

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. Foreigners have the right to education 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 subsidiarity protection, applicants for 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 (the 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 Asylum Seekers (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. 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 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; they have access also to school catering and leisure education in regular attendance providing that they are pupils of a basic school, a corresponding year of a secondary school, or a corresponding year of a conservatoire;*
- 2) Citizens of the European Union and their family members have 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 subsidiarity protection, applicants for international protection, or persons under temporary protection;*
- 4) Persons, who are not citizens of the Czech Republic and obtained their previous education at a school abroad are at entrance exams to education at a secondary school and a higher professional school upon their request exempt from the Czech language entrance exam provided that it is a part of an entrance exam; knowledge of Czech language that is necessary for education in a given field of education is examined by the school by a personal interview with those persons;*
- 5) 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;

- 6) The education of foreigners at public universities is regulated by the **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 "Union Information from Students' Registers" 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 educational 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 in nursery schools is 1.4% of all children attending nursery schools. An absolute majority of children - foreigners at nursery schools come from Vietnam (27.5%), the Ukraine (23.4%), Slovakia (16.7%), and the Russian Federation (7.5%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreigners in nursery schools has increased by 45% and in 2011/2012 4 714 foreigners attended nursery schools.

Basic schools

Foreigners account for 1.8% of pupils in basic schools in the Czech Republic; they are mostly citizens of the Ukraine (23.7%), Vietnam (19.9%), Slovakia (22.1%), and Russian Federation (8.7%). In 2011/2012, 14 315 foreigners were studying at basic schools, which was by 10.3% more than in 2003/2004.

Secondary schools

As far as secondary education is concerned, the share of foreign students is 1.8%. They are, as in the case of nursery schools and basic schools, especially citizens of Vietnam (26.4%), the Ukraine (24.2%), Slovakia (17.3%), and the Russian Federation (10.2%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students has increased by 147% and 8 852 foreign students were studying at secondary schools in 2011/2012.

Foreigners attend mainly secondary schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region, the Jihomoravský Region, the Ústecký Region, and the Středočeský Region. They study most often in the fields of education of a grammar school (41.2% of foreigners) and in economic fields of education (13.5%).

Conservatoires

In total, 151 foreigners are studying at conservatoires; their share in the total number of pupils studying at conservatoires is 4.3%. Most often they are citizens of Slovakia (43.7%), the Ukraine (15.2%), and the Russian Federation (11.3%).

Higher professional schools

In total, 464 students with foreign citizenship are studying at higher professional schools. The foreign pupils are mostly educated full-time and a little more than a third is in distance study courses.

Most of them study at higher professional schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region (44.6%), in the Středočeský Region (12.5% of foreigners), and in the Moravskoslezský Region (7.3% of foreigners in Czech higher professional schools).

At higher professional schools, foreigners study most frequently in the following fields of education: health service, economics, art, gastronomy, hotel services, and tourism. They make up 1.6% of all pupils in higher professional schools; they are mostly citizens of Slovakia (51.7%) and the Ukraine (19.2%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying at higher professional schools has increased by 20.5%.

Universities

Most foreigners study at universities. Since the 2003/2004 academic year their number at Czech public and private universities has increased three times. They take bachelor's and master's programmes full-time and account for 9.9% of all public and private university students (i.e. 38 942 foreign 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 11.7% of all students first enrolled to universities (i.e. 8 950 of students enrolled for the first time). Of the total number of public and private university graduates, 8.1% (i.e. 7 550 graduates) are foreigners.

Most foreigners attend universities in Praha (53.3% of foreigners studying at Czech public and private universities) and Brno (26.6%). They are mostly students from the Slovak Republic (63.1%). 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 Vietnam, the United States, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, and Poland. 71.4% of all foreigners studying at Czech universities come from the EU Member States.

Foreigners mostly study at the public and private universities technical and economic sciences, humanities, and social sciences.