

# MUNI TEIRESIÁS

**Support Centre for Students  
with Special Needs**



## TEIRESIAS CENTRE

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with Special Needs**



## Teiresias Centre

Since 2000, the Support Centre for Students with Special Needs at Masaryk University has been ensuring that study programmes accredited at MU are to the greatest possible extent accessible to students with sensory or motion disability, with specific learning disorders and with other difficulties.

### Our services are available to

- Masaryk University **students** and international students during their study stay at MU
  - with specific learning difficulties
  - with psychological difficulties
  - with autistic spectrum disorder
  - with chronic diseases
  - with visual/hearing loss
  - with mobility impairment
- Masaryk University **lecturers and employees**
- Interested general **public**
- **Institutions** that ensure
  - education of pupils and students with disabilities
  - sensory and physical accessibility to public events and premises

### We offer

- Courses that supplement or substitute standard classes
- Organizational provision of services for students with impairment, including international mobilities
- Counselling and methodical background for students and teachers at secondary schools
- Introduction to common assistive technologies
- Partnership to institutions of nationwide importance that provide adaptations of study and test materials
- Braille publishing and countrywide digital university library
- Interpreting and speech-to-text reporting services
- Personal assistance dispatching centre



# Information for applicants

Apart from offering basic counselling services regarding the appropriate study programme choice, and organisational and technical adaptation of entrance exams, Teiresias Centre is also involved in activities connected to preparation for entrance exams.

## Entrance exams

- All applicants for studies at Masaryk University are admitted based on entrance exam results
- Required tests are Learning Potential Test (TSP), National Comparison Tests (Scio) and programme specific tests (some study programmes only)
- The content of tests is not modified for students with special needs, however, what can be modified is the form of the test, i.e. the test instructions can be in Braille or in Czech Sign Language, or the time limit

## Preparation courses

- Applicants can enrol in preparation courses
- The aim of the courses is to train technical proceedings and working methods that are present in tests adapted for students with special needs. These might include:
  - working with screen readers and tactile graphics
  - working with video documents with translations into sign language and more

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/admission-procedure](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/admission-procedure)



# Study and psychological counselling

It especially covers organisational adaptation of studies for students with any kind of difficulties, diagnostics, and psychological counselling.

## Who and how

- The counselling is provided by employees of the Studies section of the Teiresias Centre
- It is offered in Czech and English in face-to-face, chat, and video conference formats, and in Czech Sign Language in face-to-face or video chat formats.

## When

- Before the start of the studies to discuss the appropriate study programme choice
- Any time during the studies when necessary

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/studies](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/studies)

## Our services include

- Proposals on study environment adaptations as well as individual courses in relation to objective abilities of students (organizing individual classes, exam dates, etc.)
- Help with administration of the studies
- Organizational help when communicating with teachers and study offices at individual faculties
- Organizational help with providing (not only barrier-free) accommodation
- Information and organization services when arranging international mobilities
- Psychological counselling and specific learning difficulties diagnostics for adults
- Learning strategies training



## Study environment modifications and assistance

If it is impossible for a student to participate in regular classes, relevant modifications of the study environment and personal or study assistance are offered in cooperation with the teacher.

### Study environment modifications

- Technical and organizational modifications of regular classes – students attend regular lectures and seminars with the support of the Teiresias Centre (e.g. interpreting, speech-to-text reporting, etc.)
- Supplementary individual classes – apart from standard classes, students can attend supplemental individual and practically focused consultations
- Individual classes that replace standard lectures and seminars – students and teachers can use the facilities and technical support of the Teiresias Centre.

### Assistance

- Spatial orientation training in teaching and other premises at Masaryk University, halls of residence, in canteens and nearby urban areas
- Providing assistance when visiting unknown areas during study duties and cultural and other events organized by the university
- Assistance for sports classes at the Masaryk University – wall climbing, tandem bicycles, swimming, dancing, summer and winter training courses etc.
- Assistance with transport to classes and back - help in public transport, with follow-up connections etc.
- Personal assistance on Masaryk University premises



# Interpreting and speech-to-text reporting

Students and teachers are entitled to speech-to-text reporting and interpreting services from Czech into Czech Sign Language and vice versa. These services are offered in the online study environment as well.

## Who

Our services are provided especially by in-house sign language interpreters and by speech-to-text reporters. They are part of the *Sign Language Interpreting and Speech-To-Text Reporting subsection* within the Visual Communication Section at the Teiresias Centre.

## When

The service primarily ensures reciprocal communication of deaf and hard of hearing students and teachers at Masaryk University. This includes standard physical education classes as well as summer and winter teaching courses.

## How

Students are typically offered:

- Interpreting into/from Czech and Czech Sign Language
- Visualization of spoken language
- Simultaneous speech-to-text reporting and its visualisation, e.g. using the Polygraf system
- Video captioning services

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/visual-communication](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/visual-communication)



## Facilities and technical support

Masaryk University students and teachers are offered appropriate technologies for creating and adapting classes for students with disabilities and methodical guidance for their effective use.

