

History

Žilina University (ŽU) was established on 1 October 1953 by the separation from the Czech College of Technology in Prague as the College of Railway Transport. It had 5 faculties: transport, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and a military faculty. In 1959, the College of Railway Transport in Prague was renamed the College of Transport and on 6 September 1960 it was relocated from Prague to Žilina. On its relocation to Žilina, the College of Transport consisted of the Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport, the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and the Military Faculty.

In 1980 the school received the name the College of Transport and Communications in Žilina. Following on from earlier developments and completing efforts to achieve universal studies, additional new faculties were created after 1989 from existing institutions, departments and faculties. The following autonomous faculties were constituted in this period:

Faculty of Management and Informatics,

Faculty of Civil Engineering,

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

In compliance with Act No. 324/1996 of the Code of the year 1996 the College of Transport and Communications was renamed the University of Žilina. In 1996-1997, the University of Žilina acquired two new faculties - the Faculty of Industrial Technologies and St. Andrew's Faculty of Catechism and Education - which later went on to become two new Slovak universities. The Military Faculty was renamed the Faculty of Special Engineering. It began its transformation into a civilian faculty, which was completed on 1.1.2001 by its transfer to control by the Ministry of Education. In 1998, the Faculty of Science was established, which is currently the youngest faculty of Žilina University. The faculty was established in order to expand the profile of Žilina University and strengthen education in the area of mathematics, natural sciences, humanities and arts.

The University of Žilina provides education at all three levels of higher education both in full-time and part-time forms (Bachelor's degree, Engineer/Master's degree and Doctoral degree).

Owing to its more than fifty years long history, the University occupies an outstanding place within the Slovakian educational system not only with the number of its students, offer of accredited study programmes but, particularly, with its significant research and international activities based on extensive cooperation with companies and institutions both in Slovakia and abroad. The cooperation with foreign universities enables students and university staff to actively participate in SOCRATES/ERASMUS, Leonardo da Vinci, CEEPUS, TEMPUS, COPERNICUS, COST, in 5th, 6th, and 7th Framework programmes and many others.

40,000 graduates have graduated from the University of Žilina, 1,500 of them were from abroad. The University currently houses seven faculties and seven institutes and employs 641 university teachers. The total number of employees is 1,450. There are currently about 13 thousand students enrolled in all forms of studies.

Žilina University has been a member of the European University Association (EUA) since 2000. In 2002 the University went through the evaluation process which was carried out by the representative of the EUA. In academic year 2005/2006 Žilina University as one of two Slovak universities underwent another stage of evaluation, so called follow up EUA evaluation.

Participating in various international organisations and association Žilina University actively influences the development of European educational and research activities.