



Sts Cyril and Methodius
Faculty of Theology

Palacký University in Olomouc



Tradition and prestige

Palacký University in Olomouc is the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic, educating scholars since the 16th century. Olomouc is also the site of the second most significant historical centre in the country. It is a second home to more than 23,000 students from all over the world. Olomouc is a university town and sometimes called the „Czech Oxford“.

Education

Its eight faculties provide 240 study programmes on the Bachelor, Master's and Doctoral levels. They encompass an extremely wide range: Theology, Education, Law, Physical Education and Sports, Arts and Humanities, Natural Sciences, Medicine and Health Science. Students from partner universities can come for one or two semesters and study any of the individual courses that are taught in foreign languages either as part of the regular study programmes or in those specifically designed for exchange students.

Science and Research

Palacký University is a modern research university. Science and research are top priorities. Research teams utilize state-of-the-art technologies and students assist in developing scientific research projects. Palacký University in Olomouc (UP) collaborates with a number of foreign partnership institutions where UP students can apply for study stays.

Faculties

- » Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology
- » Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
- » Faculty of Arts
- » Faculty of Science
- » Faculty of Education
- » Faculty of Physical Culture
- » Faculty of Law
- » Faculty of Health Sciences



Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology

The Faculty of Theology has the longest tradition among the faculties in Olomouc, dating back to the year 1573. The first official step in the establishment of the university was the foundation charter for the Jesuit secondary school (academy) in Olomouc, issued on 27 September 1570. The founding was confirmed by Emperor Maximilian II (1549-1576) and Pope Gregory XIII (1572-1585) in 1573. The Academy was divided into two faculties, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology in the seventeenth century and became a University. Its Faculty of Theology has survived all the changes to the university over the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. After World War 1 and the founding of an independent Czechoslovak Republic, the faculty, a unique remnant of the ancient University in Olomouc, was renamed "Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology". The Faculty was integrated into the newly established Palacký University in Olomouc in 1946, only to be closed down several years later by the Communist regime. After the fall of Communism, the Faculty was reopened in 1990 and incorporated once again into Palacký University.




The SS. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology not only regards its mission as providing deeper insight into Catholic beliefs, but also as being involved in practical activities arising out of faith, namely work in social, educational and humanitarian areas. The Faculty thus not only prepares theologians for the priesthood, but also provides opportunities for studies on the B.A., M.A. and doctoral levels. The other study programmes available at the Faculty are conceived as courses of the Higher Institutes for Religious Sciences.

Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology has been providing theological and humanist education and research at one of the most important university centres in the Czech Republic since the year 1990. It has also become a centre for research in the fields of Biblical sciences, patrology, interreligious dialogue and social health.

The Departments at the Faculty

- » Department of Philosophy and Patrology
- » Department of Biblical Studies
- » Department of Systematic Theology
- » Department of Church History and Church Law
- » Department of Liturgical Theology
- » Department of Pastoral and Spiritual Theology
- » Department of Christian Education
- » Department of Christian Social Work

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Catholic Theology

The five-year study programme in Catholic theology, approved by the respective ecclesiastical authority (the Congregation for Catholic Education) for the formation of future priests, is at the heart of the activities of our Faculty. Over the course of their five year Master's degree, students of Catholic Theology receive solid formation in Christian Philosophy, Church History, Biblical Studies and Exegesis, Fundamental, Dogmatic, Moral and Spiritual Theology, Church Law, Christian Liturgy, Pastoral Theology, History of Christian Art and Monument Protection and Social Doctrine of the Church. They are also equipped to catechise and teach the Catholic faith at both primary and secondary schools.

Graduate Profile

Graduates acquire a thorough knowledge of theology in its present state including both the Occidental and Oriental tradition. They are prepared for the following work within institutions of the Catholic Church:

- Deacons and Priests
- Teachers of Catholicism at all types of schools
- Catechists
- Graduate researchers in theological issues
- Work in state organizations and the tertiary sphere requiring a knowledge of religion and a religious approach

Doctoral studies

The Faculty also offers doctoral study programmes in the theological fields of Biblical Theology, Practical Theology, Systematic Theology and Christian Philosophy (see below).

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Christian Education

The Department of Christian Education provides Bachelor and Master's degree programmes in both full-time and part-time forms, as well as courses in teaching qualifications in selected areas in other degree programmes. The department also has a programme in Social Education both on the Bachelor and Master's degree levels (both full-time and part-time forms of studies). This programme builds on two basic pillars: a wider concept of social education and the Christian tradition embodied at our faculty.

A wider concept of social education

This concept of social education emphasises the relationship between the environment and education. Social education is not only aimed at prevention of social pathological phenomena and intervention, but is also focused on how to strengthen positive phenomena in society through socio-educational action.

