

# THE FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA

## FACULTY HISTORY

The Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics in Bratislava is one of the University's six faculties. It was established by the Rector's Decree of January 17, 2000 and from that date until the present the Dean of the faculty has been Prof. Dipl. Ing. Ľudmila Lipková, PhD.

Up to 2005, the faculty provided Master's degree study in the field of study 302500 International Relations for full-time students and Doctoral study in the field of study 67-21-9 International Relations for full time and part-time students.

The faculty is part of the system of education in the Slovak Republic that prepares experts in the area of international relations. It was established in response to the sudden need brought about by the new state-legal system and the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic. The goal of the faculty was to build a tradition of educating highly qualified experts to carry out the duties of the foreign policy of the Slovak Republic, with a special emphasis on the areas of economic diplomacy and international economic relations.

## PROFILE AND STRUCTURE OF THE FACULTY

The faculty prepares experts in the field of international relations with an emphasis on economic diplomacy and international relations. The goal of the expert preparation is the mastery of the problematics of international economic relations, world economics, international law, international political relations, European integration, diplomatic experience and protocol and political and economic geography. In addition, special attention is paid to language preparation.

The faculty has recently devoted itself to building a profile oriented on international relations. This profile reflects the current needs of our society, i.e., the education of experts who will represent the interests of the Slovak Republic abroad, specifically in the European Union, both for the needs of domestic institutions and institutions located at the EU headquarters. The preparation of experts in the field of economic diplomacy is equally important.

The goals of the faculty stem from the principles and starting points of the long term aim of the university taking into consideration its mission and development aims.

As a relatively new institution, the faculty is not encumbered by any negative developments of the former era and is better able to assimilate progressive elements. The study programs relate to the ongoing processes of internationalization and globalization, which are attractive for today's students. Thus far, graduates have established themselves without any difficulties. The language preparation (students are required to study three languages) enables graduates greater choice in terms of occupations and foreign study.

The staff of the faculty includes 31 teachers. The members of this staff and cooperating teachers are experts in their given fields. Furthermore, the faculty is supported by renowned institutions and outstanding members of society. Foreign students have also expressed interest in studying here. A total of 770 students from all levels attended the faculty in the 2007/2008 academic year. The number of students annually accepted for the Bachelor's program is gradually approaching the 200 mark.

The absence of tradition and the ever increasing number of accepted students calls for a larger pedagogical staff and an appropriate departmental structure along with the ongoing adaptation of subjects created to meet the specialization of the faculty. For this reason, the intensive development of doctoral studies creating the basis for the selection of future teachers is a priority.

Building the profile of the pedagogical staff is also one of the fundamental prerequisites for the intensification of the faculty's research activities, particularly in terms of publications and expanded international cooperation, first and foremost regarding projects supported by the EU.

### The faculty works with the following institutions:

- departments that are the basic workplaces for pedagogical and research activities (departments of international economic relations, economic diplomacy, international political relations and international law);
- other research, economic-administrative and information institutions that are designated by the term "other faculty workplaces" (The Center for European Studies, the library);
- the dean's office, which is the executive organ of the faculty.

#### ■ The Department of International Economic Relations and Economic Diplomacy

The following courses offered by the faculty (among others, International Economic Relations, Economic Diplomacy and Diplomatic Protocol, History of World Economies, World Economics, Comparative Economic Systems, International Organizations, The European Union, History of Diplomacy and Negotiations in Diplomatic Practice) provide students with an overview of the historical development of diplomatic relations and international relations up to the present. Students become familiar with the roles and organization of business diplomacy, business contacts with foreign partners and the particulars of etiquette and protocol. The faculty also provides students with a theoretical overview of world economics as a scientific discipline, world economics and its functional system model, the structure of world economies and the relations within them. It deals with the development, state and forecasts of world economies in addition to global problems. Students gain a comprehensive overview of the history of world economies, the new forms of economic internationalization, world trade, foreign trade policy and the economies of selected nations. In terms of research activities, the department concentrates on the problematics of the international economic position of the Slovak Republic in the EU, the problems of Slovakia's establishing of international economic relationships and the theoretical problems of diplomacy and international relations.

#### ■ The Department of International Political Relations

In addition to the required courses (International Political Relations, The Role of Culture in International Relations, Comparative Political Systems) the department offers several required electives from the university-wide courses in the Bachelor's and Master's study programs (such as politology). The department also offers special elective lectures and seminars from the following subject areas: Comparative Political Systems of Western European Countries, Democracy, Human Rights and International Political Relations, Business Ethics, The Ethical Minimum of an Economist, Sociological Methods of Market Research, Rhetoric and an Introduction to Logical Thought. These lectures and seminars are open to all university students and provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the basic laws of the political life of society. They familiarize the students with the questions of political power, relationships, institutions, systems and their functioning in developed western democracies. The problematics of democracy, dictatorship, fundamental human rights, freedom and international relations also constitute a significant part. The department provides students with basic orientation of the genesis of the mainstreams of thought in philosophy with an orientation on the fundamentals of the philosophy of humankind, society and contexts of economic thought and philosophy and the formal and contextual aspect of speech communication. It acquaints them with the basic terminology of sociology within the framework of the teaching of economic subjects. The goal of the department is to provide students with a basic orientation in contemporary international relations with an emphasis on political phenomena and processes. In the field of research activities, the department is oriented on the research of comparative international systems and international political relations, the Slovak Republic's involvement in international relations, theoretical issues of international relations, theoretical aspects of the social and human contexts in a market society and the research status of students and graduates of the university.

