



MASARYK UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY  
CAMPUS  
BOHUNICE



# CAMPUS HISTORY



Due to a lack of suitable buildings in Brno, Masaryk University was founded with nothing but temporary spaces at its disposal. The university's Founding Act anticipated solving the problem by means of erecting new buildings with construction scheduled to finish by 1930.

According to the original plan, the new Masaryk University buildings were to be built on Kraví hora and the surrounding plots between Veveří and Kounicova Street. Designed by Alois Dryák, the new Academic Square was to include buildings housing the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and central university administration organs, even the university library. The Faculty of Science building as well as the joint laboratories shared by all Brno-based higher education institutions were to be found along the access route to Kraví hora hill. Kraví hora itself was set aside for the construction of the Faculty of Medicine building, designed by Bohuslav Fuchs and Jindřich Kumpošt. In the end, however, the Faculty of Law building was the only facility actually erected – President Masaryk himself was present at the laying of the foundation stone in 1928. Subsequent construction was brought to a halt by the onset of the recession and the outbreak of the Second World War.

As early as 1945, in connection with plans proposed by the Brno regional authority – aimed at erecting a large regional hospital in Brno Bohunice – the Ministry of Education and Enlightenment suggested securing the adjacent acres as a suitable location for a future university complex. These plans, however, were not implemented either and an urban design and architectural tender announced thirty years later likewise failed when the project was stopped short of actual construction in 1976.

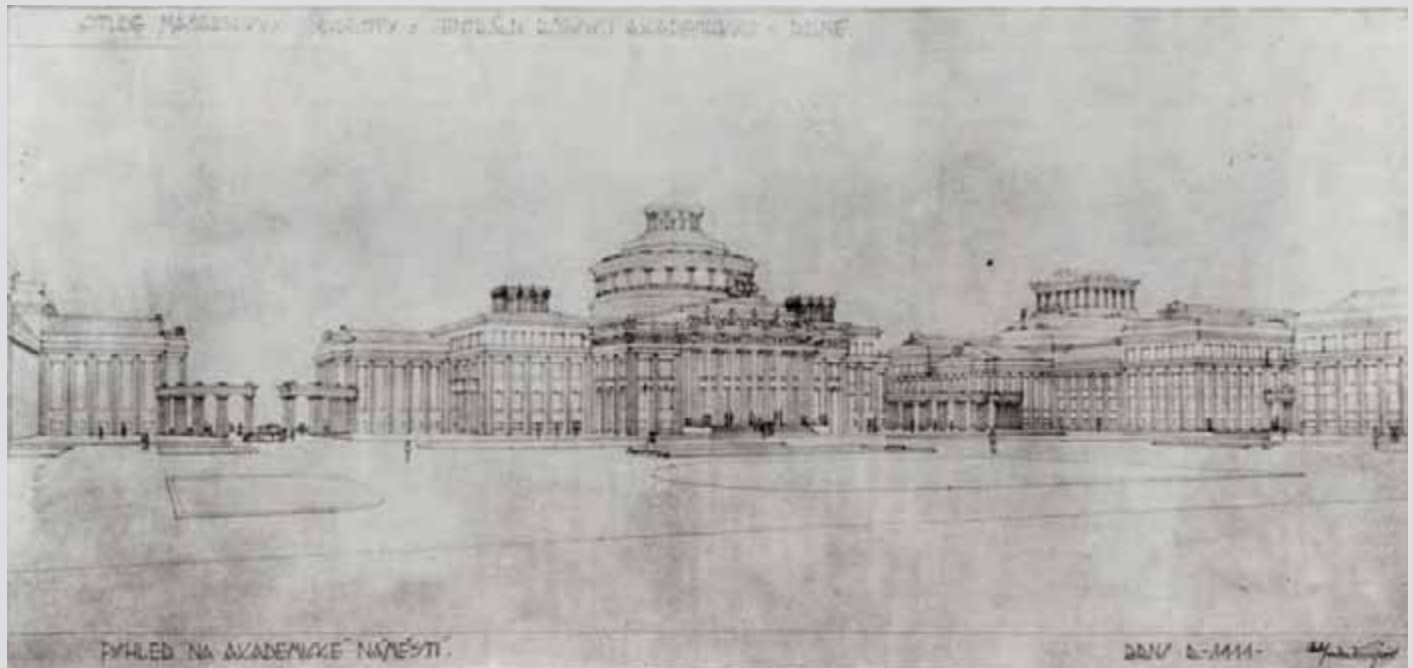
Above: Model of the planned Academic Square;  
the Faculty of Law building  
was the sole completed component.  
Alois Dryák, 1925