The focus of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology

We are focused on developing the values and principles outlined in the Christian tradition and their use in the educational process.

Profile for Bachelor degree graduates in Social Education

Graduates of the Bachelor degree in Social Education are both theoretically and practically prepared for work with all forms of educational activities, particularly in the area of leisure activities for children and youth. A special emphasis is placed on teaching values and the ethical aspects of education during the studies.

Profile for Master's degree graduates in Social Education

Graduates of the Master's degree will deepen and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for independent and effective work as social educators. An emphasis is placed on research and scientific progress. Our students also learn how to apply their skills in practice, how to create and lead socio-educational activities and prepare them for working life. The aim of the programme is to obtain approved qualifications in social education, focusing on educational activities and work in leisure centres. Possible future careers for our graduates include:

- Educators in the field of leisure activities for children and youth (children and young people, leisure centres, low-threshold facilities for youth, etc.)
- Educators in social care, primarily working with children and youth,
- After-school teachers, teachers in educational facilities within institutional care and protective care and educational facilities within preventive care (for example in orphanages, children's homes, educational institutions).

Possible co-operation:

- Exchanges of academic staff and students
- Research and publication cooperation in the following areas: social education, special needs, religious education, methodical and psychological support for teaching staff and art therapy.

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Social Work

The Department of Christian Social Work was established in 2006 by Professor Heinrich Pompey. Commitment to the tradition of Caritaswissenschaft (Caritas Science) makes up one of the key elements in the research and education in the Olomouc department. Equally important are efforts aimed at strengthening the worth and dignity of the human person challenging difficulties in social functioning through the development of an ethically committed social work profession in research, teaching and practice. The third important aspect in terms of the department identity is an engagement in humanitarian studies and professional training for humanitarian aid.

Bachelor degree

The Department, in co-operation with CARITAS - College of Social Work Olomouc, provides two Bachelor degrees: Charitable and Social Work in full-time/part-time forms and International Social and Humanitarian Work in a full-time form.

Master's degree in Charitable and Social Work

This degree consists of three specializations:

- Management in Social Services
- Social Work with Families
- International Humanitarian and Community Social Work

Students are led by a vision of a society involving solidarity (a civilization of love) during their studies. The essence of such a society is the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, embodied not only in the concept of universal human rights, but above all in the vision of the human person created in the image of God. We view support for family and community functioning, which involves among other things the concept of volunteering, as an important

precondition for the development of a society of solidarity. Graduates from this programme will be able to find employment anywhere where intervention or preventive programmes of social work are involved.

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Doctoral Degrees/Studies

The faculty provides four doctoral study programmes in Theology and one in Humanitarian Studies on a doctoral level.

Biblical Theology

The four-year doctoral degree in Biblical Theology is offered in the Czech language and in two specializations: Old and New Testament. The specialization (2nd Cycle; 40 ECTS credits) is concluded with a Final Examination and the defence of the Licence Thesis. The Doctoral Dissertation is consequently prepared and defended.

Systematic Theology and Christian Philosophy

The four-year doctoral degree “Systematic Theology and Christian Philosophy” is offered in the Czech language and in following specializations:

- Christian Philosophy
- Patrology
- Dogmatic Theology
- Fundamental Theology
- Moral Theology
- Liturgical Theology

After having completed the studies (2nd Cycle; 40 ECTS credits), the student takes the Final Examination and defends the Licence Thesis. The Doctoral Dissertation is consequently prepared and defended.

Teologia Sistemática e Filosofia Cristiana

The complete doctoral degree is taught in the Italian Language and is the Italian version of the above-mentioned degree.

Practical Theology

These four-year doctoral degrees are taught in the Czech Language in the following specializations:

- Church History
- Canon Law
- Spiritual Theology
- Pastoral Theology
- Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue
- Catechetics
- Christian East Studies


After having completed the studies (2nd Cycle; 40 ECTS credits), the student takes the Final Examination and defends the Licence Thesis. The Doctoral Dissertation is consequently prepared and defended.


Social and Spiritual Determinants of Health

The doctoral degree is based on an interdisciplinary approach to issues of health and illness. It reflects a holistic view and utilises a bio-psycho-socio-spiritual model of health. This allows certain phenomena and relationships to be analysed which cannot be explored within the individual specialisations. The Doctoral degree in Social and Spiritual Determinants of Health is closely linked with the activities and projects of the Olomouc Social Health Institute („OUSHI“; see below).

