**University Centers**

**Centre for Lifelong and Competence Education**It prepares, organizes, and performs activities concerning further and lifelong learning. It
focuses on the perfecting, expanding, and deepening of the acquired education through
appropriately chosen methods, organizational forms, and didactic principles, mainly from
the humanities and natural sciences.

**Centre of Languages and Cultures of National Minorities**It was formed by the merging of three university departments: The Institute of Ruthenian
Language and Culture, the Institute of Roma Studies, and the Institute of Hungarian
Language and Culture. The Centre has a specific mission on regional, national, and
transnational levels. It derives from the ethnic and social distinctiveness of the East Slovak
region; this distinctiveness is an incentive for research and its subsequent presentation on
national and international occasions. The Institutes of Ruthenian Language and Culture
and the Hungarian Language and Culture, both run a joint honour scheme of Bachelor
and Master degree programmes, namely Ruthenian Language and Literature Teacher
Education and Hungarian Language and Literature Teacher Education. The Institute of
Hungarian Language and Culture also runs a joint honour scheme of Bachelor and Master
degree programmes in Translation and Interpreting.

**Computer Technology Centre**It serves as a university consulting, information, service, and management centre in
the field of information systems, computer networks, and computer technology. It is
a university-based centre, so the service is provided in accord with the university needs.
If the resources allow for it, it also operates locally, providing technical support to other
university units.

**University of Presov Library (PUL)**The tradition of the University of Presov Library builds upon the historical achievements
of the Collegiate Library and the Eparchial Library in the development of scholarship and
library culture. Currently, it provides both common and specific library and IT services: loans,
bibliographic information, consultancy, reprographic, and others. The library collection
contains more than 300.000 publications. In PUL premises, specialized seminars, artwork
openings, exhibitions, book presentations, and various other events are organized to make
the library activity more attractive.

**University of Presov Publishing House**
It prints and disseminates the results of university staff’s research in a book form or in
the form of periodical scholarly publications within individual disciplines. The editorial
activity focuses on publishing scholarly journals, monographs, university textbooks, and
monothematic collections of scholarly papers.

**Greek Catholic Seminary of Blessed Bishop Paul Peter Gojdič**An important task of this priestly seminary is to educate future priests. The life of the
seminary is to reflect the life of the Church so that seminarians can learn to participate in
the life of the whole Church. Since 1992, the priestly seminary has been publishing ‘Prameň’
(The Source), Greek-Catholic theologians’ journal. Tradition, liturgy, and ceremonies are
represented by the Choir of Saint Romanos the Melodist. ‘Anastasis’, the theological band,
plays modern music and is engaged in the evangelization of the youth. Theologians devote
themselves to the spiritual life of children with hearing loss, the sick, and the elderly.

**Orthodox Priestly Seminary**Its role lies in providing the spiritual and practical education to theologians so they
can pursue a profession of priests, in church, in social and charity fields. The practical
courses include those on liturgy, homiletics (the art of preaching), the Typikon, Church
Slavonic, Church singing, orthodox spirituality, and priesthood. The educational process
makes students enrich knowledge and progress on a spiritual level, get to like prayers,
church, and acquire natural human values that are the right starting point for any work
with people. Students engage in work in the Orthodox Youth Brotherhood in Slovakia,
volunteer associations, charity and cultural activities in children‘s homes, retirement
homes, hospitals, and social service homes. In the centre of the seminary complex is St.
John the Baptist Church.

**Research**

The global strategic objective of the University of Presov is to form the university as
a research and educational institution on a high level, with international reputation, whose
focal fields of study are educational sciences, humanities, social sciences, and natural
sciences. In research, it primarily focuses on fields corresponding with study programmes
on the first (Bc.), second (Mgr./Ing.) and third (PhD) levels of tertiary education. The University
conducts research within projects of national schemes (research grants provided by the
Ministry of Education or the National research agency), international schemes, European
structural and investment fund, Seventh Framework programme, institutional projects,
and projects funded by foundations. After 2007, attention has been directed towards the
intensification of research activities mainly by introducing incentive measures to increase
performance, namely the volume and composition of research and publishing activity. Even
though individual Faculties operate their own infrastructure, most of it is university based
and can be used by all university staff. Our University boasts three Centres of Excellence,
which is considered a huge success, if compared to other Slovak universities; out of them,
two are intended for the humanities fields.