Right: Study of the Academic Square  
by Jindřich Kumpošt, 1919

The notion of erecting a campus in Bohunice was only revitalized in the early 1990s. In 2000 the university succeeded in securing the support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, necessary for both project planning and funding. An international urban design and architectural tender was announced immediately and in 2002 the government issued an Act facilitating the implementation of the *Development of the Material and Technical Base of Masaryk University in Brno* programme. A contract regarding programme funding was concluded between the Ministry of Finance, Masaryk University and the European Investment Bank. A government resolution subsequently prolonged contract duration until 2010, which is when the construction was completed and the campus officially opened. The following year the university started a twenty-year period of regular loan instalments lasting up until 2030.



Laying of the foundation stone of the  
Faculty of Law in the presence of President  
T. G. Masaryk, 1928



# ARCHITECTURE

The concept discussed in the 1990s formed the basis for the University Campus Bohunice urban design and architectural tender announced in 2000; the winning project was submitted by Jaromír Černý, Karel Tuza and Petr Uhlíř (A PLUS corp.).

Their concept of the university campus centres on notions of gradual development and a stage-based construction system. The complex comprises an assemblage of buildings (cells), mutually interconnected by sheltered communication corridors. The complex is gradually constructed in a chequerboard-like manner; however, the emerging system is fully functional once the very first cell is completed. The artistic rendering is based on the notion that new academic quality (i.e. a modern, open European university) must be associated with new quality in terms of external appearance and spatial organization. It is an attempt at blurring the boundaries between exterior and interior space.





While designing the new campus, Petr Uhlíř, one of the architects, drew inspiration from Kenzo Tange's notion of a developing "metabolism". The modular composition of the pavilions forms a constantly developing and interconnected living structure of the university campus organism, complying with the changing needs of individual departments, while its sections create a communication network throughout the whole complex.

The individual standard modules housing scientific units are attached to connecting corridors and supplemented by various special modules of different shapes. As the architect specifies, these include e.g. particular entrance buildings, the biomodel building or the study centre. Even the Faculty of Sports Studies itself, with its administrative section and two sports halls, forms such a special module.



Above: J. Černý, K. Tuza, P. Uhlíř (A-PLUS corp.) won the urban design and architectural UCB tender in 2000

# CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Effectively facilitating construction, the passing of Act No. 197/2002 Coll. enabled the Czech government to accept a loan from the European Investment Bank and thus finance the *Development of the Material and Technical Base of Masaryk University in Brno* programme. Construction was launched in 2002 with the reconstruction of the MEDIPO building – the new MORFO III Morphology Centre was finalized in 2003.

Construction proper began in 2004. The first stage – Integrated Laboratories for Biomedical Technologies (ILBIT) – was ready by 2005 and in the following year focus shifted to the Academic Teaching and Research Complex (AVVA). In subsequent years, the departments and lecture halls of the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science began to relocate to the new campus; the Faculty of Sports Studies likewise moved into newly opened facilities complete with a sport hall and Dean's Office. All remaining buildings – including an entrance building housing an assembly hall – were constructed in the final stage; the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Medicine completed the move in the summer of 2010.



Right: ILBIT under construction,  
January 2005

Below and at left: UCB main entrance,  
June 2010



The campus in Brno-Bohunice was officially opened 23 September 2010. It was an event of great importance in the life of Masaryk University, completing a six-year period of the largest construction project in the higher education sphere in Central Europe.

The University Campus Bohunice is beginning to enjoy the status of a prestigious undertaking within the development of the city of Brno as well as attracting the ever increasing interest of the commercial sector. An entirely new district complete with urban infrastructure has emerged in the immediate vicinity; since October 2009, Campus Square – a shopping centre opened in 2008 – even boasts a new academic canteen.







