

MARCH 2021

MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly
Newsletter for
International
Students



IMPORTANT DATES

February 1-March 8
Term Enrolment

March 14
Last day to change
classes

March 25
Zoom Call

A FEW QUICK WORDS...

Vice-dean Suchý

Dear students, dear colleagues,

Let me welcome all of you very heartily to the spring semester 2021 that has just commenced. We have entered the third semester in which education remains online. Let me assure you that we are all more than ready to provide you the best learning experience possible. I am acutely aware of the challenges that you, international students in particular, have to cope with in these troubled times. But I also know, and marvel at, your dedication to your studies, your thirst for knowledge and new skills, your strength and resilience.

Spring always brings new energy, light and hopes for better days. I sincerely wish you only the very best in everything you do. Please do stay optimistic, strong and healthy.

Warmly,
Petr Suchý

SPRING 2021 CURRENT LOCATION

Survey- please complete

Dear Students,

We are asking you to complete this [form](#) to let us know where you currently are (whether in Brno or your home country). If you are not in Brno, we would like to ask when you plan to arrive. This overview will help us have a better understanding of where our international community is.

Thank you,
International Relations Office of FSS

SUGGESTION BOX

For FSS students

This is an opportunity for students to share any suggestions, comments, or concerns with the International Relations Office. We are committed to making the international student experience at FSS a positive one, and welcome any thoughts from students. If there is something you are particularly happy with, please also share this, so we can make sure it stays!

You can share any suggestions with us using this [form here](#).

COURSE ENROLLMENT CHANGES

Possible until March 14

Term Enrolment: February 1 - March 8

It is possible to change your courses until March 14. Please keep in mind that it is not possible to change courses after this date. If you drop a course after March 14, it will show up on your transcript of records

A full look at the courses offered at FSS can be found [here](#), however full degree students should consult with their study plan.

Note: Due to the extended examination period, some students were automatically re enrolled in their classes since final grades have not been processed. This will correct itself by the end of the examination period - if you continue to have some problems, please reach out to Ludmila Polášková at lpolasko@fss.muni.cz.

NEW CLUB

For FSS international students



A new international student club has been created for FSS students. The Homme Associate is an international student's club at FSS MUNI. It aims at promoting overall diversity and inclusiveness at the Faculty by creating platform for active engagement in student life. It also helps members to develop both academic and social skills, expands their network outreach and fosters their future career growth. Another important role it plays is to promote the international presence of MUNI and FSS and to strengthen their brand awareness. For more information please email Shengyue at 491701@muni.cz.

TO DO LIST

- ☑ Find a **general practitioner** at the beginning of your studies (if you have been here for a few semesters - find one now!). It is always better to have one while you're healthy so if you feel sick you know who to call!
- ☑ Have on hand basic first aid: thermometer, Band-Aids, medications you may want, tea, etc.
- ☑ Starting your studies? Look out for emails from your department and programmes for informal discussions and welcoming you.
- ☑ Use your university email either in the IS or set up Outlook through [Office 365](#). Emails sent to and from personal accounts sometimes end up in the spam folder, meaning communication may be missed.

TIPS FOR ONLINE ORDERING

Resources and explanations

Most shopping right now is through online ordering, it is even possible to have your groceries delivered through websites like rohlik.cz/en.

Other stores provide delivery or pick up options. Delivery may be available to your door or to a *zásilkovna* (stores in neighborhoods that you can have packages delivered to and have specific pick up times). Many stores also currently operate through 'pick up' windows at their stores, in some cases they will have a specific time to pick up items.

Below are some websites that may be useful.

Electronics

alza.cz
electroworld.cz
datart.cz
mall.cz

Food

damejidlo.cz
wolt.cz

Drugstore

mall.cz

Groceries

rohlik.cz/en
tesco.cz

APPLICATIONS OPEN

MA and PhD applications are currently open

If you are graduating and want to continue your studies you can review FSS [MA](#) and [PhD](#) programmes on our website. A full list of the study opportunities at Masaryk University can be found on the university [website](#). Programme introductions for most MA programmes can be found on the MA programme [website](#).

Applications for MA programmes at FSS are due **April 30**

Applications for PhD programmes at FSS are due **April 30**

Other faculties may have different deadlines.

ZOOM CHECKIN

Next one scheduled for March 25

Please join us for our next zoom call on Thursday, March 25 at 15:00 CET. We will discuss updates, and students will be able to ask any questions that they may have. Students will receive the link in their email. Students received the minutes from the last zoom meeting in their email. If you would like them resent, please email Erin at smith@czs.muni.cz

LIBRARY RESOURCES

A list of online databases available [here](#)

The [FSS library](#) may not be available to work in, but many of the resources are still available for students.

Students are able to pick up and drop off books at the circulation desk.

- Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00-16:00
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00-14:00

If you need any help, advice, or support from the library, please, do not hesitate to contact them at library@fss.muni.cz or through their [Facebook chat](#).

More information from the library is [here](#).

