

A man in a dark suit stands with his back to the camera, hands on his hips, looking into a vast, complex maze of light blue walls. The maze is composed of many interconnected paths and dead ends, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the geometric structure of the maze.

**MUNI
ECON**

DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME

**REGIONAL
ECONOMICS**

A doctoral study is the highest level of university education. Its graduates receive an internationally recognized Ph.D. title. Without a doubt, it is a competitive advantage in the labour market nowadays. Doctoral studies offer plenty of unique opportunities such as collaboration with experts and academics, research and publishing, matching study with practice, internships at foreign universities, or the opportunity to participate in teaching.

And that's what the new **REGIONAL ECONOMICS** doctoral programme presented in this booklet is about.

WELCOME TO ECON MUNI

Dear applicants,

I am pleased to announce the opening of a new doctoral programme Regional Economics, which enriches the range of postgraduate programmes at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University. Our faculty has been striving for quality education and first-class economic research in the long term, through which we follow the ideas of the first rector of the MU, economist



Karel Engliš. An essential part of achieving this goal is a doctoral programme open to talented and motivated candidates from among graduates of economic master programmes. Postgraduate studies are a long-term priority and a prestigious matter for our faculty. We offer its students excellent conditions for their studies and research, good material background, modern and inspiring spaces, and, last but not least, a helpful and friendly approach of experienced academics. We will be pleased to welcome you among us.

prof. Ing. Antonín Slaný, CSc.
dean

Dear colleagues,

Are you considering doctoral studies? The newly established doctoral study programme Regional Economics is a unique research-oriented programme, which was prepared by several experts. The programme aims to develop the analytical and research skills of PhD students so that they can independently solve problems of regional economics and become recognized experts working at analytical, research and management positions not only in Czech but also European organizations. By graduating from the doctoral studies, you will get an advantage in the labour market, which today requires skilled professionals with a creative and critical way of thinking. We have not only prepared new courses, but we have also built a doctoral laboratory for our students to give them comfortable conditions for their study and research. You can learn more about the programme on the following pages.



doc. Ing. Vladimír Žítek, Ph.D.
programme guarantor

[HTTPS://REGIONAL.ECON.MUNI.CZ/EN](https://regional.econ.muni.cz/en)

BASIC INFORMATION

The Regional Economics postgraduate programme is a new research-oriented programme that will start in the spring semester of 2020. Thanks to its thematic focus, it is a unique Ph.D. programme open for graduates in master's economics programmes across all universities.

Programme title	Regionální ekonomie / Regional Economics
Guarantee department	Department of Regional Economics and Administration
Guarantor	doc. Ing. Vladimír Žitek, Ph.D.
Type of study	doctoral
Standard length of studies	4 years
Awarded title	Ph.D.
Mode	full-time, combined
Language of instruction	Czech, English
Start of study	autumn and spring semester
E-mail	phd-reek@econ.muni.cz
Web page	https://regional.econ.muni.cz/en

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University (ECON MUNI) is a recognized educational institution that offers a diverse range of economics study programmes at bachelor, master and doctoral levels. We also put a strong emphasis on research activities.

ECON MUNI was founded in 1990 as the first post-revolution faculty of Masaryk University. Lessons began the following year, and three years later, we welcomed the first graduates. To this day, there are more than 12 thousand graduates. The faculty initially operated in makeshift conditions in the Zelný trh square and Antonínská street. Since 1998 it has had its own modern building in the attractive district of Pisárky, located near the city centre.



ECON MUNI provides a high-quality university education, to which a wide range of study programmes and individual courses is adapted. Students have the opportunity to participate in internships abroad and choose from a vast network of partner universities around the world. Our graduates are in great demand on the labour market, are successful in the private and public spheres, and are also employed abroad. Research activities and the dissemination of new knowledge are also crucial for us. The faculty has several research institutes, we are engaged in a number of research projects and we are active in publishing.

We wish students feel well at our faculty, therefore we devote much effort to building a pleasant environment. All our classrooms are modernized and equipped with the necessary technology. Students have a unique library with a rich collection of printed books and an extensive range of electronic databases of scientific and scientific publications for their disposal. Study boxes, study spaces, relaxation zones and a bistro are available for added comfort. In the neighbourhood of the faculty, there are student dormitories and a canteen.



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

Regional economics is a relatively young science, and its boom indicates that in the research and practical policy spheres, there is a growing awareness of the importance of regions for economic performance. The origin of this discipline dates back to the 1950s. All economic phenomena take place in some geographical space. The unique conditions of each region shape its competitiveness and affect economic growth and development.

Regional economics focuses on the economic dimension of regions or the regional dimension of economic processes and phenomena.

Regional economics is a part of economics that deals with the spatial distribution of economic activities and spatial inequalities in the level of economic development. It is a science that studies economic behaviour in space. Regional economics focuses on problems that are specific to cities, rural areas, regions or otherwise defined space.

