



Palacký University  
Olomouc



## Foresight for Environment and Development





The Faculty of Science building



## About Palacký University Olomouc

Palacký University, established in 1573, is one of the leading centres of teaching and research in the Czech Republic. It comprises eight faculties at the present time and offers degrees in a wide range of disciplines, including medicine and other natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, as well as legal education. In the recent years, one of the highest priorities of the University is to strengthen international cooperation with other higher education institutions. Up to date, more than 1 700 international students study at Palacký University.

Palacký University is located in the historical but dynamic city of Olomouc. The town itself is very old and picturesque, and is surrounded by sports facilities and nature. According to Lonely Planet, Olomouc is one of the “hidden gems” of Europe. The city of Olomouc is also well-known for its high density of university students: over 24,000 students in the city of 100,000 inhabitants make Olomouc the city with the highest density of university students in Central Europe. Since students surely appreciate low cost of living in Olomouc in comparison with other Czech cities, it is worth mentioning that the cost of living in the Czech Republic is generally much lower than in Western Europe.

## About the Department of Development & Environmental Studies

The department is an open and dynamically growing academic institution. It provides education and conducts research in areas of development studies, environmental studies and foresight. Its aim is to inspire students, professionals and the general public to contribute to the sustainable development of human society. Members of the department support the personal growth and future employability of students by offering an individualized approach and by focusing on international cooperation. The department contains the following programs:

### **Programs taught in English:**

- International Development Studies Master's program
- Foresight for Environment and Development Master's program
- International Development Studies PhD program

### **Programs taught in Czech:**

- International Development Studies Bachelor's program
- Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development Bachelor's program
- International Development Studies Master's program
- International Development Studies PhD program



## About the Foresight for Environment and Development Master's Program

The aim of the Foresight for Environment and Development program is to prepare foresight-focused professionals for careers in environmental and developmental policy and practice. The duration of the program is 2 years. Students will be awarded the title of “Magister”, abbreviated as “Mgr.” which is equivalent to the Master of Science (M.Sc.). The Foresight for Environment and Development program is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic and in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

Foresight is the ability to describe what may happen or may be needed in the future, while considering the future as something that we can create or shape. Foresight assumes that the future is not pre-determined, but that it can evolve in different directions. Foresight includes thinking about the future, debating the future and shaping the future, using participatory and multidisciplinary approaches.

Development is a branch of social science that addresses issues in development policy and practices. Environment is an academic field that systematically studies human interaction with the natural world, particularly the factors that have an influence on human wellbeing and sustainable development.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be equipped to work in the public sector as well as in private industry both at the national and international levels. The graduate students may be employed in governmental or non-governmental institutions which collaborate on development- or environment-related projects, especially at the positions where planning and future trends analysis is required. In addition, they can find careers in the private sector, especially in high-tech companies who monitor and formulate future trends in their industry.

Courses<sup>1</sup>

	COMPULSORY (A)	ELECTIVE (B)
<i>Theoretical Basis</i>		
FORESIGHT	Introduction to Foresight	Future Global Challenges
	Past Futures – Future Pasts	
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	Environmental Geography	Sustainable Development
	Global Demographic Trends	Development Indicators
	Development Geography and Globalization	Environmental Ethics
		Environmental Economics
		Economics of Development
<i>Methodology</i>		
FORESIGHT	Selected Prognostic Methods	
	Possible Futures Shaping	
	Possible Futures Mapping	
	Social and Technological Changes and their Environmental Effects	
	Principles of System and Ecosystem Thinking	
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT		Quantitative Methods in Development
		Qualitative Methods in Development
PRACTICAL FOCUS		GIS in Environment and Development
		Negotiation, Facilitation, Mediation
		Internship

<sup>1</sup>Subject to changes, for actual information please consult [www.development.upol.cz/english](http://www.development.upol.cz/english)



## Admissions and Entry Requirements

### Admissions

The program is open to students from around the world. The duration of the program is 2 years. The annual fee for non-EU students is EUR 3,000. Citizens of the EU do not pay any annual fee.<sup>2</sup>

### Entry Requirements<sup>3</sup>

- A Successfully completed undergraduate degree\*
- Good academic performance
- Two academic recommendations
- A Foresight-related essay (3 to 5 pages)
- A Structured curriculum vitae
- English language proficiency on B2 Common European Framework level

\*Preferably in subjects relevant to foresight, environment or development. However, candidates with other specializations will also be considered.

