



FACULTY  
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Charles University

Master's studies multidisciplinary programme

# International Economic and Political Studies

- all courses taught in English
- open to applicants from around the world

There is also an interrelated three years Bachelor's study programme called "[Politics, Philosophy and Economics \(PPE\)](#)" that is built on similar academic principles as IEPS.



# Charles University In Prague

**Charles University was founded in 1348 by Charles IV, the King of Bohemia and the Holy Roman Emperor. When founded, the university had four faculties: arts, medicine, law and theology. Seven centuries later it consists of 17 faculties. The Faculty of Social Sciences is its second youngest component.**

The oldest university in Central and Eastern Europe has almost 50,000 students studying in more than 350 accredited degree programmes. There are 9,000 foreign students studying at Charles University.

According to The Academic Ranking of World Universities, the economics at Charles University scored the 101-150 rank in the world <http://www.shanghairanking.com/Shanghairanking-Subject-Rankings/economics.html>

on par with Stockholm School of Economics or George Washington University, among others. Even the ranking of political science among 200-300 world rungs is a success, too.



# About the Faculty of Social Sciences

**The university's second youngest faculty was founded in 1990, shortly after the Velvet Revolution. It soon became a centre of teaching and research in economics, sociology, political science, international relations, territorial studies, media studies and journalism.**

The Faculty offers a full range of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes in economics, political science and international relations, territorial studies, sociology and social policy. The language of instruction is Czech and English. However, you can study social sciences at Charles University at all levels without having any knowledge of the Czech language! Currently, the Faculty of Social Sciences has more than 4,500 full-time students. Over 1200 foreign students spend study here each year. It is fair to say that we have students from literally all over the world.

In addition to the specialised studies in individual disciplines of social sciences, there is one amalgamated programme, which builds on them – International Economic and Political Studies (IEPS). The programme targets students with undergraduate qualifications with broad interests and dynamic thinking, who are able to deal with socio-economic and political problems in our ever-evolving globalised world – see <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/ieps>.

IEPS belongs to a family of interdisciplinary studies known as PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) or IPE (International Politics and Economics) – see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy,\\_Politics\\_and\\_Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy,_Politics_and_Economics).

Their popularity was earned not only due to the prestige of the universities offering such a wide programme but also due to the success of its graduates on the labour markets all over the world.



# Why the Faculty of Social Sciences

- **Academic excellence.** Due to the prestige of Charles University's academic ranking, your degree will open a wider horizon to your employment world-wide, above the potential of no-name universities. Individual programmes at the faculty rank at the top of Czech academia.
- **Top lecturers.** Members of our Faculty include distinguished academics, as well as leading figures in policymaking, economics and social life of the region. Our teachers must be internationally competitive also in research. It is no surprise that our economics program is ranked no. 1 in the country, based upon extensive publication record – <http://ies.fsv.cuni.cz/en/node/57> <http://ies.fsv.cuni.cz/en/node/58>.
- **Talents.** We seek highly motivated students eager to develop their internationally-oriented employment potential. Every year, students of our faculty are among those granted competitive awards, scholarships and employment in prestigious companies.
- **Hands-on experience.** Our graduates receive not only a firm theoretical foundation but have numerous opportunities to get involved in various practical projects as well. Many courses offer Problem Based Learning approach to studies so that students can experiment personally with the topics taught in lectures.
- **Family-size.** The Faculty of Social Sciences is a place where students and faculty members meet and interact in small groups. Moreover, students benefit from the young, dynamic and interdisciplinary environment of the Faculty.
- **Venue.** The School's location in the centre of Prague is a fundamental part of studies where students can live and enjoy the amenities of a stimulating and cosmopolitan city full of an attractive culture, arts, sports and tourist cheer. The central building of FSV overlooks the river with the skyline of Prague Castle and Petrin Hill within a walking distance. So, you will be in active contact with both the globalised world and a pleasant local community.





# Research

**As well as educating future social scientists, the Faculty of Social Sciences also encourages and promotes advanced research in social sciences. The research activities of the Faculty are very diverse: <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/research/fsv-uk-scientific-research-projects/research-projects>.**

The faculty members and the PhD students are assessed according to their publication record and the students can profit directly from advances in their research. The Faculty of Social Sciences publishes seven international journals: one impacted economic journal and six peer-reviewed journals – in political economy, politics, area studies, media, public policy and political science.

