



2024



PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLMOUC
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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A few words from our Rector

University life is usually measured by the academic year, but we also have another successful calendar year to reflect upon. When I review the events our university has experienced in the past twelve months, I see yet another year which has yielded significant positive results. We can proudly acknowledge numerous remarkable achievements, not only in education and international cooperation, but also in scientific research. In spring, we rang the bells for the four-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of our alma mater, and also celebrated it with our partners at a gala evening in Washington, D.C. In autumn, we celebrated our anniversary at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at which we launched the Josef Jařab Scholarship Fund to support further academic exchanges. Notably, our students even represented us at the Olympic

Games in Paris, where fencer Jakub Jurka took home the bronze. We continued in our construction of a new building dedicated to educating future doctors and healthcare professionals, which will significantly contribute to preparing professionals for the healthcare sector. Additionally, our university assumed the leadership of the international Aurora university network when UP won its presidency for one year. At the year's close, we conferred an honorary doctorate for lifetime contribution to music upon our esteemed alumnus Jiřĩ Pavlica of the Hradiřřtan ensemble. Nor can we forget the third mission of the university, social outreach, which we exceptionally fulfilled when helping those affected by the severe flooding in northern Moravia by deploying our volunteers. It was yet another demanding year, but Palacký University stood tall, meeting its challenges with honour.

MARTIN PROCHÁZKA
Rector, Palacký University Olomouc



2024 in Numbers

503
foreign academic and
scientific workers

4,390
UP employees

34,829
on-line applications
for studies

4,978
new graduates

8,395
alumni
of lifelong learning
programmes

1,071
accredited study
programmes

8
faculties

18
new associate
professors

22,764
students
in accredited study programmes

3,125
international
students
from 91 countries

165
academic conferences,
including
international ones

206
accredited study
programmes
taught in foreign languages

78th
anniversary of the
reinstatement of university
teaching in Olomouc
after World War 2

13
new full professors
affiliated with UP

753
lifelong learning
courses

545,511
volumes in the
UP Library

688,722
meals
served in UP canteens

1,100,100
CZK distributed
by the UP Endowment Fund
to support young scientists

4,774
beds in
UP dormitories

17,201
students receiving
scholarships

507
students paying
full tuition



Applicants,
Students, Alumni

Applicants for study

Open Days, college fairs, roadshows at secondary schools, and the University Town web platform (univerzitnimesto.cz) are the mainstays of UP's applicant campaign. In the 2023/2024 academic year, UP registered nearly 35 thousand e-applications, again proving its attractiveness and stable position as one of the most-desired universities in the Czech Republic.

University Town attracts students: online and offline

An important role in the UP campaign was played by the University Town website, which presents life in Olomouc and the possibilities of studying at UP in an engaging way. Last year, it was visited by a record 235 thousand users. However, the university has also remained visible offline – it has participated in 12 college fairs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where it reached over 87 thousand visitors, and took part in 60 roadshows where it met with almost 2,000 high school graduates throughout the country.



High interest from international students

Out of almost 35,000 applications to study at Palacký University, 4,230 came from abroad. Traditionally, most applicants came from Slovakia (69%) and Ukraine (10%), which confirms the continued interest in studying in Olomouc even beyond the borders of the Czech Republic. In total, the university received applications from almost a hundred countries.

Open Days acquaint applicants with uni life

In January and November, traditional Open Days were held during which those interested could see not only UP faculties, but also dormitories, dining halls, the library, and UPoint. Applicants were also provided with a university app with clear information in a special section dedicated to them.



New study programmes

Several new study programmes were opened across the university, including the Bachelor's programme Industrial Technologies and Materials at the Faculty of Science, the continuing Master's programme Ethics and the Culture of Crisis Communication at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Conditional Training and Psychomotor Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Physical Education, and the doctoral programme Applied Clinical Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Health Sciences. And the Faculty of Arts offered a completely new, interdisciplinary professional programme, Management in Creative Fields. ■



Students

In 2024, Palacký University offered a total of 1,071 accredited study programmes, 206 of them conducted in languages other than Czech. It had a total of 23,154 students, with the largest numbers in the Faculties of Arts (5,390) and Education (4,957). 52% studied in Bachelor's programmes, 42% in Master's programmes, and 6% in doctoral programmes.

Improved UP app UPlikace: Everything at your fingertips

The UP mobile phone app UPlikace has had a major upgrade. It now offers a student profile view with a summary of information about the student's identity, and allows users to choose their role (student, teacher, applicant), thus adapting the content to users' needs and supporting better orientation in the university environment. The app can now also open Moodle and Microsoft Teams links in course profiles.



UP student athletes in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games

Palacký University was represented by five athletes in the Paris Olympic Games: fencer Jakub Jurka took home a bronze medal as a member of the Czech épée team, which defeated France to achieve a historic success. Rowers Radka Novotníková and Pavlína Flamíková took 10th place in the coxless pairs race; Adam Li finished in 33rd place in the archery competition. Judoka Renata Zachová left the tournament in the opening round; Miroslav Vraštil came in sixth in the lightweight double sculls.



New online E-Safety course: AI for Teachers

The Faculty of Education E-Safety project launched an online video course focused on artificial intelligence in education. The course offers four main lessons with over five hours of videos, interactive work with AI, and the ability to study at your own pace – anytime, anywhere. It is primarily intended for educators, but it can be used by anyone who wants to understand AI practically and simply.

Ambassador with personal experience helps cancer patients

A new Oncology Patient Ambassador started work at University Hospital Olomouc and the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Department of Oncology – Věra Zukalová, founder of Good Place to Live and a student at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. A cured cancer patient herself, she provides support to patients and their families, helps fight taboos associated with cancer, and contributes to better communication between patients and healthcare professionals. The project aims to improve the quality of life of patients and increase public awareness of oncology.

EURIDICE: Digital skills for the future

UP is part of a new European project – EURIDICE. One of its results is an international Master's programme focused on digital technology, law, and social impact. Universities throughout Europe are taking part. There are also courses for the lay public and academics offering microcertificates and combining knowledge from diverse fields. The Faculty of Education is the guarantor of the programme for UP. ■

Alumni

In 2024, 4,978 new graduates received their degrees after successfully completing their studies. The number of Bachelor's and Master's programme graduates again increased year-on-year, though to a lesser degree than the year before. The number of doctoral degrees (69) awarded represented a significant year-on-year increase.

Alumni Club welcomes almost 1,500 new members

Alumni can register for the UP Alumni Club, and get a free Alumni card with benefits. More than 15,000 alumni have already registered and more than 7,000 cards have been issued. Members are entitled to various discounts and other benefits regarding goods and services, and they also have easy access to news from their alma mater.

Gold, Diamond, and Silver graduations

Gold and Diamond graduations were held by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry for its alumni while the Faculty of Science held a Silver graduation. In 2024 the Faculty of Education joined the organisers of the Gold graduations and the Faculty of Law again helped organise the Silver graduation.

Life-long learning and U3A shred records

In 2024, the number of participants in Life-long Learning courses and in the University of the Third Age (U3A) increased. More than eight thousand participants successfully completed life-long learning programmes during the year, which is a significant year-on-year increase and the largest number so far. An integral part of life-long learning is the extensive range of programmes implemented by the University of the Third Age at UP, which was successfully completed by a record 1,215 participants in 2024. ■



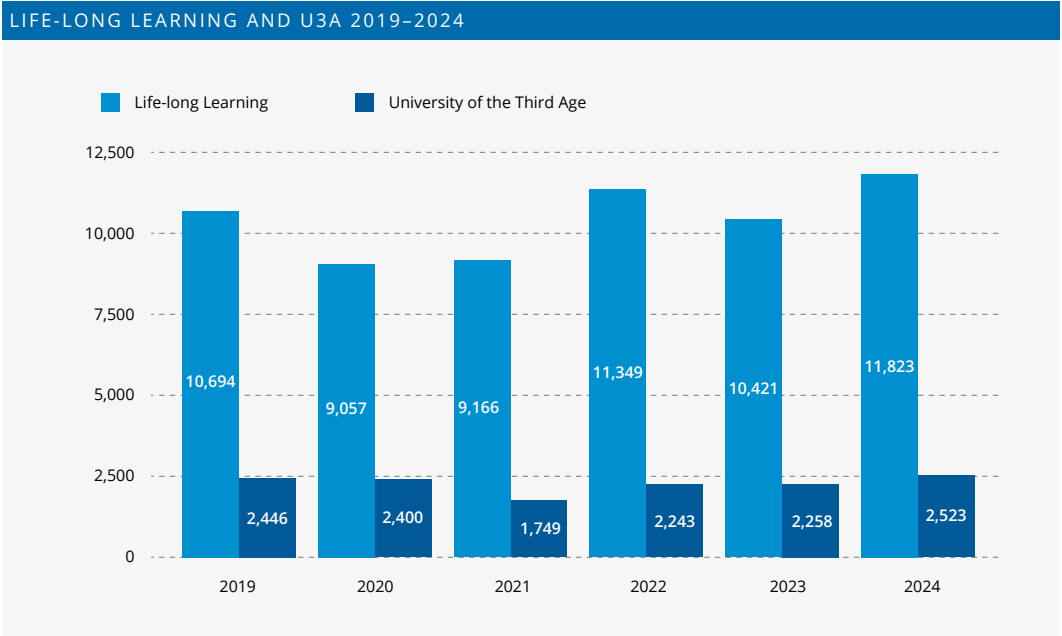
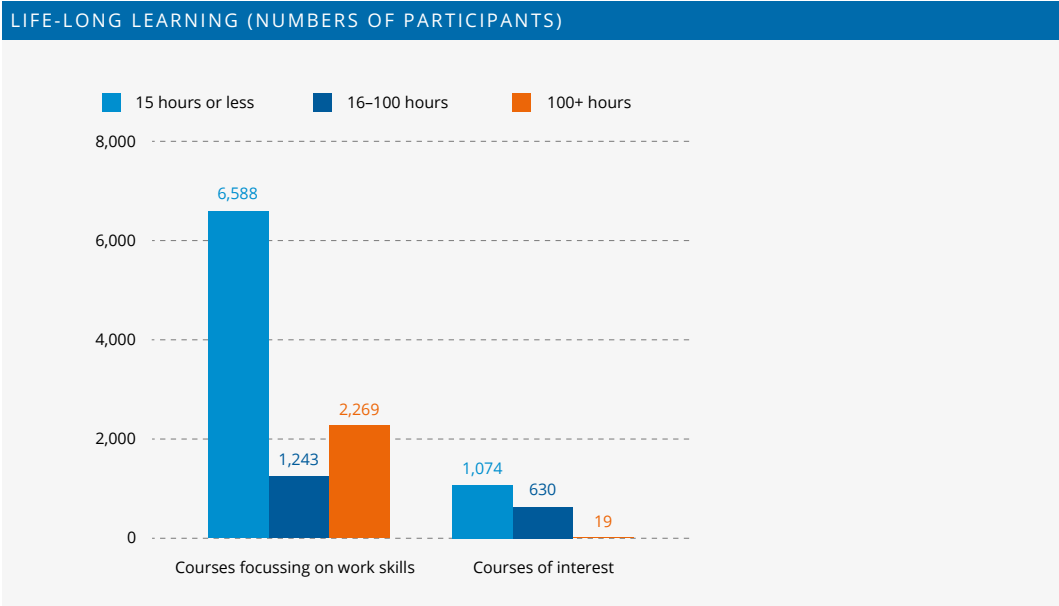
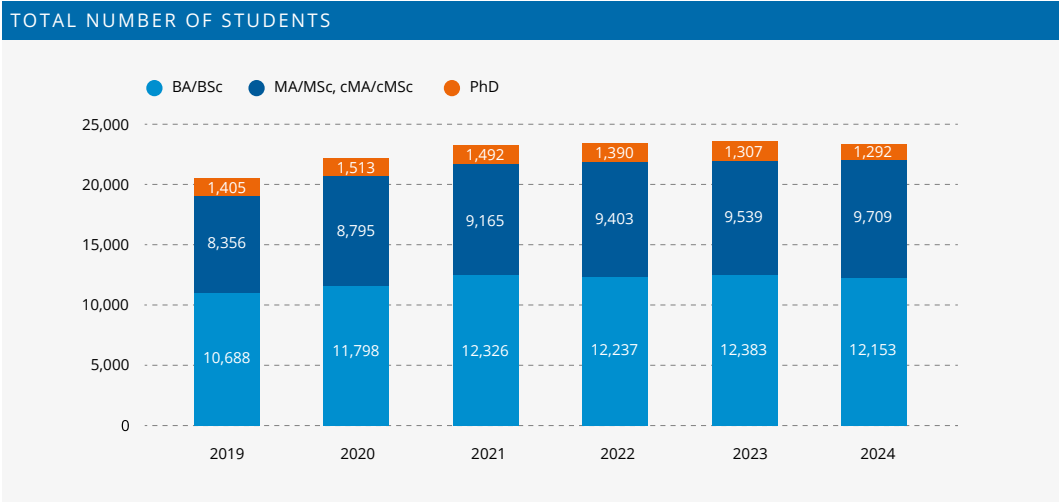
INTEREST IN STUDY (NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, ADMITTED STUDENTS, AND ENROLMENTS)													
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's study (BA, BSc)			Master's study (MA, MSc)			Continuing Master's study (MA, MSc)			Doctoral study (PhD)		
ISCED-Fields of education	Code	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY (FMD)		0	0	0	4,797	776	467	66	30	22	99	90	81
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Health and welfare	09	0	0	0	4,797	776	467	66	30	22	98	89	80
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FHS)		2,413	481	307	0	0	0	457	144	103	16	11	11
Health and welfare	09	2,413	481	307	0	0	0	457	144	103	16	11	11
FACULTY OF ARTS (FA)		6,818	1,948	1,464	0	0	0	1,428	661	563	93	46	46
Education	01	187	74	60	0	0	0	123	75	66	7	3	3
Arts and humanities	02	3,122	1,320	947	0	0	0	601	333	295	61	34	34
Social sciences, journalism, information sciences	03	3,150	487	402	0	0	0	645	225	174	25	9	9
Business, administration and law	04	359	67	55	0	0	0	59	28	28	0	0	0
FACULTY OF LAW (FL)		351	140	60	1,659	574	318	67	33	29	51	32	29
Business, administration, and law	04	351	140	60	1,659	574	318	67	33	29	51	32	29
STS CYRIL AND METHODIUS FACULTY OF THEOLOGY (CMFT)		1,246	428	408	22	12	11	930	262	237	22	13	13
Education	01	18	13	11	0	0	0	9	6	4	0	0	0
Arts and humanities	02	408	135	127	22	12	11	308	89	88	6	4	4
Health and welfare	09	820	280	270	0	0	0	613	167	145	16	9	9

