

University Development Strategy: Quality, Innovation, and Societal Impact

Main programme points:

1. Enhancing the quality and internationalisation of education: I will provide systematic support for leading academics and international experts, increase the number of programmes delivered in English and promote interdisciplinary collaboration, making the university more appealing to students and teachers worldwide.
2. Supporting excellence in science, research and innovation: I will provide balanced support for both established and emerging fields and focus on achieving high-quality outcomes through international cooperation. My aim is to place the university among the top 200–300 institutions globally.
3. Strengthening social responsibility and the university's third role: I will establish an institutional framework to encourage expert involvement in public debates and decision-making processes. I will also connect the university with industry and the public, and support the creation of spin-off companies and the transfer of knowledge into practice.
4. Modernising administration and the digital environment: I will establish an efficient, professional and user-friendly administration to actively support academic and research activities while reducing administrative burden.
5. Ensuring comprehensive student support and community development: I will improve study conditions, accessibility of services, and support for student activities, making the university a place of holistic development, open communication, and a strong sense of community.
6. I will open discussions on increasing CTU's national reach, e.g. by changing the name to remove 'in Prague' from the Czech name.

Programme Theses:

This document sets out my key priorities and strategic directions for developing the university, with the aim of strengthening its position as an excellent academic and research institution that has a significant impact on society.

Education and teaching: quality of academic staff and internationalisation.

Education is the university's primary mission. The quality of education provided depends mainly on the quality of academic staff. I believe that supporting the

professional and pedagogical development of our educators will have a positive influence on the learning environment.

I will:

- ensure systematic support for visiting and international professors and experts, enriching teaching with modern approaches and global perspectives;
- support the development and modernisation of teaching spaces and laboratories to provide students with optimal conditions for study and personal development;
- connect faculties and support interdisciplinary cooperation to broaden students' horizons and prepare them for today's complex challenges;
- Expand the range of study programmes offered in English and support the creation of double and joint degree programmes to increase the university's international appeal;
- ensure support for foreign teachers and increase the number of foreign students to enrich the academic environment and promote cultural exchange;
- promote lifelong learning and introduce micro-certificates to enable the university to respond quickly to changing demands from the job market;
- invest in teaching quality, international cooperation and innovative methods to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century;
- support doctoral candidates' personal development and create opportunities for mobility and involvement in projects;
- implement cotutelle (dual supervision) in doctoral studies, particularly with international supervisors and examiners.

Scientific, Research, and Artistic Activities as Pillars of Excellence

Scientific, research and artistic excellence are essential for the future of the university. I am convinced that the key to achieving this lies with all staff involved in creative activities. We usually recognise success and quality, and these individuals need to be supported. Doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers are also vital for long-term development.

I will:

- support both established and emerging fields to create space for new directions and innovation;
- ensure funding, mentoring and involvement in international research networks, with a particular focus on developing young talent and providing stable support for experienced scientists;
- implement a research evaluation system that prioritises quality over quantity, focusing on prestigious publications and higher citations;
- actively engage the university in European and international research projects and secure full membership in the Eurotech alliance;

- support interdisciplinary projects that combine science and art, increasing the creativity and innovation potential of the university;
- create opportunities for exhibitions showcasing the artistic and creative work of our employees and students in the fields of art, architecture and design;
- use an International Advisory Board for benchmarking and implement its recommendations;
- focus on improving the university's position in the QS World University Rankings, with the ultimate goal of ranking among the top 200–300 universities worldwide.

The University's Third Role: Social Responsibility and Innovation

Modern universities have long since ceased to function solely as educational and research institutions. Their active involvement in social affairs, known as the 'third role' of universities, is becoming increasingly important. This dimension should be understood as an integral part of the university's mission, developed through a variety of activities.

Universities present themselves as independent, apolitical knowledge institutions that provide a foundation of expertise for informed decision-making in both the public and private sectors.