**Centres of Excellence**
One of its long-term priorities for the University of Presov is the establishing and maintaining
of centres of excellence. These are taken to represent not only top quality research institutes,
but also tools of improving the education process by actively involving students in the
activities of the centres. There are currently three centres of excellence at the University of
Presov:

**Centre of Excellence of Socio-Historical and Cultural-Historical Research**It is a university research and development department for selected historical sciences.
It performs excellent research and development in selected historical sciences, church
history, and related humanities disciplines. It includes, for example, the Laboratory of
Historical Analysis and Object Digitization (including a video conference room), a study
with a videoconference room; the latter is used to study archival sources collected from
domestic and foreign archives and libraries. The centre includes a multimedia archive with
modern microfilm browsers, 3D printers with 3D scanners, and a letterpress printer; they
are used for printing scholarly journals and books (monographs, collections of papers, etc.)
and they are published under the auspices of the Centre of Excellence. A special part of the
Centre of Excellence equipment is a server room operated by the IT Centre; it also houses
a top notch data centre supported by high-quality IT technologies.

Centre of Excellence of Animal and Human Ecology
It is a leading research institute established at the Faculty of Humanities and Natural
Sciences, aiming to increase the quality and synergy of the University potential in the field
of excellent ecological research on animals and humans. Nine laboratories have been built
within the centre: Human Molecular Ecology Laboratory, Sequence Analysis Laboratories
I and II, Environmental Biotechnology Laboratories I and II, Animal and Plant Ecophysiology
Laboratory, Animal Molecular Ecology and Biodiversity Laboratory, Animal Biodiversity
Laboratory, and Information and Communication Technologies Laboratory.

**Linguo-Cultural and Translation-Interpreting Centre of Excellence**
It is a cutting-edge research base affiliated at the Faculty of Arts that aims at modernizing and
streamlining research activities and improving the University of Presov infrastructure in the
fields of language studies and tourism studies. Linguo-cultural and translation interpreting
centre of excellence focuses on research in the field of phonetics and phonology, mass media language, language and culture studies, translation and interpreting, and child language. Within the centre of excellence, research is conducted within the following laboratories: a mass media laboratory, a linguo-cultural and translation interpreting laboratory, a child language laboratory, and a phonetics lab. A phonetics lab also has a form of a research facility. Moreover, it represents the best off of R&D potential currently available at philological departments of the Faculty of Arts and the university. In collaboration with other similar academic institutions, the centre performs research on an internationally recognized level. A phonetics laboratory is one of Slovak highly specialized and internationally recognized facilities intended for exploring and modelling the speech process. The lab with unique laboratory equipment is also used to carry out research projects within doctoral studies in the fields of general linguistics, Slovak language, and mass media studies.

**Arts-related activities
at University of Prešov**

**Music, Dance, Drama, Fine Arts**
The performances of the University of Presov ensembles held at and outside the university
have significantly contributed to PU being ranked as one of the top universities in Slovakia.
The ensemble’s activities enhance the quality of teaching in humanities study programmes,
such as Music Teacher Education, Fine Arts Teacher Education, Aesthetics, or Pre-school
and elementary education, Media studies, and other study programmes. Many arts-related
activities bring about the positive perception of university arts-related activities; especially
academic festivals and contests on a national level in which University of Presov ensembles
participate. At academic festivals and contests, our university ensembles have become
laureates in the field of amateur arts-related activities, of academic folk ensembles and of
academic choirs. They continuously excel internationally, which enhances the prestige of
our university in this area at national and international levels. The greatest responsibility
for the preparation and implementation of the activities as well as for the ensembles’
achievements lie on the shoulders of the artistic directors and conductors who guarantee
the quality of work. Regarding the arts-related activities, the alumni of the University of
Presov include several notable arts-related professionals: directors, musicians, singers,
actors, fiction authors, or TV newscasters. Since the establishment of the University of
Presov, its ensembles have been considered a part of cultural and social heritage. They
represent an asset in organizing academic events and ceremonies, such as the official
opening of the academic year, the ceremonial inauguration of the Rector, the ceremonial
awarding of the „Doctor Honoris Causa“ honorary title, Scientific Board‘s sessions,
university balls, or academic advent concerts.