INTEREST IN STUDY (NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, ADMITTED STUDENTS, AND ENROLMENTS)													
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's study (BA, BSc)			Master's study (MA, MSc)			Continuing Master's study (MA, MSc)			Doctoral study (PhD)		
ISCED-Fields of education	Code	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled	Number of applications	Number of applicants accepted	Number enrolled
FACULTY OF SCIENCES (FS)		3,832	1,965	1,409	0	0	0	837	517	431	97	79	71
Education	01	757	393	286	0	0	0	192	120	98	9	7	6
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	2,491	1,271	871	0	0	0	557	354	293	80	66	59
Information and communication technologies	06	466	264	222	0	0	0	68	35	33	3	3	3
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	07	16	11	6	0	0	0	2	1	0	5	3	3
Health and welfare	09	102	26	24	0	0	0	18	7	7	0	0	0
FACULTY OF EDUCATION (FE)		4,059	1,005	723	1,089	195	156	1,897	783	625	60	26	26
Education	01	3,838	925	674	814	175	136	1,756	721	582	60	26	26
Arts and humanities	05	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Health and welfare	09	221	80	49	275	20	20	139	62	43	0	0	0
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE (FPC)		1,796	596	393	0	0	0	620	341	271	7	5	5
Education	01	922	390	256	0	0	0	319	214	168	0	0	0
Health and welfare	09	714	125	84	0	0	0	139	32	31	0	0	0
Services	10	160	81	53	0	0	0	162	95	72	7	5	5
TOTAL		21,702	6,474	4,896	7,403	1,597	1,008	6,230	2,523	2,071	387	236	220

NUMBER OF ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES IN 2024										
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's (BA, BSc)		Master's (MA, MSc.)		Continuing Master's (MA, MSc)		Doctoral (PhD)		TOTAL
ISCED-Fields of education	Code	FT*	C/D*	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	
STS CYRIL AND METHODIUS FACULTY OF THEOLOGY										
Education	01	2	4			2	4			12
Arts and humanities	02	3	4	3		3	4	5	6	28
Social sciences, journalism, and information sciences	03							1	1	2
Health and welfare	09	4	3			3	3	2	2	17
FACULTY OF ARTS										
Education	01	3	3			4	3	5	5	23
Arts and humanities	02	61	7			38	6	36	36	184
Social sciences, journalism, and information sciences	03	14	7			13	3	18	18	73
Business, administration, and law	04	1						1	1	4
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE										
Education	01	4	3			5	5			17
Health and welfare	09	4	1			3				8
Services	10	1	4			4	5	5	5	24
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES										
Health and welfare	09	12	6			7	6	5	5	41
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY										
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05							2	2	4
Health and welfare	09			6		1	1	64	58	130

NUMBER OF ACCREDITED STUDY PROGRAMMES IN 2024										
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's (BA, BSc)		Master's (MA, MSc.)		Continuing Master's (MA, MSc)		Doctoral (PhD)		TOTAL
ISCED-Fields of education	Code	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	
FACULTY OF EDUCATION										
Education	01	30	23	7	7	35	27	22	22	173
Arts and humanities	02	1				1	1	1	1	5
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	1	1							2
Health and welfare	09	3	3	1	1	3	3			14
FACULTY OF LAW										
Social sciences, journalism, and information sciences	03						1			1
Business, administration, and law	04	2		2		3		7	6	20
FACULTY OF SCIENCE										
Education	01	9	3			13	5	5	5	40
Social sciences, journalism, and information sciences	03	1	1			2	1	2	2	9
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	40	4			51	4	55	53	207
Information and communication technologies	06	5	3			5		4	4	21
Engineering, manufacturing, and construction	07	1				2		2	2	7
Health and welfare	09	2				2				4

* FT = Full-time, ** C/D = Combined/Distance



Ambassador programme and UPoint

Ambassador programme

The Ambassador programme is the result of active cooperation between the UP Marketing Department and students across all university faculties. The aim is to present the possibilities of studying at UP authentically – through the eyes of the students themselves. Ambassadors share their study experiences, answer questions about student life in Olomouc and how the university works at college fairs and at roadshows for secondary schools. In 2024, almost 200 active ambassadors from all eight faculties joined the programme. Ambassadors often are the first informal contact of interested applicants – and often become their future “buddy”. Before going into the field, ambassadors undergo presentation trainings that help them improve their communication and presentation skills – in cooperation with the Marketing Department, they develop soft skills which can also be used in professional life. At the same time, the Ambassador community serves as a platform for making new friendships, sharing experiences, and interdisciplinary cooperation. The programme thus creates space for personal growth, connections across faculties, and strengthening the feeling of belonging to the university.

UP Ambassadors reach three thousand secondary school students

On 2024, students from the UP Ambassador programme informed almost 3,000 secondary school students at more than 60 schools about the possibilities of studying in Olomouc. It has 200 active ambassadors who also help with other events at the university (UP Olomouc Majáles May Celebrations), MEET UP, graduation ceremonies, and the UP Ball). ■



UPoint: Stylish and unique

UPoint is an information centre and UP brand shop which also serves as a community space for students, employees, applicants, alumni, and the public. It offers designer merch, original fashion designs, and university publications, and also provides important information about studying at UP. In 2024, over 6,000 purchases were made here. Recently, it started labelling sustainable products with a special sticker.

EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN 2024 AT UPOINT:

- art exhibition Tereza Trulíková | Masquerade
- discussion point Detective TV shows during Socialism
- discussion point The media image of Romas in television news
- art exhibition Nikola Štoplová | symbiosis
- discussion point Europe united, or Where are you going, EU?
- art exhibition Ollove | Salon Reflections
- discussion ADHD and university life: How to make it “ADHD-friendly”
- art exhibition Sára Gilíková | Together in diversity – Spectrums
- creative workshops under the rubric of Olomouc Design Days
- art exhibition Věra Kopka | Inner landscape
- discussion point A university worth reading about
- art exhibition Jan Malý | travels

UPOINT – NUMBER OF SALES AND ITEMS SOLD IN 2016–2024				
Number of items sold		Number of sales		
		shop	e-shop	in-house
2016	39,342	4,829	121	252
2017	55,760	5,086	74	283
2018	75,451	6,697	97	296
2019	87,465	7,105	125	322
2020	46,652	5,509	436	181
2021	50,179	5,504	484	238
2022	74,624	6,480	202	301
2023	73,351	6,787	229	389
2024	73,616	5,610	148	397





Endowment Fund, Career Centre

UP Endowment Fund helps young talents grow

Every year, the Palacký University Endowment Fund (UP EF) supports talented students by awarding scholarships for scientific projects, internships abroad, and participation in conferences. In addition to financial assistance, it also offers coaching, workshops, presentation skills training, and other development opportunities through the Talented Palacký platform.

The UP EF supports top-notch activities of UP students in science, research, and the arts which have international outreach. Apart from a financial contribution which can be used to cover travel costs or the purchase of research equipment, it also teaches scholarship holders how to develop skills in science popularisation and media coverage. Students can receive up to €8300 for their project.

Record support for talents

In 2024, the UP EF distributed more than €45,000 to eleven talented students to support their scientific and artistic work. Scholarship holders focused on areas such as developing drugs for tuberculosis, creating a model of the human heart, designing tools for musicians, and studying religious relations in Western society.

Scholarship with added value: Development, coaching, and experience sharing

In addition to financial assistance, the fund also provides coaching, workshops, and presentation skills training through the Talented Palacký platform. Support is provided by donors such as Komerční banka (Commercial Bank), the Sigma Group company, and other partners. The Endowment Fund has been operating since 2015 and has already supported dozens of students throughout the entire university. ■

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UP EF IN 2024:

- Full house at the Convictorium Film Hall when presenting the work of UP EF scholarship holders during Academia Film Olomouc.
- Acquiring new donors, such as Veolia Czech Republic and Redstone Real Estate.
- Organising the traditional Advent meeting of supported students with donors and the Rector

UP Career Centre

Since 2015, the UP Career Centre (UP CC) has been providing all students, alumni, and employees with career advice and support. It provides counselling, coaching, workshops, educational lectures, developmental courses, and practical connections. It helps students find temporary jobs, internships, and employment, organising an annual job fair, webinars, and meetings with employers. In addition, it offers collaboration opportunities to organisations and employers throughout the Czech Republic. Thanks to the support of the UP CC and its developmental programmes focused on presentation skills and science promotion, students successfully participate in competitions and receive nominations for awards. ■



UP CC IN 2024:

- listed 3,550 registered clients, 1,185 more than the previous year.
- increased the number of collaborating subjects from 634 in 2023 to 720 in 2024.
- offered UP students and alumni a plethora of various courses, such as Leadership Matters!, DigiUP, Mindfulness, and Wellbeing. The content of recurring courses was revised and updated, with new topics added in the areas of wellbeing and working with information.
- provided individual consultations (in addition to developmental courses), career counselling and coaching, various lectures, trainings, and workshops, as well as opportunities for meeting employers. In 2024, 430 counselling sessions took place, mainly in the form of individual face-to-face consultations, but also online. The concept of group consultations for six students was tried out for the first time.



Safe university

Safety is the priority

The tragic events at Prague's Charles University Faculty of Arts in December 2023 have radically altered the approach of universities toward safety. In 2024, UP adopted a number of specific steps to strengthen security measures and emergency preparedness. It expanded the functionality of its UPlikace mobile app with crisis notifications, organised a series of trainings with a safety expert, and newly devoted several lifelong learning courses to the topic.

A minute of silence, and specific steps

The UP Faculty of Arts opened the first session of its Academic Senate in 2024 with a minute of silence for the victims of the shooting at the Charles University Faculty of Arts in December of the previous year. Following the events, the faculty and the university as a whole opened an important debate on safety. The UP Faculty of Arts for example prepared specific steps regarding rules for visitors, building plans, and crisis scenarios. Further measures were implemented in conjunction with UP management.

When seconds count: UPlikace app now warns during crises

In 2024, the UP mobile app was updated with a crisis module which allows rapid sending of warning announcements in the event of an emergency in university buildings. Users tick the places where they regularly are, and in the case of an emergency, they will receive instructions on how to react. The notifications, in Czech and English, are received even when the phone is in silent mode and notifications are off.



Learning to stay calm

In 2024, UP launched a series of special training sessions for employees aimed at managing crisis situations. Employees learned how to evaluate risks and react in the event of an emergency. The goal was preparedness, not just in the workplace, but also in everyday life. The training sessions were organised by the Continuing Education and Teaching Innovations Office in cooperation with safety expert Miloš Drdla.

When shots ring out: Faculty of Law tests mock crisis situation

An ordinary morning was disrupted by two armed attackers in a simulation. UP FL was transformed into the scene of a crisis training exercise, during which police, students, and employees were trained how to react during an unexpected threat. The Czech Police took part in the event, as well as UP Faculty of Health Sciences paramedics students. The exercise tested not only the participants' reactions, but also how well crisis procedures worked in practice. The practical training was part of a broader University Safety training programme, set to continue in the months to come. ■





Changes in leadership and new professors

In January 2024, Václav Stehlík's second term as Dean of the Faculty of Law began. Although there were no other significant changes in the management of the university and faculties in 2024, the elections for rector were officially announced in November 2024. Appointment decrees however were accepted for 13 new professors and 18 associate professors connected with UP.