Regional economists ask themselves a lot of questions. And as science goes, the more questions are answered, the more new questions appear. The main issues that regional economics is trying to find answers for include:

- How do businesses and people make decisions when considering their location?
- Why do some regions thrive and others do not?
- What impact does regional planning have on the development potential of a region?
- How is economic growth generated and distributed?
- What is the role of social and professional networks in a region?
- How does the spatial dimension affect the costs and benefits of projects and companies?



DSP REGIONAL ECONOMICS

Doctoral study programme Regional Economics is provided by the Department of Regional Economics and Administration ECON MUNI. We have lacked a Ph.D. programme focused exclusively on regional economics for a long time, so we are glad that now the time has come to open it.

Become the first student and the first graduate!

The Department of Regional Economics and Administration was founded in 1995, and since that time, it has guaranteed bachelor and master degree programmes specialised in regional development. The strength of our graduates is the ability to reflect the territorial specificity of economic development into their thinking and decision-making. In the spring semester of 2020, we are going to open the programme at the doctoral level. This new programme grooms students to become real experts in regional economics. It prepares them for work not only in academia but wherever analytical skills, independent critical thinking and creativity are needed. The Regional Economics programme could also be created thanks to the EU support implemented through the OP RDE project “Creation of research oriented postgraduate study programme Regional Economics”.

The preparation of the programme was difficult and relatively long. We wanted to create a quality program, so we involved several real experts in this process. Firstly, we should mention prof. Manfred M. Fischer, who works at the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien. Prof. Fischer is the world's leading expert in regional sciences, with dozens of articles published in the most prestigious scientific journals and many books he wrote or edited. In addition to his professional skills, we also appreciate his enthusiastic and steady interest in developing regional science studies. Prof. Elena Žárska and prof. Jozef Tvrdoš from the University of Economics in Bratislava and prof. Oto Hudec from the Technical University of Košice were significantly engaged in the establishment of this programme too. Additionally, we have consulted it with experts from practice, who may be potential employers of our graduates.



You can read more about the study and its courses on the following pages. Here we would like to mention other facilities for our Ph.D. students. Together with the study programme we have also built a laboratory that offers modern premises with ICT equipment for study and research activities of Ph.D. students of Regional Economics. Students can also use the unique library equipped with valuable

books and journals which was donated to our programme by prof. Fischer.

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

The requirements for the qualification of workers are continually growing. Economic development is based on new knowledge and creative ideas, and professionals who are able to move the knowledge frontier are demanded in the labour market. Doctoral programmes now produce experts who are increasingly applying their skills outside the academic sphere.

Doctoral study programme Regional Economics teaches students to deeply understand theories of regional economics and regional development, use research methods and independently conduct research activities, participate in research projects, cooperate with experts across various disciplines, or comment on the economic regional policy measures and critically evaluate them.

Graduates of the Regional Economics doctoral programme can find employment in the following positions:

- researcher in institutes of basic and applied research in the Czech Republic and abroad;
- academic at the university;
- manager, analyst or expert team leader in regional advisory and consulting agencies and companies;
- manager of regional and national public authorities;
- executive in international institutions, including European Union institutions and foreign branches of Czech organizations;
- manager in private companies in positions where analytical skills and a broad regional economic knowledge are needed; and
- founder and expert of think-tanks and advisors and expert of political subjects and public administration in the field of regional issues.



COURSE OF THE STUDIES

The doctoral study has a highly individual character. Throughout their studies, students must continuously educate themselves in the field of their specialization, i.e. the topic of their dissertation. Additionally, they have to complete some courses that provide the fundamental basis for their own research. The study also includes the publication of professional texts and participation in an internship abroad.

Dissertation thesis

The dissertation thesis is the final work of the doctoral study, and after its successful defence, the graduates obtain a Ph.D. degree. The dissertation intertwines throughout the whole study, and it is no exaggeration to say that everything in the doctoral study revolves around it. This work should bring new and original knowledge in the field of regional economics and is the result of several years of research conducted by the student.

Courses

Teaching takes place mainly during the initial phase of the study and includes both courses joint for all study programmes and specific courses of the given study programme. The courses taught in our programme are Regional Economics, Innovation and Regional Development, and Regional Research Seminar. A more detailed structure of doctoral courses is stated on the following pages.

Publishing

We expect students to publish the results of their research, particularly in the form of articles in scientific journals and articles in conference proceedings. The publication activity should correspond with the topic of the dissertation and is an integral part of the conditions for the successful completion of studies.

Participation in teaching

Being a Ph.D. student also means participating in the teaching activities of the guarantee department. During their studies, Ph.D. students try to teach someone and try what it's like to be a teacher. Doctoral students usually lead seminars in bachelor and master study programmes, correct seminar works, assist in examinations, or prepare reader's reports for final theses.

