



PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

uni pécs

2021/1

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

A young man with dark, curly hair is sitting on the hood of a dark-colored car. He is wearing a light-colored denim jacket over a black and white striped shirt, black pants, and white sneakers. He is holding a small, colorful credit card in his right hand. The background is a vibrant green with a pattern of small white dots. To the left of the man, there is a stylized illustration of a fuel pump nozzle and a license plate icon. The overall scene is set against a bright green background with a pattern of small white dots.

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LECTORI SALUTEM!

The University of Pécs will make history in the academic year 2021/2022. The new chapter was brought about by the decision of the Senate in January 2021, on the basis of which our University changed its operating model. As of 1 August, UP will be run by the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, and not a governmental body directly. You can read more about this process also in this magazine - with the members of the Board of Trustees introducing themselves - and on the central international website, you can read about the change in detail.

What does change of ownership mean in practice?

Development and financial opportunities, more flexible operation - I have said this at several discussions and forums, and I would like to stress that the change of model is an opportunity that we could not have missed. I urge all colleagues to be patient with change and to do what they have always done: work to deliver the best possible performance.

What certainly will not change is the value of our degrees and our commitment to quality education, research and medicine.

There is another group of UP citizens whose lives are about to enter a historic chapter. I would like to address the first-year students. As an experienced leader and as a UP alumnus, I would like to offer them some advice for their first semester.

If everything went according to plan, you are



starting your studies at the major that your heart desired. What you get out of it, depends largely on you. A good start can make all the difference. To get to the finish line on time, you need to know your own abilities. Use your time wisely, study, exercise, have fun! Of course, with the right weighting... It is worth attending classes, if you pay attention, it will make your preparation much easier. It is important to develop a good relationship with your instructors.

There will also be difficulties.

Learning the material is not easy, but with perseverance, you can make a breakthrough. Do not give up, overcoming difficulties will help you prepare for real life.

One of our much-quoted admonitions to colleagues from our pathology professor György Romhányi was, "Do you know, who are the most important? The first-year students. Because they can still become anything."

Unfortunately, the virus that is causing a global pandemic is among us. Please follow the instructions of your state and university so that we all can avoid inconvenient situations.

It is up to us to make the most of the two semesters ahead, so let us work to make the most of them. I wish us all strength for the 2021/2022 academic year!

*Yours sincerely,
Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta
Rector of the UP*

DEAR STUDENTS,



A wholehearted welcome to all of you! Welcome to the University of Pécs, situated in one of the most enchanting cities of the South Transdanubian macro region, a true pearl of this part of the old continent.

Amongst all the turbulences and challenges – recently driven by the global pandemic – of the past year and a half, our ‘university’ has stayed strong and we did our best to preserve as well as build upon all our achievements. At the moment, we can state with confidence that the University of Pécs is among the healthiest and most secure institutions of the region – due to the resilience that has been collectively strengthened by all stakeholders and individuals.

We are launching the new academic year – hopefully, in a post-COVID era – with high expectations and concrete action plans in terms of further improving our quality standards, enlarging our student population and fine-tuning our partnerships for the sake of being able to provide all of you with a unique, inspiring and memorable learning environment, the experience of which will stay with you after graduation or as you finish your study period. Adding to the study and research opportunities here, we will make you pro/actively involved with, and thus enjoy numerous extracurricular activities, such as the International Autumn and Spring series, an ultimate Pécs speciality, which we have been developing together with our students and professors for over five years.

While becoming a member of the University of Pécs family, you will have the chance to right away join an even larger international community: the virtual campus of the six-university EDUC (European Digital UniverCity) Alliance, of which the UP is a founding member. I encourage you to find your

own ways and opportunities while navigating through both the UP and the EDUC contexts.

The real essence of the University of Pécs is you yourselves, the lively community of our students who represent over 110 countries in the world, making us one of the highly internationalized institutions of higher education of Central and Eastern Europe! Do immerse in your studies, the colourful culture of Pécs and its mesmerizing region, and enjoy your time at the University of Pécs to the fullest! At the same time, stay healthy and contribute to a secure and enriching milieu!

All the very best,

Prof. Dr. István Tarrósy
Director of the International Centre

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NEW OPERATING MODEL

Until now, the University of Pécs was funded by the Hungarian state, more specifically by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology. The Government started to reform Hungarian higher education in 2016. The higher education sector management has developed the concept of universities run by foundations, hoping that the new form of operation will guarantee these institutions greater freedom, access to significant development funds, and greater flexibility to respond more quickly to the needs of the economy.

Éva Harka |  Szabolcs Csontos

The management of the University of Pécs started to discuss the possibility of changing the model at the beginning of January 2021, followed by intensive discussions at faculty level. The final decision was made by the UP Senate at its 29 January meeting. The decision was not a simple majority, but a two-thirds majority: with 29 votes in favour, 9 against and 1 abstention, UP said yes to the model change on certain important conditions.

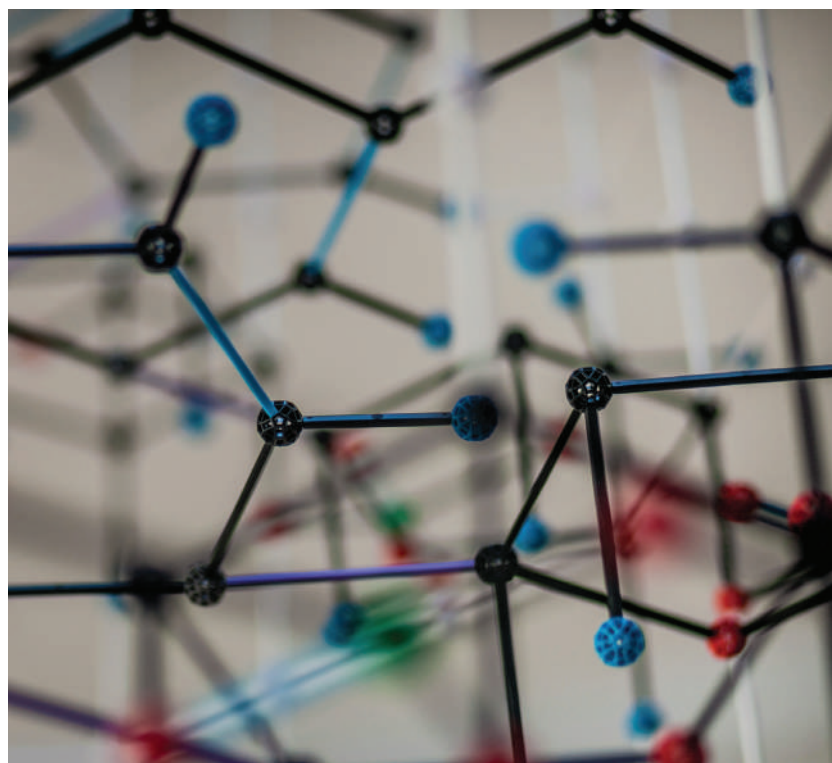
Among the 12 conditions were that the Clinical will remain an integral part of UP; the Senate's powers will not be diminished; the university's staff, including health care staff, should be appropriately remunerated on the basis of performance evaluation; the participation of students in decision-making must be ensured.