### How to apply?

Fill in the application and send it with the above documents by 31 May of the respective year.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Subject to changes, for up to date information please consult [www.development.upol.cz/english](http://www.development.upol.cz/english)

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## Scholarships

### University/Department Scholarships

Merit Scholarship and Master Course Scholarship for Foreigners are granted once a year to students with very good results on exam grades and credits received. Scholarships can together amount up to CZK 56,000 (equivalent of more than EUR 2,000).

The Vavroušek Scholarship is designed to support student research projects in the field of the development cooperation and sustainable development. For more information about this funding scheme, please see page 13.

The Mobility Scholarship supports internships and student research projects in other countries. Students supported by this scholarship are given CZK 3,000 (approximately EUR 110).

### Other Scholarships

A number of other scholarships are available to incoming students:

- Scholarship Awards under bilateral international agreements
- Government Scholarships
- Visegrad Fund scholarships
- Scholarships of the South Moravian Centre for International Mobility
- European and other programs
- University scholarships.

Further details about these scholarships can be found at website [www.studyin.cz](http://www.studyin.cz).



## Students

### Bejdžink

Each November students of the department organize a truly unique event that shall be attended by any student who wants to become a member of the department – “Bejdžink”. Different themes related to future challenges, environment and development are presented every year (e.g. global warming, dealing with globalization etc.). According to the chosen topic every class prepares a short funny sketch expressing its perception of the given theme. Bejdžink welcomes new students with a traditional ritual that each freshman has to undergo. This event is attended by all members of the Department of Development & Environmental Studies including academic staff and graduate students.

### Udržitelný Palacký / Sustainable Palacký

Students of the Department of Development & Environmental Studies founded the student initiative Udržitelný Palacký (Sustainable Palacký) whose main goal is to make the university environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and an economically efficient learning environment. Since its inception, the initiative has expanded and now involves many active members from different faculties. The association works on both spreading the sustainability awareness among students and pushing for long-term systematic changes in the functioning of the university.

Udržitelný Palacký has founded the first student community garden in the Czech Republic and has held numerous documentary screenings and discussions with sustainability as the main theme. Moreover, they have launched a successful campaign Think Out of the Bin which focuses on the improvement of waste management in student dormitories and by various public events shows the interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic impacts of waste.





## The Department Students and Graduates Testimonials



### Paulina Nakashole about her studies at the Department:

The study experience is excellent. It broadens your mind and gives you a different perspective on global development issues. The professors are friendly and always willing to help students. I believe in a prosperous future because I am given the opportunity to study here.



### Zbyněk Wojkowski about his internships supported by the Department:

As the most valuable benefit of my studies of International Development I consider the opportunity to combine studies and foreign experience. Several times during my studies I had a chance to travel abroad even during the term which would not be possible without helpfulness and support of teachers, who allowed me to pass subjects and exams after I returned. Thank to that I gained priceless practical experience which helped me to get a permanent job as a project worker in Palestine.



### Xanani Baloyi about academic and study environment at the Department:

Studying in Olomouc is a great opportunity to exchange best practices for international students and impart their knowledge to their host university. The university has well developed facilities that all contribute to an enabling academic environment. The staff at the department was always available to help international students to settle in to their new host country.



### Veronika Semelková about her research supported by the Department:

"In my research in Ethiopia I cooperated with local non-profit organization PA-Det. Its aim was quantitative analysis of one of communitarian projects of the organization. Thanks to work in terrain I have had the opportunity to become a researcher in the process related to data collecting and evaluating. I have confronted closely the reality of life in one of developing countries with cultural and language differences which was kind of a challenge. At the same time I realised that Ethiopia is a country I want to come back for further research."



### Marea Grinvald about her studies at the Department:

Studying at the Department of Development & Environmental Studies enabled me not only to get a theoretical knowledge about current development issues all around the world but it also provided me with a unique opportunity to apply the gained knowledge on development projects in my home country. My passion and motivation for this field were deepened by each day spent at the Department.



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činnosti, vychádzajúci zo žurnalistického ...

Obsah determinuje formu prejavu a tvoria ho ...  
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Novinársky prejav pozostáva z: **vecnej stránky** (uda ...  
(súhrn faktov), **autorského zámeru** (najmä ak ide o ...  
publicistický text), a **kontextu** (súvislosti, hľadanie ...  
dôsledkov, charakteristika vnútorných vzťahov).