#### ■ Department of International Law

The department is the pedagogical and research workplace for the field of law with an international element. It provides the teaching of the following subjects – International Public Law, International Business Law, the Law of the European Union and Law in International Economic Relationships. It provides students with knowledge regarding legal relationships among states, in international business, regarding primary and secondary law of the European Union and the main issues of integration of the SR into the European Union, including the approximation of the law. In the field of research activities the department is oriented on the research of the assessment of present legal regulations of researched problematics, a comparison with the legal regulations in other countries and drafts of *de lege ferenda* and the contribution of the legal regulations for the practice.

#### ■ European Studies Center

The Center is a scientific research and organizational workplace in the field of European studies. It coordinates research regarding the economic, political, legal and intercultural development of European integration with a special focus on the position of the SR in this process. It also coordinates the preparation and implementation of the research projects from the funds of the European Union.

■ **The Dean's Office** is comprised of: the Secretariat of the Dean, the Study Department, the Department for Science, Research and Doctoral Studies, the Department for International Relationships, the Department for the Social Care of Students and the Department for Off-Budget Means.

## **FACULTY MANAGEMENT**

### **Dean**

**Prof. Dipl. Ing. Vít'azoslav BALHAR, PhD.**

### **Vice Deans**

Vice Dean for Development

**Prof. Dipl. Ing. Ludmila Lipková, PhD.**

Vice Dean for Science, Research and Doctoral Study

**Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Milan Márton, PhD.**

Vice Dean for Foreign Relations

**JUDr. Peter RUSINÁK, PhD.**

Vice Dean for Pedagogical Work

**Mgr. Boris MATTOŠ**

## **STUDYING AT THE FACULTY**

### **System of Study**

Pursuant to the provisions of act No. 131/2002 Coll. the faculty provides full-time forms of study on all three levels and part-time study on the third level (Doctoral study) in the following accredited fields of study and programs:

- field of study 301500 International Relations – Master's, full-time,
- scientific program of study 67-21-9 International Relations – Doctoral, full-time and part-time,
- field of study 3.3.17 International Economic Relations – Bachelor's, Master's (the study program Economic Diplomacy) and Doctoral.

The faculty is authorized to carry out habilitation and inauguration proceedings.

A substantial part of the Bachelor's study is constituted by the study of languages and the fundamentals which are based on the general foundation approved for the study at the university and which is at the same time modified in accordance with the technical orientation of the faculty. It focuses on the field of economic theory and management of economic policy. In the Master's study, the specialization disciplines are expanded by optional subjects allowing the students to broaden their knowledge and specialization, for example to a certain geopolitical region.

### **PROFILE OF THE GRADUATE ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LEVEL OF STUDY**

Graduates will have knowledge from microeconomics and macroeconomics, economic policy, law, finance, accounting, international trade, world economics, marketing and basic management. They will be fluent in at least one of the following languages: English, French, German, Russian, Spanish or Italian. They will be qualified to use general knowledge from the above mentioned disciplines as expert workers in domestic, foreign and international companies operating in all sectors of the economy.

### **PROFILE OF THE GRADUATE ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL OF STUDY**

Graduates will acquire thorough knowledge of individual topics of the core of the program of studies based on which they will be qualified to carry out specialized expert activities. At the same time, they will have the potential to become managers – specialists.

They will be qualified to carry out the positions of expert workers, economists, specialists and heads of specialized departments in domestic, foreign and international companies in all sectors of the economy according to the achieved level of qualifications. They will be qualified to work in central bodies of the state administration, international organizations, enterprises with foreign property participation, domestic companies, media in which they focus on issues of international relations and international economic relations.

## PROFILE OF THE GRADUATE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LEVEL OF STUDY

The profile of the graduates is determined by the set of scientific knowledge in the given area. Graduates will have the ability to analyze the status and development tendencies of complex relations among factors influencing the participation and development tendencies of national economies up to the international division of labor. The interdisciplinary field of economics and social and political contexts of the development of subjects in the world economic environment and their mutual relationships is the object of the research.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The research activities of the faculty especially focus on:

- selected aspects of the theory of international relations, especially in economic and political fields (research of international relations as an interdisciplinary phenomenon and the interconnection of their political aspects with economic, social, legal and cultural aspects. In this connection, two paths of the research of international relations have developed: the research of processes, phenomena and trends connected with the position of the SR as a member state of the European Union and processes, phenomena and trends in international relations on the global level);
- issues of world economics as one of the fundamental fields of international relations. Special attention is paid to these issues from the perspective of the macroeconomics of the Slovak Republic in connection with the European integration processes;
- social economic issues of European integration and regional policies and the foreign economic, foreign political and security relations of the Slovak Republic;
- economic diplomacy;
- cultural and civilization processes and their reflection in the context of the theory of international relations with an emphasis on philosophical, sociological and social philosophical aspects of these phenomena;
- EU law (research of phenomena connected with the implementation of the legal code of European institutions into the law of the Slovak Republic); and
- selected current social processes in terms of political science.