With the model change, the university was removed from the list of direct state funded institutions, and the founding and operating rights were transferred to a trust fund established with this purpose, while the infrastructure became the property of the university.

In April, the Parliament adopted the law on public interest trust funds for public purposes, and at the same time established the foundations of the universities concerned.

The Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, which runs the University of Pécs, was registered on 30 June. Its Board of Trustees is composed of Prof. Dr. József Bódis, Secretary of State for Higher Education, Innovation and Vocational Training (Chairman of the Board of Trustees); Dr. Éva Mikes, Government Commissioner for the South Transdanubian Economic Development Zone, former Deputy Mayor of Pécs; Dr. Katalin Szili, Ministerial Commissioner and former Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary; István Decsi, Chancellor of University of Pécs and Dr. Gábor Rappai, Professor of UP.

The change of model will not affect the ongoing 2021 admission process and the studies of students



already admitted, and the current student benefits and scholarships will remain the same, including the state scholarship-based training. The value and recognition of degrees will not change.

Together with the University of Pécs, a total of 21 higher education institutions will start the 2021/2022 academic year in the new operating model. From September this year, more than 180,000 students will start their studies in the new model, i.e. almost 70 percent of all students.

Further information:

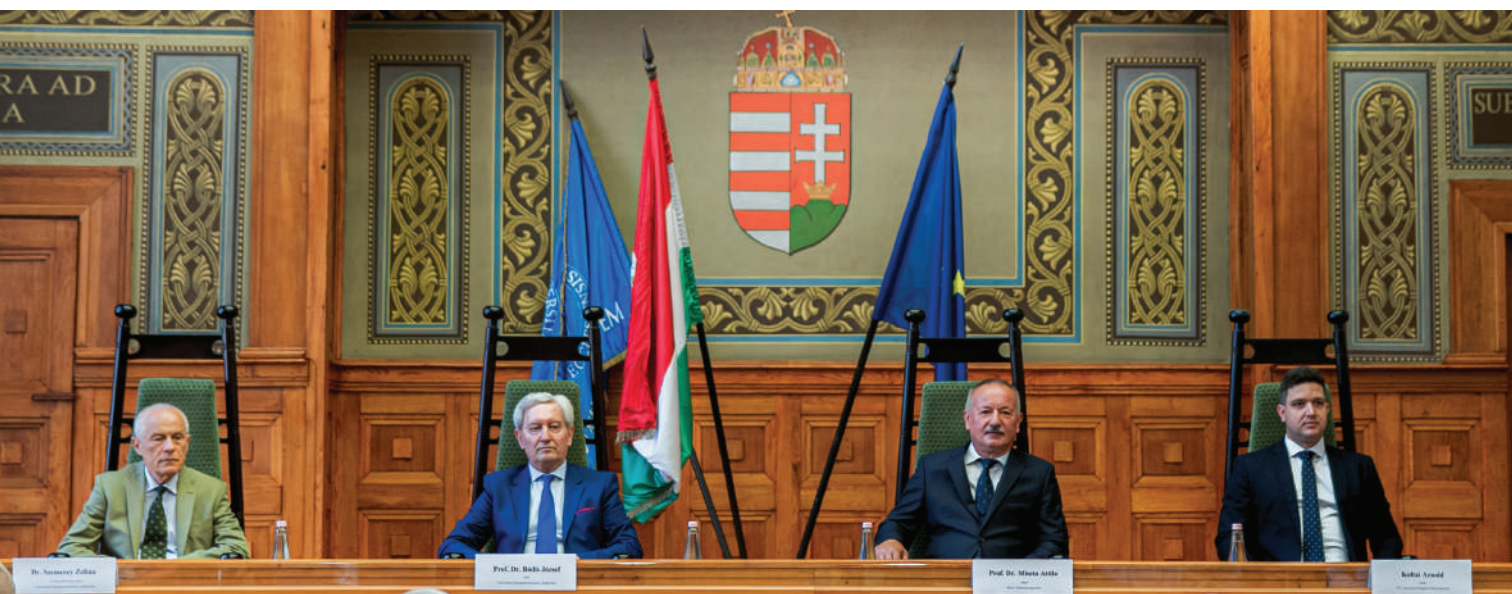
<https://pte.hu/en/change-of-model/news>

<https://international.ptep.hu/news>

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WANTS TO WORK WITH THE UNIVERSITY, FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The Rector of the University of Pécs and the President of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, which has become UP's controlling authority from 1 August 2021 on, held a joint press conference. Both Attila Miseta and József Bódis emphasized that university developments, which will also have a positive impact on the economy of the region, can only be implemented by thinking together and working together. The event took place on 30 July in the Halasy-Nagy József Hall.

Éva Harka | Szabolcs Csontos



I have said it before and my opinion has not changed since then: the model change will open up new opportunities for the University - said Rector Attila Miseta at the press conference. However, it is important for us to be able to make use of these opportunities. All of us here in this room, the members of the Board of Trustees and the Supervisory Board, the Senators and the Rector's leadership, have the same goal: to develop the University and to amplify its role and recognition in Hungary and abroad. This is why we will continue to work in the future, in a new model that I hope will enhance both the speed as well as the flexibility of operation - highlighted the Rector.

