**Academic Inbreeding**

**1 Discussion**

1 What is academic inbreeding?

2 Are you critical of academic inbreeding?

3 Why is inbreeding a prevalent practice at Czech universities?

4 What could be done to prevent academic inbreeding?

5 How can Czech universities attract more people from abroad?

6 Do politicians influence science and research?

7 What do you see as the main complication to research?

**2 Match the following parts of sentences together**

1 The Velvet Revolution brought … **A** include inbreeding and male chauvinism.

2 She went abroad to be … **B** some bad practices remain.

3 She was given the opportunity to start her … **C** the development of Czech research.

4 Although the conditions for research have been improving,... **D** able to conduct research.

5 The bad practices … **E** an end to the communist regime.

6 Career insecurity hinders … **F** own research group.

**3 Complete with the correct word**

**An interview with Štěpánka Vaňáčová**

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inflow prompted

“At the time I left, there were hardly any new positions being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and I had no idea if there would ever be any. This is why I didn't really think I would come back. My return was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by family reasons and by the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_\_ up my own research group at Masaryk University. This is still rather rare in the Czech Republic. People \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to go back to where they started from and academic inbreeding remains quite\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” says the 45-year-old biologist, criticising the practice of staying at the same university where you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your degree and never experiencing anything else.

**1 Why are you critical of academic inbreeding and why is it important to change \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when building your research career?**

A research institute or university needs an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of new people who bring new knowledge, views, and habits. Newcomers with no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ associations with the place can be a source of great dynamics. In spite of this, academic inbreeding is still prevalent throughout the Czech Republic and the system is not open enough to become more dynamic. I think it is a big problem that goes all the way up to our political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Long-term prospects recognition discourage allow renowned established applications

**2 How can politicians influence science?**

As scientists, we have no certainty beyond the term of our current grant. We work under permanent stress. It would be beneficial to have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plan at the Ministry of Education level – a strategy that would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ universities to plan research funding for the next ten or twenty years. The biggest problem is the lack of permanent positions. For example, our institute received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from excellent scientists, but when they realised that they would have no long-term ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or certainty about what happens in, say, five years, they just gave up. In the West, it is common practice that once you have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your credibility and ability to conduct quality research, you have the opportunity to get a permanent position, so that at least you don’t need to worry about financing your own salary.

**3 Are there any other reasons why we do not see more scientists from other countries and people who have experience abroad coming here?**

One reason is the long-standing problem with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of diplomas, which takes a long time. For example, I habilitated at the University of Basel and I found out there is no way to have my habilitation officially recognised here. I know that some of my colleagues struggled to have their PhD or professorship from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ institutions recognised. These are some of the factors that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people from coming back. They’re not sure whether they will fit in.

**4 Biographical Note**

**Štěpánka Vaňáčová**

* Assoc. Prof. and a head of Research Group at CEITEC Masaryk University
* Born 18 July 1972 in Prague
* Graduated in biology from Charles University, where she also earned her PhD in parasitology
* In 2001 she was accepted as a postdoc at the University of California, Los Angeles, and in 2004, she moved to another postdoc position at the University of Basel
* In 2008 she started her own research group as part of the National Centre for Biomolecular Research at Masaryk University
* Since 2011 she has been the leader of a research group at the Central European Institute of Technology, Masaryk University (CEITEC MU)
* She teaches two courses in English at MU – one on the structural and molecular biology of RNA and the other on RNA

You can read the whole interview here

<https://www.universitas.cz/en/people/304-problems-facing-czech-scientists-academic-inbreeding-red-tape-and-poorly-designed-evaluation>

**5 Replace the word in bold with a word that has an opposite meaning**

Inbreeding is a **prevalent** practice at American universities.

My return to the Czech Republic was **hindered** by family reasons.

In the past few years, the conditions for research have been **improving**.

These are some of the reasons that **attract** foreign scholars.

Inbreeding **remains** to be a problem.

**Newcomers** can teach us some important skills.

Academic **inbreeding** should be encouraged.

The system is not **dynamic**.

They offered him a **long-term** contract.

He **established** his credibility and was offered a lower position.

He earned his PhD from a **renowned** university.

**6 Prepositions:** Complete the correct preposition

He is always complaining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ working too hard. Are you interested \_\_\_\_\_ playing tennis tomorrow? How \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ going to the cinema tomorrow? I’m really looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the new film. Did she apologize \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being late?  I am tired \_\_\_\_\_\_ hearing her complain. We thanked her \_\_\_\_\_\_ giving us a lift with her car. Sometimes I find it difficult to concentrate \_\_\_\_\_\_ driving. I insist \_\_\_\_ giving him the money back. The weather prevented me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ going to the park. We congratulated him \_\_\_\_\_\_ winning. The mother was accused \_\_\_\_\_\_ not taking care of her children. He doesn’t approve \_\_\_\_  his friends’ smoking. After trying for one hour I finally succeeded \_\_\_\_\_\_ starting the car. I paid a lot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ having my car fixed. He specializes \_\_\_\_\_ teaching Business English. I forgave him \_\_\_\_\_\_ not asking her. The blamed the student \_\_\_\_\_\_ making the mistake. I believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eating well and doing regular exercise. Some guests objected \_\_\_\_\_\_ paying extra money to use the swimming pool.

**7 Sentence Transformation:** Complete a new sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the original sentence, using the word given

Only few students responded to the call.

Only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 word) students responded to the call.

Campus Bohunice is newer than other university buildings.

Other university buildings are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 words) Campus Bohunice.

I’m too inexperienced to complete the task on my own.

I’m not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) to complete the task on my own.

We had some lectures in English but we didn’t mind.

We didn’t mind \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 word) some lectures in English.

It’s not a good idea to delay doing things.

You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 words) doing things.

If you do not speak often, you will not improve your English.

You will not improve your English \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) speak often.