



# University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno

Veterinární a farmaceutická univerzita Brno

Abbreviation in Czech: VFU Brno

## Address

Palackého 1-3  
612 42 Brno

## Contact Numbers

Phone: +420 541 561 111  
Fax: +420 549 250 478  
E-mail: rektor@vfu.cz

[www.vfu.cz](http://www.vfu.cz)



## History

- 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 formed after the creation of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. It was founded within the premises of what were cavalry barracks and a provincial reform school. The university's founder and first rector was Prof. MVDr. et MUDr. dr.h.c. Eduard Babák. Classes began on November 17, 1919. From its inception, the university developed as a single-faculty university aimed at veterinary medicine (veterinary sciences). In 1975, two colleges were created: the College of General Veterinary Medicine (later renamed College of Veterinary Medicine) and the College of Veterinary Medicine - Food Hygiene (later renamed Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology). 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 named the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno.

### Location and university campus

The University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno is the only university in the Czech Republic specializing in veterinary medicine, veterinary hygiene and ecology, and one of only two that teach pharmaceutical sciences. The university is located within the City of Brno in the city district of Brno - Královo Pole. The university

## Structure of the Institution

campus spreads out over unique grounds. It has a special atmosphere formed by the building's enclosed spatial layout. It combines the character of 19<sup>th</sup> century structures with modern buildings from the last fifteen years. Mature trees enhance the campus atmosphere of the university. The campus has also a greenhouse, a botanical garden and certain rare or interesting tree species.

The university is divided into Headquarters, including other locations, and three faculties: the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology, and the Faculty of Pharmacy.

### ■ **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine provides university education, research and specialized activities focused mainly on clinical veterinary medicine. Training takes place within the framework of the Master's degree programme in Veterinary Medicine, taught in both Czech and English. The standard length of study is 6 years.

Studies include subjects in the group of basic studies, mainly biology and chemistry; in the group of animal breeding studies, mainly animal nutrition, livestock breeding, animal hygiene, protection and welfare of animals; in the group of preclinical studies, mainly anatomy, histology and embryology, physiology, pathological anatomy, pathological physiology, microbiology, immunology, parasitology, genetics, pharmacology, toxicology and epizootology; in the group of clinical studies, mainly diseases of dogs, cats, horses, cattle and small ruminants, pigs, poultry, fish, bees and exotic animals, infectious diseases; and also legal and veterinary public health topics and a group of food hygiene and professional education topics. The studies include a wide spectrum of veterinary medicine, but it is strongly oriented towards diagnostics, therapy and prevention of diseases of various types of animals. The studies are completed by an advanced state examination. Graduates are awarded the academic title "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine" (MVDr.) Graduates of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine have traditionally found work mainly in private veterinary practices.

At the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, a doctoral degree programme is also offered in 16 selected fields of veterinary medicine in Czech, and in 5 fields in English. The standard length of study is 3 years, and ends with the defence of a dissertation thesis. Graduates are awarded the title of Ph.D.

Lifelong learning takes place within the framework of educational courses mainly for practical veterinarians.

### ■ **Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology**

The Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology offers university education, research and specialized activities aimed mainly at veterinary hygiene and safety and quality of food.

Bachelor's studies are carried out within the framework of the Bachelor's degree programme in Food Safety and Quality. The standard length of study is 3 years. Studies end with a state final exam, and graduates are awarded the title of "Bachelor" (Bc.).

Following Master's studies are carried out within the framework of the postgraduate Master's degree programme in Food Safety and Quality. The standard study period is two years, following on from the three-year Bachelor's degree programme.

The form of study is daily. Studies are aimed at food hygiene and technology, laboratory analysis of foods, ecological aspects of foods, legal regulations and supervision in the area of foods of both animal and plant origin, mainly meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, poultry, eggs, fats, fish, frozen food products, honey, grains, oil-bearing plants, root crops, fruits, vegetables, sweeteners, flavour enhancers, teas, coffees and beverages. The studies are completed by the state final examination, and by submitting a thesis. Graduates are awarded the title "Master" (Mgr.). Graduates find work in bodies that control food safety and food quality, in food production companies (production, processing, transportation and sale of foods), in food control laboratories and in state administration.