The foundation aims to work together with the university's management and the Senate, for the benefit of the university - continued József Bódis, Secretary of State for Higher Education, Innovation and Vocational Training of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Chairman of

the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation. The change in the higher education model has understandably prompted a reaction from everyone, as this type of operating model was previously unknown in Hungarian higher education. However, the controlling authority has now become personal and identifiable, and this proximity creates an opportunity to think and act together! Indeed, we would like to make significant developments that would be a huge step forward for the region, both economically and scientifically. To give some examples, the implementation of the Science Park and the University's development package is in the interest of all of us, but it would be important for it to be coordinated by the University's management, the Senate and the Foundation, with the agreement of the key players in the region. Then, this new era will be a real success story for the University of Pécs - concluded József Bódis.

"LET US FIGURE IT OUT AND IMPLEMENT IT TOGETHER"

Professor József Bódis hardly needs to be introduced to the citizens of UP: he is an alumnus of the Medical School, he was the dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences from 2006 to 2010, and rector of the University of Pécs for two terms from 2010. Since 2018, he has been Secretary of State for Education at the Ministry of Human Capacities. He is currently Secretary of State for Higher Education, Innovation and Vocational Training at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology. Since September 2020, he has been the professional co-head of the National Laboratory for Human Reproduction. On 1 August 2021, the University of Pécs changed its maintainer, and Professor Bódis became chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation.



Why do you think it is important that the UP took advantage of the possibility of changing models?

In January 2017, I attended the academic conference on higher education at Corvinus University of Budapest, where, as rector and then president of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, I outlined the breakout points that could be available for Hungarian higher education. In my presentation, the possibility of the foundation form also appeared as a solution. Minister Palkovics received similar suggestions from several places, that led to brainstorming aimed at bringing higher education into a new dimension, eliminating the constraints that made day-to-day work difficult. I think that those ideas have crystallized, became a strategy, and manifested themselves in the change of model.

Why did you accept the position of chairman of the Board of Trustees?

I was surprised by the invitation, and I thought: if I have been thinking, arguing, publishing about this topic, then let us prove it in practice as well, that it can work.

For this university to develop progressively, my work or that of the board of trustees is not enough. This must be a professional and community activity. Without university leaders, thinkers and students, this cannot be done. Let us work together on how to optimally coordinate our goals and resources. I am convinced that this requires the combined work of many. I know,

and it is obvious that there are some people, who do not believe in the effectiveness of the model change, but I would also like to involve them in debates, sharing ideas and the implementation of programmes. The University of Pécs will be a university that we create together.

One thing is certain: we will have very different options in terms of resources. At the same time, I should note that in addition to education, research and healing, the university has another mission. We must take advantage of the shared opportunities of the city and UP. UP has considerable potential at regional and cross-border level. But first, we need to formulate a thorough and forward-looking strategy together, behind which the actors of the region can line up.

What do you consider to be the most important issue that you will propose to change to as soon as possible?

I think the most important thing is to make the transition as smooth as possible. Then, once our basic rules have been established, we should start the meaningful activity that focuses on the development and restructuring of the university. Basically, I want to maintain all possible forms of university autonomy so that it is more effective. As far as the management side is concerned: we need to move from the current, more complex mechanisms to simpler, faster dynamics and create additional revenue opportunities that were previously not available.



WE NEED A NEW PERSPECTIVE

István Decsi was born in Pécs, and from 2016, he was deputy mayor of his hometown. Since autumn 2020, he has been working for UP as Chancellor and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation.

Why did you agree to become a member of the Board of Trustees?

I love my country, I love Pécs and the University of Pécs. I believe that through the university's capaci-

ties and the skills of its staff, we can achieve real, regionally significant development and contribute to Hungary's goals and to its social, economic and scientific development. I am motivated when I see that the work we do here has a positive impact in numerous areas of life. Being a member of the Board of Trustees is the most responsible role of my career so far. My respect for the task and the goals of the Board naturally required careful consideration, but I accepted the invitation to become a member with good heart and humility. As with my previous work, I regard my membership of the Board of Trustees as a service.

What do you consider to be the most important issue that you will propose to change as soon as possible?

A change of mindset is the basis for successful work. The aim is to create a responsive, flexible system of education, research and services, with both employee and student perspectives, that serves social and economic interests and provides security for individuals, whether it is for their livelihoods, careers, academic progress, career choices or post-graduation success. The work has not just begun, since I took over as Chancellor I have been working to ensure that this approach is reflected in the strategic planning and day-to-day work, with the University's management as a partner.

I believe it is important that we start to realize the potential of the new operating model, to improve internal processes, harmonize procedures and ensure that administration serves the operating

system and staff, rather than the other way round, while increasing transparency. In parallel with the internal foundations, external relations will be sorted out and, if necessary, rebuilt, and it is important to highlight the role of the university in regional development, which, in addition to R&D&I activities, can have a major impact on education and the development of student career models.

The funding framework following the change of university model will provide, in addition to the basic support, additional support to the institutions, which will be available to encourage development and efficiency, subject to the fulfilment of specific indicators. These resources will support the development of the university, but will require strong individual and team performance. This can only be achieved if all staff are in the same boat, moving in the same direction, so the development of a performance review system is important as well.

To what extent will the work of the Board of Trustees affect student life?

I hope that students will notice the work going on in the background, providing them faster administration, support services, improved infrastructure and enabling them to work with motivated educators and researchers. We would like to place emphasis on the development of student career models. We want to develop the industrial and economic partner network of the University in a way that facilitates an active relationship between cooperating companies and students with practical experience. Many students arrive at the university at an age without a firm idea of their future. This carries the potential for finding a way. We need to operate a system that provides support services in case of difficulties, offers alternatives to continue their studies, helps them find new goals. I trust and will work to ensure that students experience this positive effect as soon as possible.

"THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY IS NO LONGER THE **RESPONSIBILITY** OF A DISTANT INSTITUTIONAL OWNER"

***Dr. Katalin Szili** is an alumna of UP, she graduated from the Faculty of Law. She has had an active political career, during which she was also Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary. She is currently the the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, her tasks include providing personal assistance in the conciliation procedures on autonomy issues beyond the borders. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation.*



How much have you followed the developments of UP during your career?

I studied at the University of Pécs, where I obtained a law degree and a postgraduate degree in political science. As honorary associate professor, I was able to be part of it, but primarily as a representative of the region, I supported, helped and constantly followed the life of the university, which is particularly important for the region. Most recently, I have been involved in the university's Diaspora Project Network events, but I have also had the opportunity to learn about a number of clinical and faculty development ideas.

