Charles University in Prague
Faculty of Arts
Language Resource Centre

“Helping Students with Special Needs”
Charles University, which was established in 1348, consists of 17 faculties/colleges where students can study humanities, theology and arts, as well as natural sciences, medicine and math. The Faculty of Arts is one of them.
In this academic year Charles University has got 51,400 students, out of that number 41,300 students are signed in full time study programs and 10,100 students in part time study programs. These students are taught by 12,700 teachers.
The total number of offered study programs by Charles University is 362:
168 undergraduate programs
194 postgraduate programs.

At Charles University you can study 735 study disciplines:
552 undergraduate study disciplines
183 postgraduate study disciplines.

Charles University offers:
181 Bachelor programs
Charles University offers:
371 Master programs
183 Doctoral programs
You can find us in the very heart of Europe.

Our Contact Address:
Language Resource Centre
Faculty of Arts, 2 Jana Palacha Square
116 38 Prague 1, Czech Republic
1) We teach English to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing university students.
2) We teach English to blind university students.
WHAT WE DO

3) We help other students with special needs to master English.
4) We organize BSL and ASL classes for our deaf and hard-of-hearing students as a preparation for English Summer School Programs.
Dr. Janáková shares her experience in Deaf Studies also by giving lectures to Charles University colleagues who wish to start helping students with special needs at some other Charles University colleges, faculties and institutions.
5) We supervise our postgraduate students and give lectures at home institutions as well as abroad (Charles University IAC, Academia Podliaska in Poland, Mickiewicz University in Poznan, students and their counsellors from Miami University, etc.).
WHAT WE DO - BEYOND TEACHING

Students and advisors from Miami University, Ohio, visiting LRC, 2008, 2009
6) We do research, develop and publish specialized language teaching materials for students with special needs and their teachers at Czech special schools and partner universities abroad.

http://jc.ff.cuni.cz/mmp/SMP.pdf
We always look for new strategies, especially based on playful and creative way of learning, such as mind maps, pictures, stories, etc. That is also why the book of Tales on Happiness was written, first in Czech, then translated into English, German and Russian and finally voiced over in all four languages, giving that way a solid foundation to a series of so called hybrid books which can be used by the Deaf as well as by the Blind students.
For young deaf learners we have been preparing illustrated powerpoint presentations which follow every fairy tale of this book to help deaf children recall each story in more details.
7) We solve about 4 grant projects every year to support our program of teaching English to the students with special needs at Charles University and at all Czech special schools:

- developmental project aimed at teaching students with special needs
- developmental project aimed at organizing English Summer Schools abroad
- developmental project aimed at instruction of our sign interpreters and English teachers in mastering BSL/ASL
- European Leonardo project - DSigns – an international 24/7 online course in five different sign languages (Czech, British, Irish, Cypriot, Greek)
In June 2009 a partners’ meeting of the Leonardo “D-Signs“ project was held in our LRC. We met colleagues from the University of Bristol, Centre for Deaf Studies, Great Britain; Trinity College, Dublin, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, and Systema Athens, Greece. This two year international project (which started in September 2008) aims at creating e-learning course in each partner’s sign language which will be focused on hearing people in a work place or institution where Deaf people work or where they feel the greatest need to improve communication and remove barriers between the hearing and Deaf community. On the Czech part the project is realized in collaboration with Pevnost – Czech Sign Language Institute.
WE SOLVE LEONARDO PROJECT
8) We cooperate with our colleagues both at home and abroad in order to:

- learn about and exchange experience in this very special study discipline (visiting other universities oriented the same way – NTID, Orebro in Sweden, Bristol and Wolverhampton Universities in England, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland)

- In spring 2006 Dr. Janakova visited the NTID. The aim of her one-week study stay was a series of 15 class observations in teaching English to American deaf and hard-of-hearing university students, focused on improving their skills in reading and writing academic texts. The courses covered teaching beginners up to very advanced English courses for the Deaf. After returning from the US, a special captioned nine-part video program was created out of the video recordings taken during the observations at NTID by the Czech LRC team. This program was distributed to all Czech special schools to help teachers of English to the Deaf.
Focus on Introduction

- Sample introduction - from an observation report on male/female language differences

"Do women talk more than men? Do men communicate differently than women? Are the differences a result of physiological differences or social conditions? An increasing number of researchers have become interested in these questions. It has long been said that women talk more than men, but recent research suggests that this is not the case. In this study, we attempt to verify or refute the claim that women communicate more than men. We use statistical analysis and focus on summarizing the data and presenting the findings based on the observations."
WHAT WE DO - COOPERATE
On May 25, 2007 the 122nd academic convocation in Rochester Institute of Technology was held on the occasion of awarding academic degrees to the RIT graduates. During this ceremony, there were also awarded honorary doctorates to President Bill Clinton and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, the President of the Nippon Foundation. Dr. Janakova had an opportunity to take part in these great celebrations, too. She visited RIT in order to prepare a document on mutual cooperation between the Faculty of Arts and NTID.
to develop and publish some special study foreign language materials (e.g. hybrid books with Teiresias Support Centre for Students with Special Needs at Masaryk University in Brno – as it was mentioned above)
WHAT WE DO - COOPERATE
to organize Prague international teacher-training seminars (2000 and 2004) and other very special meetings and conferences (with the kind help of NTID and Charles University IAC)
WHAT WE DO - COOPERATE
In October 2006 the LRC hosted a second significant meeting of top representatives of the Nippon Foundation and deaf and hard of hearing university students, during which the distinguished guests were presented positive results achieved in improving the situation in foreign language instruction for the Czech deaf and hard-of-hearing students within the last three years. The honourable guests also visited the newly reconstructed LRC study room, equipped with modern technology enabling significant improvement in the efficiency of teaching Reading and Writing English academic texts, especially to the Deaf.
WHAT WE DO - COOPERATE
In May 2008 President Davila met with deaf and hard-of-hearing Charles University students at the Faculty of Arts LRC. The meeting was held in an informal and cordial way and Czech students had many questions concerning mainly life and study possibilities at Gallaudet University. Dr. Davila presented to Dr. Janakova his biography “Moments of Truth: Robert R. Davila: The Story of a Deaf Leader“.
to prepare special three-week long programs of English Summer Schools for our deaf and hard of hearing students:

- 2001 – Gallaudet University, USA
- 2002 – Gallaudet University, USA
- 2003 – Gallaudet University, USA
- 2004 – University of Bristol, Great Britain
- 2005 – University of Bristol, Great Britain
- 2006 – University of Bristol, Great Britain
- 2007 – Gallaudet University, USA
- 2008 – Gallaudet University, USA
- 2009 – University of Bristol, Great Britain
- 2010 – University of Bristol, Great Britain
WHAT WE DO - COOPERATE
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to organize two-week BSL three level certified training programs for our sign interpreters and English teachers at the University of Bristol in 2008, 2009 and 2010
Miracles.
Unfortunately, so far they only exist in Dr. Janakova’s book of Tales on Happiness With Fairies, Elves, Gnomes, and Other Good Spirits which is going to be introduced here at NTID RIT ....
Everybody likes to dream, so please come and see the presentation given on Tuesday, by Marie Doležalova.
Thank you for your attention.
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