UP DEANS IN 2024:

- Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology (CMFT): doc. Mgr. et Mgr. Vít Hušek, Th.D.
- Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMD): prof. MUDr. Milan Kolář, Ph.D.
- Faculty of Arts (FA): doc. Mgr. Jan Stejskal, M.A., Ph.D.
- Faculty of Science (FS): doc. RNDr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D.
- Faculty of Education (FE): doc. PhDr. Vojtech Regec, Ph.D.
- Faculty of Physical Culture (FPC): Mgr. Michal Šafář, Ph.D.
- Faculty of Law (FL): doc. JUDr. Václav Stehlík, LL.M. Ph.D.
- Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS): Mgr. Jiří Vévoda, Ph.D.

New professors at UP

In 2024, 13 persons connected with Palacký University were awarded with the highest scientific and pedagogical title. In June, the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, handed appointment decrees to 8 new professors: Dušan Klos, Tomáš Skála, and Milan Sova of UP FMD; Jan Soubusta and Zhivorad Tomovski of UP FE; and Alla Arkhanhelska, Ludmila Veselovská, and Ondřej Jakubec of UP FA. Daniel Jandaček, Dean of the University of Ostrava Faculty of Education, was also appointed a full professor upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board. In December, appointment decrees were also handed over by the president to: Kateřina Bouchalová and Přemysl Falt of UP FMD, Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková and Matúš Šucha of UP FA, and Jiří Dostál of UP FE. An appointment decree was also accepted upon the proposal of the UP Scholarly Board for Aleš Tichý of the University of Defence.

prof. Alla Arkhanhelska, DrSc.
(UP Faculty of Arts)

She teaches a wide range of linguistic disciplines from phonetics to Slavic linguistics at UP FA. She focuses on gender linguistics, nomination, lexicology and phraseology, and has also extended the field of gender linguistics. She has received a number of awards for her monographs, including the UP Rector’s Prize and Honorary Mention. She was appointed upon the proposal of the Scholarly Board of Charles University in the field of Slavic Studies.

prof. MUDr. Kateřina Bouchalová, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

She works at the Children’s Clinic of the UP Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc. She specialises in paediatric rheumatology and osteology and combines clinical work, science, and teaching, putting an emphasis on cooperation

with the family and a healthy lifestyle. Her research focuses on juvenile idiopathic arthritis and other serious diseases, and she also develops practical education for students. She was nominated upon the proposal of the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Paediatrics.

prof. PhDr. PaedDr. Jiří Dostál, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Education)

He works as the head of the UP Faculty of Education Department of Technical Education and Information Technology. He deals with pedagogical theory, didactics, and research-oriented teaching with a focus on STE(A)M, and the development of informatics and technical thinking of preschool and young school-age children. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Education.

prof. MUDr. Přemysl Falt, Ph.D., MHA
(UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

He works at the 2nd Internal Clinic – Gastroenterology and Geriatrics at the UP Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc. He specialises in therapeutic digestive endoscopy, idiopathic intestinal inflammation, diseases of the oesophagus and small intestine, abdominal ultrasonography, and intensive care in gastroenterology. He is also a member of the board of the Czech Society of Gastroenterology and is actively involved in clinical, teaching, and research activities. He was appointed

upon the proposal of the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Internal Medicine.

prof. Mgr. Ondřej Jakubec, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Arts)

He graduated with a degree in art history from UP. From 2005–2011, he worked at the Olomouc Museum of Art, and since 2008 he has been affiliated with the Art History Seminar at Masaryk University Brno, which he chaired from 2012–2019. He specialises in the architecture and visual culture of the early Renaissance and the artistic patronage of the period. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Art History.

prof. MUDr. JUDr. Dušan Klos, Ph.D., MHA,
LL.M. (UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

Since 2001, he has been working at the 1st Department of Surgery at the UP Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc and is the head of the former. He is also UP FMD Vice-Dean for legislation, internal organisation, and external relations, and the UP FMD deputy dean. He specialises in the surgical treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis, especially in cytoreductive surgery and intraperitoneal chemotherapy. He teaches clinical and radiation oncology, preventive oncology, palliative care, and surgical oncology. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Surgery.

**prof. MUDr. Tomáš Skála, Ph.D., FESC
(UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)**

He works in University Hospital Olomouc at the Department of Cardiac Electrophysiology, where he deals with catheterisation treatment of complex heart rhythmic disorders, the use of imaging methods in cardiology and electrophysiology, and the development of new ECG monitoring possibilities. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Cardiology.

**prof. RNDr. Jan Soubusta, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Science)**

He works in the Joint Laboratory of Optics of Palacký University and the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences. During his scientific career, he has focused in turn on optoelectronics, classic optics, and at the same time works in the field of quantum optics, specifically on the level of the interaction of individual photons. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Optics and Optoelectronics.

**Prof. MUDr. Milan Sova, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)**

He worked at the Department of Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis at the UP Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc. Since 2021, he has been the head of the Department of

Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis at Masaryk University Brno and University Hospital Brno. Professionally, he focuses on obstructive sleep apnoea, bronchology, new technologies for monitoring patients with allergic rhinitis, post-Covid syndrome, and pulmonary and bronchial tumours. He was appointed upon the proposal of the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Internal Medicine.

**prof. PhDr. Matúš Šucha, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Arts)**

He works at the UP FA Department of Psychology, which he headed from 2012–2019. He specialises in traffic psychology, especially the problems of mobility, safety, and sustainability. His research focuses on human behaviour in traffic, analysing the causes of accidents, and develops educational programmes for drivers combining psychology with technology. He was appointed upon a proposal by the UP Scholarly Board in the field of Psychology.

**prof. Mgr. Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková,
Ph.D. (UP Faculty of Arts)**

She has been working at the UP FA Department of History since 1999. Her professional focus is on modern history, memory studies, and the history of emotions and senses. She was appointed upon a proposal by the Masaryk University Scholarly Board in the field of History.

**prof. Zhivorad Tomovski, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Science)**

He works at the UP Faculty of Science Department of Mathematical Analyses and Applications. He focuses on differential and integral equations, probability theory, complex analyses, and more. He is the author or co-author of more than one hundred articles in professional journals, and three monographs.

**prof. PhDr. Ludmila Veselovská, Ph.D.
(UP Faculty of Arts)**

Since 1990, she has been working at the UP FA Department of English and American Studies. She focuses on morphosyntactic analyses of Czech and English in the framework of transformational-generative grammar, and is the author of a number of professional publications. She was nominated upon a proposal by the Masaryk University Scholarly Board in the field of General and Diachronic Linguistics.

Senate elections at the Faculty of Law

In November 2024, elections were held for the UP FL Academic Senate. Nine academics and thirteen students vied to be senators. A total of seven new senators were elected who, together with the other senators, will carry out their functions for a period of three years. Klára Hamuláková of the Department of Private Law and Civil Procedure was voted Senate Chair; Klára Žáková, a 4th year student in the Law and Legal Science Master's programme, was voted Vice-Chair. ■



World-renowned Personalities at UP

Palacký University and its workplaces maintain close ties with leading Czech and international experts. Olomouc regularly hosts prominent figures from various fields. In 2024, these included war crimes investigator Vladimír Dzuro, expert on European tort law Helmut Koziol, foreign ambassadors, and others.

Ambassadors at UP: Strengthening international relations in 2024

In 2024, four ambassadors visited Palacký University. French Ambassador Stéphane Crouzat attended the preview of the documentary *Destination francophonie: Destination Tchèque* and visited the Department of Romance Studies and the UP French Centre. Irish Ambassador Alan Gibbons discussed cooperation in science and education with the university management, visited an Irish language class at the Department of English and American Studies, and expressed interest in establishing an “Irish Corner” there. Portuguese Ambassador Carlos Oliveira met with Portuguese language teachers and students,

as well as with the UP Rector and UP Faculty of Arts Dean. Korean Ambassador Hong Youngki held a lecture for students of Korean studies and discussed further support for Korean studies, which are also being developed at UP by the King Sejong Institute.

Annual J. L. Fischer lecture presented by economist Sedláček

Tomáš Sedláček spoke at the Metropol cinema about economics, philosophy, and how our world is transformed and how we think about it. The economist, philosopher, and university lecturer accepted an invitation from UP to deliver the traditional annual lecture. It is held once a year to commemorate the



first rector of the reinstated university in Olomouc, Josef Ludvík Fischer.

Justice without borders: Investigator Dzuro at UP

The UP Faculty of Law hosted war crimes investigator Vladimír Dzuro, who worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. The visit included a screening of the documentary *The Investigator*, followed by a discussion moderated by Petr Stejskal from the Department of International and European Law. The discussion focused on the legal aspects of investigating war crimes and current global challenges, and more.



Information warfare under the microscope: Lecture by Alexandra Alvarová

Alexandra Alvarová, journalist and expert on online propaganda, gave a lecture at UP entitled “Culture and Cult: On the Battlefield of Information Warfare!”. In the auditorium of the Faculty of Education, she spoke about the historical development of the information space, the influence of social networks on society, and the emergence of modern cults. The event was organised by the British Centre of the UP Library in cooperation with the British Council Czech Republic as part of the Stronger Together project.



Legendary lawyer Helmut Koziol visited UP

Helmut Koziol, a leading European expert on tort law and professor emeritus at the University of Vienna, visited UP at the invitation of Filip Melzer from the Department of Private Law and Civil Procedure at the UP Faculty of Law. He gave a lecture entitled "A Flexible System," which focused on general legal principles inspired by the idea of law as a dynamic system.

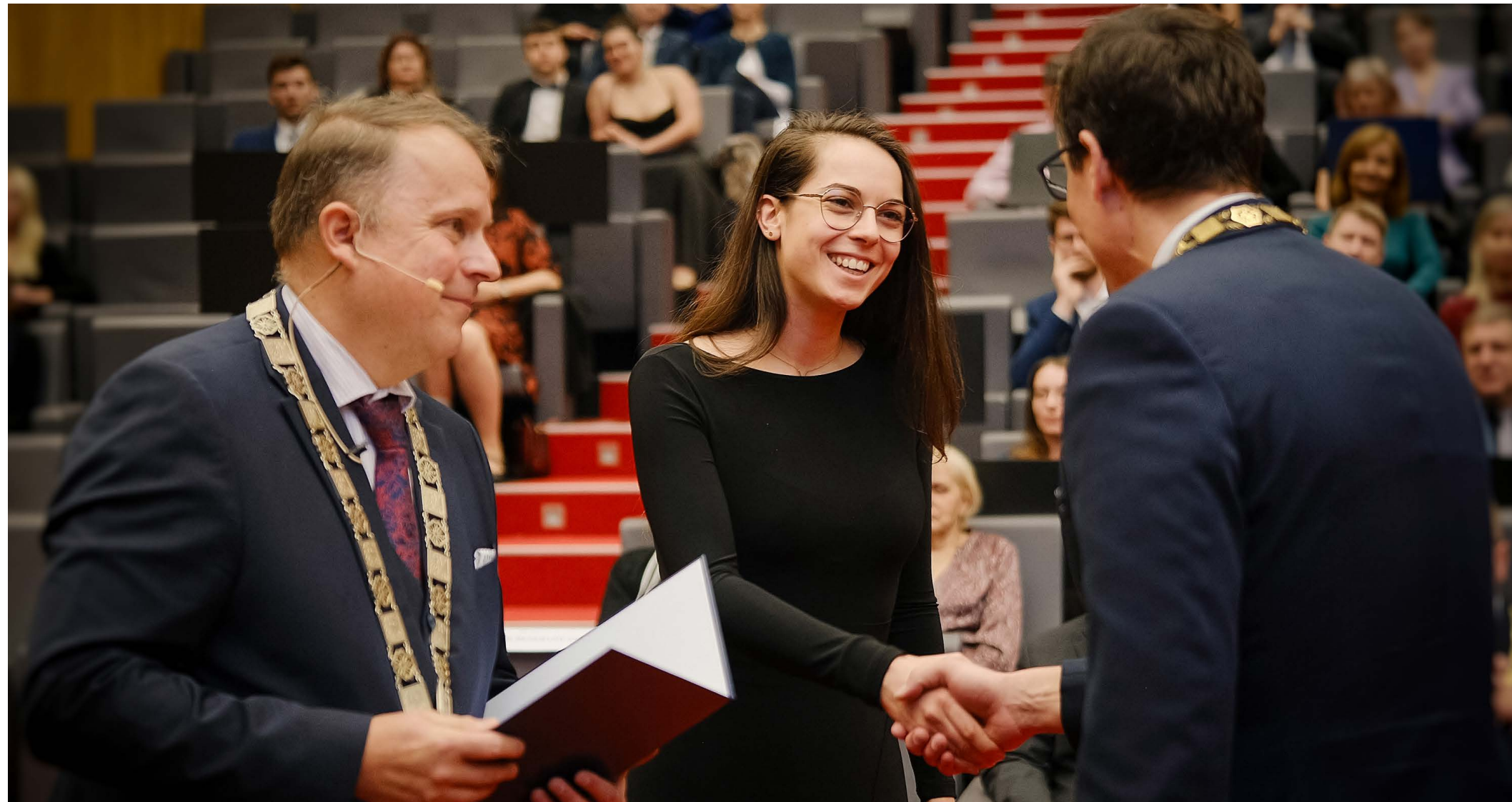
American author Anne Marie Kenny presented her memoir at UP

American writer Anne Marie Kenny visited UP in October to launch her memoir *A Song for Bohemia* at the Student Club in the UP Armoury. She dedicated the book to the legacy of Václav Havel and her Czech roots. The event was organised by the Faculty of Arts in cooperation with the American Center Olomouc. The event was also attended by former Czech Ambassador to the US Martin Palouš, author of the book's foreword.