Internship

During his / her studies, each Ph.D. student has to go on an internship at a foreign institution for at least one month. The internship can be completed at a foreign university or research institute, but also at various institutions at the transnational level. The internship can be replaced by participation



in an international creative project with results published or presented abroad or by another form of direct involvement in international cooperation.

State doctoral examination

The state doctoral examination is held at the end of the 4th semester. Its essence is the defence of the essay of the dissertation thesis, and its passing proves readiness for independent research activities.



Dissertation thesis defence

The dissertation thesis defence consists of so-called little and big defence. The little defence is an internal defence of the created dissertation, and its outcome is mainly recommendations on how to improve the dissertation. The big defence is the final defence and represents the end of the entire Ph.D. studies.

Scholarship

Full-time students of the Czech programme are entitled to regular monthly scholarships. Our scholarship system is designed to be motivational. The usual scholarship is higher than the standard in the Czech Republic. In addition, the scholarship can be increased based on good results or reduced if the student fails to fulfil his / her duties. Further scholarships can be obtained as part of specific research projects or from the faculty scholarship programmes. Details on scholarships are available on our website.

CURRICULUM

Doctoral study is based on a credit system, and students have to gain a certain number of credits to complete their studies successfully. Credits can be obtained both for passing exams from required, obligatory-optional and optional courses and for the progress in the processing of the dissertation thesis.

During the PhD. studies, it is necessary to obtain at least 240 credits and at the same time 20 credits in each semester. The study is flexible, and students can decide in which semester to enrol in individual courses. Most of the required courses completed by exam are enrolled in the first year, and in the following years, they intensively deal with the dissertation. Required courses completed by exam have full-time instruction, ie, primarily lectures connected with discussion. Teaching takes place in blocks of four to eight hours, which makes it more accessible to students in the combined form of study. For some courses, PhD. students choose their credit value. The structure of courses in the Regional Economics programme is shown in the following table.

Course	Type of completion	Number of credits
Required courses		
Regional Economics	examination	12
Innovation and Regional Development	examination	8
Regional Research Seminar	credit	8
Methodology 1	examination	6
Econometrics	examination	12
Study of literature (2 times during studies)	credit	2 x 6
English for academic and specific purposes competence, variant A	credit	0
English for academic and specific purposes competence, variant B	credit	6
Foreign Internship	credit	max. 25
Research workshop	credit	10
Preparation of the Dissertation (repeatedly during studies)	credit	max. 30 (120-160 per studies)
Obligatory-optional courses		
The student chooses from required courses of other study programmes.	examination	min. 10
Optional courses		
Teaching Assistance (repeatedly during studies)	credit	max. 8 / semester max. 25 / studies
Internship	credit	max. 25

APPLICATION

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

The admission procedure is open twice a year, usually in May (to start studying in the autumn semester) and November (to start studying in the spring semester). The exact dates are stated on our website.

If you decide to study our unique Ph.D. programme Regional Economics, first choose a dissertation topic. The offered topics of the dissertation theses and their supervisors can be found on the programme website. We also encourage those interested in contacting their potential supervisors in advance to consult possible cooperation and discuss their mutual expectations. If you still hesitate, you can also ask the programme guarantor for advice.

The application is submitted in an electronic form, and its integral part is a professional essay in the range of 8 to 12 pages on the selected topic of the dissertation. Through it, the candidates demonstrate their interest in the topic and appropriate knowledge. This dissertation project has to contain a basic summary of the current state of art (quality literature review), specification of the goals of the future dissertation and a proposal of the intended methods of solution.

The entrance exam is oral and consists of three parts:

- specialised examinations to verify expert knowledge of regional economics (weight 20%),
- panel discussion on the submitted essay and dissertation topic (weight 70%); and
- English language examination (weight 10%).



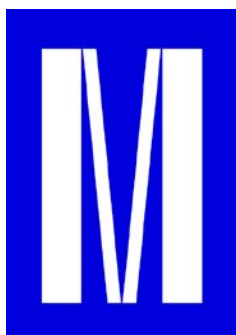
MUNI WORLD

Masaryk University was founded in 1919 and was named in honour of the fighter for the establishment of Czechoslovakia and then newly elected president T. G. Masaryk. Today it is the second-largest university in the Czech Republic, and its position is given not only by the number of students but mainly by the quality of teaching and top research. Our motto is: “Overcoming the good with the better”.

Masaryk University consists of nine faculties and many other workplaces. You can distinguish it immediately thanks to its characteristic “M” letter. The MUNI buildings are located all over the city of Brno. The fastest-growing area is the University Campus in Brno-Bohunice, with the up-to-date equipment for medical and biological disciplines. Three faculties and the Central European Institute of Technology, CEITEC, are settled there.



