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- History** ■ Business School Ostrava plc is a non-university type of business school. Its history began on 29 May 2000, when the school received state approval to act as Business School in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic granted state accreditation for a bachelor study programme in Economics and Management, study branch Entrepreneurship, by full-time or part-time study. Classes began in October 2000. In 2001, the school gained state accreditation for two other bachelor study branches, and in 2005 for a master study programme with a study branch in Entrepreneurship. In 2006 our school received the Diploma Supplement Label.

Business School Ostrava was established in response to a demand for education from people who want to be successful in the labour market, to achieve individual success and be successful in their business. In an entrepreneurial economy, it is necessary to have development in entrepreneurship as well as entrepreneurial people.

The second factor is the desire of employers to find and hire professionally-oriented, university-educated experts. The school aims to increase the supply of well-motivated applicants and employees, to create the conditions for their long-term personal and career growth, and also to support entrepreneurial development not only on a regional scale.

Since the beginning, Business School Ostrava has expanded, increasing its student numbers nearly twenty-fold. There were more than 3200 students in the

2007/2008 academic year. The school has progressively established a network of detached consultancy centres, where part-time study programmes and second degree programmes are conducted.

Structure of the Institution

- The Business School Ostrava plc has five departments: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship and Management of Business Operations, Informatics and Internet in Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship and Management in the Environment, and the Department of Foreign Languages.

In addition to main residence in Ostrava, the Business School has eight detached consultancy centres. The education centre in Nový Jičín runs full-time and part-time study programmes, and there are seven consultancy centres running part-time study programmes in Bruntál, Jeseník, Olomouc, Písek, Prague, Studénka and Třinec. The school is a co-owner of a students' residence hall near the school with a capacity of 157 beds.

Organisation of Studies

- The academic year is divided into two semesters, with 14 weeks of classes and an examination period lasting at least five weeks. The study programmes are in full-time or part-time form and in bachelor or second degree study programmes (master study programme). Applicants who have graduated from an accredited bachelor or master study programme can apply for the second cycle degree programme at the Business School Ostrava, plc. Following successful completion of the second cycle degree programme, the graduates are awarded conferred a Master of Science degree (abbreviated as Ing.)

For evaluation, a uniform credit system is used, which is compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and allows students mobility within the all European education programmes. For students in full-time and part-time study programmes, a professional placement in a home or foreign company forms an integral part of the studies.

In addition to the levels of study mentioned above, the Business School runs a Lifelong Learning Centre, which organizes many courses in accordance with the National Strategy for Lifelong Learning. The centre organises education sessions for firms, institutions and the general public, and offers consultancy, diagnostics, language courses and IT courses. 450 clients took part in these courses in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2007/2008

■ Total number of students	2611
Number of students of bachelor study programmes	2113
Number of students of master study programmes	498
Number of foreign students	278
Number of graduates	763
Number of internal lectures	32
Number of external lectures	180