A new UP discussion series opened with Marek Orko Vácha

UP launched a new debate series called "A Walk with...", whose first guest was theologian, biologist, and writer Marek Orko Vácha. In the packed auditorium of the Faculty of Education, he discussed with Rector Martin Procházka the ethical issues related to modern genetics, medical humbleness, and human responsibility for technological progress. The debate took place as part of Academic Week, marking the anniversary of UP's reinstatement in 1946. Other guests in the 2024 debate series included journalist Petra Procházková and surgeon Tomáš Kempný. ■





Awards

Academics and non-academics, scientists, athletes, and alumni associated with Palacký University received many prestigious awards in 2024.

UP Rector's Awards

During the UP Academic Week, UP Rector Martin Procházka presented a total of 44 awards for student works, professional publications, and sports achievements. The laureates included students, doctoral students, athletes, and authors in their fields, whose achievements, according to the rector, confirm the high quality of scientific, educational, and sporting activities at UP.

Domestic and international achievements of UP FS scientists and students

The UP Faculty of Science achieved a number of successes in the country as well as abroad. Three of its cartographic works were awarded in the international 2023 Best Map Award, organised by the *Journal of Maps*. Prof Juraj Ševčík also received significant recognition, winning the Vojtěch Šafařík Prize for his contribution to chemistry and its popularisation. Young scientists were also successful. Marie Pražáková took third place and won the Audience Award in the 2024 Falling Walls Lab with her project *Breaking the Wall of Manganese, Medicine & MRI*. Eliška Zgarbová also took third place in the national final of 2024 FameLab thanks to her popular presentation *Farmer's Market: Freshly Grown Human Intestine*. Both are scholarship holders of the UP Endowment Fund.



Michal Ranný Prize for Vladimír Havlík

Performer and conceptual artist Vladimír Havlík from the UP Faculty of Education received the 2024 Michal Ranný Prize. The award was announced during his exhibition *(A)I Performer* in the Moravian Gallery in Brno, where he presented his unrealised performances from the 1980s with the help of AI and opened up the topic of authenticity and documentation in art.

UP FPC received a medal from the Czech School Inspectorate for its contribution to education

The Czech School Inspectorate awarded the UP Faculty of Physical Culture a medal for its contribution to the quality of education, in particular for its long-term cooperation and research into pupils' lifestyles. The award was accepted by Dean Michal Šafář, who highlighted the importance of joint projects such as the Active School concept, as well as academic support for inspection reports.



Jiří Pavlica and Hans-Peter Hartung received honorary doctor degrees

Jiří Pavlica, a prominent musician, composer, and artistic director of the Hradišťan ensemble, and Hans-Peter Hartung, a physician and scientist who has been collaborating with the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc for more than two decades, received honorary doctorates from Palacký University. Pavlica has made exceptional contributions to the development of Czech and Moravian music. Hartung's work has significantly contributed to the elucidation of the mechanism of new treatment for demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, such as multiple sclerosis, and demyelinating inflammations of the peripheral nervous system.



Jan Opletal Award for UP student Vasyl Kapustej

UP Faculty of Education student Vasyl Kapustej was awarded the Jan Opletal Award in the Under 30 category for his long-term civic engagement. He has managed to raise over €410,000 to support civilians and soldiers in Ukraine during the war.

The Union of Czech Lawyers honoured Michal Bartoň for his contribution to legal science

Michal Bartoň, head of the Department of Constitutional Law at the UP Faculty of Law, is one of seven recipients of the prestigious 2024 Antonín Randa Medal. The award, presented by the Council of the Union of Czech Lawyers for contributions to the development of legal science and practice, was presented to him by former President of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic Pavel Rychetský in the Patriotic Hall of Carolinum in Prague.

Werner von Siemens Award for UP FS representatives

Dominik Vašínska and Miroslav Ježek from the UP Faculty of Science Department of Optics won first prize in the Werner von Siemens Award for the best diploma thesis, in which they significantly refined the accuracy of quantum measurements using artificial

intelligence. The results of their research have broad potential for use in quantum processors, sensors, and metrology.

Medals for Merit in the Development of UP awarded to exceptional doctors

Doctor and educator Věra Krčová and professor of interventional cardiology Jan Kováč were awarded Medals for Merit in the Development of Palacký University. Krčová, who has devoted her entire life to internal medicine and haemostasis, received the gold medal on the occasion of her birthday. She has made a significant contribution to the development of the haemocoagulation laboratory and has shaped



the professional and human profile of Olomouc medicine for decades. Kováč, a pioneer of minimally invasive cardiac interventions, received the silver medal during Lukl's Cardiology Day for his long-term cooperation with the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc.

Medals in sports

In 2024, Renata Zachová from UP Faculty of Physical Culture (UP FPC) became the first Czech judoka to win a medal at the Grand Slam and was European champion in the 63kg category. In cycling, students

Daniel Mráz from UP Faculty of Science excelled with a gold medal in the road race, while Jakub Ťoupalík from UP FPC won a silver medal in the 45km criterium race and a gold in the 20km time trial. In tennis, David Kovařík from UP FPC came second in the singles at the Czech Academic Championships, and Adam Jurajda from UP Faculty of Health Sciences (UP FHS) won gold in the doubles with his colleague from the University of Ostrava. Jakub Štvrtecký from UP FPC dominated the World Championships in summer biathlon, winning the 7.5km sprint. Lucie Doležalová, a student at UP FHS, brought home a gold medal from the World Rafting Championships in the four-person slalom category.

New records at the international level

Swimmer Barbora Janíčková from the UP Faculty of Physical Culture set two Czech records at the World Championships in Budapest – 59.25 seconds in the 100m medley and 23.99 seconds in the 50m freestyle in a short course pool. Rower Miroslav Vraštil, also from UP FPC, broke his own indoor world record in the 2km at the World Indoor Rowing Championships, improving his time to 6:13.1. ■



Science at UP

AI speaking like you

UP Faculty of Arts linguists developed software able to generate texts mimicking the speech of a particular person. Thanks to analysing vocabulary and writing style, the technology can create personalised texts that can be used in advertising, communication with seniors, or against disinformation.

More resilient children in the digital world

A team led by researchers from the UP Faculty of Physical Culture is exploring how to strengthen children's mental, physical, and social resilience against the negative influence of digital technologies. The project ReDiKid, funded by the Johannes Amos Comenius Operational Programme, focuses mainly on children aged 9–11. The results will find their applications in the fields of education, legislation, and prevention of risky behaviour. Researchers from Yale and Victoria universities and others are involved.

Fighting bacterial resistance to silver

UP scientists described how bacteria can develop resistance to nanosilver particles, forming biofilm that makes the particles clump together and lose their antibacterial effect. At the same time, they found a way how to hinder that resistance and make anti-

biotics effective again. The discovery was published in the prestigious journal *Communications Biology*.

Long-lived photons will speed up quantum computers

Scientists from Olomouc, in collaboration with the Yale Quantum Institute, demonstrated that microwave cavity resonators can significantly extend the lifetime of quantum bits – photons – to seconds. This makes it possible to significantly increase the performance of quantum computers without being hampered by current superconducting circuits with shorter lifespans. The results pave the way for more complex calculations and further technological advances.

AI helps to better detect quantum entanglement

Scientists from the Joint Laboratory of Optics, a workplace of Palacký University Olomouc and the Institute of Physics at the Czech Academy of Sciences, managed to significantly improve the accuracy of tests for quantum entanglement – a key phenomenon for quantum computers – by using AI. Trained neural networks make it easier to detect entangled states of particles and adapt tests to specific applications. The results were published in the prestigious journal *Physical Review Research*.

Hormone transporter in plants discovered

Scientists from UP and the Czech Academy of Sciences discovered a protein that transports brassinosteroids – key plant hormones – out of cells. This groundbreaking discovery, published in *Science*, could contribute to the development of more productive and resilient crops. Miroslav Kvasnica from the Laboratory of Growth Regulators participated in the research.

Democracy begins at Town Hall

Challenging Citizens, a book by Pavel Šaradín and a team of authors, maps democratic innovations at the local level in Czechia, Poland, and Slovakia. It is the first professional publication to systematically address this topic in Central Europe. It was published by the prestigious Palgrave/Macmillan publishing house.

Smart muscle load monitor

Experts from UP and other institutions developed a modern device for monitoring muscle load using wireless electromyography. The new technology simplifies the evaluation of physical exertion in industry and sports. A patent application has been filed.

New method reveals secrets of nanoparticles in nature and the body

Scientists at UP developed a unique technique that monitors the behaviour of nanoparticles in an environment that mimics living organisms or nature. By combining capillary electrophoresis and mass spectrometry, they are able to examine the interactions between nanoparticles in detail, which will help to shed light on their fate in the human body and in wastewater.

Discovery of 30-million-year-old cyanobacteria reveals evolution and adaptation of microorganisms

A team of scientists from UP, together with colleagues from Sweden, the UK, and the US, analysed the DNA of *Microcoleus* cyanobacteria, which have been living on Earth for 30 million years. The research, published in the journals *Nature Communications* and *iScience*, mapped more than 200 genomes and showed that the emergence of the species was influenced by geographical isolation and adaptation to extreme conditions such as drought and strong UV radiation. ■



CATRIN

The Czech Advanced Technology and Research Institute (CATRIN) at Palacký University is a cutting-edge scientific hub dedicated to advancing research in the fields of nanotechnology, biotechnology, and biomedicine. CATRIN brings together prominent scientific teams from various fields and, thanks to international cooperation and strong practical orientation, provides solutions to current global challenges – from health protection and sustainable agriculture to environmental and energy innovations.

Groundbreaking nano research

Thanks to CATRIN, Palacký University was granted the Technology Beyond Nanoscale (TECHSCALE) project in the Johannes Amos Comenius Operational Programme call with a budget of almost €20 million. A multidisciplinary team from five UP faculties led by the physical chemist Michal Otyepka, together with partners from Charles University and CEITEC-VUT, will push the boundaries of nanotechnology. The goal is to develop nanomaterials and technologies that will contribute to solving two current societal challenges: obtaining and storing renewable energy and improving quality of life.

Medicinal plants of the future

CATRIN joined the prestigious VALOR-LIGHT project, which aims to develop innovative technologies for the sustainable cultivation of medicinal plants in a controlled environment. Supported by the Aurora university network, the project connects leading European institutions and paves the way for participation in major international challenges.

Czech-Taiwan alliance for future health

The CATRIN Institute has established a strategic partnership with the prestigious National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) in Taiwan, which will focus on the use of nanomaterials in medicine and

research into lifestyle diseases. The cooperation, confirmed by a five-year memorandum, has already resulted in the first joint projects and exchanges of researchers.

A sensor from an inkjet printer? Czech graphene makes it possible

Scientists from UP CATRIN were the first in the world to print a universal electrode for biosensors using a standard inkjet printer – with the help of their own graphene ink. The result offers performance comparable to commercial electrodes, but with significantly lower material consumption and cost. The revolutionary technology was described in the prestigious journal *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*. Electrochemical biosensors can be used not only in medicine, but also to monitor the quality of food, drinking water, and air.



Green energy and CATRIN among Europe's elite

UP CATRIN joined the prestigious four-year LESIA project, which aims to develop a new generation of safer, more powerful, and more sustainable batteries. The project, part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme, connects the academic and commercial spheres across Europe and Asia.

