

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 primary, 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 nationals of Member States 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 are refugees or persons under subsidiary protection, applicants for international protection or persons under temporary protection.

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

- Act No. 561/2004 Sb., on pre-school, primary, 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, on the Provision of Czech Language Courses for Refugees (of 4 June 2000, with effect from 1 July 2000, published in the Journal of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports 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 primary, secondary, and higher professional education on the same conditions as citizens of the Czech Republic, including education during their execution of institutional and protective care; 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) Nationals 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 nationals 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, refugees, persons under subsidiary 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 admission procedure 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 admission procedure; 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-national 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 education according to the Education Act, the Regional Authority 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 primary 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 Authority 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. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Other Acts (the Higher Education Act)**, as amended; foreigners study under the same conditions as Czech students. They shall pay a fee for their study in the 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, 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 and the Ministry of the Interior). 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 headcount as at 31 December, data on the enrolled for the first time and on graduates are headcount 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. Therefore, data may not be the same as information published in previous years. With regards to the calculation methodology, the sum of data for individual categories in the tables (e.g. types of education, programmes, faculties, etc.) may be higher than the "Total". It applies to the headcount and a student (the enrolled for the first time, graduate) may study (be enrolled, graduate) at more universities, faculties or in more programmes.

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 reported.

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Nursery schools

Share of foreigners in nursery schools is 2.0% of all children attending nursery schools. An absolute majority of children - foreigners at nursery schools come from Viet Nam (25.8%), the Ukraine (23.5%), Slovakia (19.0%), and the Russian Federation (6.7%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreigners in nursery schools has more than doubled and in 2014/2015 7 214 foreigners attended nursery schools.

Basic schools

Foreigners account for 1.9% of pupils in basic schools in the Czech Republic; they are mostly citizens of the Ukraine (24.5%), Slovakia (22.9%), Viet Nam (19.5%), and the Russian Federation

(8.0%). In 2014/2015, 16 477 foreigners were studying at basic schools, which was by 27% more than in 2003/2004.

Secondary schools

As far as secondary education is concerned, the share of foreign students is 2.0%. They are, as in the case of nursery schools and basic schools, especially citizens of the Ukraine (24.1%), Viet Nam (22.6%), Slovakia (19.1%), and the Russian Federation (11.6%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying at secondary schools has increased 2.5 times. In 2014/2015, 8 837 foreign students were studying at secondary schools, which was by 3.4% less compared to the previous year.

Foreigners attend mainly secondary schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region (40.9%), the Jihomoravský Region (8.7%), the Středočeský Region 7.9%), the Ústecký Region (6.5%), and the Plzeňský Region (6.2%). They study most often in the fields of education of a grammar school (39.4% of foreigners), in economy and administration groups of fields of education (11.7%), and gastronomy, hotel and tourist services (8.5%).

Conservatoires

In total, 217 foreigners are studying at conservatoires; their share in the total number of pupils studying at conservatoires is 5.8%. Most often they are citizens of Slovakia (33.6%), the Russian Federation (15.7%), and the Ukraine (15.2%).

Higher professional schools

In total, 552 students with foreign citizenship are studying at higher professional schools. Foreigners make up 2.0% of all pupils in higher professional schools; they are mostly citizens of Slovakia (43.5%), the Ukraine (19.6%), and the Russian Federation (16.8%). Since 2003/2004 the number of foreign students studying at higher professional schools has increased by 43.0%. The foreign pupils are mostly attending full-time studies and more than a third is in distance studies.

Most foreigners study at higher professional schools in the Hl. m. Praha Region (52.5%), in the Jihomoravský Region (9.4% of foreigners), in the Pardubický Region (6.0%), and in the Středočeský Region (5.6%).

At higher professional schools, foreigners study most frequently in the following fields of education: health care services (30.6%), arts (18.3%), gastronomy, hotel and tourist services (12.5%), and economy and administration (7.1%).

Universities

Most foreigners study at universities. Since the 2003/2004 academic year their number at Czech public and private universities has increased about three times. Now they account for 11.9% of all public and private university students (i.e. 41 179 foreign students).

The number of students naturally depends on the number of new enrollees (enrolled for the first time) in individual years. Foreign students make up 15.0% of all students first enrolled to universities (i.e. 8 930 students enrolled for the first time). Of the total number of public and private university graduates, 9.4% (i.e. 8 287 graduates) are foreigners.

Most foreigners attend universities in the City of Praha (49.2% of foreigners studying at Czech public and private universities) and in the City of Brno (30.3%). They are mostly students from Slovakia (55.1%) and the Russian Federation (12.7%) followed by students from the Ukraine (5.5%), Kazakhstan (3.5%), Viet Nam (2.2%), Belarus (1.5%), the United Kingdom (1.3%), Germany (1.2%), and Portugal (0.9%). Students from the EU Member States make up 63.6% of all foreigners studying at Czech universities.

Foreigners mostly study at the public and private universities: business and administration (25.5%), engineering, manufacturing and construction (19.6%), humanities and social sciences (17.3%), and health care and pharmaceutical sciences (17.2%).