

ABSTRACT

Blanka Svobodova

Charles University, founded in 1348, is one of the oldest higher education institutions in Europe. With its long history, it has developed a strong reputation for both research and teaching. Among its various faculties, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (usually called MFF) stands out for its commitment to scientific excellence. From pure mathematics to theoretical physics and cutting-edge computer science, MFF provides an environment that combines traditional academic values with modern research methods.

In this lecture, I will present an overview of Charles University and then focus on MFF. The Faculty has built a wide range of study programs, some of which are offered fully in English, making them accessible to international students without the need for advanced Czech skills. Our professors are known not only for their teaching but also for their research, which often involves students in real-world scientific projects. This combination of theory and practice helps students gain strong problem-solving abilities that prepare them for various careers, whether in academia or industry.

An important part of our approach is the support we give to students. We believe that academic progress goes hand in hand with personal well-being. For this reason, MFF has an ombudsman who can advise students on conflicts or misunderstandings. We also focus on mental health, offering counselling services and encouraging students to seek help if they feel overwhelmed or stressed. On top of that, security on campus is taken seriously, with modern facilities and clear guidelines to ensure everyone feels safe while studying.

In terms of academic offerings, foreign students can choose from bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs in disciplines like Mathematics, Physics, and Computer Science. These programs often include seminars and labs where students work together and share ideas. In addition, the Faculty collaborates with various scientific institutions, so there are many chances to get involved in research projects or internships.

Finally, I will discuss how we welcome foreign partners. We are eager to develop international cooperation, whether through research collaborations, student exchanges, or short-term visits. Prague is a beautiful and historically rich city, yet it remains affordable compared to other European capitals. Because of this unique combination, Charles University—specifically the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics—offers a dynamic place to study and conduct research in the heart of Europe. My hope is that by the end of this lecture, you will have a clear understanding of our faculty, our student services, and the opportunities that lie ahead for foreign students and future collaborations.