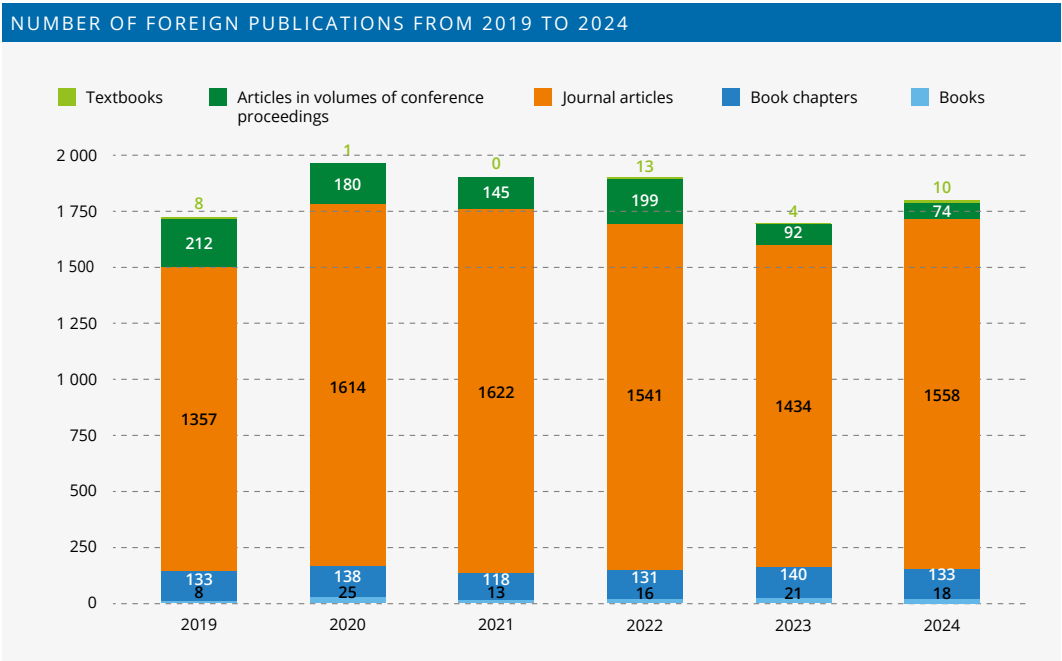
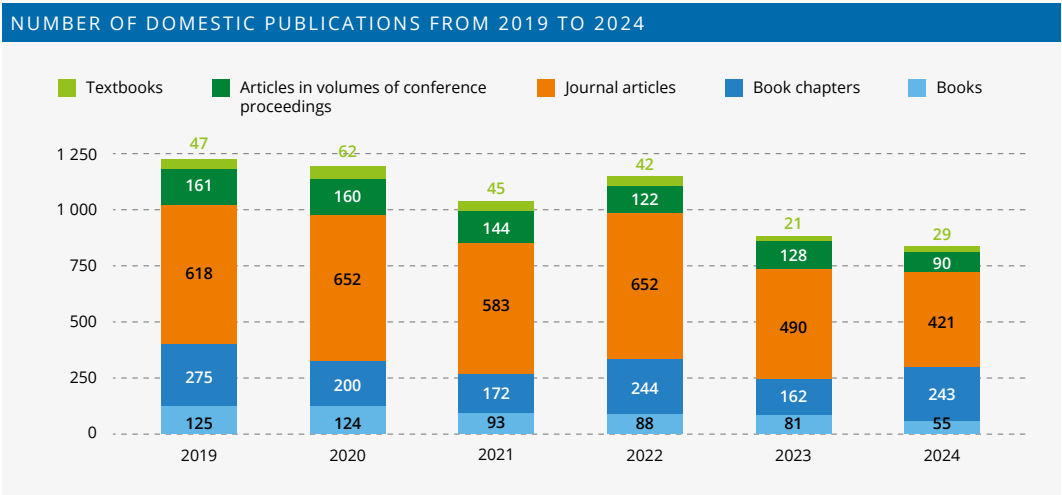
AMADEUS: A revolution in drug development

Thanks to a €3.4 million grant from the European Research Council, Alexander Dömling's team at CATRIN is developing the AMADEUS platform, which will use AI and miniaturisation to accelerate and reduce the cost of developing new drugs. The goal is to discover new compounds in a safer, more environmentally friendly, and more efficient way.

Atomic antibiotics open up new possibilities

CATRIN scientists contributed to the discovery of a unique pathway for the development of a new generation of antibiotics that are not only effective against a wide range of bacteria, but can also reliably prevent the development of bacterial resistance. They transformed manganese, a trace element essential for the human body, into an effective antibiotic by anchoring it in the structure of chemically modified graphene via employing atomic engineering. The new material has enormous potential, especially in local therapy, such as healing wounds. ■

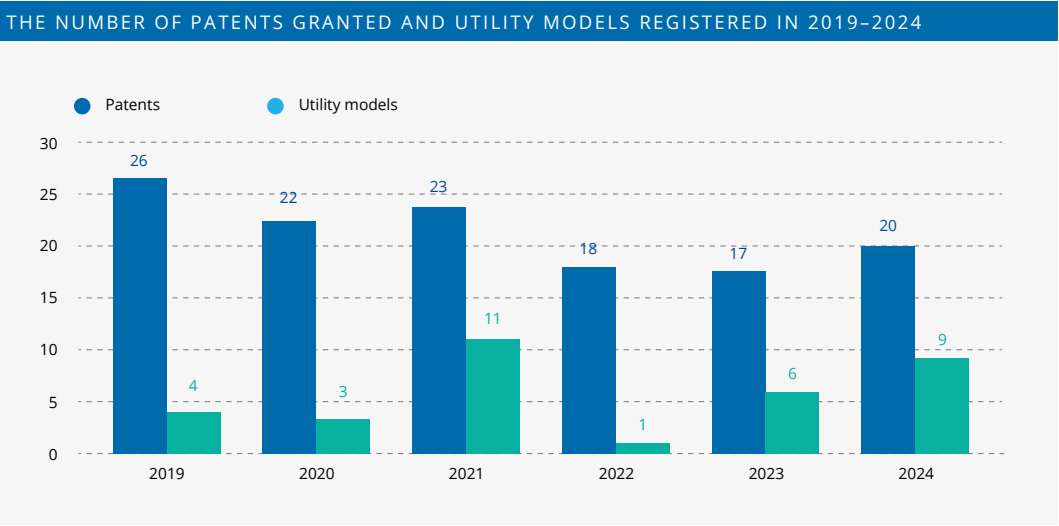




MOST FREQUENT PROFESSIONAL PERIODICALS WITH ARTICLES BY UP ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS IN WOS INCITES		
Periodical	Number of documents	Number of citations
Journal of High Energy Physics	22	218
Physical Review Letters	19	132
Physical Review D	18	25
European Physical Journal C	17	58
Scientific Reports	16	11
Biomedical Papers-Olomouc	14	2
Physics Letters B	12	44
International Journal of Molecular Sciences	11	7
Journal of Instrumentation	11	25
Acs Omega	10	3
Dalton Transactions	10	3
Physical Review A	9	2
Plos One	8	8
Plants-Basel	8	8
Fuzzy Sets and Systems	8	2

MOST FREQUENT PROFESSIONAL PERIODICALS WITH ARTICLES BY UP ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS IN SCOPUS	
Periodical	Number of documents
Journal of High Energy Physics	32
Physical Review Letters	25
Physical Review D	20
Physics Letters B: Nuclear, Elementary Particle and High-Energy Physics	18
Biomedical Papers	17
European Physical Journal C	17
Scientific Reports	16
Studia Theologica	13
International Journal of Molecular Sciences	11
Dalton Transactions	10
ASC Omega	9
Česko-Slovenská Pediatrie	9
Journal of Instrumentation	9
Physical Review A	9
Vnitřní lékařství	9

SUMS FOR FINANCED PROJECTS IN 2024 WHERE UP IS THE CO-INVESTIGATOR OR INVESTIGATOR + FINANCES FROM THE CZECH STATE BUDGET ONLY FOR UP (IN THOUSANDS CZK)			
Funding source	Number of projects	Total project budgets (in thousands CZK)	UP's share of project budgets (in thousands CZK)
The Czech Science Foundation	87	207,434	148,220
The Ministry of Health	19	56,103	24,110
The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	49	1,632,670	246,636
The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic	39	658,215	95,099
The Ministry of Culture	11	52,571	26,706
The Ministry of the Interior	2	12,139	2,888
The Ministry of Agriculture	3	6,953	1,967
TOTAL	210	2,626,085	545,626



Global Rankings

UP’s long-term efforts to achieve excellence in education, research, and sustainability are yielding visible results – UP repeatedly ranks among the best in international rankings. In the last year, it has confirmed its position in the prestigious ARWU and THE world rankings and has significantly improved its position in sustainability-focused rankings – QS Sustainability and UI GreenMetric. These achievements prove that the university is keeping pace with global trends and actively contributing to solving societal challenges.

UP once again among the world’s top thousand universities

For the eighth time, UP was ranked among the world’s top 1,000 universities in the prestigious ARWU (Shanghai Ranking) and took third place among Czech universities. In the global comparison, it ranks 601st–700th. ARWU evaluates the quality of teaching, scientific performance, and research outputs, including publications in scientific journals.

UP in THE Rankings

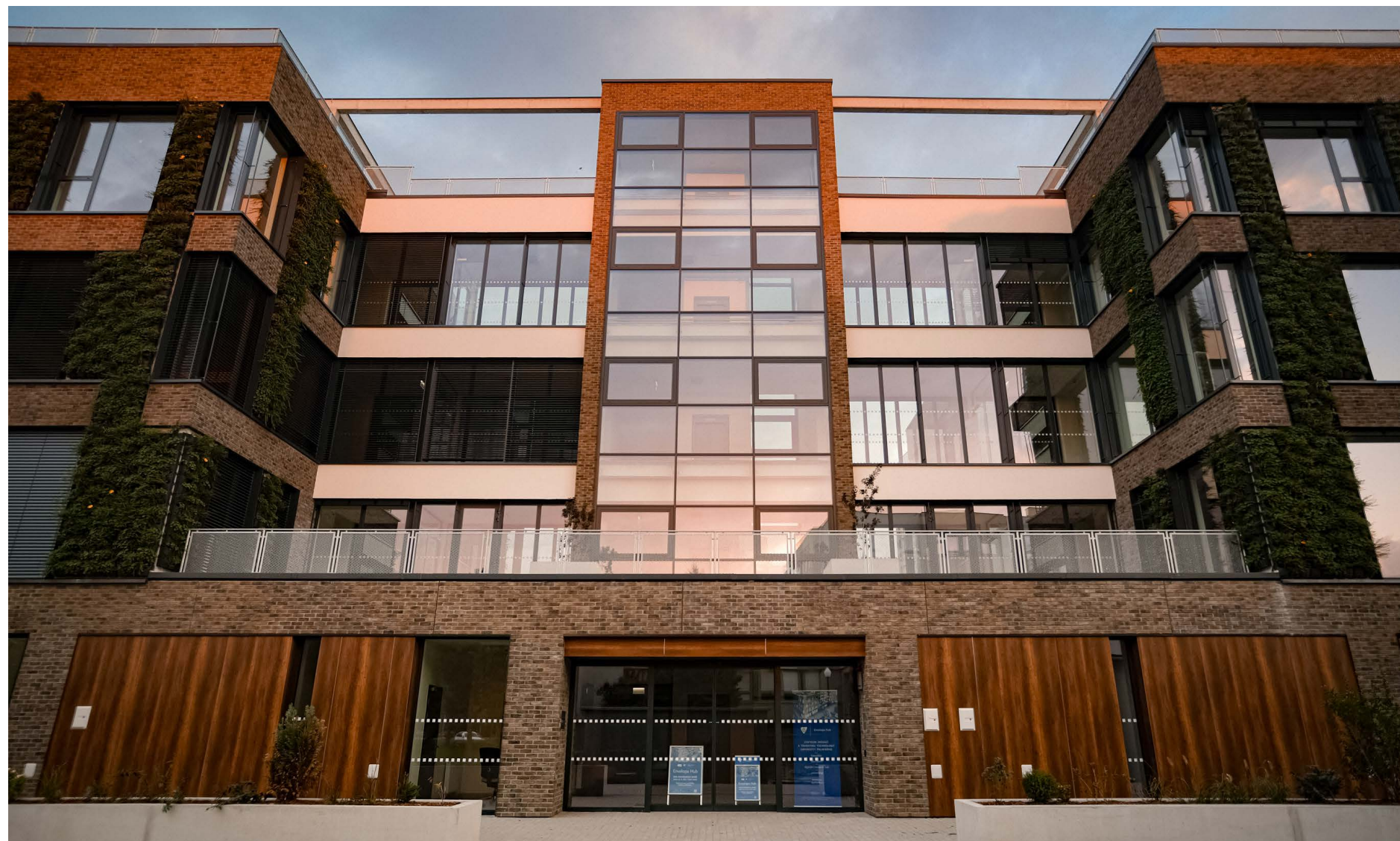
UP has once again maintained its position in the prestigious THE World University Rankings, where it ranked 1001st–1200th and fourth among Czech universities. Out of the five pillars evaluated, UP ranked highest in the International Outlook indicator (618th place). Its best scores among the weighted indicators were achieved in Research Income and Research Influence.

Sustainability on the rise

UP improved its position in the QS Sustainability Rankings by 62 places to 360th, despite increased competition. It excelled particularly in Governance (155th), but also in Environmental Impact (394th), and Social Impact (455th). Positive points for its sustainable development strategy, careful waste and energy management, and greenery on campus also earned it a move up 119 places in the UI GreenMetric rankings, where it defended its fourth place among Czech universities. ■

UP IN SELECTED INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS IN 2024	
Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)	601st–700th
U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings	671st
THE World University Rankings	1001st–1200th
QS World University Rankings	651st–660th
The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)	625th
QS World University Rankings: Europe	214th





UP Science and Technology Park

The UP Science and Technology Park (UP STP) is an innovation centre that combines research, entrepreneurship, and technological development. It serves as a bridge between the university environment and the commercial sphere: it supports startups, the development of business plans, and the transfer of scientific results into practice. It offers facilities for research teams and firms, offers consulting in the area of intellectual property and technology transfer, it manages the incubator and digital innovation hub DIGI2Health, and organises events supporting entrepreneurship and cooperation between the academic and application spheres.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Mentoring and incubation
- Leasing of space
- Startups
- UP Business Camp
- Enterprising Mind

Mentoring and incubation

Mentoring and incubation, one of UP STP's services and missions, offers support to university students and employees in starting up and developing their businesses. Through expert consulting, it helps with practical steps and much more. In connection with its activities and the nature of its spaces, UP STP arranges applications for leases of non-residential spaces in its premises with interested parties, especially for the purposes of start-up businesses and innovative enterprises.