The important activities of the University of Presov include also activities in the fields of
fine arts and art education, as proved by dozens of single-author and hundreds of multi-
author exhibitions staged in Slovak and foreign galleries and museums. At competitions,
almost regularly, the University of Presov participants are awarded prizes. The University
of Presov artists keep up-to-date in the field of children‘s visual expression and of non-
professional fine arts, act as jurors in non-professional artistic competitions, and apply
this experience in their teaching. It is worth mentioning that they are invited to and they
participate in plein-air painting and sculpting events and symposia, conferences and
workshops at various levels, as well as they cooperate with museums and galleries. The
most valued, apparently, is recent intensive cooperation with the Slovak National Gallery
branch in Strážky and with the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce. The
latter, during its over 20-year existence, has presented the Department of Music and Fine
Arts with the Andy Warhol Award two times, thus acknowledging its active cooperation
with the museum. Come what may, fine arts, arts-based education, and education oriented
towards the arts, creativity, innovative solutions and the idea of school as a form of play
should not lose the importance in the lives of future generations.

**Ensembles**

**Študentské divadlo Prešovskej univerzity v Prešove**
(University of Presov Student Theatre)
The ensemble is one of the leading bodies of alternative theatre in Slovakia. It was founded
as a poetry theatre (in the 1960s); later, drama and short-form comedies were preferred.
Gradually, a distinctive style with elements of physical theatre was developed.

**Vysokoškolský folklórny súbor Torysa (Torysa – a University Folk Ensemble)**The core of Torysa‘s dramaturgy and choreography is mainly inspired by the traditional
folklore culture of Eastern Slovakia, its musical, vocal and dance expressions and customs.
Komorný orchester Camerata Academica (Camerata Academica Chamber Orchestra)
The Camerata Academica String Orchestra performs Renaissance and Baroque chamber
music. Within the orchestra, smaller chamber ensembles have been active: the brass trio,
the guitar trio, and the piano trio.

**Ženský spevácky zbor Iuventus Paedagogica (Iuventus Paedagogica Women‘s Choir)**The choir‘s repertoire comprises Renaissance, Romantic and 20th-century compositions; it
interprets music pieces of all styles as well as works of Slovak composers.
Miešaný spevácky zbor Prešovskej univerzity Nostro Canto (Nostro Canto PU Choir)
The choir‘s repertoire features a genre variety, including compositions of Renaissance,
Baroque and Romanticism periods, works of contemporary authors, folk songs from all
over the world, spirituals, jazz and musical evergreens.

**Spevácky zbor Canto Vero (Canto Vero Choir)**
The choir guarantor is the Centre for Education and Research of the Elderly, which is
a unique research centre focusing on senior studies in Slovakia. The activities include
Christmas, educational, and annual concerts.
Spevácke zoskupenie Piano Vocal (‘Piano Vocal’ – a Cappella Group)
The arts-related activities of the ensemble are aimed at developing the vocal skills of
talented students. The repertoire of the chamber vocal ensemble includes compositions
by leading Slovak and foreign composers.

**Zbor Pravoslávnej bohosloveckej fakulty (Faculty of Orthodox Theology Choir)**The choir vocally presents the production of various interpretation and style periods, the
compositions of Russian, Ukrainian, and Greek authors, as well as the adaptations of
Prešov chants, emphasizing the spiritual dimension of this music.
Spevácky zbor sv. Romana Sladkopevca (Romanus the Melodist Choir)
The repertoire of the choir comprises liturgical compositions of distinguished composers,
songs to the blessed Mother of God, Christmas carols, Greek chants, and songs by
anonymous authors.

**Akordeónové kvarteto (Accordion Quartet)**The ensemble presents compositions of various genres: musical transcriptions of works by
Johann Sebastian Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, but mainly the original accordion material for
the quartet, namely musical compositions by Michael Ganian, as well as by Astor Piazzolla.

**Študentské divadlo P.A.D.A.K (P.A.D.A.K Student Theatre)**The theatre brings together young people who are inclined towards theatre, culture and
want an alternative for spending their leisure time. The theatre is based at the Faculty of
Education and consists mainly of its students, as well as students from other Faculties.