TIPS FOR WRITING A THESIS

Tips from someone who recently submitted a thesis...

1. As you're writing, be sure to write down any book or author you cite so you do not miss a citation. In the best case scenario, write the full citation to make it easier in the end.
2. Reading out loud helps with proofreading.
3. Start putting your thesis into the template at least 2 days before submission to avoid stress around formatting.
4. Finalize your page numbers, photos, and all content prior to creating your Index.
5. Check headings and page breaks.
6. Make sure you know *your* departments requirements regarding word count. Are spaces included? Does the index and acknowledgements page count? The final edits and pages add a lot to word counts at the end.

TIPS FOR STAYING PRODUCTIVE DURING SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social isolation is hard for everyone, and staying productive is definitely not easy. Here are some tips that we hope will help.

1. Create set times when you will work, and try to stick to a routine to give your day some structure.
2. Set small goals, particularly for those with writing a thesis or large papers, see if you can break them down into small steps.
3. Stay on top of your reading. Final exams will still be taking place at the end of the semester, you don't want to push the stress to later.
4. At the same time, give yourself permission for down times. It is okay to take a nap. This is a very emotionally stressful time and listening to your body is important.
5. Open the window for fresh air, sit in the sun if you can.
6. Call friends and family, create virtual book clubs (or movie watching sessions).
7. Many streaming services have extended their 'free' subscription period. Czech classics are on Netflix.

QUIET HOURS AND CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS

We want to remind students of the importance to follow the regulations put in place by both the government and the accommodation services. Czech law has national 'quiet hours' from 22:00-5:00 nightly to regulate the noise level. This exists in both private accommodation and in the dormitories. In dormitories this has often resulted in the dormitory employees having to break up parties.

While this has always existed, the additional regulations as a result of the coronavirus situation make gatherings of more than **2 people** in your room not possible. Due to the seriousness of the coronavirus regulations, students who are caught (or recorded) breaking these rules can be turned over to the police for breaking national laws. We urge students to follow the regulations, not just for themselves, but also so we can all have the lockdown eased as soon as possible. The faculty has no control if students are kicked out of their accommodation.

RENEWING VISAS AND WORK VISAS

Ministry of the Interior has moved

Renewing your student visa/residence permit

As we enter the spring semester it is good to keep in mind what is necessary to renew your study visa. As a reminder, you cannot submit the application to renew your study visa until 120 days before the expiration date (i.e. if it is for September 4, you earliest you can apply is May 4), however it is always good to review what you will need for the application (proof of funds, health insurance, etc.) so you can plan ahead.

- For information about applying for a **Long Term Residence Permit for the first time**, please go to the MOI website [here](#).
- For information about applying for **extending a Long Term Residence Permit**, please go to the MOI website [here](#).

Are you graduating? 'Purpose of seeking employment' visas allows you to stay in the Czech Republic for up to 9 months to find a job and transition to a work visa.

Foreign nationals who are residing in the territory of the Czech Republic with a long-term residence permit for the purpose of studies and who successfully completed their university education are eligible to file an application for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment or, as the case may be, an application for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of starting a business. For more information on the requirements for obtaining a visa for the 'purposes of seeking employment', please visit the MOI [website](#).

New office of the Ministry of Interior

As you probably know, the Ministry of Interior has moved office. They now have a larger waiting area, and more desks, so we hope you will have a smoother process. Their new address is **Tuřanka 1554/115b, 627 00 Brno - Slatina Building P**. The nearest bus stop is Slatina, závod (about a 2-3 minute walk to the building) and busses 77, 78, 75, E50, E75, and 73 currently go there.



TESTING FOR COVID-19

where to go

We've been recommended that [Cytogenetická laboratoř Brno](#) at Veveří 39 is a good location to go to be tested. They may not speak English when you go there, however there is an online form you can complete to schedule an appointment. e. Please note that this test is only to see if you currently have Coronavirus, it DOES NOT test antibodies.

Other testing locations can be found [here](#).

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

State of Emergency extended to March 28 (may be extended)

The Czech Government has created a [Covid Portal](#) in English that we encourage students to look at and us.

New regulations for entering the country have been created. Students are able to arrive in Brno, however they must follow any testing requirements created. You can find specific entry requirements on our website under '[conditions for entering the Czech Republic](#)'.

We encourage students to stay up to date with the current restrictions on the [MUNI website](#), specific regulations regarding FSS can be found on our [website](#).



Current information on emergency measures at the Faculty of Social Studi...

 MUNI Faculty of Social Studies / Masaryk University

REPORTING POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Informing MUNI of positive coronavirus results

Anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by the Hygienic Department with the phone number you provided. Please do not change phone numbers if you are waiting for results.

If students test positive for Coronavirus they must do the following.

1. Report your positive test in [IS System](#).
2. Contact your study department and the IRO office at FSS that you have tested positive.

If you live in the university dormitories, the dormitories will be alerted by the FSS IRO office that you have tested positive and they will contact you if new arrangements need to be made.