Leasing of space

UP STP offers office, laboratory, and pilot production spaces for lease over a total area of 9,351 m² in four buildings. Three buildings are located in the Olomouc – Šlechtitelů Street industrial zone, and the fourth building, the Envelopa Hub, was opened in September 2023 in close proximity to the town centre.

Startups

UP STP supports innovative startups, which often require seed capital and can be based in science-industrial parks or incubators.



UP Business Camp

UP Business Camp is a conference on entrepreneurship, its beginnings, successes, and failures. It is aimed especially at students and young entrepreneurs, those just starting out. The programme for the 12th annual UP Business Camp took place on 22 November 2024 in the spaces of UP's Fort Science and was dedicated to the theme of sustainable business. The event was supported by 30 partners and had over 20 outputs in digital and print form.

Enterprising Mind

The Enterprising Mind (Podnikavá hlava) competition is intended for future, beginning, and experienced entrepreneurs, and its goal is to provide those competing with feedback and award the best business ideas. Thirty-three projects were entered into the 15th year of the competition, 12 of them by students. The winning project was StitchItOn by Anna Chesnoková, a UP Faculty of Science student. Second

TRANSFER AND COMMERCIALISATION

- Intellectual property protection
- Proof of Concept
- Spin-offs

prize went to Pozemkov by the team of Jan Karásek, and third place went to the web application Atocks.cz by Jiří Cibulec.

Intellectual property protection

UP STP offers comprehensive advice in the area of intellectual property protection for corporate inventions created within the framework of work originating at UP. Intellectual property protection refers to patent protection, trademarks, copyrighted works, and inventions. In 2024, UP STP registered 211 valid intellectual property items and 18 new applications.

Proof of Concept

The goal of resolving Proof of Concept (PoC) projects at UP STP is to bring commercially interesting ideas closer to practice. Resolving PoC projects takes place in three phases. The first is aimed primarily at determining requirements, real market needs, and clients. This is followed by the PoC phase, and in the final phase, project results are prepared for commercial application. In 2024, a total of five PoC projects were launched and resolved at UP.

SPECIALISED SERVICES

- Custom measuring
- 3D printing and 3D scanning
- Computer server
- DIGI2Health

Spin-offs

Spin-off companies – originating from the academic research of students, employees, or scientists – make use of their research results for commercialisation and transfer technology into practice.

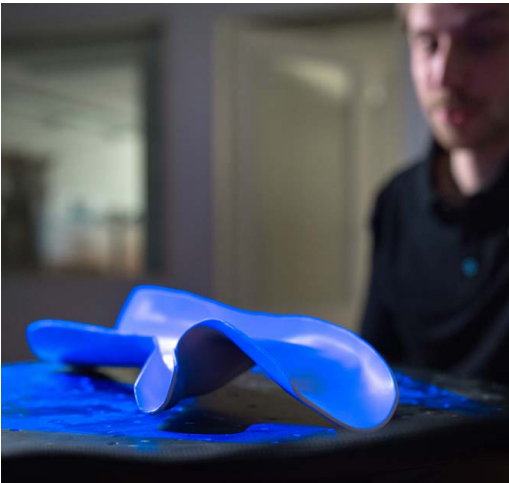


Custom Measuring

In addition to teaching, UP conducts very advanced research in multiple fields. Advanced Materials Analytics, a specialised competence workplace, was founded in order to offer unique physical-chemical analyses. AMA provides analytical services to fourteen partners world-wide.

3D printing and 3D scanning

UPrint 3D, an additive manufacturing centre, started operations at UP STP in 2015. One of the largest workplaces of its kind in Morava, it offers 3D printing, 3D scanning, consulting, and project support to companies and UP workplaces.



SGI UV 2000 server

In symbiosis with UPrint 3D, UP STP also operates an SGI UV 2000 advanced symmetric multiprocessing (SMP) system, with ANSYS Multiphysics FEM software installed, the world's most widely used SW for numerical modelling of physical processes. UP STP offers companies assistance in the following areas: numerical flow modelling, hydraulic research and development, and structural analyses.

DIGI2Health

UP STP is a co-founding member of the DIGI2Health digital innovation hub, a co-project of Palacký University Olomouc, University Hospital Olomouc, and the Innovation Centre of the Olomouc Region. In 2024, UP STP connected DIGI2Health with UP and science and research workplaces at the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, UP Faculty of Health Sciences, UP Faculty of Physical Culture, and UP Faculty of Science. All faculties have access to DIGI2Health equipment and services, which help connect the scientific and commercial spheres. ■

UP STP IN 2024 IN NUMBERS:

- 21 consulted projects
- 67 consulting hours
- 33 events supporting entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and technology transfer, with 1,118 participants
- 76 incubated companies
- 143 participants at the 12th annual UP Business Camp
- 211 registered active intellectual property records, 18 new applications
- 40 mediated contracts for UP
- 52 PoC projects resolved at UP
- 4 UP STP infrastructures on the CzechInvest Technological Incubation whitelist



Accommodation and Dining at UP

In 2024, UP Accommodation and Dining Facilities (ADF) focussed on sustainability and a healthy lifestyle. Sustainable University launched a campaign in UP dining halls urging active movement and a balanced diet. During the year, ADF enriched the menu in dining halls with more plant-based and meat-free meals. It also improved safety in dormitories and dining halls.

Health on the plate, climate in the balance

UP launched an awareness campaign in the dining halls which combines a healthy lifestyle with environmental responsibility. Students and employees could learn how a balanced diet and limiting meat consumption could contribute to improving one's health and reducing one's carbon footprint. It included the "Veggie Challenge" to help show students and employees how to eat a balanced diet without meat.

Meatless November

In November, UP dining halls daily offered new plant-based and meat-free meals as part of their support for healthy and sustainable dining. The event was built upon the success of European Sustainable Development Week and was created in cooperation with Sustainable University. The offer was accompanied with a questionnaire and recipes from its cooking staff.



Dormitory named after Josef Jařab

The UP Academic Senate approved renaming the Šmeralova dormitory the Josef Jařab Dormitory, in honour of the first post-Velvet Revolution rector of UP. Prof Jařab was a key figure in the development of academic freedoms and education at UP, and its international prestige.

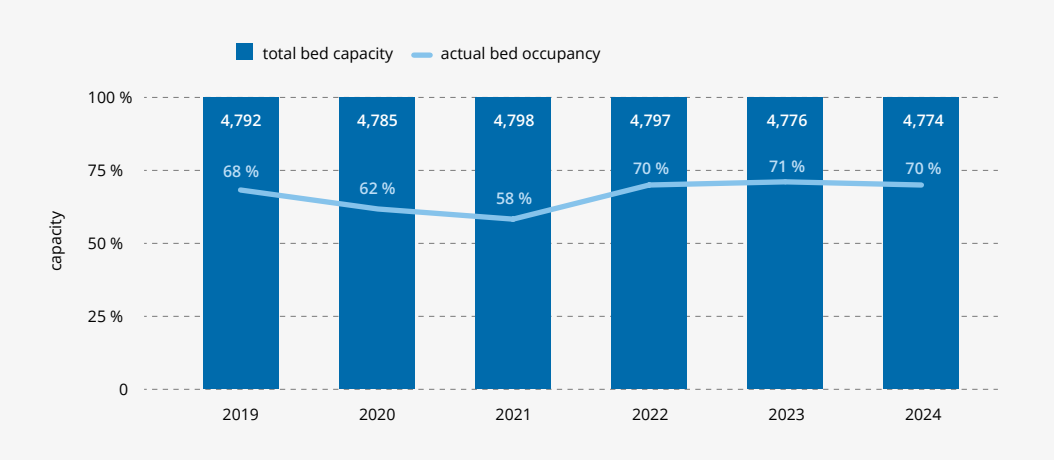
Dormitory staff got new gear

Reception desk staff at dormitories welcomed students and guests in university colours – newly outfitted in polo shirts, dresses, and pullovers from the UniWearCity collection at the university's UPoint shop. The clothing was designed for comfort and presentability and is in line with the university's visual style.

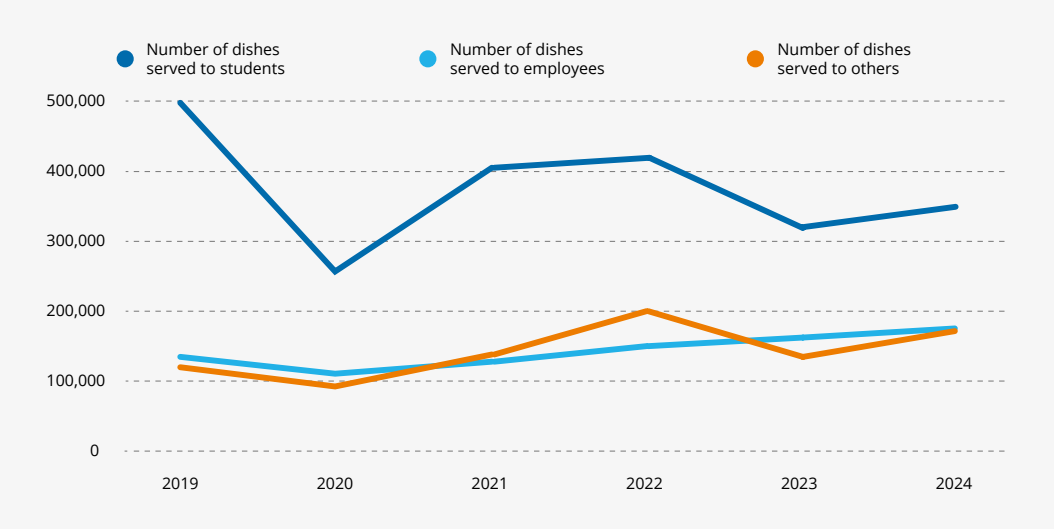
Safer dormitories

Security cameras were installed at certain areas of the 17. listopadu dormitory to improve student safety and to curtail the movement of unauthorised persons. The system was introduced with an emphasis on protecting privacy in conjunction with legislation and UP's internal regulations. ■

UTILISATION OF DORMITORY BED CAPACITY 2019-2024



NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED ACCORDING TO DINER CATEGORY 2019-2024





ACCOMODATION SERVICES IN 2024	
Total bed capacity at dormitories	4,774
Number of accommodation requests	5,488
Number of accommodation requests satisfied	5,132
Total number of daily accommodations	1,230,568

DINING SERVICES IN 2024	
Number of main courses served to students	350,288
Number of main courses served to employees	170,597
Number of main courses served to others	167,837
Total number of main courses served	688,722





Sustainable University

UP is aware of its responsibility toward society and the environment, which is why in recent years it has focussed on sustainable development. It has a dedicated department for sustainable development – Sustainable University. Through innovations that strengthen societal responsibility and support environmental-friendly behaviour and a greater focus on research and education in this area, UP is disseminating the principles of sustainable development at the university and among the public.

Action Plan for the implementation of the 2024–2025 UP Sustainable Development Strategy

The Action Plan is one of the stated goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy of Palacký University Olomouc, approved by the UP Academic Senate in 2022, and is in accordance with the Palacký University Olomouc Strategic Plan for the Period 2021+. The Action Plan for implementation in the 2024–2025 period set the following priorities:



PRIORITY AREAS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UP FOR 2024–2025		
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION	EDUCATIONAL AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE THIRD MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY
• Energy • Waste and the circular economy • Water and green spaces • Objects and infrastructure • Digitalisation and IT • Dining • Mobility and transportation • Responsible purchasing	• Education in sustainability • Creative activity	• Community for sustainability • Healthy lifestyle and care for the UP community • Equal opportunities for all • Support of the region • Strategic partnerships

Water audit

In the second half of 2024, UP conducted a water audit in order to obtain a transparent overview of how it disposes water and where it has potential reserves. Experts focussed on water quality, water sources, the condition of the water supply system, and the management of wastewater, rainwater, and recycled water. The analysis confirmed that the university is behaving responsibly as regards water and in accordance with the principles of sustainability; it revealed some vulnerabilities, and arrived at specific proposals as how to reduce these risks and further improve water management.

Waste as an opportunity

UP and the Sustainable Palacký association were awarded the Olomouc Region Award for their contributions to the environment, specifically for advanced food waste recycling and activities against creating food waste. UP was the first university in the Czech Republic to join the tridimgastro.cz (Let's Recycle Food Waste) project, which assures ecological processing of kitchen waste in a biogas plant. Also significant is its long-term operation of the Freeshop reuse centre, the Václavka dormitory community garden, and the Free Food UPOL initiative.