**Akademický Prešov (Academic Presov)**It is a national festival of university student creativity in the dramatic arts. It ranks among
exceptional events of this kind in Slovakia (former Czechoslovakia).
History of the festival in a nutshell
The first Akademický Prešov festival was held in 1966, and till 1989, the arts-related
activities of university students were part of alternative art. After 1989, the organizing of
the festival was taken over by students, hoping for a promising future. In 1993, to mark the
chances of the festival going to an end, the teachers of the Aesthetics Department of the
Faculty of Arts at University of Presov became involved. Throughout its more than a half
century history, it has become a confrontational forum, in which young Slovak intelligentsia
has taken shape. In the 1970s and 1980s, it represented an opposing tone in relation to
the official contemporary arts. This art form still carries a message, has a purpose and
significance despite the liberalization process of the society between 1960 and 1990; thus
it is mere misunderstanding to claim that after 1989, its function and justification has been
lost. As the festival director of the festival prof. Mgr. Karol Horak, CSc. noted: „I have always
known that university students must naturally keep doing what makes them interesting
in our eyes. They want to reflect the world in a distinctive way. They are not satisfied with
some official version, they are always non-conformist.“
Present at a glance
The Akademický Prešov festival has always primarily been the platform for presenting
arts-related activities and ambitions of Slovak university students. At the festival, hundreds
of participants have an opportunity to present their work in three main categories: student
theatre, artistic recitations, authors’ own poetry and fiction, as well as improvisational theatre
(occasionally also artistic translation and a rhetorical performance). The most important
part of the festival is a series of workshops, artistic seminars, lectures held in theatres
or other premises under the auspices of guest lecturers and experts from Slovakia and
abroad (actors, writers, editors, scholars). The festival thus offers a platform for a diversity
of opinions. It is a meeting point of students’ and experts’ views. It provides a forum for
discussing the present, the past, and the responsibility for „enhancing the world.“

**Sports**

Students can spend their leisure time in PU sports facilities, in particular a swimming pool,
a sports hall, a gymnastics gymnasium (on and outside the campus), regular gyms, fitness
area, an athletic stadium, outdoor facilities outside the student halls of residence, multi-sports
synthetic pitch. The part of the Faculty ́s infrastructure is also recording studio, virtual reality
laboratory and diagnostics centre. The Diagnostics Centre of Faculty of Sports is used for
educational purposes and scientific activities of the faculty’s staff members. The scientific
activities are focused on different population groups: non-sporting individuals, recreational
sportsmen and elite sportsmen. Diagnostics Centre offers functional diagnostics, spirometry,
biomechanical analyses, and testing of motor abilities.

**University sports clubs include:
Prešov Region Olympic Club**Prešov Region Olympic Club is one of 24 Olympic clubs in Slovakia. It is based at Faculty
of Sports, University of Prešov. Olympic Club organizes sport, educational, cultural, and
environmental activities with the aim to promote Olympic values and ideas. One-time
events or long-running activities are focused on children, adults, and elderly. The main
event is annual Olympic day, organized to celebrate the revival of the Olympic Games and
creation of International Olympic Committee in 1896. Another very popular mass event is
Children’s Olympics with more than 20 kindergartens from city of Prešov and surrounding
villages participating. Olympic Pentathlon and Step out for health are events, focused on
elderly. The main educational activity of Olympic Club is organization of regular knowledge
competitions in Olympism for grammar schools and university students.

**Telovýchovná jednota Slávia PU Prešov (Slávia PU Sports Clubs Association Presov)**The oldest sport organisation at the University of Prešov is TJ Slávia PU Prešov, established
in 1953. At present, it has 340 members in 13 clubs and divisions: Athletic Club, Futsal
Division, Judo Division, Gymnastics Club, Swimming Club, Speed Badminton Division,
Chess Division, Taekwondo Division, Tennis Division, Water Polo Division, Volleyball Division,