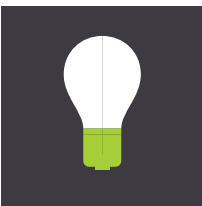
## International Opportunities

### ERASMUS program

The Department of Development & Environmental Studies significantly supports international student mobility. Within the ERASMUS+ and ERASMUS MUNDUS programs, our students may spend up to 12 months at chosen cooperating university abroad. This opportunity deepens the international experience which is a necessary precondition for a work in the field of international development. All the credits and exams acquired and accomplished abroad are accepted by the Department of Development & Environmental Studies. The Department of Development & Environmental Studies is currently cooperating with more than 20 universities listed below:

Utrecht (Netherlands), Ghent (Belgium), Oslo (Norway), Malmö (Sweden), Wrocław (Poland), Helsinki (Finland), Montpellier (France), Clermont-Ferrand (France), Grenoble (France), Fort de France (France – Martinique), Nouméa (France – New Caledonia), Warsaw (Poland), Huelva (Spain), Granada (Spain), Madrid (Spain), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), Vienna (Austria), Aarhus (Denmark), Torino (Italy), Alicante (Spain), Brussels (Belgium), Manchester (Great Britain)





## Vavroušek Scholarship

Vavroušek scholarship is an initiative of the Department of Development & Environmental Studies of the Faculty of Science in Olomouc. It is provided to students of bachelor and master programs of the department. The aim of the scholarship is to support study abroad, internships and research projects in the field of the development cooperation. Many students use the experience and data collected during their stay abroad and internships as the basis for their bachelor or master theses.

Calls for scholarship applications open at the beginning of winter and summer academic term.

### Field Trips

During the studies at the Department of Development & Environmental Studies students may enroll in elective International Excursion to the developing regions or to international institutions and organizations (in Brussels, Strasbourg, Vienna, Bratislava, Geneva etc.) related to international development. The aim of the excursion is to provide deeper knowledge about the related issues which is enhanced by discussions with local experts who provide students with information about internships or future job prospects. Excursions are designed for 5-10 day stay.

### Cooperation with Foreign Lecturers

One of our highest priorities is cooperation with foreign academic departments where environmental studies programs and programs related to international development are offered. The aim of such cooperation is not only sharing experience and cooperation in research but also broadening the spectrum of courses taught within the Department or enlisting new issues presented by foreign lecturers.



## Academics and Lectors



### Assoc. Prof. Pavel Nováček

Pavel is head of the Department of Development & Environmental Studies and founder of the International Development Studies programme, member of the Planning Committee of the Millennium Project and chairman of the Czech Association of the Club of Rome. Among his professional fields of interest are global environmental issues, sustainable development and foresight. He is the author or co-author of several books, for example Sustainable Development (2011), Marshall Plan for Haiti (2008), Indicators of Quality and Sustainability of Life (2004) and Crossroads of the Future (1999).



### Prof. Jaroslav Miller

Jaroslav is a professor of history and rector at Palacký University in Olomouc. He focuses on urban studies, the history of political thought and lately also issues of Czech and Slovak exile. He has been awarded long-term fellowships at universities and scientific institutions in Canada, Hungary, United States, Great Britain, Germany and Australia. Jaroslav lectures Past Futures - Future Past course at Foresight for Environment and Development master program.



### Assoc. Prof. Ivo Machar

Ivo is experienced expert focusing on the field of forest ecology and has published countless scientific articles. He is an active member of the International Association for Landscape Ecology and of Society for Conservation Biology. In the Foresight for Environment and Development program, he co-lectures courses focusing on ecology-related foresight issues.



### RNDr. Tomáš Fürst Ph.D.

Tomas teaches mathematics and works in the fields of mathematical modeling, data science, and complex systems at several institutes of the University. He thinks that mathematics is the language of science and a key to understanding the art of forecasting, which lies at the heart of Foresight. He acts accordingly and keeps bothering his colleagues and students by demanding clear, honest, and evidence based probabilistic thinking about the future. Tomas is a proud Fulbright fellow.



**Mgr. Ing. Jaromír Harmáček, Ph.D.**

Jaromír specializes in development economics as well as in social and economic statistics applied on development issues of low and middle income countries, with a special focus on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). He is a lecturer of the courses Quantitative Methods in Development and Development Economics. He is the author of academic articles focusing on the economic aspects of development.



**Mgr. Simona Šafaříková, Ph.D.**

Simona's work focuses on the development opportunities in different regions in Asia. She is also interested in the role of sport in development and the impacts of physical activities on solution of development problems. Further, she teaches the qualitative research methods and is involved in global education. She has already published several academic articles in the field of sport and development and she is the co-author of the Encyclopedia of Development Studies.



**Mgr. Zdeněk Opršal, Ph.D.**

Zdeněk is deputy head of department and specializes in environmental geography, political ecology, globalisation and development. He is a lecturer of the courses Geography of Globalization and Development and Environmental Geography. He is the author of academic articles focusing on the land use land cover changes, ecosystem services and foreign aid.



