

UNIVERZITA KOMENSKEHO V BRATISLAVE

Faculty of Natural Sciences > Faculty

FACULTY

History of the Faculty of Natural Sciences

The history of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Comenius University commenced at the then Slovak University. The establishment of the Faculty of Natural Sciences was legally presupposed already by the Act No. 375/1919 Coll. pursuant to which the Comenius University was founded. In view of the then political and economic development, all efforts to enforce establishment of the Faculty were not successful during the whole period of the Pre-Munich Republic. Thus, the Faculty of Natural Sciences came into existence as late as in 1940, based on the Act No. 168/1940 Coll. whereas the first enrolment of students took place in the winter term of the academic year 1940/1941. Upon this fact, the Faculty belongs to the oldest ones on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Before establishment of the separate Faculty of Natural Sciences, some science disciplines had been lectured for students of pedagogical subjects at the Faculty of Arts. Geography had the longest tradition, it had been lectured as a discipline already since the academic year 1921/1922, and the Geography Seminar as a workplace of the Faculty of Arts was mentioned as early as in 1923. Another science discipline lectured before establishment of the Faculty of Natural Sciences was zoology and on September 1, 1939, the Institute of Zoology was founded at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, it was led by Prof. PhDr. M. Novikov. In October 1939, also the Institute of Botany was organised, whereas Prof. RNDr. F. Nábělek was charged to lecture botany and to conduct the Institute.

The process of constituting the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Slovakia was accelerated by the known events in Prague in November 1939 when after the student protests at the funeral of the student Jan Opletal, the German occupiers closed all Czech universities. The students of the Slovak nationality had to return to Slovakia where they then finished their studies. The three above mentioned institutes were incorporated into the newly established Faculty of Natural Sciences immediately after its formation in 1940. The Institute of Geography was placed into the premises located in the street Rajská, the Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Botany were relocated into the premises in the street Moskovská.

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