Development assistance is a new area of research activities in which full-time doctoral students are especially engaged. The staff of the faculty are also involved in the fulfillment of the applied research project entitled, The Political, Legal, Economic and Security Aspects of the Operation of an Embassy of the Slovak Republic.

### VEGA Grant Projects

In 2008, the structure of the scientific projects at the faculty was as follows:

1. Relation between the International and Europe Law (1/4563/07) Responsible Researcher: Prof. JUDr. Stanislav Mráz, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009.
2. Migration policy in the European Union (1/0802/08), Responsible Researcher: Dipl. Ing. Ludmila Lipková, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2010.
3. International Relations of a post-modern society in the process of world globalization (sociological and political aspects of social – economic and security problems) (1/0826/08). Responsible Researcher: Assoc. Prof. František Škvrnda, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2010.
4. Culture pluralism, intercultural communication and creating intercultural competencies (1/0561/08). Responsible Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Milan Márton, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2010.
5. International migration in the European context (1/0408/08). Responsible Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Ján Lid'ák, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2010.
6. Position and perspectives of India in the world economy (1/0862/08). Responsible Researcher: Dipl. Ing. Ladislav Lysák, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2010.
7. Progressive Tendencies of the Development of International Marketing Strategies (1/3773/06). Responsible Researcher: Prof. Dipl. Ing. Eduard Urban, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2010.

### Project of Applied Research

The Political, Legal, Economic and Security Aspects of the Operation of an Embassy of the Slovak Republic. Responsible Researcher: JUDr. Peter Rusiňák, PhD. Research Period: January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2008

In 2007, a total of 18 students with 15 projects participated in student scientific and professional activities at the faculty. The faculty publishes two scientific magazines – *Almanach* and *International Relations*. Both magazines are of an interdisciplinary character, which is also reflected in the composition of the editorial boards.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Pursuant to Article 37 of the Statute, the faculty is authorized to act in the field of cooperation with foreign universities and colleges and with other legal or physical persons in the field in which it operates. These activities are carried out based on framework agreements which the university has concluded with the above mentioned subjects. The agreements concluded by the faculty develop the subject and terms of cooperation and the time and persons responsible for their implementation. The activities of the faculty in the field of foreign relations are provided for in the cooperation with the university-wide workplaces and are oriented in principle on the international projects and programs organized by the university, activities resulting from bilateral agreements, cooperation in teaching technical subjects in foreign languages and its own activities.

The process of the internationalization of the faculty in the field of education is focused on more intensive participation in international student and teacher mobility programs based on bilateral and multilateral agreements and in the field of the internationalization, research and development of projects financed from the means of the European Union and on effective participation in international scientific research projects.

Approximately 30 students of the faculty participate annually in one-semester and two-semester foreign study stays within the framework of the SOCRATES/ERASMUS **student mobility** program; this represents approximately 35 % of the total number of faculty students participating in foreign stays within the framework of mobility programs organized by the university or by external institutions (for example within the framework of the CEEPUS program or programs organized by the Slovak Information Academic Agency). The selection of students for participation in foreign mobility programs is carried out based on the following criteria: study results from all semesters, language grades in the language in which the student wants to study abroad, motivation letter, participation in the student scientific professional activities, compatibility of the study program of the faculty and the foreign educational institution, contribution of the stay to the preparation of the final thesis and activities in school self-administration.

Recently, the teachers of the faculty have actively participated in the ERASMUS and Leonardo da Vinci teacher mobility Programs. Eight teachers participated in the pilot course within the university-wide project entitled *Internationalization of the Education of Economists and Managers* (teaching in foreign languages) submitted in the ESF program in of December 20, 2005 and which was approved and officially launched on September 19, 2005.

The position of the faculty is becoming more and more stable as a result of its international contacts and visits of significant personalities from the political and social spheres, including ambassadors accredited in the Slovak Republic who deliver lectures for the faculty's students and teachers.

The faculty has positively reacted to the offer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR to participate in renewal of the activity of the Slovak Association for the UN.

The cooperation with the Taipei Representative Office is a significant part of internationalization of the faculty. The optional subject entitled *Contemporary East Asia* has been taught at the faculty since the 2005/2006 academic year. The faculty's cooperation with Japan is carried out in connection with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The teaching project entitled *The Modern Economy of Japan* is taught at the faculty as an optional subject. Teachers from Japanese universities annually visit our faculty to deliver bloc teaching lectures.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Dean

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