# International Cooperation

The Faculty is an active participant in many international student exchange programmes – in particular ERASMUS+ or CEEPUS. The majority of our students will spend at least one semester at another university as part of their study abroad opportunity: this includes some of the EU countries, as well as the US, Australia, Korea or China among many others. The Faculty's International Office facilitates and co-ordinates the international mobility of incoming and outgoing students. More information about our programmes and procedures for admissions can be found at <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/academics/study-abroad-opportunities>.

When it comes to extracurricular activities, Charles University International Club organizes various social and cultural events for both international and Czech students, namely parties and trips/ excursions around Prague and the Czech Republic, and assists the faculties during the Orientation Week, and generally helps international students make the most of their time in Prague.

# General Information about IEPS

**IEPS, as an interdisciplinary master's programme of the PPE family, is among the most preferred studies at our faculty amongst students from abroad. It investigates contemporary political, economic and social issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. Although economic and political studies are at its core, students also explore the historical, legal and sociological aspects of events on the international scene.**

The emphasis is on modern non-conventional economic thinking applied to political and economic decision-making and expertise at the level of supra-national institutions, states, regions, corporations, businesses, media and political parties. IEPS students enjoy a multicultural environment alongside classmates from literally all over the world: USA, Germany, China, Australia, Russia, Britain, Turkey, Ukraine, India, Korea, Mexico and many other countries. Through their studies, students will appreciate the highly flexible nature of the programme, which allows for specialisation in economics/finance, politics/international relations, or philosophy/global studies, according to the selection of available courses from three categories of modules.



# Alumni – International Economic and Political Studies

**The best schools can be recognized by their alumni. The IEPS programme, which admitted its first students in 2003, currently has more than 350 alumni. Many keep in touch with us and provide support to the school. We are proud of them and their achievements after graduation. The alumni network is an important part of a good school.**

*"People that I met at Charles University challenged my views and that motivated me to learn more. Courses that I took I could choose myself, so they were aligned with my interests. I believe that, as a result, I graduated as a skilled professional and a better citizen. Education that I got at Charles University allowed me to start a career in an innovative, dynamic and challenging industry in the US."*

**Victor Kapustin, IEPS alumni**

*"The atmosphere at the IEPS program of Charles University considerably broadened my world view, while the excellent exchange programs opened up many future possibilities. So I could spend a part of my studies of international politics at a university in Seoul, offering me a new insight into the world."*

**András Megyeri, IEPS alumni**

*"I think the Institute of Economic Studies provides its students with a useful and comprehensive curriculum. It has an appropriate emphasis on modern economics and quantitative techniques, which I found essential in my subsequent career."*

**Martin Čihák, IMF, Deputy Division Chief, Washington, D.C.**

*"When studying at FSV, I loved it. The school taught me how to dislearn, how to think alone and critically, and not buy into the mainstream propaganda called education."*

**Tomáš Sedláček, Chief Macroeconomic Strategist at ČSOB, the biggest Czech bank and the former IEPS teacher**

*"This school supports new ideas as well as encourages knowledge in a friendly academic environment where both domestic and foreign students are highly motivated and inspired to study and conduct research. In addition, there are many sport and cultural activities to enjoy in your free time. I chose the MA in IEPS to gain Western knowledge and experience. Now, after graduating I am going to work in the area of global energy industry and apply my skills there."*

**Shahmar Hajiye, IEPS alumni**

*"Thanks to IEPS I could spend one semester at the City University of Hong Kong. Except for taking five courses there, I could also consult my thesis on Chinese economic development with some of the world's best experts. Moreover, I was granted two scholarships: one Czech and one Chinese, while my tuition fee in Hong Kong was waived. Before the end of my studies, I acquired a job in a high-tech aircraft technologies company."*

**Anna Voronkova, IEPS alumna**

*"The program has been a unique learning experience. The IEPS classroom provided me with a healthy environment to engage with colleagues from different nationalities and discuss pertinent topics of International Relations, Economics and Politics. The able faculty helped me identify my interest in Public Policy – in which I have now built a career as a researcher and consultant in India."*

**Pavithra Ramesh, IEPS alumna.**

# Requirements for the Study

**Applicants to the IEPS Programme may come from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds. It is not necessary to have studied politics or economics. Admission may be granted also to students whose previous studies were in the humanities, commerce, law or even maths, technical or the natural sciences. Although a background in mathematics is not formally required for admission, it is an advantage for IEPS applicants to have an aptitude for maths and statistics, especially those students who wish to specialise in economics and finance.**

All students must have a good command of the English language in order to successfully complete all of the course requirements, including the ability to discuss specialised topics.