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Centre for Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Texts

The Centre is interested in important works of European Christian culture with the goal of making them available to the Czech public and preparing editions of as-yet unpublished Latin and Greek manuscripts which are connected to the Czech Lands. It was established in 2000 as an interdisciplinary team of Classical Latin and Medieval Latin philologists, philosophers, theologians and historians.

The activities

The activities of the Centre can be divided into three main areas:

- Editions of Latin texts referring to Bohemia: bilingual editions of unpublished Latin manuscripts connected to the Czech Lands, accompanied by Czech and foreign language introductions, Czech translations and explanatory notes.
- Translations with commentaries: bilingual publications of important patristic, Medieval and Renaissance texts, accompanied by introductions and explanatory notes.
- Scholarly studies on both types of texts.

Project

The main research work of the Centre has been its contribution to the project History and interpretation of the Bible, a joint project of Charles University in Prague, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Palacký University in Olomouc, as of 2012. The project focuses on three perspectives: emergence, transmission and interpretation of Biblical texts. Its goal is to deepen research on certain specific manifestations of these three aspects over the more than three millennia of the history of Biblical texts and their contexts from the Late Bronze Age up until the present. The

project will also provide additional basic reference tools for understanding and interpreting the Bible into the Czech-speaking environment. Researchers at the Centre are involved in the following research teams: Old Testament studies, New Testament studies, Interpretations of the Bible in the Early Church (especially in the Greek and Latin Fathers) and Study of the Greek texts of the Old Testament.

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Institute for Intercultural, Inter-religious and Ecumenical Research and Dialogue (IMEVD)

The Sts. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology claims through its name an allegiance to the tradition developed by well-known Unionist congresses at Velehrad over the years 1907 to 1936. This Velehrad tradition was based on the conviction that interreligious and ecumenical dialogue is possible if it is supported by a scientific method of knowledge and through cultural exchange. Such a dialogue is possible when not only ideas but also people meet. We are currently experiencing new worlds, alien mentalities and unknown traditions, penetrating Europe. The intercultural, inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue, developed by the Institute and Centre Aletti in tandem, provides a personal environment and professional setting for the study of relations between the East and the West.

The aim of IMEVD is:

- to achieve a greater complexity of methodological procedures and experience in research and apply these to the specialist publication and educational activities at Palacký University, as well as to the area of popularization;
- to specify the findings from research into interaction between society, culture and religion, and between traditional and non-traditional religion;
- to foster links with partner research institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Scientific Research Centre

IMEVD Institute provides scientific research in the following five main areas:

- a theological-philosophical understanding of dialogue
- the diversity of traditions and identities in the Christian East (East-West dialogue in Europe)
- the cultures and traditions of the so-called Abrahamic religions (Judaism and Islam) and their influence on cultural and religious transformation in Europe
- the Czech contribution to the development of inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue

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Olomouc University Social Health Institute (OUSHI)

OUSHI provides general support for research and education in the area of social aspects of health. OUSHI focuses on research of social determinants of health, health psychology, epidemiology, public health and spiritual determinants of health.

The purpose of OUSHI

- conducting national and international research which primarily focuses on the social and psychological determinants of the health of individuals and groups
- educating students and young scholars, providing supervising activities, training supervisors
- providing counselling services for academics, students and other people in the areas of health psychology and phenomenology of health

DIPEX Methodology

The main priority of OUSHI is DIPEX methodology and research. OUSHI is a member of the international network of DIPEX International which includes 11 countries worldwide. OUSHI has certified the international Oxford methodology of DIPEX in the Czech Republic and conducts research in the area of patient experience with illness, health problems or life stages.

Non-profit drug research

Another priority of OUSHI is non-profit drug research. The OUSHI mission is to assist in research on drug repurposing. Old and predominantly generic drugs may be effective in new treatment indications, although funding of clinical trials is complicated since these substances cannot be patented. The first aim of the research is to initiate a pilot project involving monitoring the positive side effects of existing predominantly

generic drugs and subsequent organisation and funding of clinical trials in repurposed generic drugs.

Doctoral Degree in Social and Spiritual Determinants of Health

OUSHI is the guarantor of the doctoral degree in Social and Spiritual Determinants of Health. Students have the opportunity to participate in research projects currently implemented at the faculty, especially on OUSHI. OUSHI prepares students for independent creative activity in the field of exploration of not only social but also spiritual determinants of health. OUSHI has a wide network of experts in both the Czech Republic and abroad. OUSHI can also provide additional professionals (trainers) on specialized topics. (See the chapter doctoral studies).

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Description of the Seal:

The Seal-Matrix of the Theological Faculty in Olomouc, around 1630. The design shows St. John the Evangelist, the patron saint of theologians, with an eagle under "the Eye of God", a symbol of the Holy Trinity.

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