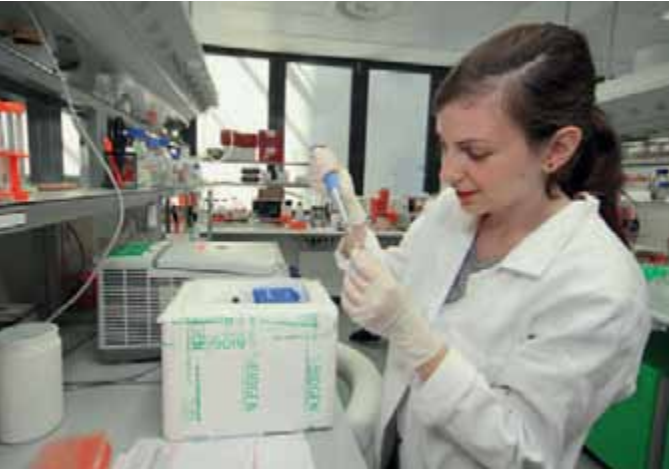
# COMPLETED PROJECTS

Remaining parts of the campus were primarily financed from the European Union Structural Funds. Completion of the three significant projects within the campus area provided background for a range of scientific disciplines focused e.g. on biomedical technologies.

A new walkway now connects CEITEC to the campus as well as to the nearby university hospital.



# RESEARCH CENTRES



The Laboratory of Structural Virology studies interactions between viruses and their hosts.



Researchers at the CESEB-based Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology examine the genetic properties of Arabidopsis and fodder crops.

## **CEITEC**

The CEITEC (i.e. Central European Institute of Technology) project was granted by the European Commission 6 June 2011. It emerged from a common project of six most significant Brno universities and research institutions, with the support of the South Moravian Region and the City of Brno. The major scope of the project is to establish an internationally acclaimed centre of research and education. New, modern laboratories were erected in the university campus complex in 2014. State-of-the-art technologies installed in them enable synergetic studies of both biotic and abiotic components of the environment on all currently available levels of complexity, ranging from single atoms, through molecules, molecular ensembles or cells, up to whole organisms including humans. The shared laboratories provide space for narrowly focused research and offer high-quality background for advanced instruction and – most importantly – close interdisciplinary cooperation, thus significantly stimulating scientific research and leading to previously difficult-to-reach results.

## **CESEB**

Owing to the CESEB (Centre of Experimental, Systematic and Ecological Biology) project, students, teachers and scientists now take advantage of four brand new pavilions allowing parallel activities in both instruction and scientific research of two departments of the Faculty of Science: Department of Experimental Biology and Department of Botany and Zoology. Besides enhancing the quality of teaching, the project is beneficial to all fields of the Biology programme, especially by increasing the number and capacity of premises designed for practical tuition, while merging facilities of two departments and thus contributing to the more effective transfer of information among employees and students alike.



## **CETOCOEN**

The Centre for the Study of Toxic Substances (CETOCOEN) project covers the development of chemical and toxic tools monitoring the quality of environment. The Centre is a result of an ambitious project aimed at establishing a unique platform interconnecting scientific research and commercial sphere in the areas of environmental and sustainability issues. This platform serves as a link between basic research and practical implementation; the Centre is therefore able to react to the needs of the academic sphere, public administration, industry, health service as well as the public as such. All of the above listed areas have a considerable influence upon the issues of environmental protection, sustainable development and human health.

Recently completed projects bring the overall campus area to a total of 70,000 m<sup>2</sup>.







# CAMPUS ART

Since the campus was opened, the university has been gradually enriching its premises by installing artworks of both Czech and foreign artists in various parts of the complex, carefully incorporating them into the modern campus architecture.

The very first one was a bronze sculpture located in front of the campus library; it was created by Vladimír Preclík and entitled *The Flowering of Learning*. Another bronze sculpture – placed in a different part of the campus – followed: *The Balance* by the Slovak sculptor Jozef Jankovič. A third object is to be found inside the entrance hall next to the Morphology Centre: *The Nest* by Dalibor Chatrný, a well-known Czech artist.

A bronze bust of T. G. Masaryk by Vincenc Makovský adorns the main campus entrance. Another bronze bust of Eduard Babák – former dean of the Faculty of Medicine, MU Rector and founder of the University of Veterinary Sciences – by the same artist is located between buildings A3 and A6. Two bronze statues entitled *On Mary* and *On Eve* by Olbram Zoubek are to be found in the atrium of the Department of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine; donated by the author, the sculptures comprise the artist's homage to those serving the living even after their own death.