The entire MUNI, however, boasts a representative environment, whether it is a renovated historic building or newly built premises.



MUNI is a pioneer in the field of computerization of studies and functioning of the university. Upon joining Masaryk University, all students at the same time gain access to its renowned Information System, where all matters related to study are addressed. The information system serves as a tool for complex study agenda, e-learning and communication within the university for both students and employees and graduates. Computerization increases the flexibility of study as students can easily enrol in courses across the university. And as a Ph.D. student, you will learn even more about the possibilities of our electronic applications!

MUNI is not only a collection of lecture halls, classrooms, research laboratories and academic workplaces; MUNI also significantly affects social and cultural life. Surely you have heard about a unique Czech project, University Cinema Scala, which MUNI was involved in restoring. It is currently the most visited arthouse cinema in the Czech Republic. The cinema serves not only for film screenings but also for educational activities, conferences and seminars and academic ceremonies at Masaryk University. MUNI also operates the Mendel Museum, which follows the legacy of the founder of genetics G. J. Mendel. In addition to visiting long-term exhibitions, you can also attend many events popularizing science or various academic festivities there.



LIFE IN BRNO

Brno is the largest student city in the Czech Republic, and one fifth of its inhabitants are university students. Thanks to them, Brno offers life in the fast lane; everyone can find something for her/himself - architecture, museums, theatres, concerts, sports events, cafes, bars, wine bars and pubs. Furthermore, cutting-edge science and emerging science districts shape the current spirit of Brno. Everything is close and public transport operates non-stop.

Brno is a functionalist city, which has inspired Masaryk University to design its logo. The most famous functionalist building is Villa Tugendhat. However, there are also many other buildings, such as the exhibition grounds, the extremely narrow Avion Hotel and functionalist cafes. Brno is also famous for its villas, which were built here in the past by important manufacturers and other notables. Many of these gems are located in the Brno-Pisárky district in the immediate vicinity of ECON MUNI. Other sights include



at least the



Petrov Cathedral and Špilberk Castle surrounded by green parks. Visitors also enjoy the mysterious historical underground. As a student, you will surely want to go to Brno Dam, where you can take a steamboat to the Veveří Castle, go cycling or walk. Of course, we must not forget the long list of renowned cafes, wine bars, bars or pubs. For example, check out www.gotobrna.cz.

If you are not a resident, you will first need to find a place to live during your studies. There are many options. Our Accommodation and Catering Services offer accommodation in eleven dormitory buildings in different parts of Brno. Right next to ECON MUNI, there is the so-called “Vinařky” dormitory, so you will need only three minutes to get to the faculty. Besides, there is a wide offer of renting private apartments or rooms alone in Brno.

You can use a dense network of trams, trolleybuses and buses to move through Brno. The ECON MUNI building is a five-minute walk from the Lipová stop. All you have to do is buy a student pre-paid ticket, and your travelling is solved. The vehicle fleet of the Brno Public Transport Authority is continuously undergoing modernization so that you travel by new and more environment-friendly means.



Some of the vehicles have their own names. Legendary are the night bus starts. Buses come together every hour at Brno's main railway station and from there leave for all of the city quarters. Enjoy nightlife in Brno!!

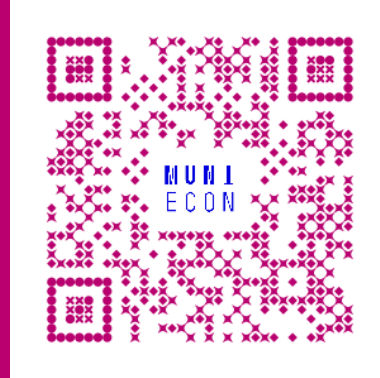
DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

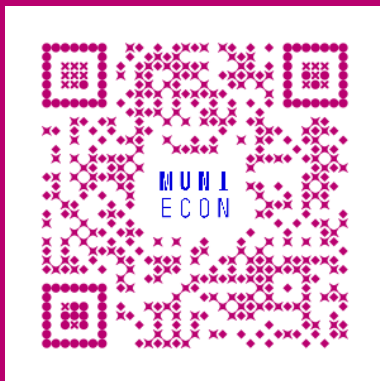
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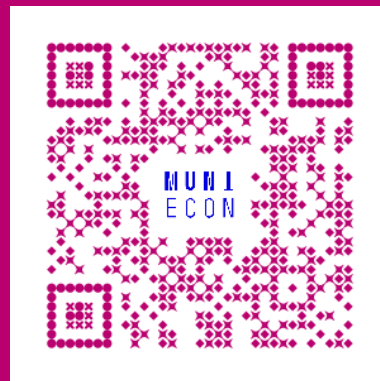
Website



Where we are



Contacts us



EUROPEAN UNION
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Development and Education



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND SPORTS