To what extent is it an advantage that the university has taken the opportunity to change its model?

It is the content of the new operating model that matters. The change could have been supported, because the newly adopted model guarantees competitiveness in a more autonomous structure, with financial autonomy and personalised management. Contrary to all the criticism, the loosening of the state umbilical cord and the state retaining its role of management, regulation and control, the university autonomy will deepen. The harmonious cooperation and effective collaboration of the Board of Trustees and the Senate can be the guarantee of this on a day-to-day basis.

Why have you agreed to become a member of the Board of Trustees?

Over the past decades, I have helped the university in many ways to realise its various visions, even when I was not obliged to do so because of my duties. All the members of the Board of Trustees, including myself, were on the list of potential candidates drawn up by the University. As I had previously been approached by several university leaders,

I did not have to think too much about it, when the official invitation has arrived. I should mention that I live and work in Pécs, so the future of the city and the region is important to me. This is now being given a new impetus by the economic development zone programme, which is the hallmark of the government commissioner Dr. Éva Mikes and her colleagues, and the many university developments that harmonize with it. Through this, I can serve an excellent cause.

In the interests of the university, but also in view of the economic situation in the region, what opportunities do you see for attracting additional funding?

The first step is to define the directions and priorities, possibly followed by establishing harmony with the zone project, and then defining specific objectives. Government support could be stimulated by a government presentation summarising the development ideas of each university, and by the mobilisation of EU funds. We need to take advantage of the opportunities available. The university chancellery has excellent young professionals doing the background work, which I have already been able to gain insight into, while initial discussions with the deans have also provided a number of ideas.

What is your vision for the university in the short and medium term?

Obviously, the members of the Board of Trustees can be personalised by changing the model, the future of the university is no longer the responsibility of a distant institutional authority. I am therefore interested in a joint effort that will lead to a spectacular improvement in quality, developed in agreement with the university's management and not subject to party politics.

PREDICTABILITY, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIP

Professor Gábor Rappai is an alumnus of the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs, where he has been teaching for more than three decades, and was also dean of the faculty for two terms (2005-2011). Since 2019, he has been the Head of the Doctoral School of Economics. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation.



As a senator and president of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Development, you have been monitoring and shaping the destiny of UP for decades. How do you currently see the situation of UP in these areas?

Over the past two decades, UP's financial management has been characterised by two main issues: a lack of resources and liquidity difficulties. Both were caused by the underfunding of health care activities and a rather specific and uneven funding model over time. As a result, financial manage-

ment was mainly limited to liquidity management; almost constant freezing of proceeds and withholding of funds meant that revenue-generating units that could have made substantial investments postponed their development. As additional resources were almost exclusively available through tenders, the practice of applying for everything that was available to us was inevitable. This has not helped the concentration of research capacities.

Why do you think it is important that UP has taken the opportunity to change its model?

I believe that the long-term (up to 25 years) funding framework agreements that will be established in the new operating model will bring predictability to the system, allow UP's education and research portfolio to focus on the real strengths of the university,

and will help create the economic environment and infrastructure that will serve academic excellence. UP is a highly diverse, heterogeneous if you like, institution, and it is time for education and research, artistic creation and health services to be seen not as competitors fighting over scarce resources, but as collaborative partners exploiting the synergies between activities to create a truly internationally visible higher education institution.

Why did you agree to become a member of the Board of Trustees?

Over the past decade, my name has regularly come up when the university was preparing for a rectorial election or waiting for a chancellor. I always dismissed these suggestions by saying that I was not an academician enough to be rector and too little of a bureaucrat to be chancellor. The Board of Trustees has the task of devising a comprehensive strategy, reflecting both academic and operational issues, and overseeing the path to achieving its goals. I see all this as a huge and exciting task that I am doing for the University, which role I am well suited for, so when the Minister's invitation came, I did not hesitate.

What opportunities do you see regarding the economic situation of UP?

We hope, but more importantly, we have information that resources will increase across Hungarian higher education. It is the task of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation to ensure that as much as possible of these increased resources go to the University of Pécs. We have been working on this for some time, and we will of course continue to do so, but it is important to know that the 'successful' long-term framework funding agreements only provide the opportunity, the additional resources require additional performance on behalf of the university citizens.

LET **UP** BE THE **ENGINE OF DEVELOPMENT** AND PROGRESS IN THE REGION

Dr. Éva Mikes is an alumna of both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Business and Economics in Pécs. 1990-1994, she was Deputy Mayor of Pécs, 1998-2006 she was a Member of Parliament, and in the first Orbán government she was State Secretary for Regional Development. She later withdrew from political life, but was also involved in regional development during that period. Since autumn 2020, she has been the government commissioner for the South Transdanubian Economic Development Zone, and in 2021, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation of the University of Pécs...

How do you see the situation of the region - and within it, UP - in this respect?

In the last decades, South Transdanubia has become a lagging region, although there are successful settlements in the region, the overall economic indicators are extremely negative and unfortunately, this is especially true for Baranya County. UP, as the only university in the region, is itself interested in the development of the region, as this also determines its position, but in interaction, one of the most decisive elements of the region's potential development is to increase the university's economic links and influence, and to strengthen its position in the educational ranking of universities. The educational potential of UP is also a key factor influencing the region's potential. The university is therefore given a distinguished role in the strategy of the South Transdanubian Economic Development Zone.

Why did you agree to become a member of the Board of Trustees?

UP can be more flexible and responsive if it is preceded by swift and adequate professional work. Decisions are made locally, in the interest of both the university and the region. The new model has a lot of potential, if we are able to use it in the right way - I want to fulfil a lot of hopes and expectations by working together, with a sense of our primary responsibility.

What do you consider to be the most important issue that you will propose to change as soon as possible?

Fortunately, the members of the Board of Trustees have different professional backgrounds and experiences, and obviously my area of expertise is to make the best use of the cooperation between the university and its geographical area, to promote interaction between development, and to involve the university more in economic development.

What opportunities/additional resources do you see concerning the economic situation of UP and the region?

In addition to public funding and development resources, market revenues from the joint development of the region and the university, the benefits of business cooperations, and the maximum exploitation of the advantages due to the university's position.

To what extent will the functioning of the Board of Trustees affect student life and the teaching/research work at UP?

