

MAY 2023

# MUNI FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Monthly  
Newsletter for  
International  
Students



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## Dear students

As the end of the semester draws near, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations on all of your hard work and dedication throughout the academic year.

To celebrate the end of the semester, we would like to invite you all to a special barbecue event. This will be a wonderful opportunity to relax, unwind, and connect with your fellow students in a casual setting. We hope that you will join us for an afternoon of delicious food, good company, and a lot of fun.

Before exams and summer break begin, we want to remind you of how much you have achieved and how proud we are of you. Your dedication to your studies and each other has made this academic year a success, and we look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the future.

Thank you for being a part of the Masaryk University community. We can't wait to see you at the barbecue!

The team at the international office



# NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN MAY

## 1 May - Labour day

The Czech Republic recognizes May 1st as Labor Day, but it is also a special day known as the Day of Love.

According to ancient legends, it is customary for couples to share a kiss under a cherry tree in full bloom. Failure to do so may result in misfortune, as it is believed that a girl who is not kissed on this day will wither within a year.

In rural areas, there are village balls and decorated maypoles are erected. Meanwhile, students in cities celebrate the occasion with Majáles, a festive celebration of student life. In Brno, Majáles will take place on May 6th.

It's worth noting that shops may be closed on this public holiday.

## 8 May - Liberation Day

May 8th celebrates the end of WWII in Europe. Shops over 200 square meters must be closed on this day, so do your shopping beforehand!



# FINAL SEMESTER CHECKLIST

- ☒ Make sure you know when you should submit your thesis. There are multiple deadlines: 80% completion, final submission, registering for your thesis defense, registering for state exam. Each department is responsible for sharing the deadlines with students, as every programme has different deadlines.
- ☒ Start studying for your state exam - definitely by the time you submit your thesis. Programmes provide literature that you should be prepared to on the exam.
- ☒ Schedule an appointment with the career centre to review your CV and help you prepare for interviews. Their website is not yet available in English, however you can schedule consultation appointments by emailing them at [poradenstvi@kariera.muni.cz](mailto:poradenstvi@kariera.muni.cz).
- ☒ Check your visa status - make sure you know when the date expires and have your plans made. If you want to apply for the 'searching for employment' visa make sure you understand the materials you will need to do so.
- ☒ Check your information is correct in the IS - including your full name, place and country of birth and the name of the diploma thesis. This will ensure all documents get printed out correctly

# GRADUATION

**13 and 14 September 2023**

Graduation will take place 13 and 14 September 2023 for students who successfully pass their final state exams and thesis defenses. Students will be provided information about the graduation during the summer. The faculty arranges virtual attendance for students unable to travel back to Brno so they can participate in the graduation ceremony.



## RED DIPLOMA

### What is it?

Red diplomas are awarded to students who graduate with honors. In order to be considered for this, students must meet certain requirements throughout their studies and in their final state exams. To understand the requirements, please read the study regulations, section 26 [here](#).

Maintaining good grades throughout the studies is therefore necessary.

## REPEATING CLASSES

### only 2 chances to pass

Students only have two chances to pass a compulsory (obligatory) courses. If you fail a course twice, your studies are ended. Students are encouraged to keep this in mind when repeating classes.

If in doubt, please talk to your study department advisor.

## FINAL EXAMS

### Registering, and other regulations

Specifically for students in their first semester, please keep in mind that in most cases you need to sign up for your final exam for each course. If there are more dates available, you can cancel your chosen time - but be sure to do it prior to the exam, or you will receive a failing mark!

Students are able to retake exams in most cases, if they failed, if there are more exam times available - as such it can be beneficial to not sign up for the last spot available!



# STUDENT AMBASSADOR OPEN CALL

Open call for autumn 2023

**Master in International Relations and European Politics, Energy Policy Studies, Social Policy, and Conflict and Democracy Studies**



If you are a current student of one of these programs, we invite you to apply. Ambassadors assist in the promotion of the faculty, answer questions from prospective students, and participate in events organized by the university. Ambassadors receive a stipend each semester. To apply:

Send a cover letter (the reason why you think you would be a good ambassador), and CV to [Michaela Nespěchalová at 63272@muni.cz](mailto:Michaela.Nespěchalová@muni.cz).

Selected students will be asked for an interview and will be confirmed by the program guarantors.

## FSS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BBQ

**Friday, 12 May 14:00 - Špilberk**

End the semester - and the last day of classes at FSS with the International Student BBQ.

We are excited to once again host an international student BBQ at Špilberk Park. Join your fellow students and professors in this social outing.

Please RSVP by 8th May .



# ACCOMMODATION REGISTRATION



## For students currently in MU accommodation

Book your student holiday accommodation in Brno now! MU and other university students can book from June 1-24, 2023, and high school students over 18 with a secondary school-leaving exam certificate are also welcome. No need for a contract for stays less than 31 nights. Simply email your request to the dormitory and visit [www.skm.muni.cz](http://www.skm.muni.cz) for more info.

# UNIVERSITY EVENTS

## MUNI DAY 2023

Registration for MUNI Day is open!

Come to enjoy sports activities, including the floorball match between campus faculties and Rector's office!

Not much of a sports fan? No worries! In the afternoon, the Campus will be full of music, entertainment, and refreshments!

See you on May 11th which has been declared as a rector's holiday!



## The Mind and Happiness

Get ready to explore the secrets of the mind and how it creates happiness and suffering with the upcoming lecture by a Buddhist Monk! Taking place on May 4th, 2023, from 18:00 to 19:30 at University Campus Bohunice, Aula B22/116.

