

The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague

Akademie múzických umění v Praze

AMU = DAMU + FAMU + HAMU

Abbreviation in Czech: AMU

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- History** ■ The Academy of Performing Arts (AMU) is a university level school of drama, film, TV, multi-media, music and dance, studies. It was founded by the Presidential Decree of October 27, 1945. A year later, in the winter semester of 1946, it was opened for students.

Several prominent artists and writers, namely Jindřich Honzl, Jiří Frejka, František Troster and others, had conceived the school itself during World War II. Professors of the older Prague Conservatory also supported the idea of transforming the former maestro school into a higher school of university level.

Writers, artists and other film creators with practical experience in the film industry (namely Jaroslav Bouček, Karel Plicka, Otakar Vávra, Ivan Olbracht, Vítězslav Nezval, A. M. Brousil and others) watched over the school's future curriculum, trying to make it responsive to new trends in post-war film development.

Later the Film studio and the theatre Disk, which belonged to the Faculty of Theatre, were added. The theatre Disk is also used by the Opera studio of the Faculty of Music. When TV came into being, the Faculty of Film began to serve its needs by offering study programmes for TV specialists.

- Structure of the Institution** ■ The Academy of Performing Arts is a university level school of drama, film, TV, multi-media, music and dance studies. It consists of three faculties (i.e. school is in Czech "fakulta" used here in translation) and a rector's office. The faculties are as follows:
- Theatre Faculty (DAMU),
 - Film and TV School (FAMU),
 - Music Faculty (HAMU).

The Theatre Faculty offers study opportunities in acting, direction, stage design, dramaturgy, puppetry, arts management, theatre theory and criticism, authorship and pedagogy, and drama in education. The size of the school is small - there are a total of about 470 students in seven departments - allowing for a feeling of community within each department and within the school as a whole. Students and faculty members work closely together, and seminars usually have a maximum of ten students.

The Film and TV School is one of the oldest film schools in Europe, which kept its tradition even during the difficult time of the communist regime. There are many influential film makers and scriptwriters among the graduates of the school, many of them are known also within an international context. Also, most of the people working in the local film and TV industry either in artistic or production positions, as well as still photographers in various media are graduates of the Film and TV School. The works of its graduates have reaped many awards at international festivals and have often been broadcast over domestic television networks.

The Music Faculty is a university type music school. It is a part of the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC). HAMU offers the following fields of study: Art of Music and Art of Dance. The aim of the school is to educate professional soloists in the field of classical music. The individual fields of study are offered through eleven departments (Composition, Conducting, Song and Opera, Keyboard Instruments, String Instruments, Wind/Brass Instruments, Music Theory and History, Dance, Nonverbal Theatre, Sound Production and Percussion Instruments).

Besides the theatre Disk and Film Studio, the Academy has some other teaching facilities, e.g., The Department of Foreign Languages, The Department of Physical Education, sound and photography studios, laboratories, workshops, dancing and training halls. Recently, in the newly reconstructed Lichtenstein Palace, an impressive concert hall dedicated to the memory of the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů has been added.

The Academy also owns out-of-town practice, teaching and accommodation centres. The Study, Training and Accommodation Centre in Beroun is used for training and study activities and workshops for DAMU, HAMU, FAMU and Studio FAMU. Curricula and experimental activities of all three AMU faculties' students take place in these facilities. The Study and Training Centre in Poněšice is situated in southern Bohemia on the river Vltava, 6 km from the well-known Hluboká Castle. It is used for special training programmes, physical education courses and language courses for AMU students and other users.

AMU Press is the Academy publishing house. It publishes study materials, textbooks, publications, and monographs on theatre, film, TV, music and dance, some diplomas, theses, and dissertations as well as professorial lectures.

The Academy has also its own Art Gallery, which was opened in May, 2008.

Organization of Studies

■ Students may enrol in bachelor, master, and doctoral study programmes. The bachelor study programmes usually last 3 years and, on passing the required examination, the students receive the degree "bakalář umění (i.e. Bachelor of Arts) in abbr. "BcA.". The master study programmes usually take 2 more years. After passing the state examination, the students receive the degree of "magistr umění" (in abbr. "MgA."). This degree is comparable to a Master of Arts (MA) degree.

A doctoral study programme has been established at each faculty. On passing a doctoral examination and presenting doctoral theses, students are awarded the degree of Doctor ("Ph.D.").

Special non-degree courses are also organised. Well-known artists and teachers teach these courses. The tuition varies according to the subject. The participant may receive a certificate of credits. These courses, however, are not part of a regular university study programme.

Student Services

The Academy has its own AMU library. The AMU Library comprises three partly autonomous faculty libraries based in the AMU faculties. Students are also entitled to use other libraries free of charge, i.e., the University library, the library of the Czech Academy of Sciences, etc.

The Students' Residence Halls in the city centre have been recently renovated and reconstructed. There are one-bed, two-bed, and three-bed flats/rooms with their own bathrooms and toilets. All flats/rooms in the building are furnished with modern and comfortable furniture; the rooms are sound-proof and are connected with the AMU internet system. In the basement, there are rehearsal rooms for musicians; in the attic there are large tables for scenographers / stage designers and on the main floor there is a computer room that can also be used as a meeting place for the students. There are 71 flats/rooms and 129 beds.

The AMU Hotel serves as an accommodation facility for domestic and international AMU visitors, professors and students. There are 18 double-bed rooms with a shower and toilet. A radio and TV set as well as a refrigerator are provided for the visitors' convenience.

The Academy has its own Computer Centre. All of the buildings at AMU are connected to the computer network that can be used by the students free of charge, for example, for e-mail, searching for information sources in the AMU libraries and on the Internet.

Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2007/2008

■ Total number of students	1 499
Number of students of bachelor study programmes	648
Number of students of master study programmes	640
Number of students of doctoral study programmes	143
Number of foreign students	273
Total number of graduates in 2007	423
Total number of academic staff	372