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### Society Russian invasion in Ukraine

# Life during war

On 24 February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine. Every day we hear news reports about the consequences for Ukrainian citizens. As a mathematical journal we are very curious to know how our colleagues at mathematical departments are dealing with the current situation. Professor Mykola Malyar, dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Digital Technologies at Uzhhorod National University in Western Ukraine shares his experiences.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Digital Technologies is one of 21 departments at Uzhhorod National University, located in Zakarpatska Oblast on the western part of Ukraine. The first mathematics students, admitted to the Department of Mathematics within the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of back then Uzhhorod State University, can be traced back to 1 September 1950. Sixteen years later, in 1966, the department had separated and became an independent faculty. Within some time, the study programs were no longer limited to the pure mathematical curriculum but also covered new developments in IT, aligned

with the modern requests and societal needs. Nowadays students follow study programs in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Secondary Education, System Analysis and Statistics.

Since its foundation the faculty is a place of interaction between mathematicians at diverse conferences and workshops. Students and professors are actively involved in international scientific projects and exchange programs. However, the war that has started on 24 February 2022 has changed this everyday life. Especially during the first few days of invasion one could recognize anxiety among the staff

members and students. Luckily, the administration of the faculty could calm down its colleagues and effectively organize teaching in a new reality. Currently all employees work remotely, ensuring the high quality of education in the ongoing study programs. This requires, of course, an extreme technical and technological support.

Many students and staff members of the faculty, and the university overall, are enrolled in different volunteering missions in Ukraine and abroad. They assist with logistics of the humanitarian help, accommodate refugees in the student dormitories and continue to do what they master the best — teach mathematics to children who fled from war.

There are also students and staff members who have joined the armed forces of Ukraine or territorial defense forces to protect their motherland. According to orders of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and rector of the Uzhhorod National University these students can continue and finish their studies remotely.

Additionally, the faculty hosts the administration of the Chernihiv Polytechnic National University that since the invasion has relocated from the northern part of Ukraine. People try to organize common events to leave good memories about the Zakarpattya region.

The faculty does its best to have excellent graduates with know-hows who are and will be extremely important after our victory over the aggressor to rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure, restart its economics and reform education, medicine and science.



Teachers and students actively joined the volunteer movement

Photo: <https://www.uzhnu.edu.ua/uk/cat/faculty-mat>