Our tutors are not only concerned with what students know but they also care about the clarity of their thinking, the capacity to explain ideas to the public, how well they are able to work in teams and to absorb or expand new knowledge in the social sciences. They will seek evidence of students' interest in social and political issues and their ability to discuss them critically. If you like reading *The Economist*, you are a prospective programme applicant. If you have not tried yet, please do so and test your aptitude to the social phenomena of this study.

The tuition fee for the IEPS programme is € 3,000 per semester. The top 20 % of students are granted scholarships for academic excellence ranging € 2000 – € 4000 per year. Tuition covers the costs of studying at Charles University, sitting examinations and participating in international student exchanges. There are also scholarships and bursary fundings available (see <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/scholarships-and-funding>).





# Admissions Criteria for the IEPS

**The following qualities are highly appreciated in our applicants:**

- **Interest:** capacity for sustained study; motivation and interest in social issues; ambition to apply your expertise in the management of enterprises, institutions and their socio-economic policies.
- **Reasoning ability:** ability to cope with social problems using logical and critical approaches; ability to assess empirical evidence, capacity to construct and critically assess arguments, flexibility to consider alternatives; demonstrating an independent and reflective approach to both analytical and synthetic thinking.
- **Communication:** willingness and ability to express ideas clearly and effectively on paper and orally; ability to listen and defend your own thoughts, which lead to the strengthening of your capacity for sustaining innovation and leadership.

**No interviews or admission tests.**

Because the IEPS programme targets students world-wide, the admission is not based on interviews or tests in Prague. The selection is based on your past performance in your pre-graduate studies (e.g. in the transcript of grades) and proficiency in English. The more detailed specification of requirements can be found at <https://studypolitics.fsv.cuni.cz/PPUEN-37.html> and <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/admissions/how-apply>.

# Careers of the Graduates

**The careers most commonly chosen by IEPS graduates depend on their specialisation: economists work in great numbers in international commercial or investment banking, insurance and finance, consulting or business management. Some opt for the governmental institutions – national (such as ministries or central banks) or international (e.g. institutions of the European Union).**

Graduates specialising in political science, philosophy or area studies also often choose to work for governmental institutions, in diplomacy and other sectors of public administration (as consultants and managers in social policy issues). Some prefer jobs in the non-governmental public organizations, education, public relations, advertising and media. Apart from these career opportunities, a number of our graduates continue their studies at the PhD level (often abroad).





# Curriculum of IEPS

To complete the IEPS programme, students have to acquire a **total of 120 credits**. Since September 2020 **56 credits** will be gained by successfully passing the following mandatory courses: (lectures/seminars in hours per week in parentheses)

- Philosophy for Social Sciences (1/1);
- Global Political Philosophy (1/1);
- History and Methodology of Economics (1/1);
- Public Policy (2/1);
- Geography & Politics in Europe within Global Regionalism (2/2);
- Theories of International Relations (2/0);
- Public Finance (2/0);
- International Political Economy (2/1);
- Master's 'Thesis Seminar (0/2).

Additional **52 credits** must be earned by selecting courses of your interest from four mandatory modules:

0. Microeconomics – one out of a list of 7;
1. Economics/finance module – two courses out of a list of 35;
2. Politics/international relations module – two courses out of a list of 32;
3. Philosophy/global studies module – three courses out of a list of 33.

Plus additional two or three elective courses from any of the modules. Remaining 12 credits can be earned by participating in two or three master's degree courses of your own choice. IEPS students can select from hundreds of courses taught at the Faculty of Social Sciences or other faculties of Charles University. These may include e.g. languages, maths or sports.

More information about the courses is at <http://karolinka.fsv.cuni.cz/KFSV-1245.html>

The Master's degree is awarded to those students who have acquired at least 120 credits in the IEPS programme, defended their Master's Thesis and successfully passed the final State Examinations from economics and politics.

# Further Information

Please visit <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en> for more information about the Faculty of Social Sciences and all programmes offered, including the IEPS programme, or address your enquiries to [admissions@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:admissions@fsv.cuni.cz).

Visit <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/ieps> for details about the IEPS programme.

**Contact address:**

Charles University  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Smetanovo Nabrezi 6  
CZ-110 01 Prague  
Czech Republic



The view over Prague from the main building of our faculty.