If the Board of Trustees is to be effective, and it can only be effective in close and conflict-free relations with the university, we need to move forward in a number of areas in the short term. In an evolving, increasingly important university that defines a whole region, the teaching/research work is more recognised and the opportunities for students are wider - including labour market opportunities.

What short and medium term development path can you see ahead of UP?

In the short term, UP will become a key factor in the region, not only through its education, but also in terms of its economic relations, and will continue to be an incapable factor in the economic field, a driving force for the development and progress of the region, strengthening its already outstanding training capacities at national level with additional specifications and economic cooperation. In the medium term, it will become a highly visible and reliable educational centre in Central Europe, with even greater involvement in cross-border cooperation and the integration of the Western Balkans.



SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT

The new building of the Medical School, which was realized within the framework of the Modern Cities Programme, has been officially handed over in September 2021, after this magazine went to press.

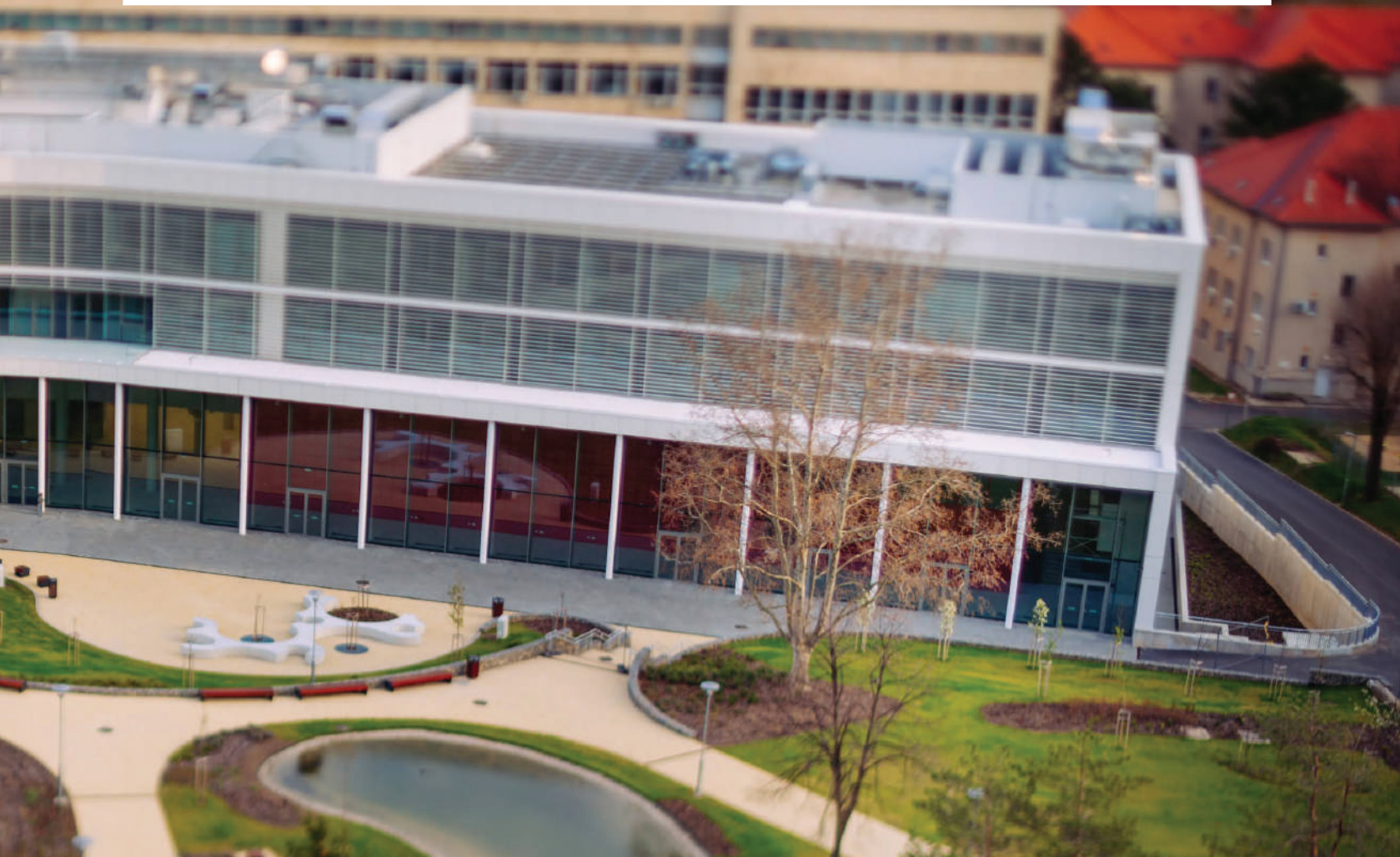
Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos



As part of the Modern Cities Programme, the Government of Hungary supported the University of Pécs with nearly 25 billion HUF, which aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the institution, to develop the education and services portfolio, to increase the number of international students and to provide the necessary infrastructure conditions.

The largest, "flagship" investment has been realized at the Medical School, with a gross amount of 10.669 billion HUF. As a result of the development, new educational and student spaces have been created, the equipment pool of the existing skill laboratory has been expanded, cutting-edge medical technologies provide the background for the training through the purchase of state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic tools, the service infrastructure necessary to attract and keep students has been developing. At the same time, a full real estate rationalization is implemented, which includes green spaces, transport and parking facilities.

Read more: international.pte.hu



The buildings of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs in downtown Pécs were renovated with a total cost of around HUF 2.5 billion, and officially opened on 8 July. The investment was funded by the Modern Cities Programme.



THE RENEWAL OF THE BUILDINGS OF THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES IS COMPLETE

Robert Balogh |  Szabolcs Csontos

The ceremony was attended by László Palkovics, Minister of Innovation and Technology, Miklós Kásler, Minister of Human Capacities, and József Bódis, State Secretary for Higher Education, Innovation and Vocational Training. As announced at the event, the most significant investment in the history of the UP Faculty of Health Sciences was made possible thanks to the Modern Cities Programme.

The newly developed Health Sciences Human Patient Simulation Centre provides students and faculty with a true-to-life, high-fidelity simulator environment for

the 21st century, with modern, real-life medical instruments capable of emitting sounds. The centre also supports innovative research and equipment development in health sciences.

The renovated building complex also includes a room where all the conditions are in place to simulate a traffic accident or a disaster situation such as a building collapse. The rescue exercise is recorded simultaneously by several cameras and microphones, so that each moment can be analysed afterwards from different angles to ensure an even more perfect rescue.



