



VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava

VŠB-Technická univerzita Ostrava

Abbreviation in Czech: VŠB-TUO

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History

- In 1849, the predecessor of the Technical University of Ostrava was established in Příbram by the decree of Franz Josef, following the tradition of the first mining school founded in Jáchymov in 1716. After World War II, in 1945, the Mining College was moved from Příbram to Ostrava, the centre of Czech mining and metallurgy.

In 1973, most of the University moved to a more modern location, close to the student halls of residence. The campus is situated in a pleasant suburban area of Poruba, one of Ostrava's suburbs. A mining-surveying centre and a planetarium also constitute part of the University.

Some well-known graduates from the early days of the University include Prof. Karel Heyrowsky, an expert in mining, mining machinery and mining measurements, Prof. PhDr. J. Theurer, a mathematics and physics expert - the first professor in the Habsburg Empire to read lectures on electrical energy problems. Some of the more recent graduates include Prof. Ing. Dr. Mont. František Čechura, an expert in mining measurements, and Prof. Dr. Mont. Ing. Alois Říman, founder of the science of mine projecting.

The University not only develops traditional branches of industry - mining and metallurgy - but it is also engaged in many modern fields of research and teaching - geology, material engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, safety engineering, economics, informatics, automation, environmental engineering and transportation. In 1995, the University was renamed VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. In the last 15 years, 3 new faculties have been established: the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, the Faculty of Civil Engineering, and the Faculty of Safety Engineering.

Structure of the Institution

- **VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava has more than 23 thousand students, who study at seven faculties:**

- Faculty of Safety Engineering
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Faculty of Mining and Geology
- Faculty of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering

Besides the faculties, the University offers 2 all-university study programmes:

- Nanotechnology, and Mechatronics

and includes specialized work centers - 2 University Institutes (Nanotechnology Centre and Energy Research Centre), All-University Departments, Centers and University Facilities.

VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava is a technical and economic institution of higher education, the principal task of which is to provide higher education based on free and internationally oriented research. It is an integral part of the higher education structure in the Czech Republic providing for the highest education in the province of its specialization.

R&D represents an integral constituent of the activities of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava that is crucial for the success of the restructuring process in the region of North Moravia and Silesia. VŠB-TUO ranks among the top technical universities in the Czech Republic. Its RTD potential represents an important factor in the innovation process both in the region and in the Czech Republic as a whole. The latest results in the field of R&D attest to the strength of the human and research potential that the University has at its disposal.

VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava has a long tradition of collaboration with European universities and research institutions. In recent years, the collaboration has expanded to Canada, USA, Japan, China and Taiwan. The collaboration has been based on international grant-funded research programmes, exchange of doctoral students and teachers, organization of international science conferences, and publishing.

Quality instruction that will produce graduates fit for their future jobs is a principal task for any university. Therefore the VŠB-TUO co-operates with industrial partners to develop curricula that will incorporate the latest trends.

The establishment of the Centre for Advanced and Innovation Technology (CAIT) was a significant step in the technological innovation of the Moravia-Silesia Region. The Region has been changing its profile radically as a result of the reduction of traditional industrial activities. The Centre for Advanced and Innovation Technology represents an increase in the research capacities in the Region, providing capacities that had been neglected for some time in Europe and in the country itself. In this way the basic prerequisite for the education of a young generation, namely graduates of doctoral study programmes, will be created for graduates who would previously have left the region after graduating. The Centre for Advanced and Innovation Technology enables graduates to progress further in their branch of science in a way that which best suits them and their preferences. Thanks to the Business Incubator of VŠB-TUO, they may decide to establish their own business or to work for the University in one of the

top research departments of the Centre for Advanced Innovation Technology. In both cases they may contribute to increasing the innovation potential of the region.