The full Master's studies are realized within the framework of the Master's degree programme in the field of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology. The standard length of study is 6 years. The form of study is daily. The studies cover the entire spectrum of veterinary medicine, but are strongly oriented towards veterinary medicine of food-producing animals, mainly cattle, pigs and fowl, towards production of foods of animal origin, hygienic and health safety of foods and supervision of food safety. The studies are completed by an advanced state examination. Graduates are awarded the academic title "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine" (MVDr.). Graduates find work in governmental veterinary administration bodies, in veterinary supervision and inspection of foods of animal origin, in diagnostic laboratories, and also in food production companies.

Doctoral studies are carried out within the framework of the Doctor's degree programme in Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology, in 7 fields in Czech and in 5 fields in English. The standard length of study is 3 years. Studies are completed by presenting and defending a doctoral thesis. Graduates are awarded the academic title Ph.D.

Lifelong Learning courses are offered on professional topics or for the personal interest of the participants.

### **Faculty of Pharmacy**

The Faculty of Pharmacy offers university education, research and specialized activities mainly in human and animal pharmacy.

Master's studies are implemented within the framework of the Master's degree programme in the field of Pharmacy. The standard length of study is 5 years, of full-time study. The studies includes subjects from the group of basic studies, mainly focusing on biology and chemistry; subjects connected with human health, and pharmaceutically-oriented subjects, dealing with natural drugs, chemical drugs, drug technology, pharmacology and toxicology, and social pharmacy. At the conclusion of their studies, students have a six-month internship in a pharmacy. The studies end with a final state examination, which includes the presentation and defence of a diploma thesis. After successful completion of their studies, graduates are awarded the title of Master (Mgr.). After successful completion of a Master's study program, presenting and defending an advanced diploma thesis and taking an advanced state examination, graduates are awarded the title of "Doctor of Pharmacy" (PharmDr).

Doctoral studies are carried out within the framework of the Doctor's degree programme in Pharmacy, offered in 5 areas, taught in Czech. The standard length of the study program is 3 years. The studies end with the defence of a dissertation thesis, and graduates are awarded the title of Ph.D.

Lifelong Learning is implemented in courses dealing with health and drugs.

### ■ **Studying at the university**

Applicants must submit their applications by the end of February. Entrance examinations usually take place in June. There are examinations in biology, chemistry and, for pharmacy, also physics. Applicants are accepted into the academic community during a matriculation ceremony.

Education at the university is organized on the principle of a credit system (ECTS). It is carried out in the form of lectures, seminars, practical exercises, laboratory training, in the form of education at clinics, in meat, fish and dairy workstations, in the faculty pharmacy, and in specialized laboratories. It is also provided in the form of practical training at the agricultural school farm, in companies and in job training in the form of an internship in institutions and clinics of the university, and in the form of an internship with a veterinarian, in a veterinary organization, in a pharmacy or some other institutions. This enables students to gain practical experience in their respective fields of study. Emphasis is placed on practical training, leading to students attaining professional skills that are applicable in running their profession from day one after graduating from the degree programme. Traditional teaching procedures are used in education. Training is supported by multimedia, mainly during lectures and seminar training. During practical training, however, necessary traditional approaches are preserved for specific work in laboratories, work with biological materials, work with animals, work during autopsies, work in examination rooms and veterinary tasks in veterinary practice and pharmacological tasks in pharmacies.

Studies culminate in the graduation ceremony for graduates. The university holds traditional academic graduation ceremonies, which are considered to be the most impressive in the school's history.

### **Student welfare**

The university is developing a wide-ranging scholarship programme. The university has its own Kaunic Residence Hall for housing students. The residence hall is an architecturally interesting building not far from the university campus. The rooms have an Internet connection. The residence hall building is home to a student club, which enhances the social lives of students. The university has a unique sports hall with an unusually large parquet floor and other sports fields on campus. The university organizes a number of sporting events, tournaments, competitions and tourism activities for students and employees. The university is developing activities of the International Veterinary Students' Association IVSA and the Union of Students of Pharmacy (USF). The organizations hold other activities, including social, cultural and hobby activities of students.