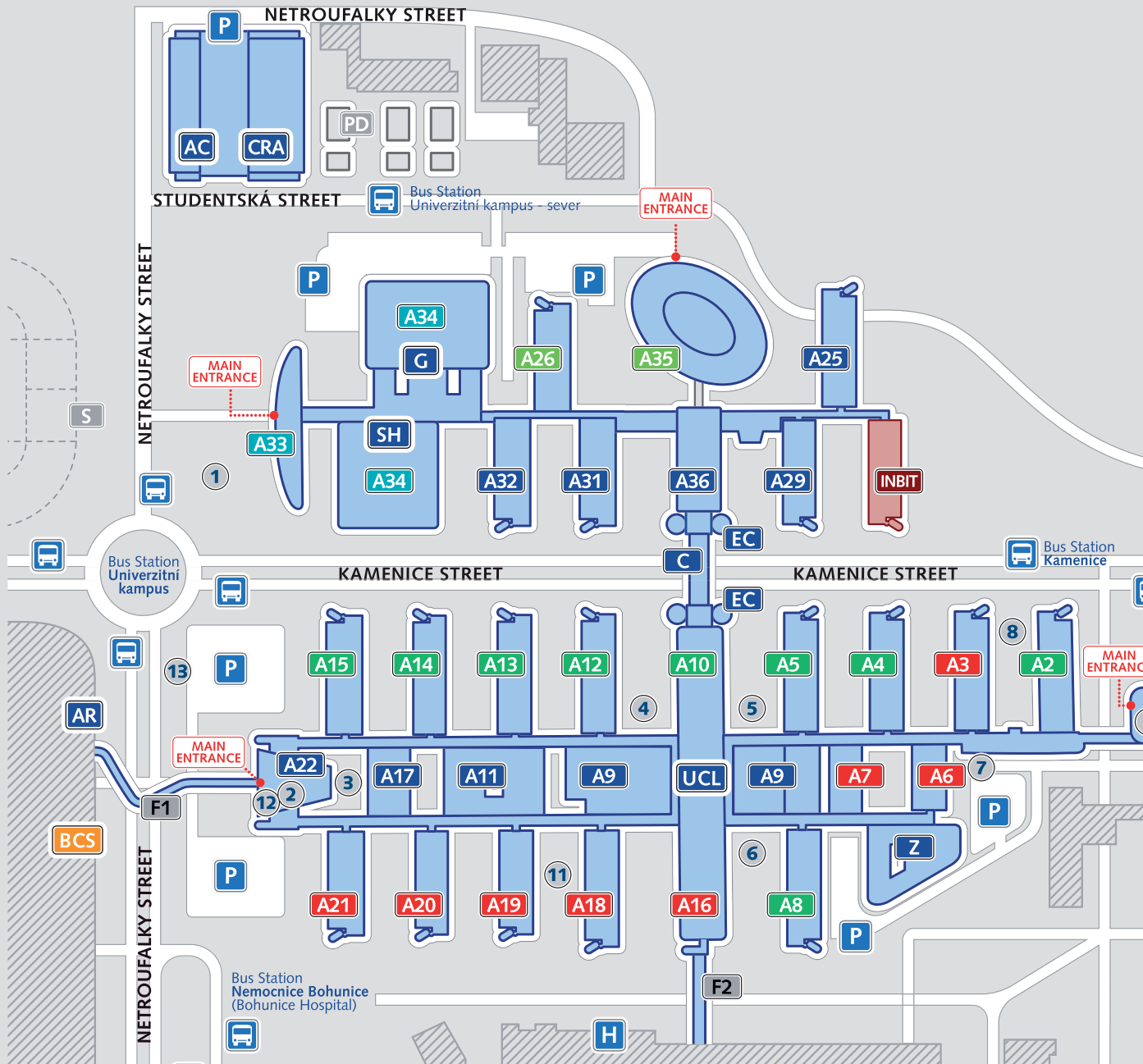
*Blades of Grass*,  
Pavel Tasovský

Two additional artworks by prominent Czech artists are located in the immediate vicinity of the library: *Contacts and Distances* by Aleš Veselý and *Enlightenment* and *Heavy Paint* by Lukáš Rittstein. Pavel Tasovský's *Blades of Grass* are to be found outside of the Faculty of Sports Studies building.

