

One study, two diplomas: this is what double degree is

Double degree – programmes that reward students for their hard work not only with two diplomas for one study, but also with better prospects for the future. What kind of double degrees is the University of West Bohemia now offering and what double degrees is the University going to offer?

Good knowledge of the language and the desire to give it a try are two basic prerequisites for students who look for the so-called double diploma. Double degree programmes – as these are called more often than the term “double diplomas” is used – are one of the best ways of connecting the University of West Bohemia with institutions abroad. Thanks to these, students can obtain a diploma at two universities at the same time. The programmes bring graduates a number of benefits and are increasingly in demand, so their offer at the University of West Bohemia is constantly growing.

Advantages of double diplomas

Since 2010, the **Faculty of Economics** has been cooperating with the German Hochschule Hof and has been offering the possibility of Bachelor double degree study to students in the Economics and Management study programme. Students study two years at UWB and a year and a half in Germany, with the last six months being a practical internship. In addition to gaining both Czech and German diplomas and thus a big plus in the labour market, students increase their language skills and the practical semester internship may also become their future job.

The Faculty of Economics also offers a double diploma for the same study programme in cooperation with the Finnish

University HAMK. "We are also working on a double degree for the follow-up study programme in cooperation with OTH Amberg-Weiden," says Jiří Preiss, Vice-Dean for Internationalization.

The **Faculty of Education** cooperates with the Technical University of Chemnitz and their joint follow-up Master double degree programme is called Methodology of Prevention through Movement. It is suitable for graduates with Bachelor's degrees in Physical Education for Education, Physical Education and Sport or other Sport and Health Care Bachelor programmes, where students become graduates with Czech and German diplomas after two years of study. "They study the first two semesters at their home university, the third semester at a partner university, and in the last semester, they can choose where they will finish their studies. The international character of the study programme is also reflected in its staffing, which includes not only employees from the Czech Republic and Germany, but also experts from Poland and Spain," says Ladislav Čepička, Vice-Dean for Development of the Faculty.

The **Faculty of Electrical Engineering** offers two double degree programmes; another one is being prepared. "We currently have a contract with the University of ESIEE in Paris and the university THD - Technische Hochschule Deggendorf. The double degree programme with the university THD Deggendorf is taken up by graduates of the Bachelor study programmes Electronics

and Applied Informatics and Telecommunications and Multimedia Systems. The double degree programme with the University of ESIEE is attended by students of the following Master programmes: Electronics and Applied Informatics, Industrial Electronics and Electromechanics, Telecommunications and Multimedia Systems and Electrical Equipment Diagnostics and Design. We are also preparing a new contract with the university OTH Amberg-Weiden," says Jan Michalik, Vice-Dean for International Cooperation and Projects.

The **Faculty of Philosophy** and Arts will, from 2020/2021, offer students a Bachelor double degree programme called Foreign Languages for Business Practice. The programme will connect the Department of Romance Languages with the French UaFR Lettres de l'Université d'Artois in Arras, with which the Faculty is preparing another double degree programme, a Master's degree called Teaching French for Secondary Schools. However, this is not the entire future offer of two-diploma programmes of this Faculty: its Department of German and Slavonic Studies is preparing a joint programme called Bavarian Studies together with the University of Regensburg.

Study in English

Like other universities in the world, the University of West Bohemia offers study programmes in English. The Faculty of Electrical Engineering has a clearly defined offer of such programmes: the programmes taught in English exactly replicate the Czech ones, so everything that is studied at the Faculty can be studied in both languages. The Faculty of Economics is preparing, for accreditation, a Doctoral study programme in English within the programme Economics and Management. Finally, at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, an English study programme will even connect four departments. "The Department of Middle East Studies is preparing, in cooperation with the Department of Sociology, the Department of Political Science and International Relations and the Department of Anthropology, a follow-up Master programme in English called Development and Globalization. The programme will target foreign students not necessarily only from the areas of the post-Soviet region, the Middle East and Africa. The planned start is in the academic year 2021/2022," adds Jan Záhořík, Vice-Dean for External Relations of the Faculty. ●