### **Stays abroad for students and teachers**

The university is open to gaining international experience, and it supports exchange visits of both students and teachers within the framework of international projects. The university's students and professors attend short-term and long-term stays at university workstations in Europe, and more recently, in the United States of America. The mobility programme supports active membership of the university in crucial European organizations that influence veterinary and pharmaceutical education in Europe.

### **Stays abroad for students and teachers**

The university is open to gaining international experience, and it supports exchange visits of both students and teachers within the framework of international projects. The university's students and professors attend short-term and long-term stays at university workstations in Europe, and more recently, in the United States of America.

The mobility programme supports active membership of the university in crucial European organizations that influence veterinary and pharmaceutical education in Europe.

### **Scientific, research and publication activity**

Scientific, research and creative activity at the university form an integral part of the university. A large number of projects have been resolved here. The results of scientific, research and creative activity of the university are mainly implemented in the form of publications that are documented and then presented in the annual overview - List of Publications of VFU Brno. High-quality papers are published in journals with an impact factor included in the international database of scientific literary sources. The academic staff also participates frequently and actively in the exchange of scientific experience at conferences.

The university also publishes its own scientific journal, Acta Veterinaria Brno. This is an impacted journal aimed at veterinary medicine, with a tradition reaching back to 1922.

### **National accreditation, international evaluation and recognition of studies by the European Union**

The quality of education at the university is verified at international and national level. At an international level, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Faculty of Veterinary Hygiene and Ecology are listed on a prestigious list of positively assessed veterinary faculties and universities, compiled by the European Association for Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE). Both faculties attained this prestigious placement on the basis of an international evaluation performed by foreign experts. This ranked the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno in the top third of the highest quality veterinary universities in Europe.

Education in all three university faculties is recognized within the framework of the European Union by Directive no. 2005/36/EC, on recognizing professional qualifications. This directive lays out the conditions for attaining the education for performing an occupation, for which it is necessary to provide a recognized level of education (for so-called regulated professions, which include the veterinary and pharmaceutical professions).

### **Veterinary clinical activity and pharmaceutical activity**

The university's clinics are a specialized centre providing veterinary care for clients in the Czech Republic, and also specialized care for clients from abroad. The clinical work stations provide veterinary care 24 hours per day, and include care based on the type of animal, including emergency care, hospitalization and care in the intensive care unit. This mainly concerns the Dog and Cat Clinic, the Equine Clinic, the Ruminant Clinic, the Swine Clinic, and the Avian & Exotic Animal Clinic. The clinics fulfil the mission of operational veterinary work stations for diagnostics, therapy and prevention of diseases of farm animals and pets, while at the same time serving as modern educational and research centres.

In its specialized activities, the university also provides the public with pharmaceutical care. The pharmacy has modern equipment, and also serves as a training facility for students of pharmacy.

### **What makes the university special?**

The university has some unique features. These include the Museum of Anatomy, the Museum of Pathological Morphology, the Museum of the History of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, and a unique vocational archive dedicated to veterinary medicine.

It houses irreplaceable documents from the entire history of the university since 1918. The university boasts the History of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy Club, where emeritus professors of the university and their contemporaries from the university and field meet. Each year for 40 years in succession, the university has bestowed so-called golden diplomas on graduates 50 years after graduation. Another tradition is the annual representative Veterinarians' Ball, which has a nearly seventy-year tradition. The university also holds a Pharmacists' Ball. The university holds a unique collection of medals and medallions, representing one of the largest vocational collections in Europe. It also features a painting gallery of representatives of the university from its inception until the present day. There are paintings from the field, statues and sculptures, and a tapestry with a professional theme. The university is also where graduates hold their graduating class reunions. Each year in the autumn at the end of the riding season, a celebration is held called Hubert's Ride. The university also organizes a hunt for feathered species in November. The life of the university is documented in the journal Vita Universitatis, which provides information for students, teachers and the professional public on what is going on at the university.

#### **Position of the university**

The quality of education at the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno ranks it amongst the leading veterinary institutions. The university underwent an international evaluation with positive results, and has been included on the list of prestigious European veterinary universities.

## Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2007/2008

■ <b>Total number of students</b>	<b>2 687</b>
Number of students in Bachelor's degree programmes	312
Number of students in Master's degree programmes	2 009
Number of students in Doctor's degree programmes	366
Number of foreign students	342
Total number of graduates in 2008	463
Total number of academic staff	278