**Mgr. Miroslav Syrovátka, Ph.D.**

Miroslav specializes in development economics, and development and environmental indicators. He is a lecturer of the course International Political Economy of Development that focuses on the role of developing countries in international economic relations. He has written articles on various composite indicators such as the Commitment to Development Index, the Human Development Index, the Ecological Footprint, and monetary indicators of welfare.



**Mgr. Jiří Pánek, Ph.D.**

Jiří does research and teaching in the area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Participatory Mapping. He has background in Geography-Geoinformatics and International Development Studies. He spent seven months on research stays in various African countries and studied GIS for Rural Development in India. He regularly publishes in international journals and presents his research on conferences abroad.



#### **Mgr. Tomáš Daněk, Ph.D.**

Tomáš is responsible for the implementation of study program Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development at Department of Development & Environmental Studies. He is specialized in topics related to Environmental Science, Environmental Ethics and Environmental Philosophy in particular. He contributes to scientific research in the area of adaptation to climate change. Tomáš is lecturer of the courses Environmental Science, Environmental Humanities, Environmental Ethics, Sociology and Anthropology. He is author of academic articles dealing with topics mentioned above.



#### **Mgr. Petr Pavlík**

Petr is studying PhD at the Department of Development & Environmental Studies. His background is mainly in the field of economics, however he specializes mainly in environmental economics. His research focus is directed at relationships of economic development and environmental degradation. Considering Foresight for Environment and Development program, he is lecturer of two courses: Principles of system and ecosystem thinking and Social and technological changes and their environmental impacts.



#### **Mgr. Lenka Dušková**

Lenka focuses on issues of “conflict sensitive development” and the use of mediation and facilitation techniques in project management in fragile and/or post-conflict regions. She is a lecturer of courses on Security, Conflict and Development; Politico-geographical Processes in Developing Regions (good-governance). She also engages in Qualitative Research Methods in Development Research. She has edited and co-authored the publication Encyclopedia of Development Studies and papers dealing with security and development.



#### **Mgr. Martin Schlossarek**

Martin is a PhD student at the Department of Development & Environmental Studies. He specializes in composite indicators of development, pro-poorness of growth in developing countries and the role of microfinance as a tool of poverty reduction. At Foresight for Environment and Development program, he co-lectures Development Indicators course and is also engaged in two research methods courses of the program. Martin is the head of NGO Maendeleo which provides microcredits in Tanzania.





### Mgr. Eva Komlossyová

Eva is currently a PhD student of International Development Studies and lecturer of the Project Cycle Management and Development Assistance courses. In her research she specializes in issues connected with peacebuilding interventions in post-conflict regions, primarily in the Western Balkans countries. Another field of Eva's expertise are methods used for evaluations of development and peace-building projects and programs.



### Lucie Macková, M.A.

Lucie's research interest lies in the area of migration and development. Currently, she is working on the issue of return migration to Armenia as a part of her PhD project at the Department of Development Studies. In the past, she studied in the UK, Denmark and Hungary. She teaches the course Possible Futures Mapping along with others.



Historic centre of Olomouc



## Selected Publications

Nováček, P., Mederly, P. (2015) How to measure progress towards quality and sustainability of life? *Ekológia* 34 (1), 7–18.

Pánek, J. 2015. How participatory mapping can drive community empowerment – a case study of Koffiekraal, South Africa. *South African Geographical Journal* 97 (1), 18-30.

Kladivo, P., Nováček, P., Macháček, T., Teichmann, J. 2014. The State of the Future Index for the Czech Republic. *Moravian Geographical Reports* 22 (3), 42–52.

Nováček, P. (2013): Thinking oriented towards the future – key to prosperity and sustainable development? *Foresight*, 15, (5), 354–362

Syrovátka, M. 2013. The environmental performance of Visegrad countries in composite indicators. In: Šauer, P. (ed.) *Visegrad countries: Environmental problems and policies*. Praha: Cenia.

Pánek, J. 2013. The Commercialisation of Public Data – How Does Participatory Data-mining Look on a Global Scale? *South African Journal of Geoinformatics* 2 (3), 231-245.

Krylová, P., Syrovátka, M., Opršal, Z. 2013. Assessing the aid effectiveness of the Czech Republic: Commitment to Development Index and beyond. In: Horký-Hlucháň, O., Lightfoot, S. (eds.) *Development policies of central and eastern European states: From aid recipients to aid donors*. London: Routledge.

Nováček, P. 2011. Sustainable Development. Olomouc, Palacký University Olomouc.

Šafaříková, S. 2011. The influence of football on the personal development of children in Uganda (using semistructured interviews). *Journal of Human Sport & Exercise*, 7(1), 173-177.



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