DENTISTRY BUILDING: COMING SOON!

The New Theoretical Building of Dentistry is being finished in the northwestern part of the block of Szigeti – Tüzér - Athinay and Lovarda Street. The 5-storey, 2750 m2 useful floor area building housing 61 dental chairs will serve patients as well dental students, dental practitioners and students in specialist medical trainings. This almost 7 billion HUF investment has been realized in the framework of a Human Resources Development Operational Programme.

The clinic has a monolithic reinforced concrete frame structure with the foundation required by soil mechanics. Taking into account the geodetic conditions, the building will be accessible on foot from the northeast, through the ground floor, and by car from the southwest through the basement.

The construction of the building started in March 2020, the hand-over is expected during the autumn semester of the 2021/2022 academic year.





The Erzsébet University in Pécs

The University of Pécs pays tribute with a series of centenary celebrations

The Royal Hungarian Erzsébet University, founded in Bratislava in 1912, operated in Budapest for a few years after the First World War and the Treaty of Trianon, then it was temporarily transferred to Pécs by the Act XXV of 1921. The exemplary cooperation, financial support and donation of property by Bishop Gyula Zichy and Mayor Andor Nendtvich made it possible for the city to become a university town after three years of Serbian occupation. In Pécs, three faculties started the education of law, humanities and medicine, while the external faculty in Sopron taught evangelical theology. The long-term goals of the University of Pécs were set by Count Kuno Klebelsberg, Minister of Religion and Public Education in his opening speech on 14 October 1923, he succinctly stated that "**The faculty of the Elizabeth University is so imbued with a true scientific spirit that I am convinced that it will create the Hungarian Heidelberg here at the foot of the Mecsek.**" This was the beginning of a modern chapter in the history of higher education in Pécs, which,

centuries after the first Hungarian university founded in 1367, had once again created the possibility of university education in the centre of the South Transdanubian region. The event of 1923 is of particular importance for the 21st century university citizens of Pécs and for Hungarian higher education, as from that time onwards, although in different forms, university education is still provided in Pécs. The forthcoming centenary is a good opportunity to preserve traditions and to learn more about the history of the institution and the individual faculties, but it is also an excellent opportunity for the University of Pécs to make its innovative and forward-looking responses to the social and scientific demands of the 21st century visible to a wide audience. This is also reflected in the slogan of the centenary celebrations, which focuses on the first 100 years of modern higher education in Pécs, while at the same time carries an important message for future generations: **From the past to the future.**

COVID CONFERENCE

Researchers summarised their experience of the coronavirus epidemic over the past year and a half at a conference on 8 July at the Szentágotthai János Research Centre of UP. They also outlined the most important steps for the near future. The scientific side of the fight against the virus was coordinated and implemented by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology.

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

In his speech, Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of the UP, highlighted the need to improve vaccination coverage. Funding and coordination

We reacted quickly to the virus situation - emphasized László Palkovics. The Ministry of Innovation and Technology has created the necessary background and financial basis for the fight against the virus, and has coordinated prevention, identification and treatment. Concerning the field of identification, the minister highlighted the H-UNCOVER project. On the management of the disease, he said: We had to lay the foundations to be able to produce our own vaccine and even a drug effective against Covid, which was a major task, with respect to remdesivir and favipiravir. Four national laboratories were also established, whose work was directly linked to the management of the epidemic: researching the fields of biotechnology, epidemiology dynamics, pharmaceutical research and virology.

A handful of people - a tremendous job

Dr. Ferenc Jakab, Head of the National Laboratory of Virology, highlighted elements of the work carried out at the Szentágotthai János Research Centre of UP during the epidemic. *We were doing what we have been prepared to do for years and the National Laboratory of Virology can be deployed immediately, at any time, in case of a new pathogen!* – said dr. Ferenc Jakab and added: Approximately 450 known or newly synthesised active substances, other compounds and antibodies are being tested. We are working with several research institutions and R&D companies on this topic. A new development is that the laboratory in Pécs now also has the capacity to carry out animal experiments, and the full capacity to do so has been built up. *Our small team has done an amazing job – the virologist added.*

Pharmaceutical and clinical trials

When the coronavirus epidemic started, humankind had no cure against it, and the situation is the same today: there is no drug developed specifically against Covid-19, said Professor Gábor Kovács. Two directions have emerged for the cure of Covid infection: the use of existing drugs to treat the disease and the development of a completely new drug. The latter could take up to 10-12 years. A promising development is the ongoing research project funded by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, HUNGEN, jointly conducted by the University of Szeged and the University of Pécs, which is aimed at the environmental factors influencing the course of the disease.



SUPERHUMAN EFFORTS

The work of the UP Operative Crew during the first three waves of the epidemic

Éva Harka |  Szabolcs Csontos

The first three waves of the coronavirus pandemic, which the UP Operative Crew (PTE OS) had to face, posed serious challenges to the whole world. It was led from the start by Dr József Betlehem, Vice Rector for General Affairs, Connections and Strategic Affairs.

What were the main tasks of the Operative Crew?

The university did its best to ensure that the students can continue their studies without a setback - often regulations were drafted ahead of national measures; work was done with unheard-of speed. Home office work for lecturers and teaching assistants had to be ensured - even allowing research to continue in areas where a break in the research process would have posed a serious threat to the study. Thirdly, at the Clinical Centre, we fought for the patients, with amazing effort, especially during the second and third epidemic waves. It was this latter work that required perhaps the most effort, sacrifice and support, which fortunately soon showed. We have to mention the fact that the Department of Laboratory Medicine and the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, as well as the Virological Research Group of the Szentágotthai Research Centre not only carried out the analysis of clinical samples, but also provided the analysis of results from several counties.

The local framework for the legislative background and sectoral recommendations have been provided by the PTE OS. To what extent was this region in a unique situation, how much room for manoeuvre did the PTE OS have?

Proactivity was the hallmark of all the activities of the UP Operative Crew. Most of the time, in a spirit of precaution, we took the necessary measures before they were created, that way we had time to prepare for them before they became official. We were in a unique position that we also had to take care of a contingent of nearly 5 000 foreign students. Some of our international students were unable to get home, others faced travel restrictions - we had to deal with a wide range of problems that required a great deal of organisation, from education to providing food and accommodation to the



quarantined students. From the beginning, the Dormitory Directorate played an integral part in the latter.