### Special information and communication technology

- Software and hardware for direct work of users with a disability:
  - screen readers
  - software and desk magnifying glasses
  - Braille display
  - special keyboards
- Consultations and special ICT courses

### Study rooms

- Study spaces equipped with necessary ICT and with adjustable desks, if needed

### Production equipment

- Equipment for preparation of textual and graphic study materials for students with a sensory impairment:
  - scanners, reprographic technologies
  - OCR, converse tools
  - Braille embossers
  - software and hardware for tactile graphics (including tactile maps) and tactile signage
- Recording studio for creating sound records and videos with sign language content



# Library and publishing services

University Library for Students with Special Needs services are provided to students who have objective difficulties with using the regular library resources. These services include the preparation of digital, tactile, and sign language publications.

## Services

- The planned extension of the library collection takes into account syllabi of courses taught at MU. The services include:
  - digitalization
  - Braille print
  - tactile graphics production (2D, 3D)
- Tactile maps and navigation signage production
- Making the resources accessible
  - the catalogue is open to public
  - the digital collection is available online to registered users

## Library resources

- Available formats
  - electronic texts
  - tactile texts in Braille format
  - tactile graphics (2D and 3D)
  - hybrid books – multi-media publications combining text, sound, and video with sign language interpreting
  - black print documents
- Thematic composition of the resources
  - scholarly monographs
  - high school textbooks including language textbooks
  - cartographic and tactile art resources

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/library-and-publishing](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/library-and-publishing)





## Sport activities

Students with sensory and mobility impairment can also take part in regular sports classes. Apart from regular weekly and intensive courses they can participate in summer and winter training courses.

Masaryk University students can choose from courses provided by the Faculty of Sports Studies and by the Teiresias Centre. The courses differ from standard lessons in their character and structure and alternative teaching methods can be applied – adjusted for students with a particular disability.

### Summer and winter training courses

- Summer high mountain tours
- Water tourism training courses
- Winter tourism on snow-shoes
- Skiing on monoski and others

### Regular courses



Futsal, climbing wall, self-defence, tandem bikes, dancing



Floorball, climbing, self-defence, cycling



Handcycle, swimming, self-defence, alternative physical activities

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/sport](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/sport)

# Development and innovations

Professional provision of service to students with disabilities is still a very dynamic process, it is often impossible to use an existing solution or technology. In these cases, we create our own customized solutions and collaborate with partner institutions.

## Dictio

An online platform to present vocabulary of sign (visual-motor) and spoken languages.

[www.dictio.info](http://www.dictio.info)

## DysTest

BA set of tests designed for diagnostics of specific learning difficulties for university students and applicants.

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/dystest](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/dystest)

## Hybrid book

A multi-media publication which allows content consumption in textual, sound, and visual form.

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/hybridbook](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/hybridbook)

## LangSkills

A project to support language skills of deaf and hard of hearing students.

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/langskills](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/langskills)

## Library gateway DALETH

Library interface which allows browsing through catalogues of libraries which offer special document formats.

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/daleth](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/daleth)

## Polygraf

An application designed for visualisation of synchronous speech-to-text reporting and for the display of presentations with the possibility to caption.

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/polygraf](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/polygraf)

## Virtual guide

An interactive application designed to map the physical accessibility of Masaryk University and other buildings.

[www.guide.teiresias.muni.cz](http://www.guide.teiresias.muni.cz)

[www.teiresias.muni.cz/research](http://www.teiresias.muni.cz/research)

# Further education

The Teiresias Centre supports Masaryk University's initiatives with its services and expertise, and makes them available also to other providers of educational activities in the Czech Republic and abroad.

## Agora

An educational event focused on information and communication technologies for users with severe visual impairment. Agora is held regularly, twice a year (in spring and in autumn).

[www.agora.muni.cz](http://www.agora.muni.cz)

## ICC

International camp for students with a visual impairment.

The aim of ICC is to offer young visually impaired people the opportunity to get to know modern information technology.

[www.icc-camp.info](http://www.icc-camp.info)

## ICCHP

International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs is one of the fundamental European conferences focused on mapping the assistive technologies development, inclusion and support of disabled people.

[www.icchp.org](http://www.icchp.org)

## INSPO

Regular and in the Czech region key conference focused on technological innovations for people with special needs.

[www.inspo.cz](http://www.inspo.cz)

## Pélion

An educational web portal which offers up-to-date materials related to the use of information and communication technologies connected to assistive technologies, especially with regard to visually impaired users.

[www.portal-pelion.cz](http://www.portal-pelion.cz)

## ULD

A conference section Universal Learning Design is a part of ICCHP. It traditionally provides an opportunity to present the principles of universal learning design and its real-life implementation.

[www.uld-conference.org](http://www.uld-conference.org)



MASARYK UNIVERSITY

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