Visitors of the campus are welcomed by *The Inclined Circles* by V. K. Novák, located in front of the main entrance; the entrance hall of the A22 pavilion then attracts attention with an expressive artwork called *Red is Coming* by Křištof Kintera. *Three hose figures*, created by Michal Gabriel, are impossible to miss when passing the pavillions A18 and A19.

*The Balance*,  
Jozef Jankovič





# UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BOHUNICE 2014



## STATUE

- 1** *Blades of Grass* – Pavel Tasovský
- 2** *T. G. Masaryk* – Vincenc Makovský
- 3** *Reliefplastik* – Otto Herbert Hajek
- 4** *Contacts and Distances* – Aleš Veselý
- 5** *The Flowering of Learning* –  
Vladimír Preclík
- 6** *Enlightenment and Heavy Paint* –  
Lukáš Rittstein
- 7** *Edward Babák* – Vincenc Makovský
- 8** *Balance* – Jozef Jankovič
- 9** *The Nest* – Dalibor Chatrný
- 10** *On Mary, On Eve* – Olbram Zoubek
- 11** *Three Figures* – Michal Gabriel
- 12** *Red is coming* – Křištof Kintera
- 13** *Inclined Circles* – V. K. Novák

- A2, A3, A6** Integrated Laboratories for  
Biomedical Technologies (ILBIT)
- A4** CEITEC MU and FSci laboratories
- A5** Department of Biochemistry (FSci)
- A7** Department of Biology (FMed)
- A8** Department of Organic Chemistry (FSci)
- A9** University Campus Library (UCL)
- A10** Joint Educational Laboratories (FSci)
- A11** Joint Educational Centre
- A12** Department of Inorganic Chemistry and  
Physical and Theoretical Chemistry (FSci)
- A13** Department of Theoretical and Physical  
Chemistry (FSci)
- A14** Department of Analytical Chemistry (FSci)
- A15** Biochemistry (FSci), MU Language Centre
- A16** Department of Biochemistry (FMed)
- A17** Dean's Office (FMed), Administrative  
Offices (FSci)
- A18** Department of Pathological Physiology  
(FMed)
- A19** Department of Pharmacology (FMed),  
Department of Medical Ethics (FMed)
- A20** Department of Physiology (FMed)
- A21** Department of Preventive Medicine  
(FMed)
- A22** Entrance hall, Assembly hall
- A25, A31, A32, A36**  
CESEB – Biology buildings (FSci)
- A26, A35** CEITEC
- A29** CETOCOEN
- A33** Dean's Office (FSpS)
- A34** Sports halls (FSpS)
- AC** Academic canteen
- CRA** Campus Residential Area
- PD** Projected residential development
- Z** Bio-model building
- MC** Morphology Centre (FMed)
- EC** Energy Centre
- C** Footbridge with café
- AR** Academic restaurant MU
- SH** Sports hall
- G** Gymnasiums
- INBIT** Incubator for Biomedical Technologies
- BOS** Brno Campus Square  
(accessed via footbridge **F1**)
- H** University Hospital Brno  
(accessed via footbridge **F2**)
- S** Stadium (projected)





# FACULTIES ON CAMPUS

Although the campus naturally serves all of Masaryk University, it is primarily designed to accommodate three faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Sports Studies.

The core facilities of the first two faculties comprise mainly computer rooms, laboratory spaces and specialized units.

## **FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

The Faculty of Medicine has relocated to the campus its non-clinical (theoretical) departments as well as the Dean's Office and the Office for Studies. Faculty units located on campus are equipped with spacious classrooms including large lecture halls featuring cutting-edge audiovisual technology. Students are provided with several computer rooms as well as a histological microscope laboratory. The state-of-the-art equipment found in the Department of Anatomy is likewise worth mentioning; moreover, the Museum of Anatomy – a component part of the department – houses over 600 exhibits provided for self-study purposes. The campus grounds are interconnected with the adjacent Faculty Hospital Brno, creating a symbolic link and facilitating communication between teachers–physicians and medical students.

## **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

The Faculty of Science has relocated its biochemical, biological and chemical units; their activities now take place in cooperation with the Incubator for Biotechnology (INBIT). The faculty is markedly research-oriented, campus laboratories have already aided scientists in discovering e.g. a new way of regulating plant biomass production. Instruction and research activities in the remaining fields – i.e. mathematics, physics, geography and geology – take place in the renovated faculty complex in the centre of Brno.