The pace of work was extraordinary – a Coronavirus Care Centre had to be set up in the Clinical Centre (CC) in a matter of days.

Initially, colleagues who had some previous exceptional situational awareness and experience were at an advantage. Dealing with the coronavirus epidemic required not only medical knowledge, but also quick situational awareness, optimal work organisation and the ability to make decisions immediately. I believe

It would be difficult to list how many people have worked, either from the Technical Service Management Dept. or the Clinical Centre, to adapt to changing needs in a matter of hours, even on weekends. As the medical principles of health care were also constantly changing, there was a need to closely follow the latest guidelines of coronavirus care protocols to ensure that they were based on the most up-to-date knowledge. The staff of the Departments of Emergency Medicine, Infectology and the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy have played a major role in this.

UP is also in a special position in that it is home to the Virology National Laboratory, and UP has also played a significant role in the research of the virus. Vaccine-related research has been initiated at the Clinical Centre as well. Are we also testing virus variants locally?

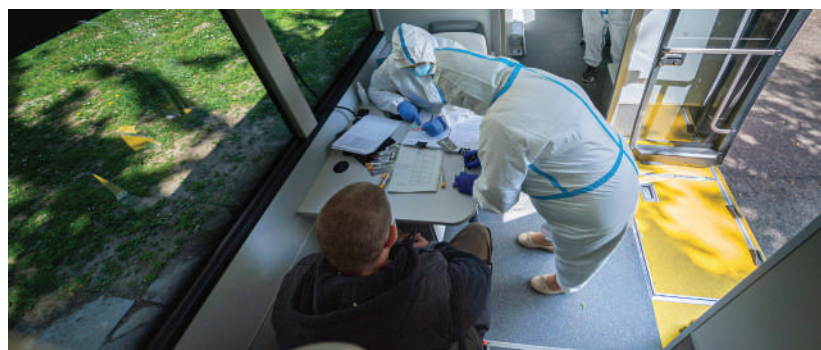
Dr. Ferenc Jakab, head of the Virological Research Group at the PTE OS, is the person to comment on this issue. It was good feedback for the PTE OS to know where the research is at, also in terms of therapy options. It takes time to introduce a drug in the incubation stage. However, these processes have not stopped even after the decline in patient numbers and continue to this day. I think the research has been a major inspiration for further work for the researchers, but also for the strategic development directions of the university.

At the same time, the UP has also been involved in clinical trials of drugs against coronavirus disease and has joined the national epidemiological study H-UNCOVER.

How do you see our overall performance in the treatment of Covid?

Unfortunately, there was a high rate of mortality in the second and especially in the third wave of intensive care unit patients - this has been the case not only in Pécs but also worldwide. The mortality figures here were around or slightly below the national average. As for those who have recovered, I would like to point out that the quality of life in which they survived the coronavirus infection varies greatly, which means that post-Covid care is particularly important now. As post-Covid problems are extremely mixed - anything from serious respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological, ophthalmological problems to loss of sense of smell or mental health problems - this certainly requires a complex professional approach to aftercare. I see this area as one of the biggest challenges for the medical profession in the coming period.

that this was a serious learning process, which was not without conflict in the beginning, but everyone started with the best possible intentions to deal with the emergency, and later, based on the international and national experiences, a fine-tuning was possible.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AT UP

Previously established forms of education have become obsolete, and the digital education brought about by the pandemic has only reinforced the need for change and innovation. The problem is a national one. It is a matter of pride that UP is growing into an important player in the national and international discourse on this issue. We asked Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Vice-Rector for Education and Dr. Zoltán Vörös, Head of the UP Education and Learning Support Task Force.

Éva Harka |  Csontos Szabolcs



New Pedagogy

Today's generation needs to be taught and motivated differently, and our academic staff needs to learn these new methods. It is a worldwide problem, and here at UP we are also struggling with how to keep students engaged - said Tamás Fedeles at the beginning of our conversation, and added: Even after the coronavirus epidemic, we do not necessarily have to go back to the original way of doing things: it is possible to move certain elements of large lectures to online platforms, and to have students in person at the cornerstones, but at the same time they can motivate themselves and get help from the lecturers. Mid-term and end-term tests can also be used to check knowledge. I think it is a way forward to go down this road

The current Rector's leadership has begun to address the problem as a priority, catalysed by the appointment of a new Vice Rector for Education and the digital education due to the coronavirus epidemic. With the Education and Learning Support Task Force, a solid team has been established with the right skills already in place. They can help any faculty member through the difficulties by reflecting not just on technical issues but specifically on methodological ones - answering the question many instructors have asked during the distance learning period: what would they need to change in terms of methodologies to be more effective? The task force is working closely with the Directorate for Innovation and Information Technology of the Chancellery,

which has been developing the platforms used at UP during the pandemic and has made considerable efforts to support teachers and students in technical issues.

Online + attendance = Blended

In spring 2020, we made progress with students on distance learning in a mutually supportive way. My personal experience has been very positive. However, we all missed the personal contact, especially for those who have newly entered university as young adults, this gap is a disadvantage, said Tamás Fedeles. Blended education is based on face-to-face cornerstones, but is supplemented with online opportunities and tools several times during the semester. It is also the chosen form of education at UP, because personal contact is an integral part of the educational process.

Platforms

Inclusiveness is our keyword: we do not want to exclude anyone or their established solution. However, there are also needs - and we can already see that student feedback confirms these - that would limit the number of platforms used. In terms of the systems that support learning, many have found that they start their day on Teams, continue on Zoom and finish on Discord or Google Meets. This makes it difficult for students to concentrate on their work. For both instructors and students, it is easier to use fewer



platforms but come better prepared. We strongly recommend using Teams and Moodle, emphasized Zoltán Vörös. The head of the task force also pointed out that a comprehensive survey on students' online experiences had been carried out, which was completed by nearly 3,000 students thanks to the help of the University Student Union. Their feedback is valuable data that will provide the basis for a student-friendly blended system.

Wave No. n+1

We all hope that the coming waves of the coronavirus will not have a significant impact on higher education. Still, the question arises of what would happen if distance learning were to be reintroduced. I do not think there would be a problem with another online semester, and there would be less of a problem with device usage. However, the personal contact would be sorely missed, said Dr. Zoltán Vörös.