I will:

- create a framework for expert involvement in national and international commissions and working groups;
- ensure that education reflects societal needs and promote contract-funded study programmes;
- support cooperation with secondary schools in STEM subjects and expand programmes such as Children's University to promote interest in technical fields;
- engage the university in international alliances and associations, thereby enabling the sharing of expertise and proven foreign approaches;
- support the creation of spin-off companies and motivate researchers to commercialise their results, giving them a say in decision-making and financial benefits from technology transfer;
- strengthen cooperation with regional innovation centres (e.g. PHR and SIC) to ensure the university is at the heart of innovation and societal progress.

Effective Administrative Support

An effective administration that supports administrative and information processes is fundamental to the efficient running of a university. The external environment is the primary source of requirements, but it also creates many limitations and barriers that can be overcome with qualified administrative and information support. The university's administrative services must be modern, professional and flexible.

I will:

- improve the quality of administrative services and adapt them to the needs of academic and non-academic environments;
- build a reliable and integrated information system to effectively manage and administer agendas across the university, ensuring data integrity and consistency, and establishing a sustainable long-term financing model for its operation and development;
- support the project-based development of digital applications, emphasising transparency, cost control and user involvement;
- redefine the role of the central administration as providing analytical, methodological and coordination support to faculties and other parts of the university. It would perform activities directly where this would be more effective or where aggregation at the university level is necessary.

Comprehensive Student Support

Students are an integral part of the academic community. Their high-quality education encompasses the transfer of knowledge and the creation of conditions that facilitate personal development, active participation in university life and community building. Students are eager to get involved in university life. This benefits the school, which is why I consider the student chamber of the academic senate to be a valuable negotiating partner.

I will:

- ensure accessible and dignified accommodation, administrative support and psychological and career counselling;
- promote open communication and encourage student involvement in quality assessment and the realisation of student projects;
- expand student activities, including supporting student clubs, sports, arts and community life;
- provide space, technical support and mentoring for student projects with the potential to extend beyond the university;

Modern and Effective University Governance

From a management perspective, I view the university as an academic community — a self-governing institution of knowledge. In this view, the Academic Senate plays an irreplaceable role as a self-governing body, and I would like to seek its support and base my decisions on its advice. Modern and effective management is essential for the university to fulfil its mission in education, research and social responsibility. In this context, I primarily see the role of the rector as strategic and managerial, creating conditions for excellence within individual faculties, institutes and other components while ensuring cohesion, transparency and a long-term strategic vision.

I will:

- strengthen the Rector's Collegium as a platform for sharing information, devising strategies and finding synergistic solutions;
- focus Rector's Council meetings on specific conceptual topics that have been prepared in advance and agreed upon;
- ensure that key decisions are communicated transparently and that employees and students have open access to information. Internal legislation will be made publicly available;
- establish an analytical support system for strategic planning and decision-making that is based on relevant data;
- enhance the university's identity, public relations and coherence across faculties, making the university more understandable and attractive to the public;
- define the processes that lead to the approval of the university's methodology, schedule and budget before the start of the calendar year;
- introduce the position of ombudsman at university level, establishing it as an independent and trustworthy role. I will also implement a communication campaign to inform students and employees about the ombudsman's powers;
- develop the University Industry Council to enable closer collaboration with partners from industry, business, and public administration;
- follow recommendations from the Internal Evaluation Board;
- support the development of the alumni programme to ensure that graduates play an active role in university life, thereby strengthening its prestige and connection with the professional world.

Conclusion

The Czech Technical University in Prague continues the tradition of the Prague Engineering School, the first of its kind in Europe. In 1806, it became a polytechnic institute — the first technical school in Central Europe — modelled on the Parisian École polytechnique. Throughout its history, our university has attracted many prominent figures, both among its academic staff and its alumni. Their traditions and achievements should motivate us to further develop their legacy for future generations, and I would very much like to contribute to this in my position as rector.

Motto: “Modern, internationally recognized university as a knowledge institution with tradition”