# FACULTIES ON CAMPUS



Combatives gym, FSpS

## **FACULTY OF SPORTS STUDIES**

The youngest of MU faculties was relocated entirely. All significant Faculty of Sports Studies units including the Dean's Office and Office for Studies as well as the seven existing departments have been transferred to the new campus. Students are provided with facilities such as a ball game gym, combatives gym, gymnastics hall, multifunctional gymnasium, fitness centre and various lecture halls. Courses with no facilities on campus (e.g. swimming and athletics) are taught elsewhere in Brno.



Sports hall



Entrance hall  
with FSpS Dean's Office



# LIBRARY AND RESEARCH UNITS

## **LIBRARY**

The Masaryk University Campus Library (MUCL) is an information centre serving Masaryk University students, teachers and science and research workers studying and working on campus. It was formed in 2007 by merging the Faculty of Medicine library, the Faculty of Sports Studies library and part of the Faculty of Science library collections. It offers a wide range of library and information services, focusing primarily on medical, biological, biochemical, chemical and sports-related topics and sciences. The library lies at the very heart of the university campus in building A9. It contains over 200 thousand volumes: apart from a wide array of contemporary books and journals, the library also stores a collection of documents issued prior to 1860 or documents which are otherwise notable.

## **RESEARCH UNITS**

A number of units and individual facilities unique both in and outside of the Czech Republic – in terms of either concept, material facilities or focus – are currently located at Masaryk University. Many of them have now relocated to the new campus – itself a unique science and research hub.



The library is a university-wide centre used by students, teachers and research workers alike





The National Centre for Biomolecular Research (NCBR), specializing in macromolecules, their complexes and behaviour, has likewise reached significant results. The centre's activities cover a number of research directions, ranging from computational chemistry and molecular modelling to NMR spectroscopy, protein engineering, glycobiochemistry and X-ray crystallography.

One of the most successful research departments are Loschmidt Laboratories which are part of the Faculty of Science and deal with protein engineering. The research group already holds several patents for three inventions; the latest one was awarded in 2014 in the USA for a new method of protein stabilization towards organic solvents. The Loschmidt Laboratories also gave rise to the founding of the first Masaryk University biotechnological spin-off, Enantis, and a software company CaverSoft.

A large number of other campus-based units are also involved in facilitating both instruction and research – e.g. the laboratories for biomedical technologies, etc. Close collaboration with the Faculty Hospital Brno and Incubator for Biotechnology (INBIT) likewise plays a significant role.

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers at the Josef Dadok National NMR Centre are key tools in the study of molecular structure and motion.



# CAMPUS LIFE

The university complex provides 5,000 students and 1,500 academic and research employees with a superior study and work environment. The campus comprises a versatile base for a wide range of student activities: students are welcome to use the modern library and computer room, the heart of the entire university complex. Accommodation facilities for MU students and employees, catering and business enterprises as well as facilities for sports and socializing have been built up in the immediate vicinity of the new campus.

Student and employee catering is provided by two facilities – Academic Restaurant and Academic Canteen – established by the university inside the new shopping centre and in the Campus Residential Area located on the other end of the campus complex. A café situated on the Kamenice footbridge is popular among students not only because it offers light refreshments, but also for its great location offering view of almost the entire campus area.

All campus interiors are suitable for students with special needs, a large number of whom are enrolled at Masaryk University. All buildings and routes are wheelchair accessible and three separate navigation elements – leading lines, audio and tactile navigation – are implemented in order to help students with impaired vision.





Leading lines in hallways  
are designed to help students  
with impaired vision



The academic restaurant offers  
dietary and vegetarian cuisine



Campus grounds are also  
a place for recreation



All figures valid as of 1 September 2014  
Editors: Pavla Hudcová, Petra Šmejdivá  
Graphic design and DTP: PORTA DESIGN  
Campus map: Pavel Jílek – Exactdesign  
Photography: Aleš Ležatka, Zdeněk Náplava,  
MU Archives, Jiří Sláma, Anna Pecková  
Translation: David Konečný, Petra Judová  
Print: Tiskárna Expodata-Didot, spol. s r.o.

Issued by Masaryk University, 2014

**[www.kampus.muni.cz](http://www.kampus.muni.cz)**