

4. EDUCATION OF FOREIGNERS

Unless stipulated by the law otherwise, foreigners in the Czech Republic enjoy the same rights and duties in education as the Czech citizens do in the area of basic, secondary, higher professional and university education. The right to education is based on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The access to pre-school, basic art and language education under the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic and countries of the European Union belongs to persons provided that they have on the territory of the Czech Republic the right to stay for a period over 90 days or if they are persons with the right to stay on the territory of the Czech Republic for the purpose of research or if they have asylum or if they are persons enjoying additional protection, applicants for granting of international protection or persons enjoying temporary protection.

The education of foreigners is governed by the following legal regulations of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR:

- Act No. 561/2004 Sb., on pre-school, basic, secondary, higher professional and other education (Education Act), as amended, Section 20 Education of foreigners;

- Instruction No. 21 153/2000-35 of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, on the Provision of Czech Language Courses for Refugees (of 4 June 2000, effective as of 1 July 2000, published in the Journal of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR No. 7/2000);

- Act No. 111/1998 Sb. (Amended and Consolidated) on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), as amended.

The education of foreigners is based on the following principles:

- 1) Persons, who are not citizens of the Czech Republic and are rightfully staying on the territory of the Czech Republic, have an access to basic, secondary, and higher professional education on the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic, including education during their stay in reform and correctional school establishments;*
- 2) Citizens of the European Union and their family members have an access to education and education services on the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic;*
- 3) Persons who are not citizens of the Czech Republic, have under the same conditions as EU citizens access to pre-school education, basic art education, language education and school services under the Education Act if they have the right to stay in the Czech Republic for a period longer than 90 days or if they are persons entitled to reside in the Czech Republic for the purpose of research, asylum seekers, persons under subsidiary protection, applicants for international protection, or persons under temporary protection;*
- 4) For pupils, who are children of a person-citizen of another Member State of the European Union, and who on the territory of the Czech Republic (where such a person performed or is performing working activity in employment or self-employment or is studying on the territory of the Czech Republic or obtained on the territory of the Czech Republic the right to stay due to another reason) are staying for a long-term and are fulfilling their compulsory school attendance according to the Education Act, the Regional Office competent according to the place of residence of the pupil in cooperation with the founder of the school will ensure:
 - Free preparation for their inclusion into basic education, which will include teaching of Czech language adopted to the needs of those pupils;*
 - When possible, in cooperation with the country of origin of the pupil, support of teaching of his mother tongue and culture of the country of origin, which will be coordinated with usual education in the basic school.**

The Regional Office shall ensure preparation of teachers, who will ensure that education;

- 5) *The education of foreigners at public universities is regulated by **Act No. 111/1998 Sb. (Amended and Consolidated) on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act)**, as amended; foreigners study under the same conditions as Czech students. They shall pay a fee for study under bachelor's, master's or doctoral programmes, if the university runs a study programme in a foreign language.*

Methodological notes on the tables

Unless stated otherwise, the data refer to schools established by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, by municipalities, regions, private or church founders, and in the case of secondary and higher professional schools also by other ministries.

In tables for universities, data are for public and private universities (excluding data for state schools, i.e. schools established by the Ministry of Defence of the CR and the Ministry of the Interior of the CR). In order to unify the methodology of outputs on university students, all data are annually recalculated according to this methodology and thus do not correspond to the data published in previous years. Data on university students are in natural persons as at 31 December, data on the enrolled for the first time and on graduates are in natural persons for a calendar year. Background data are taken over from the so-called "SIMS" system, which reads in English the "Combined Information of Undergraduates' Registries" and as universities deliver corrections to the system also retrospectively, it is not possible to add to the time series continuously; it is necessary to recalculate the data every year also for the previous years.

Like in the previous years, individual types of schools comprise data including schools for pupils with special education needs.

Since 2009/2010, in the case of nursery schools, basic schools, secondary schools, conservatoires and higher professional schools, the data on the number of children/pupils/students with temporary residence have not been published.

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Nursery schools

Share of foreigners at nursery schools is 1.3% of all children attending nursery schools. An absolute majority of children - foreigners at nursery schools come from Viet-Nam (28.7%), the Ukraine (22.9%), Slovakia (16.1%) and the Russian Federation (7.0%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreigners in nursery schools has increased by 22% and in 2009/2010 the exact number was 3 963 foreigners.

Basic schools

Foreigners account for 1.7% of pupils at basic schools in the Czech Republic, mostly citizens of Viet-Nam (22.0%), and the Ukraine (22.9%), citizens of Slovakia (20.3%), and Russian Federation (8.4%). In 2009/2010, 13 839 foreigners were studying at basic schools, which was by 7% more than in 2003/2004.

Secondary schools

As far as secondary education is concerned, the share of foreign students is 1.4%. They are, as in the case of nursery schools and basic schools, especially citizens of Viet-Nam (27.4%), the Ukraine (22.6%), Slovakia (17.4%), and the Russian Federation (9.5%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students has increased by 120% and 7 900 foreign students were studying at secondary schools in 2009/2010.

Conservatoires

In total, 118 foreigners are studying at conservatoires; their share in the total number of pupils studying at conservatoires is 3.4%. Most often they are citizens of Slovakia (39.0%), the Ukraine (14.4%), and the Russian Federation (11.0%).

Higher professional schools

In total, 349 students with foreign state citizenship are studying at higher professional schools. The foreign pupils are mostly educated full-time and a little more than a third is in a distance study courses.

Most of them study at higher professional schools in Hl. m. Praha Region (40.7%) and in the Moravskoslezský Region (14.3% of foreigners at Czech higher professional schools) and in the Středočeský Region (13.2% of foreigners).

Foreigners study most frequently in the following fields of study: health service, gastronomy, hotel services and tourism, and economics. They make up 1.2% of all pupils at higher professional schools and are mostly citizens of Slovakia (53.9%) and the Ukraine (20.9%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying higher professional schools has decreased by 10%.

Universities

Most foreigners study at universities. Since academic year 2003/2004 their number at Czech public and private universities has increased 2.6 times. They take bachelor's and master's education programmes full-time and account for 8.9% of all public and private university students.

Understandably, the number of students depends on the number of new enrollees (enrolled for the first time) in individual years. Foreign students make up 10.6% of all students first enrolled to public and private universities. Of the total number of university graduates, 7.0% are foreigners.

Most foreigners attend universities in Praha (54.9% of foreigners studying at Czech universities) and Brno (22.7%), they are mostly students from the Slovak Republic (64.3%). After the year 2000 an increase was recorded for the numbers of students coming from the countries of the former Soviet Union (the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, etc.). Rather big amount of students comes from Viet-Nam, the United States, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, and Poland. 71.7% of all foreigners studying at Czech universities come from the EU Member States.

Foreigners mostly study at the universities engineering, manufacturing and construction, business and administration, and health.