In compliance with the Bologna Declaration, emphasizing the quality of a higher education institution, the management of VŠB-TUO decided to introduce a system of quality management at the university. In July 2007, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava was granted the ISO 9001 certificate. Until now, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava is the only public higher educational institution whose faculties have had a certified system of quality management according to ISO 9001. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at VŠB-TUO won the Czech National Quality Prize for 2007 in the public sector category. The Faculty is the only university centre in the Czech Republic to have been awarded a prize within the Programme of the Czech National Quality Prize. The Faculty of Mining and Geology at VŠB-TUO was awarded a second-degree prize – “The Prize for Improving Organizational Efficiency”.

The University has more than 23 thousand students, of whom about 1100 students are from abroad. Equipped with a wide range of sports and cultural facilities, the modern university campus provides students with excellent conditions for studying. Students can take all their meals in the student cafeterias located in the centre of the campus. In addition, there are also five snack bars, open daily. Students can take advantage of accommodation in halls of residence at the main university campus. The Central University Library offers access to a wide range of resources to support teaching, learning and research at VŠB-TU of Ostrava. The traditional services are complemented by a rapidly growing “Electronic Library”. The university provides computer rooms for students in the Halls of Residence area and also in the university buildings. All students have free access to the internet and electronic mail. Students can access the internet directly from their rooms using their own computers.

The sports complex, which is situated on the university campus, is one of the best equipped university facilities in the Czech Republic. The sporting facilities include tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, a football field, a mini-golf course, and gyms with locker rooms. A swimming pool and a ski slope with artificial snow are located a short distance from the halls of residence. There is a rich cultural life both within and outside the University grounds. The campus boasts a large hall with seating capacity for 500 people; films, videos, live art performances, dances and discos take place there. Small-scale performances are held at the student club.

VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava delivers its study programmes not only in Ostrava but also in distant centers in eight towns and cities all over the Czech Republic. In this way, the University endeavors to meet the wishes of applicants from other regions where it feels there is a strong potential - an interest in studying and sufficient support from the areas of practical experience and from other partners.

Organization of Studies

- A new system of tertiary education has been established at VŠB-TUO. The first degree - bachelor study programmes last from three to four years and prepares students for the labour market as well as for further education, i.e., studying for a master degree. Master study programmes last from one and a half to three years, and follow on from bachelor study programmes (continuous master study programmes). They are focused on acquiring more theoretical and practical knowledge. Doctoral study programmes last three years and do not include formal instruction. They are solely based on a structured individual study programme, and are intended to be focused on research

and development and independent creative activities. All of the above mentioned study programmes are completed by a state examination and the defense of a thesis. Bachelor studies lead to the degree of Bachelor (Bc.), master studies lead to the degree of Engineer (Ing.), and doctoral studies lead to the degree of Doctor (Ph.D.).

The university has implemented a credit system of education compatible with the ECTS scheme (European Credit Transfer System). This supports mobility for students through European educational programmes. Lifelong learning is highly specialized, and involves retraining courses and updating courses. A tuition fee is required.

The total number of study programmes offered by VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava is 83. New study programmes in the 2007/2008 academic year include bachelor studies in Construction Preparation and Realization and Construction Environment within the Civil Engineering study programme at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, a new study programme in Air Transport Technology with three branches of study at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and new studies in Recycling of Materials and in Materials and Technology for the Automotive Industry at the Faculty of Metallurgy and Material Engineering.

Within the scope of the studies, there is a focus on preparing students to react easily to the needs of industrial practice. Newly accredited branches of study are being developed and based on the needs of the labour market, and cooperation with companies creates an interconnection between industrial practice and teaching in the form of tutorials, lectures and professional study visits. VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava insists on close cooperation among students, university teachers and industrial practice based on the specific demands of the labour market. This results from research done on how graduates assert themselves in the labour market, trends in employment and potential employment in the individual professions.

Basic statistical data in academic year 2007/2008

■ Total number of students	22 512
Number of students of bachelor study programmes	15 440
Number of students of master study programmes	5 332
Number of students of doctoral study programmes	1 740
Total number of graduates in 2007	4 450
Total number of academic staff	1 177