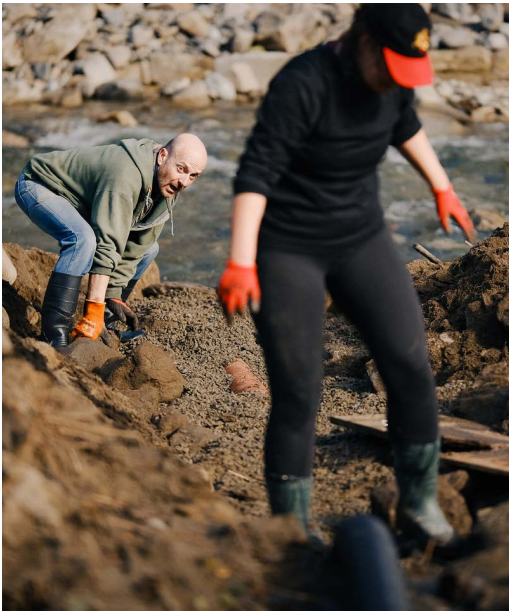


Meadows, nesting boxes, and biodiversity

In 2024, the UP campus at Envelopa underwent a metamorphosis – traditional lawns were replaced by flowering meadows, with the goal of improving the environment for students and for threatened pollinators. New university buildings were given nesting boxes for swifts and bats to support urban biodiversity. Both projects were started thanks to the initiative of Sustainable University and with the support of the Olomouc Region.

UP VOLUNTEERING CENTRE

UP VC was founded in 2016 as the first Czech volunteering centre run by a university. Its mission is to mediate contact between the student and academic environment and institutions which provide help to those in need. The Centre also supports volunteering in general as an opportunity for self-development, supporting citizen engagement, and fulfilling the third mission of the university.



Green bridge between faculties

At each UP faculty, there is a new sustainable development ambassador who connects individual components with the central sustainability office. Their task is to support the fulfilment of strategic goals, share information, coordinate activities, and help create faculty action plans.

Aid after floods

UP students and employees got involved to help in areas affected by flooding, primarily in the Jeseník district. They volunteered to help with clean-up and putting things back in order, often under quite demanding conditions. These volunteers were provided with leadership, support, coordination on the ground, and transportation to affected areas. From the coordination centre, 1,496 volunteers went out into the affected areas, putting in 12,000 volunteer hours.

Other Volunteering Centre activities

In addition to providing crucial help after the floods, in 2024 the Volunteering Centre also dedicated itself to activities promoting volunteering between university students and secondary school students. It held a Student Volunteer Day, presentations of opportunities at schools and UP events, programmes for seniors and disadvantaged youth, and meetings of volunteers. Rector's Prizes for Service in the Area of Volunteering were also traditionally awarded; this time to 11 UP students and employees. ■





Buildings, modernisation, remodelling

The university influences the look of the City of Olomouc. In 2024, this occurred both via the remodelling of existing university spaces and buildings and the construction of new ones. Remodelling of the Faculty of Health Sciences building on Svoboda Avenue began, and great progress was made on the construction of a new classroom building for the Faculties of Medicine & Dentistry (FMD) and Health Sciences (FHS). New archives and botanical gardens buildings were opened.

Largest investment in the history of University Hospital Olomouc launched

University Hospital Olomouc (UHO) began the construction of Pavilion B at a cost of €140 million, which will offer modern facilities for four clinics, an emergency room, operating rooms, and classrooms. The building, with 273 beds and state-of-the-art technology, should be completed in 2028. The ceremonial laying of the foundation stone took place on 21 October 2024.

Six kilometres of memory

UP opened its new archives building at a cost of €7.4 million, which will provide up to 6 kilometres of storage capacity for historical documents, a modern study room, and a conference room. It is a completely new building at the Neředín campus and will ensure long-term archiving of university

materials. The UP Archives are one of the top Czech academic memory institutions.

New Oncology Clinic pavilion

Better availability of modern treatment for cancer patients, a higher capacity for outpatient care in suitable premises, a brand-new, much needed chemotherapy unit. These are the main benefits of the new Oncology Clinic pavilion at UP FMD and UHO, which will be attached to the existing Department of a Hemato-Oncology outpatient pavilion in the southern part of the hospital complex.

Distinguished red building on Hněvotínská Street nearing completion

Construction of the four-storey building in the UHO complex is ongoing; the building will offer modern classrooms for studying medicine and healthcare,



including an auditorium (aula) with seating for 400, and a dining hall which can serve 2,000 persons per day. In 2024, the installation of three thousand perforated red triangles on the façade began to give the building a distinguished look.

Green hall in garden's heart

The Faculty of Science opened a new multifunctional building with the Josef Otruba lecture hall, winter garden, and modern technical facilities within the Olomouc Botanical Garden. The architecturally and technologically sophisticated building offers spaces for teaching, research, and public events. The building, with a view of the Botanical Garden complex, reflects the university's commitment to sustainability and protection of biodiversity.

New sport facilities

The UP Faculty of Physical Culture (FPC) prepared to move the Department of Sport from the city centre to its Neředín campus (NC), where a new hall for gymnastics is being built which will also offer barrier-free access to the NC building. The move should be completed by August 2025, when the lease of the existing premises ends. The total investment, roughly €2 million, is part of an ERDF project to renovate the faculty's infrastructure.

Saying goodbye to the old hall in style

In March 2024, UP FPC bid farewell to the existing look of the UP Sports Hall with a ceremonial ball, which symbolically marked the launch of its planned renovations. During the ball, inspiring teachers, top researchers, and successful alumni and athletes were awarded. Renovation of the hall followed systematic modernisation of its Neředín complex. ■



International Relations & Mobility

WORLD WITHIN REACH

Palacký University has long been building an open and inspiring international environment via supporting student and employee mobilities, developing foreign-language study programmes, and creating conditions for foreign academics and students to work and study in Olomouc. In 2024, cooperation with Taiwan significantly advanced, ties with American institutions were strengthened, and a number of new partnerships were established. UP is a member of the European university alliance Aurora, which it chaired in 2024. In 2024, 3,125 foreign students studied at the university, with the highest numbers from Slovakia and Ukraine.

UP strengthened strategic partnerships with the USA

In 2024, UP deepened its cooperation with American universities, both in science and research and in student and academic exchange programmes. The university strengthened its long-term cooperation with the University of Nebraska at Kearney and further expanded its cooperation with its branch in Lincoln. It continued to support scientific cooperation with its partner university, the University of Florida, and strengthened its relations with the University of Minnesota, which worked closely with universities in the Aurora network in 2024. Olomouc’s university continued strategic talks with the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which are intended to support academic mobility between UP and the USA in the future.

UP and Taiwan: From contacts to a key partnership in Asia

In 2024, UP significantly expanded its cooperation with Taiwanese universities. Palacký University is the leading institution in the UAAT project for teaching Mandarin in the Czech Republic. The Faculty of Law established cooperation with National Taiwan University (NTU), and the first joint activities, such as summer schools and research stays, began in the summer of 2024. These partnerships represent a strategic strengthening of UP’s ties in the Asian region. The establishment of academic relations with this democratic island country follows up on UP’s long-term activities and is based on the current foreign policy of the Czech Republic.

New partnerships, shared programmes, and cultural diplomacy

In 2024, UP continued to develop its international academic activities. As part of the prestigious Euridice project, it prepared a joint English-taught Master’s programme with the universities of Innsbruck and Naples, focusing on digital society and global citizenship. The UP Faculty of Physical Culture established cooperation with Örebro University in Sweden, while in Poland, thanks to the activities of the Czech Center in Warsaw, cultural and academic partnerships with Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin were developed. UP thus continued to enhance its international profile through exchange programmes, shared projects, and cultural diplomacy. ■

CENTRES FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Language and cultural centres play an important role in shaping the international and multicultural environment at UP, regularly organising educational and cultural programmes for students and the public. There are currently seven such centres at UP – British, French, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, American, and the King Sejong Institute for Korean Language and Culture. They cooperate with many important institutions, such as the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and the US Embassy. UP is also home to the Centre for Myanmar Studies and the Irish and Taiwanese Corners.

UP WELCOME OFFICE

The UP Welcome Office (UP WO) provides comprehensive support to international students and employees, from administrative services to assistance with cultural integration. It strives to create an open and friendly university environment based on the

principles of diversity and inclusion. It works closely with UP faculties and other departments. In 2024, UP WO launched an ambassador programme with the aim of actively involving international students in its activities.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITIES IN 2024

Academic workers		Students	
Number of outgoing staff	Number of incoming staff	Number of outgoing students	Number of incoming students
1,413	454	1,168	889

UP’S INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES (REGARDLESS OF FUNDING SOURCE) 2024

Palacký University Olomouc	H2021 / 7th Framework Programme by EC			TOTAL
	Total	Marie-Curie Actions	Other	
Number of projects	22	10	8	30
Number of outgoing students			60	60
Number of incoming students			45	45
Number of outgoing academic and scientific staff				0
Number of incoming academic and scientific staff			98	98
Funding in thousands of CZK	526,260	43,866	839	527,099

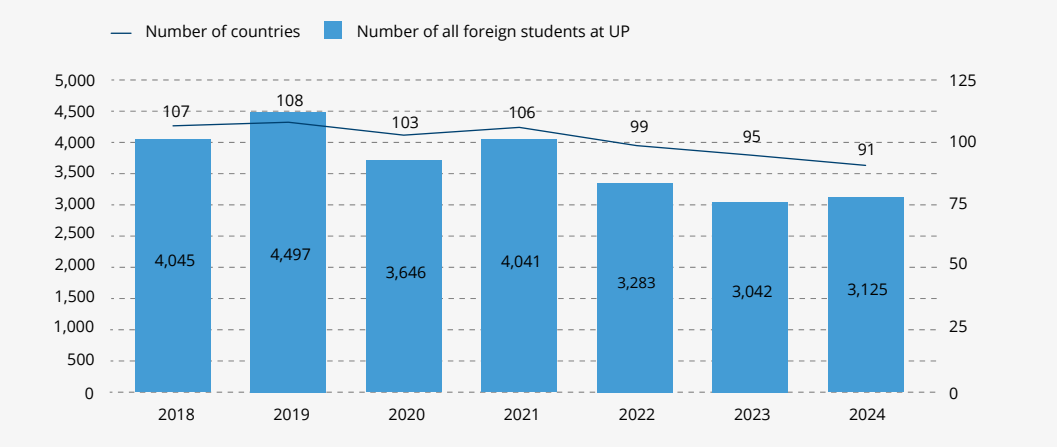
NUMBER OF STUDY PROGRAMMES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE										
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's programme		Master's programme		Continuing Master's programme		Doctoral programme		Total
ISCED-Fields of education	code	FT*	C/D**	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	
STS CYRIL AND METHODIUS FACULTY OF THEOLOGY										
Arts and humanities	02	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	5
Health and welfare	09	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
FACULTY OF ARTS										
Education	01	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	5
Arts and humanities	02	6	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	14
Social sciences, journalism, information sciences	03	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	5	12
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE										
Services	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	6
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES										
Health and welfare	09	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY										
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Health and welfare	09	0	0	3	0	0	0	12	12	27

NUMBER OF STUDY PROGRAMMES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE										
Palacký University Olomouc		Bachelor's programme		Master's programme		Continuing Master's programme		Doctoral programme		Total
ISCED-Fields of education	code	FT*	C/D**	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	FT	C/D	
FACULTY OF EDUCATION										
Education	01	5	3	1	1	6	4	10	10	40
Health and welfare	09	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
FACULTY OF LAW										
Business, administration, and law	04	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	7
FACULTY OF SCIENCE										
Education	01	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
Social sciences, journalism, information sciences	03	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	2	1	0	0	11	1	27	26	68
Information and communication technologies	06	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Engineering, manufacturing, and construction	07	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3

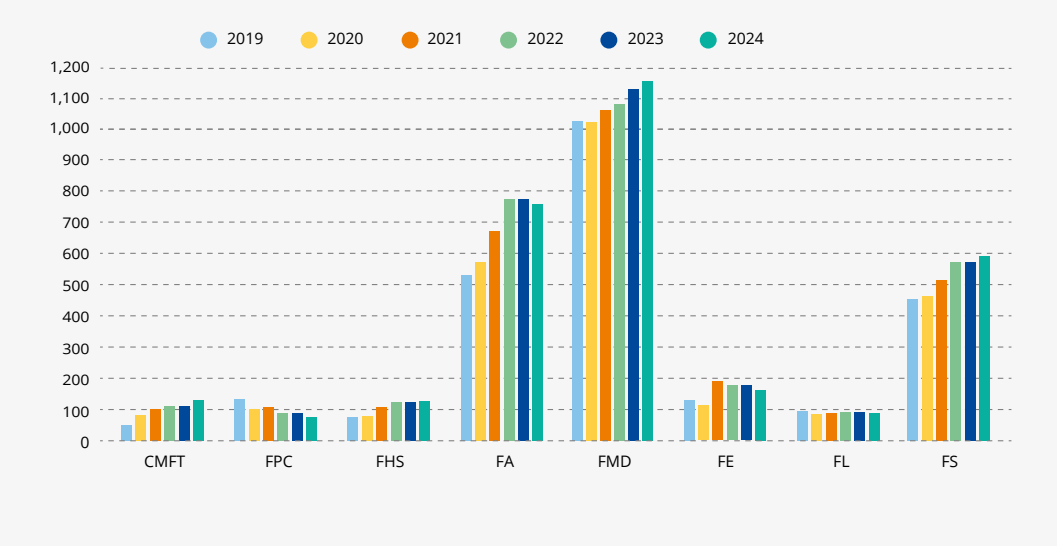
* FT = Full-time, ** C/D = Combined/Distance

PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLOMOUC										
Programmes and qualifications – general education	00									
Education	01	5	3	1	1	9	4	13	13	49
Arts and humanities	02	6		1		3	1	4	4	19
Social sciences, journalism, and information sciences	03					3		6	6	15
Business, administration, and law	04					2		3	2	7
Natural sciences, mathematics, and statistics	05	2	1			11	1	28	27	70
Information and communication technologies	06							2	2	4
Engineering, manufacturing, and construction	07					1		1	1	3
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and veterinary medicine	08									
Health and welfare	09	1		3		1		14	14	33
Services	10					1	1	2	2	6
TOTAL		14	4	5	1	31	7	73	71	206

NUMBER OF ALL FOREIGN STUDENTS AT UP AND THE NUMBER OF THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN 2018–2024



NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS BY FACULTY (INCLUDING SHORT-TERM STAYS) IN 2019–2024





AFO 2024

59TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF POPULAR SCIENCE FILMS

The Academia Film Olomouc (AFO) international festival of popular science films has been held by UP in Olomouc since 1966. The main theme of the 59th annual festival was Memory. The programme reflected the various ways in which memory and storing information influence our world, and also the relationship between memory and knowledge. Two hundred films were screened, 250 guests were in attendance, and 8,798 viewers were accredited.



