



University of West Bohemia

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni

Abbreviation in Czech: ZCU

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History ■ The University of West Bohemia was established by the Act of the Czech National Council No. 314/1991 Coll. in 1991 through the merger of the Institute of Technology and the Faculty of Education. At the time of its foundation it had about 4,200 students and five faculties – the Faculty of Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. At present the University has eight faculties, three institutes of higher education and about 18,000 students.

The Institute of Technology was founded in 1949 as a part of the Czech Technical University in Prague. In 1953 it was granted independence and started developing rapidly. In 1960 it was divided into two faculties – mechanical engineering and electrical engineering – and offered mainly training for mechanical and electrical engineers. A further two faculties – applied sciences and economics – were founded in 1990, shortly after the “Velvet Revolution”.

The College of Education in Pilsen was founded in 1948 initially as a part of the Faculty of Education of Charles University, Prague. From 1953 it worked as an independent Higher School of Education, later as an Institute of Education, and from 1964 as an independent College of Education. Its task is to train teachers for both primary and secondary schools. It became part of the University of West Bohemia in 1991. On the basis of social, legal and economic changes in the country since 1989, the Faculty of Law was established in 1993. The Faculty of Philosophy and Arts was built on the foundations of the Centre for Humanities, which was founded in 1997 as part of the Faculty of Law. In 1999 the centre was transformed into the Faculty of Humanities, and since the beginning of 2005 into the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts.

In 2002 the Institute of Art and Design was established, first through the Faculty of Education and since 2004 as an independent institute of higher education. Finally in 2008 the eighth faculty was established, the Faculty of Health Care Studies, connected to the originally private Pilsen University. The Institute of Applied Languages, originally the Centre of Applied Languages at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, was also established at the same time.

Structure of the Institution

■ **The University of West Bohemia comprises the following eight faculties and three institutes:**

- Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAV)
- Faculty of Economics (FEK)
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering (FEL)
- Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (FF)
- Faculty of Education (FPE)
- Faculty of Law (FPR)
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FST)
- Faculty of Health Care Studies (FZS) - since 2008/2009
- Institute of Art and Design (UUD)
- Institute of Applied Languages (UJP) – since 2008/2009
- New Technologies – Research Centre in the West Bohemian Region (NTC)

The faculties and institutes – located on the Bory campus and in central Pilsen – are the basic elements of the university. Study programmes covering education, scientific, artistic and other creative activities are delivered. Faculties and institutes are made up of departments, with authority given by law and UWB statutes. Each department provides education in its field for all the university faculties. An inseparable part of their activities is scientific research.

The broad structure of eight faculties and three institutes, from technology and natural sciences to the arts and health care, provides students with the widest range of study possibilities with the option of full-time or combined study.

UWB is the seventh largest public university in the Czech Republic.

Organization of Studies

- Each faculty sets its own entrance conditions. The common requirement is completion of comprehensive secondary education or a special secondary education, concluded by the appropriate school leaving examination.

The academic year is divided into 13-week summer and winter semesters. Studies start with a matriculation ceremony and end by a graduation ceremony. All graduates receive an university Diploma and a bilingual Diploma Supplement (Czech and English).

Students can choose from Bachelor (Bc.), Master (Mgr.) and Doctoral (PhD) study programmes.

In September 1993 the university introduced a credit system, which enables students to decide independently on their workload, on the pace and content of their studies, to deepen their knowledge of selected fields of studies or to make use of the opportunity to study at other faculties. Apart from the selected specialization, they also may gain education in other offered fields. This system guarantees the compatibility of studies at UWB with EU requirements.

Supplementary to these study programmes, certificate programmes are offered by the faculties. These programmes consist of optional courses forming self-contained study programmes suitably complementing the content of the core study specialization. The certificates are awarded together with the university Diplomas, and form an integral part of the diploma.

Graduates from the Bachelor study programme at all faculties finish with the title Bc. The title Mgr. (Master) is awarded by the faculties of applied sciences, philosophy and arts, education and law. The title Ing. (Master) is awarded at the faculties of applied sciences, economics, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. The Faculty of Applied Sciences awards the title RNDr. (Doctor of Natural Science), the faculties of philosophy and education award the title PhDr. (Doctor of Philosophy) and the Faculty of Law awards the title JUDr. (Juris Doctor). All faculties except the Faculty of Health Care Studies have the right to offer doctoral study programmes and award the title PhD.

The graduates of the technical faculties conforming to the requirements of FEANI may be awarded the degree of EUR ING ("Euroengineer"). These faculties were also the first to receive accreditation for parallel study programmes in English, which have already accepted their first foreign students.

The University of West Bohemia, with its inter-faculty operations, is capable of providing education for students from across the Czech Republic and abroad in the majority of main fields of study: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, informatics, applied mathematics and physics, mechanics, economics, in fields related to law and humanities (arts, philosophy), education and health care.

UWB also provides wide ranging life-long learning programmes, which correspond thematically to the fields offered by the University of West Bohemia.

Graduates of the UWB can find career opportunities at all levels of management of private companies and state institutions, namely in production, commerce, non-profit organizations and infrastructure, research institutions, design and construction companies, in public administration, in services and consultancy, and in educational and cultural institutions.

Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2007/2008

■ Total number of students:	17 470
Bachelor study programmes	10 014
Master study programmes	6 401
PhD study programmes	1 055
Total number of foreign students:	291
Total number of graduates	3 291
Total number of applicants	23 909
Total number of admitted students	7 828
Total number of academic staff	1 172