**Women‘s Handball Division, and Water Sports Division.**
Basketbalový klub BK Akademik PU Prešov (BK Akademik PU Presov Basketball Club)
It is the first major league university men’s basketball team in Slovakia. It was founded at
University of Presov at the beginnin rom the very beginning, BK Akademik PU Presov started
working by building a „pyramid“ based on the age groups – ranging from the preparation
section (now comprising about 110 children), older pupils (today about 26 children), and the
men’s division (25 players) that also includes PU students. g of the academic year of 2012 –
2013. The establishment of the club is directly linked with the name of Jaroslav Hrabčák. It all
started in 2009, when he founded Akademik Presov, the Youth Sports Club.
Klub technických športov PU (PU Technical Sports Club) The club provides conditions so that all club divisions can achieve top sporting results, organize academic competitions and other contests for both public and professional athletes. In this way, the club strives to contribute to the advancement of technical and sporting activities so that its members can pursue their interests; it does so in the forms of appropriate financial, material, personnel, methodological, and promotional support. During its 27-year existence, the club has raised a whole bunch of outstanding athletes – university students. At present, there are 70 members working in five divisions – biathlon, competitive shooting, diving, paragliding, and parachuting.

**Volejbalový klub VK MIRAD PU Prešov (VK MIRAD PU Presov Volleyball Club)**The beginnings of men‘s volleyball in Presov date back to the 1930s, when first volleyball teams were founded. Volleyball players were associated in TJ Sokol (Sokol Sports Associated) and in secondary schools. Regular sports competitions were introduced in 1949, in which Presov volleyball teams competed under different names: Sokol, Sparta, Dukla Presov, KNV Presov, TJ Slávia Presov, TJ ZVL Presov, TJ Tatran Presov. Upon the opening of the 1997 – 1998 season, MŠK VTJ Sokol Presov signed an agreement on transferring the club under the administration of University of Presov, and thus gained the status of an academic sports team. In 2010, a new partner, MIRAD company, joined Presov volleyball. The men’s team and youth teams changed their name first to Slávia VK PU MIRAD Presov; it was modified to VK MIRAD PU Presov.

**Football Minileague PU**The history of the Football Minileague PU started in summer term 2012/2013, when
4 students of Faculty of Sports, sitting in their dormitory room, started to play with idea to
start league in minifootball. Dormitory rooms are places of many good ideas but not all of
them are necessarily successful. In this case, the idea became reality by 16 teams joining
the Minileague in its 1st year (what became average number of teams since). As the only one university league in Slovakia, it became member of Slovak Minifootball Association.

**University Volleyball League PU**
Students’ volleyball has strong tradition at University of Prešov since its establishment in 1997. There were regularly organised so-called students’ volleyball Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Thanks to Faculty of Sports staff members and students, the 1st year of University Volleyball League PU started in summer term 2014/2015 with 7 teams joining the league. Since then, 10 editions were successfully completed. New tradition started in 2019 by joining the Football Minileague PU final evening and presenting both leagues result together.

**Sports Club**Sports Club is civic association based at Faculty of Sports. Its aim is to enhance quality of life
and health of citizens of all ages mainly by increasing physical literacy, creating environment
a condition for various physical activities by organizing regular and irregular exercise
sessions. The most successful project of the association is sport and educational daily
camp for children called Šporťáčik, realized by Faculty of Sports staff members since 2012.
In cooperation with students, they prepare and implement sport and educational program for
children aged 6 – 11 years during few weeks of summer holiday.