AFO 2024: Science as an experience for nearly 9000 viewers

The six-day international festival Academia Film Olomouc attracted a record 8,798 accredited viewers, confirming its position as one of the most important science film festivals in the world. It offered over 350 programmed events – from film screenings, discussions, and lectures to art exhibitions and concerts. The main prize for best international scientific documentary was won by the film *Woodpeckers: The Hole Story*, and the film *Hunt for the Oldest DNA* was also honoured, winning three categories including the Audience Award and UP Students' Jury Award. Camp4Science was again a component of the festival, this year giving financial support to projects in the total amount of USD 45,000. Another significant recognition also went overseas – the prize for popularising science was granted to the renowned American Santa Fe Institute. ■

AWARDS AT AFO 2024:

Award for Best International Popular Science Film

- *Woodpeckers: The Hole Story* (Ann Johnson Prum | USA)
- Honourable Mention by the International Competition Jury: *Hunt for the Oldest DNA* (Niobe Thompson | Canada)

Award for Best Czech and Slovak Science Documentary Film

- *The World According to My Dad* (Marta Kovářová | Czech Republic)
- Honourable Mention by the Czech and Slovak Competition Jury: *Notes from Eremocene* (Viera Čákanyová | Slovakia)

Best Short Science Film Award

- *Getty abortions* (Franz Kabisch | Germany)
- Honourable Mention: *Hardly Working* (Total Refusal | Austria)

Palacký University Students' Jury Award

- *Hunt for the Oldest DNA* (Niobe Thompson | Canada)
- Honourable Mention: *Let's Talk About Sex – A Century of Sex Education* (Ina Kessebohm, Nadine Neumann | Germany)

Audience Award

- *Hunt for the Oldest DNA* (Niobe Thompson | Canada)

Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Communication of Science – Institution

- Santa Fe Institute





Education, Culture, Sports, Entertainment

FOR STUDENTS AND (NOT ONLY)
OLOMOUC RESIDENTS

Long Night of the Sciences attracted thousands

The Long Night of the Sciences, inspired by Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, offered a record programme at more than 20 locations in Olomouc. UP even expanded the programme to nearby towns – Přerov, Prostějov, Přáslavice, and Hlubočky. More than 150 activities – including chemical experiments, AI in the arts, and celestial observation – were prepared by all eight faculties of Palacký University, Fort Science, University Hospital Olomouc, and other partners. A record 13,000 people visited the event at UP alone. On this occasion, the university also organised a trip for a hundred of students from the Jeseníky region, who had been affected by flooding, to Olomouc and the Long Night of the Sciences.



MEET UP opened the academic year with energy, music, and help for those in need

The MEET UP festival, a traditional UP welcome event for the new academic year, took place on 24 September in the courtyard of the UP Armoury. Visitors enjoyed musical performances, presentations by student clubs and university departments, workshops, a food zone, and the presentation of the Rector's Awards to volunteers. The event, which was relocated from the riverbank at the last minute due to flooding, also offered the opportunity to contribute to aid for the affected areas through a Czech Red Cross collection.

UP excelled at the Colours of Ostrava festival and Meltingpot once again

In 2024, UP once again took part in the Colours of Ostrava festival and the Meltingpot discussion fo-



rum, where the four-day programme in the Relax & Info zone and Saturday's Envision Stage discussion attracted more than 2,500 visitors. They could try out a wide range of activities – from 3D printing to resuscitation – and obtained information about study opportunities at UP. The highlight of the programme was a discussion stage with academics from five faculties, whose lectures and subsequent debates aroused great interest among the audience.

The new King of May: Michal Horák

During the main day of the May Student Celebrations a/k/a Olomouc Majáles, singer-songwriter and doctoral student at the Faculty of Education Michal Horák was ceremoniously crowned in the courtyard of the UP Armoury. The new student king took over the royal cloak, sceptre, and university ukulele, and then got the audience to sing his songs. The event offered a rich accompanying programme at the Ar-



moury and the local open-air cinema – from band gigs and student club presentations to discussions about the EU. Olomouc Majáles was visited by 5,000 people during three days.

UP builds bridges: Promoting diversity and inclusion

UP organised its first IncluDay – an all-day event focused on promoting diversity, inclusion, and work-life balance. The programme offered a breakfast with female scientists, a workshop for employees, and a theatre performance, and was met with great interest from the academic community.

Olomouc Design Days with UP for the first time

In 2024, Palacký University became a co-organiser of the Olomouc Design Days festival, which offered more than 100 events, including lectures, workshops,



exhibitions, and thematic conferences focused on artificial intelligence, 3D printing, and sustainable design. UP enriched the programme with academic lectures, craft workshops, guided tours, and the FFest student festival.

Palacký University Ball

In February 2024, the traditional Palacký University Ball was held as the highlight of the Academic Week. Martin Kumžák's Moondance Orchestra performed at the NH Collection Congress Olomouc hotel, and the programme was complemented by dance, fashion, and magic shows, and a lavish buffet.

Roll Up Your Sleeves: UP donated almost 80 litres of blood and helped save lives

UP once again joined forces in the Roll Up Your Sleeves and Donate Blood with the Rector challenges, in which students and university employees participate every year. The Faculty of Science defended its victory in the faculty competition, while the Faculty of Health Sciences had the highest percentage of participating students and employees. The purpose of both events is to motivate new and experienced donors to participate in free donation and thus contribute to saving human lives.



UP up close at science, health, and career fairs

In 2024, UP actively participated in a number of trade fairs and science popularisation events across the country. At the Czech Academy of Sciences Science Fair in Prague-Letňany, visitors were captivated by science shows and interactive activities in biology, chemistry, and psychology. At the Family Day in Olomouc, the university presented science in a playful way, while the Health Fair at Fort Science offered the public demonstrations of first aid, skin cancer screening, as well as the applications of 3D printing in medicine. The Window onto Interning career fair and job exchanges in Olomouc and Šumperk connected students with potential employers and offered them the opportunity to try out mock interviews. ■

UniON CIVIC UNIVERSITY

The UniON Civic University project connects UP with the public through volunteer educational activities that respond to the needs of schools, seniors, communities, and individuals. In 2024, altogether 20 lectures were held throughout the Czech Republic as part of this project. UniON offers lectures on various topics in the social, health, and natural sciences.



UP LIBRARY IN NUMBERS IN 2024:

- 12,566 additions to the library collection
- 299 physical and 38 electronic periodicals subscribed to
- 112 accessible databases, 2,544,191 visits to them
- 39,394 readers
- 132,372 loans
- 1,433 scientific papers published in Open Access

FORT SCIENCE: WITH LOVE FOR SCIENCE, DISCOVERIES, AND DIALOGUE

Fort Science, an interactive science centre, welcomed a total of 98,500 paying visitors in 2024. In addition to permanent exhibitions, science shows, a planetarium, and workshops in the UP_LAB laboratory, the centre also offered a rich accompanying programme – from the educational festival Earth on a Plate and the Creative Science – Creative Learning series to the three-day international conference Forensica 2024. The traditional thematic events such as Love is Science continued and the Fort Science Academy project was expanded; Fort Science also actively participated in public discussions on climate challenges, food self-sufficiency, and scientific communication across generations.



EUFORKA: EUphoria!

Euforka is a student platform and volunteer project at Palacký University that has been promoting European topics and disseminating verified information about the EU in an accessible and playful way since 2019. It primarily targets young people, offering them guidance on European affairs through its website, social media, and public events. In 2024, Euforka was presented at the prestigious ICEI international conference in Ostrava as part of the panel entitled “Europe of the Future and Careers in the EU”.

STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Student activities at UP are mainly concentrated in almost four dozen student associations, whose activities have a positive impact on cultural and social events in the city. The base for these student associations is the UP Student Club which serves their needs. Its premises are also used by other entities within UP, such as the UP Career Centre and UP Volunteer Centre. In 2024, the activities of 34 student associations were supported with almost €17,000. Student associations traditionally present themselves to students and the general public at the Olomouc Majáles and Meet UP events.

SUPPORTING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS AT UP

The Support Centre for Students with Special Needs provided comprehensive professional counselling and technical and therapeutic services to 665 students at all UP faculties. Its aim is to ensure equal opportunities for study – from adjustments to the admission process (e.g., interpreting, Braille) to everyday assistance during studies.

E-SAFETY: PREVENTION OF RISKY BEHAVIOUR IN THE ONLINE WORLD

The E-Safety project, implemented by the Centre for the Protection Against Risky Virtual Communication at the UP Faculty of Education, has long been dedicated to prevention, research, education, and raising awareness in the area of risky behaviour on the internet. It operates a counselling centre of the same name; its activities in 2024 included a team work on the completion of a new publication in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of the Interior focusing on the risks and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence.



UP PRESS: NEW PUBLICATIONS, PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS, AND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

UP Press, in cooperation with the UP marketing department, prepared the publication LS 30, mapping three decades of the UP student literary competition; its launch was accompanied by an authors’ reading and concert as part of the FFest festival. Filmouka, a playful interactive film education textbook, was also a great success, winning the award for the most beautiful children’s book at the

Autumn Book Fair in Havlíčkův Brod. At a meeting of the Academic Senate of the UP Faculty of Arts in October 2024, it was decided that from 1 January 2025, the activities of the existing Faculty of Arts Press would be transferred to the UP Press, however maintaining its editorial series and cooperation with authors.



Finances in the year 2024

Palacký University's budget is managed as a whole and for internal reasons of accounting, monitoring and evaluating expenses and income, it was divided into 19 parts in 2024: the 8 faculties, the Czech Advanced Technology and Research Institute (CATRIN), the Rector's Office, and 9 university facilities. Profit for the year 2023 in the amount of CZK 34,175 thousand was approved by the UP Academic Senate (UP AS) and distributed into the Operating Fund (CZK 15,537 thousand), the Fixed Assets Development Fund (CZK

13,875 thousand) and the Awards and Subsidies Fund (CZK 4,763 thousand). Accounting for the year 2024 showed a profit of CZK 32,975 thousand, which was reallocated after a meeting of the UP AS and after approval of the Annual Report on UP Finances for the year 2024 by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Loss for the year 2024 was shown only by the Faculty of Physical Culture (FPC) and the Rector's Office; other UP sectors showed a profit or no net gain or loss. ■

PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR 2024 (IN THOUSANDS CZK)			
Public university sectors	Income from main activities	Income from supplemental activities	Total income
Faculty of Health Sciences	27	0	27
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry	44	3,754	3,798
Faculty of Arts	2,793	1,076	3,869
Faculty of Science	3,407	6,919	10,326
Faculty of Education	258	134	392
Faculty of Physical Culture	320	-9,069	-8,749
Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology	0	0	0
Faculty of Law	81	417	498
Czech Advanced Technology and Research Institute	978	3,691	4,669
UP Accommodation and Dining Facilities	5,842	10,428	16,270
Rector's Office	175	-247	-72
UP Library	64	0	64
Palacký University Press	9	7	16
UP Computer Centre	184	145	329
Armoury – UP Library complex (Rector's Office)	16	10	26
UP Science and Technology Park	-130	492	362
UP Academic Sport Centre	40	49	532
UP Project Service	618	0	618
Centre for Students with Special Needs	0	0	0
TOTAL	14,726	18,249	32,975

Basic information about the university

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