

13. Education in the |Czech Republic, my school

The Czech education system

In the Czech Republic, **school attendance** is **compulsory** from the age of 6 to 15 (9 years). Schools are mainly state but there are also some private and church schools. Education at state schools is free of charge. At private schools students must pay **school fees**. Pupils or students are **evaluated** by numbers from 1 to 5 (5 is the worst). A school year is divided into 2 **terms**. At the end of each term a **report** is given.

The system includes four levels:

1) **P r e – s c h o o l** education begins at the age of 3. Children can attend kindergartens.

2) **P r i m a r y e d u c a t i o n** lasts for 9 years. Children start attending an elementary school at the age of 6 and leave it at the age of 15. Elementary schools are compulsory for all children. They learn writing and reading, math and Czech language, later (at the second grade) also science (biology, geography, physics, chemistry), civics, foreign languages etc.

3) **S e c o n d a r y e d u c a t i o n** usually lasts for 4 years. Children in 9th class can choose:

- **grammar schools** – are secondary general schools that don't have any specialisation and prepare students for university studies
- **secondary technical/vocational schools**, e.g.(=for example) business and economy, agriculture, medical (for nurses)...
- **apprentice schools** - prepare young people for practical professions (cook, waiter, carpenter, bricklayer, decorator, locksmith...).

Students finish their secondary education after passing their **leaving/graduation exams**.

4) **T e r t i a r y e d u c a t i o n** usually lasts from 3 to 6 years. After passing the Maturita exam and an entrance exam students can attend various universities. They can study law, social sciences, **arts**, architecture, building engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, technical sciences, economics, agriculture, biology, chemistry, languages, teaching and many others. Students can get **a degree** of bachelor, **master** or engineer. Students graduate from universities after passing final state exams and **defending a thesis**.

There are universities in every Czech regional city centre. The largest number of universities, however, can be found in Prague and Brno. The oldest and most prestigious university in the CR is Charles University founded in 1348 by king Charles IV. It consists of many faculties like Faculty of Law, Science, Art, Education or Mathematics and Physics...

My school

Our school is situated in Český Brod – Liblice. It has a long tradition – it was founded more than 130 years ago. The school building is more than 90 years old, but it has friendly atmosphere. Our school is a secondary vocational school with two branches of study: business and economics and IT. The school is not very large. It has about 100 students and about 20 people in **staff**. **Besides** standard classrooms there are special **laboratories** (computer lab, language lab).

General and professional subjects are taught at our school.

General subjects: Czech, foreign languages (English, German, Russian), civics, maths, P.E., history, science

Professional subjects: economics, accounting, graphics, marketing and management, psychology, typing, law, statistics, computer systems, programming etc.

To graduate successfully, students have to pass the national Maturita examination in Czech and foreign language or maths and in professional subjects (economics, accounting and IT). **Moreover**, they have to defend a professional project.

Timetable: the first lesson starts at 7:55, the last lesson finishes at 14:45.

During the lunch break students can have lunch at the school canteen or buy a snack in a nearby shop.

The school **campus** is quite large. Besides school buildings there is a **dormitory**, residential houses, a park and sports **facilities** (a gym, tennis and volleyball courts, a football pitch).

Vocabulary

school attendance – školní docházka
compulsory – povinný
school fees – školné
evaluate – hodnotit
term – pololetí, semester
grade - stupeň
report – vysvědčení
grammar school – gymnázium
secondary technical/vocational school
– střední průmyslová/odborná škola
apprentice school – odborné učiliště
leaving exam – závěrečná zkouška
entrance exam – přijímací zkouška
Faculty of Art – filozofická fakulta
degree - diplom

master – magistr
defend a thesis – obhájit diplomovou práci
besides - kromě
staff – zaměstnanci
laboratory/lab – odborná učebna
general subjects – všeobecné předměty
professional subject – odborné předměty
moreover - navíc
campus – areál
dormitory – internát
facility - zařízení