**International Relations**

The internationalization of the university is an important strategy for improving its
quality, and it contributes knowledge and innovative learning processes. University of
Presov is fully aware that international mobility of students and staff plays an important
role in internationalization, which is why it is to be supported and developed. The most
important mobility programme is the Erasmus+ programme, which was launched in 2013.
It represents a combination of all to-date EU‘s programmes for education, training, youth,
and sports, such as Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus
and others. Erasmus+ enables students and employees of University of Presov to travel
abroad with EU financial support. Students have the opportunity to study at a foreign
partner university or to acquire professional skills within traineeship. Study stays and
traineeships help students better adapt to the demands of the European labour market
and better understand the economic and social conditions of the host country in the
context of acquiring work experience. Erasmus+ traineeships can be attended not only by
students, but also by fresh graduates of University of Presov, for whom it is an excellent
opportunity to get the most desirable practice for future employment. The most popular
countries for Erasmus+ mobilities among PU students and staff are the Czech Republic
and Poland. However, other EU countries such as Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Germany, and
the Scandinavian countries are increasingly becoming popular. Under the Erasmus+
programme, University of Presov has contracts with over 552 university departments
in 36 countries of the world. In addition to Erasmus+, at faculty and university levels,
195 international bilateral agreements in 27 countries have been signed.
Regarding Erasmus+, University of Presov is both the sending and the receiving institution.
The number of admitted foreign students has increased to more than 550; thanks to its
geographical location, University of Presov is attractive especially for students from
Ukraine. With the Erasmus+ mobility programme, we receive on average 40 foreign
students per year. The majority of admitted foreign students come from Turkey, Poland,
Portugal, and Spain. The greatest interest is in studying at the Institute of British and
American Studies at the Faculty of Arts, but also in the study programmes of the Faculty
of Education and the Faculty of Management. In order to ensure the integration of
students into our everyday life, University of Presov cooperates with the Erasmus Student
Network (ESN), which takes care of the incoming students, e.g. through organizing various
excursions, outings, cultural and entertainment events. We have introduced a „buddy
system“, i.e. each student is assigned a PU student who assists him/her during his/her
stay. In 2017, it was the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme in Europe, so festive
events took place. Their purpose was to present the programme achievements and the
possibilities of its future role and function. Since its inception in 1987, the programme
has grown; during the 30 years, more than 9 million people have been involved. The first
Slovak student travelled abroad within this programme in 1998. Since then, University of
Presov has enabled over 3000 students, teachers and administrative staff to travel abroad
through various international mobility schemes. Erasmus was launched in Europe thirty
years ago as a project to support student mobility. However, it has grown enormously and
has brought up a whole generation of Europeans – the “Erasmus Generation“. Within the
European Union, it is considered to be the most successful programme, an example of the
European integration and international impact.

**Student Halls of Residence
and Canteen**

Student Halls of Residence and Canteen
It is a special purpose facility of the University of Presov. It is a part of the University
without legal personality. Student Halls of Residence is subject to the provisions of
academic rights. Its role is to provide accommodation and boarding to full-time students
of all degrees, including foreign students and lecturers. It provides suitable conditions for
studying and relaxation of accommodated students, for their cultural, social and sports life
and leisure time activities.

Student housing and canteen comprise the following facilities:
Students Hall of Residence - 17 November 11 Street (873 vacancies)
Students Hall of Residence - 17 November 13 Street (685 vacancies)
Students Hall of Residence - Námestie mládeže 2 (183 vacancies)
Students Hall of Residence - Exnárova 36 Street (177 vacancies)

The oldest students’ hall of residence is 17 November St. 13 building. Its construction began
in 1956 and was completed throughout 1960. It also included a kitchen and a canteen.
Between 1968 and 1969, another student hall of residence – 17. November St. 11 building
– was built. On this occasion, the kitchen and canteen were expanded to a capacity of
2000 portions of food; also the capacity of the boiler room was increased to heat
both buildings. After the establishment of the University of Presov, two more buildings
were purchased for the purpose of accommodating students: in 1998, the Námestie
mládeže 2 building; in 2000, the Exnárova Street building. At present, the vacancies in
these facilities, exclusive of priestly seminaries, amount to 1918.

Students Halls of Residence provide accommodation in student flats consisting of two
two-bedded, three-bedded, or four-bedded rooms. Each flat is equipped with a bathroom
(shower cabinet, toilet and wash-basin). Students are provided with a TV room, a laundry,
and computer rooms with internet access; on each floor are kitchenettes. All rooms
are equipped with internet access. Students can rent irons and vacuum cleaners at the
reception desk. The 17 November St. building houses the Radio PaF studio, as well as
the Student Council, a students’ self-government office. The students’ self-government
represents all accommodated students of the University of Presov. Student canteen is run
by Magister – Presov, s.r.o. Company that provides catering to students and employees
of University of Presov. The Company operates the Fast-food bar in the Canteen building,
and three snack-bars, in the Faculty buildings, offering a selection of snack food, light
meals, and desserts. In the canteen are two lounges in which various festive lunches are
organized. Annually, a number of conference lunches, social and family events, or student
balls take place.