Don't miss out on this thought-provoking event! For more information, please visit the provided [link](#).



# BRNO EVENTS



## Brněnský Majáles 2023

Put on your blue and join us on Saturday 6 May 2023 in the morning for the Majales parade through the streets of Brno.

If you want to SUPPORT the MUNI team, purchase your ticket to the Brno Majales via our University team's [link](#)

Directly at the Brno Majales music fest you will find the MUNI zone

Follow @muninamajales on Instagram and MUNI na Majáles page on Facebook.

## Brno Open house - May 13 and 14

Mark your calendars for May 13th and 14th, 2023, because the sixth year of Open House Brno is coming to town!

Take a part in a festival of architecture that will show you the city as you've never seen it before. You can visit the former city slaughterhouse area, Czech Radio Brno, Bishop's Gymnasium, Modřice Wastewater Treatment Plant, DADA Distric and many more. Don't miss out on this exciting event - check this [link](#)



## Bonjour Brno '23

The traditional petanque tournament is back at Lužánky park on May 7th, 2023 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, which is part of the Bonjour Brno event. No need to bring any equipment, everything will be provided. The top three teams will win valuable prizes. Entry is free, so don't miss out on the chance to learn more about Petanque and have a great day out.

The full program is available [here](#).

# PAST EVENTS AT THE FACULTY

## Reuben Steff

On April 19th, professor and our colleague from Waikato University in New Zealand, Reuben Steff gave a lecture on "The New Great Power Competition: The Chinese-Russian Challenge to the European and Indo-Pacific Security Order." The very interesting lecture was followed by a lively debate with the participants. Overall, the lecture was a great success, providing valuable insights and sparking interesting conversations about the current state of global affairs.



## FSS International hike

On Saturday 22 April, the FSS international hike took place. We walked from Pisarky to Holedná tower and then continued to the Brno reservoir. The hike was a great opportunity for participants to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the area and connect with nature. Overall, it was a successful and enjoyable event, providing great opportunity for the international FSS community to come together, enjoy wonderful weather and have fun. Thank you for coming!

## 25th birthday of the Faculty

The traditional Day of the Faculty of Social Studies held on Tuesday, April 20, launched commemorations and celebrations of 25th anniversary of the founding of our faculty that will continue throughout the year. A very rich program included academic as well as sportive events. Nominees, including the best students, were awarded prizes of the Dean of the faculty for their remarkable achievements. We congratulate to all awarded colleagues! Following informal part included run up the stairs to the 5th floor, a table-tennis tournament, wheel of fortune, and many other activities.





# INFORMATION FROM THE FSS LIBRARY

## Grammarly Premium

Library FSS offers Grammarly Premium, an AI-powered app for checking and improving English grammar and writing style. It suggests synonyms, checks for plagiarism, and works across web browsers, Word, Outlook, and mobile devices. We've purchased several hundred annual licenses for FSS students and employees. Follow the [link](#) to our library website to sign up.



## E-book in a minute?



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## E-book in a minute?

We offer an on-demand e-book service through the ProQuest database, which contains a large selection of English e-books. If a student or employee finds a useful e-book, we purchase it and make it accessible to all readers permanently.

This efficient approach ensures that we purchase only relevant e-books based on current needs. Click the link to our [website](#).

## Sage Research Methods

Wouldn't it be great to have some awesome tool for research methods?

Sage Research Methods is a database for methods with visual method maps that can help you find resources for your research. Check out the link to the [library website](#) for a video demo.



## Spiral binding service

Do you need to bind your study materials, assignments, thesis, and other papers? Ask at the circulation or information desk or check this [link](#). Your documents will be bound within 1 hour.



# RENEWING VISAS AND WORK VISAS

## Be aware of the expiration date

Students are responsible with ensuring their residency in the Czech Republic stays active. We urge students to look at their visa or residence permit expiration dates and plan ahead.

Students should schedule their appointment in the governmental system <https://frs.gov.cz/en> . Often appointments are booked 1-2 months in advance and it can be hard to get last minute appointments, therefore please plan ahead!

**Once an appointment is scheduled, students can use our new FSS Mates programme to attend the appointment and help with any translation problems.**

In the current situation the faculty is not able to call and get you an appointment - we do not have this power.

### Renewing your student visa/residence permit

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. **Please don't forget that according to the governmental decision you are allowed to use only PVZP company and it must be comprehensive health care. Other insurance won't be accepted by the MOI office for visa purposes, you can use this [link](#) to get the insurance.**

- For information about applying for a Long Term Residence Permit for the first time, please go to the MOI website [here](#). It's necessary to submit the application personally.
- For information about applying for extending a Long Term Residence Permit, please go to the MOI website [here](#).

### Renewing your student visa/residence permit

Students who are renewing a residence permit (the plastic card) are able to submit the [documents](#) via registered mail (in Czech „doporučeně“)- during these times we urge you to use this option. Please send them also „žádost o sdělení čísla jednacího“ (to get your application number) and don't forget you need to send also the stamp to pay it (in Czech „kolek“, you can buy it at the post office). If you have questions about this process, you can write to Klára Němečková at [217236@muni.cz](mailto:217236@muni.cz) and she will help advise you.

### **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](#).

Last year we organized a webinar to discuss this visa with the Brno Expat Centre, you can see it [here](#). We may offer it again and if so will inform you.