

Comenius University in Bratislava

University of the Third Age at the Centre for Continuing Education

The University of the Third Age (UTA) under the auspices of Comenius University was established in 1990 as the first institution of this kind in the Slovak Republic. The UTA is located at the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University, as one of the centre's division.

The UTA organizes courses mainly for retired people, for medically retired (physically handicapped) and for people before retirement generally for people over 50. It offers to the students a 3year interest group study in about 39 study branches in 3 cities. Along with Bratislava, there are courses also in Nitra and in Martin (central Slovakia).

The study plan of each year provides for 14 three-hour lectures to be presented each fortnight. During their first year the students are offered basic lectures from each of the offered disciplines. Their second and third year is devoted to the study of optional disciplines and students enrol in the study of specialised branches:

- Archaeology
- Assertiveness training
- Astronomy
- Business skills of seniors
- Computers and Information
- Creative writing
- Environmental science
- Economics
- Ethnology
- Expressive therapies
- Financial learning
- General history
- General medicine
- Gerontology
- History of religions
- History and monuments of Austria
- History of fine art
- History of Literature
- History of Opera
- History and monuments of Bratislava
- Horticulture and gardening
- Japanese culture
- Journalism
- Latin and ancient Roman history
- Law
- Medicine
- Museology
- Pharmacology
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Regeneration of the strength of Seniors
- Slovak History
- Social work
- Spas
- Theatre and Music through the ages
- Tourism and services
- Yoga
- Zumba gold

The interest in this form of study constantly increases. Yearly almost 2000 elderly students enrol in 68 study groups. After completing their study, students are ceremonially given certificates. The pedagogical process at the UTA is complemented by other educational and social forms. Along with lectures and seminars, we organise excursions, panel discussions, visits to other universities, informal meetings and conceptualised trips.

Topics, which are the same or similar to those in undergraduate courses, are given by university lecturers either from our faculties or from partner ones. There are about 300 lecturers at our UTA altogether.

We provide other facilities and events for elderly people in addition to the study programme:

- Students organize on themselves meetings and discussions with politicians; they arrange visits to theatres, publish newspapers and manage other free time activities in their Club of the UTA students.
- We regularly organize the "Global walk event which started in October 1999 around the world. It was organized by WHO from GINA in Geneva. In Bratislava we walk from the main university building across the city to the recreational part of the city.

We already successfully realized various international projects which focused on different subjects and gave a chance to the seniors to support active ageing and to share their knowledge. UTA and its staff realized some Grundtvig projects in the past, where performed as a partner or as a coordinator of the project. At the present time the university is one of the partners in the Grundtvig project For Age (<http://www.foragenetwork.eu/en/>) with 16 European institutions.

In 2003, the UTA at Comenius University assumed the presidency of the Slovak National Association of UTAs, which is formed by 16 universities with a total of more than 7.200 senior students. UTA and its staff is included to the activities of the Danube regional strategy since the year 2011, as well as at the Ministerial conference UNECE. UTA is a member of the International Association of UTAs (AIUTA), member of the European Federation of Older Students at Universities (EFOS) and of the Danube Association (DANET).



