester is split into two modules. A semester lasts 13 weeks. There is an examination period lasting 5 weeks after each semester. The instruction takes place in the IHM premises, as well as in companies during the students' practical training.

The study instruction is divided into two programmes. The first programme is called Gastronomy, Hotel Industry and Tourism, which is subdivided into four bachelor disciplines and one master discipline. The second one programme, Economics and Management is subdivided into one bachelor discipline and two master disciplines. The main form of studies is the full-time form, in which 63,2 % students participate. A part-time distance-learning form of study is also available. The ECTS credit system is used. Since 2007 the graduates have received a diploma supplement in accordance with ECTS requirements. The instruction is given in Czech language, and some courses are also delivered in English.

The bachelor programme lasts 3 years (6 semesters). Besides the compulsory courses, students can choose from 4 optional courses during their studies. For the bachelor programme, students must accumulate 180 credits. Twelve weeks of practical training form part of the study programme. The studies culminate in the state bachelor examination, which includes the presentation and defence of a bachelor paper. Graduates

are awarded a bachelor's degree (Bc.). A one-year bachelor study programme is also offered for students who have completed their secondary special education.

Master studies last 2 years (four semesters). Graduates from other institutes and colleges from the Czech Republic and also from abroad can apply. To graduate from these programmes, students must accumulate 120 credits. A four-week period of practical training forms part of the study programme. The studies culminate in the state final examination, which includes the presentation and defence of a diploma paper. Graduates are awarded the degree of engineer (Ing.). A special three-semester further education course for teachers and instructors (DVPP) is offered within the master programme.

In the 2008/2009 academic year, the IHM is offering an MBA programme. For those students who are interested in studies abroad, the IHM offers various study programmes provided by colleges and institutes abroad (within the Socrates Erasmus programme).

Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2008/2009

Total number of students	2 148
Number of students in bachelor programmes	1 826
Number of students in master programmes	322
Number of foreign students	421
Total number of graduates in 2008	497
Total number of academic staff	54