Future and hope

We want to develop the task force into a stable organisation by autumn. For now, it is a virtual community, but it will have a base in the physical space in the near future - it is no secret that we see this as feasible in the Centre for Knowledge. I think it is the least a 21st century university can do if it wants to keep up with the times and respond to the challenges. Our principle is to build gradually, not to rush. Time and reflection are needed to create the optimal solutions. At university level, a strategy for the digital transition has already been adopted, including infrastructure development. The aim is to create a 21st century learning environment that provides the right foundations for blended learning. Facilities at the faculties are heterogeneous. Dr. Tamás Fedeles adds: We are also working extremely hard on establishing the framework for making it possible. However, all this is worth nothing without a well-prepared teaching staff - the small but enthusiastic team of the task force can help with methodological issues.

HALFWAY THROUGH EDUC – THE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

The EDUC Alliance (European Digital UniverCity) is an implemented initiation of the European Commission; in the framework of this idea. European associations have been formed throughout the continent. The Higher Educational Institutions that form consortia work from a budget of 28 billion HUF, (85 million.EUR). Eleven institutions, including the University of Pécs, are participating from Hungary since 2019.

EDUC |  Szabolcs Csontos

Long-term goals of the EDUC Alliance:

- renewing and making European higher education more competitive
- internationalisation and development of the EDUC concept
- building up a new, modular, and flexible management system between partner universities
- coordination and harmonization of the training structures of member universities
- building up a new online EDUC campus
- development of virtual and physical mobility education
- integration of the languages and cultures of the five countries into each other's curricula and developing a common identity
- building up the EDUC community of teachers and students

Members of the EDUC Alliance consortium:

- University of Potsdam (Germany) – leader of the consortium
- University of Cagliari (Italy)
- Masaryk University (Czech Republic)
- University of Rennes 1 (France)
- University Paris Nanterre (France)
- University of Pécs

The first EDUC online event:

The first online event of the EDUC Alliance was held on 1st December 2020, at which the introduction of the alliance took place in addition to the specification of the courses, programs, educational and research opportunities of EDUC. The next online event is going to be held in October 2021.

Gap Year Scholarship:

In the spring semester of 2021, three French students studied



at the University of Pécs within the framework of the physical mobility of EDUC Gap Year Scholarship.

The new scholarship program of the EDUC Alliance started in 2021. The students of the alliance have the opportunity to study 4-10 months at one (or even more) EDUC partner university and take courses other than their curriculum in the framework of physical mobility.

EDUC-SHARE:

Awarded on the 2020 call for proposals "Science with and for the Society" (SwafS), launched by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 program (the biggest EU Research and Innovation program), EDUC-SHARE is the Research and Innovation part of the EDUC (European Digital UniverCity) Alliance.

EDUC-SHARE is building up in the steps of the Erasmus + pilot EDUC, with the ambition that the EDUC Alliance became a University fully integrated, who fulfill all its missions: education, research and innovation, societal liability, to the European scale.

Coordinated by the University of Rennes 1, this European initiative was launched on the 12th of March 2021 for a 3 years period.

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The main ambitions and goals of EDUC-SHARE:

- the implementation of a long-term research and innovation agenda
- the development and sharing of research infrastructure
- the citizen implication in science and its role in society
- the reinforcement of regional ecosystems and their connection
- sharing continuous improvement processes in terms of human resources

the development of soft skills training offers for researchers and administrators

Opportunities offered by EDUC Alliance: for teachers:

- EDUC Academy – digital course development opportunity, e-learning platform (Moodle) with systematic professional consultation
- professional partnership building and development
- participation in thematic seminars
- language trainings and courses
- good practices trainings

for students:

- scholarships within virtual and physical mobility (e.g. short intensive programs, Gap Year Scholarship...etc.)
- skills development and professional partnership building
- participation in EDUC student community
- participation in thematic seminars
- EDUCARDS – European Student Card
- language trainings and courses

for non-academic staff:

- physical and virtual mobility trainings, courses
- language courses
- good practices trainings

EDUC webpage and social media pages:

e-mail: educ@pte.hu

Phone: 06/72 501-500/12424

EDUC webpage and social media pages:

<https://pte.hu/hu/educ>

EDUC webpage: <https://educalliance.eu/>

Facebook pages of the EDUC community:

EDUC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/educuniversity>

for students:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/331691031364602>

for academic staff: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354952418971810/>

for academic staff: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/341365720553412/>

EDUC LinkedIn page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-digital-university/>

We will continue to work to ensure that more and more students and academic/non-academic staff can participate in the programs and courses of the EDUC Alliance and thus a strong, unified community can be realized. We will continue to keep the community of the University of Pécs informed of the current opportunities and news of the EDUC Alliance.

REPRESENTATION IN **NAIROBI**

Led by the University of Pécs, the University of Debrecen, the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the International Business School have opened a joint recruitment office in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Dr. László Palkovics, Minister of Innovation and Technology, and Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs both emphasized the importance of education and research relations in their welcoming speeches at the opening ceremony.

The internationalisation of higher education has been a priority for universities and governments in Hungary for years. In addition to the highly successful Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme, the number of foreign students paying tuition fees is also steadily increasing. However, this goes beyond generating revenues: attracting international students also increases the quality and competitiveness of higher education in Hungary, and it benefits domestic students as well.

The opening of the advisory office in Kenya is a milestone in student recruitment activities to support this. The project, supported by a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Export Development Department, will begin operations in an office building in central Nairobi. Caroline Kithama, an alumna of the University of Debrecen, will head the local office and will be able to represent the Hungarian higher education authentically.

For those who follow the activities of the UP Africa Centre, it is not news that one of Kenya's most influential architects was the Hungarian György Vámos. His name is associated with some of Nairobi's most important buildings, such as the Kenya Commercial Bank, the headquarters of the United Kenya Club and the Siri Guru Singh Sabha Sikh temple. He also designed the mausoleum of Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first president. A plaque in memory of George Vámos was unveiled at the TelPosta Towers in Nairobi. The ceremony was addressed by Prof. Dr. István Tarrósy, Director of the International Centre, University of Pécs and Head of the UP Africa Centre.



Within the EDUC Alliance, we plan to launch a **Joint MA programme in African Studies**, which is unique in Central and Eastern Europe, expected to start in autumn 2023. We have conducted a survey of our strengths at the six member universities, and we are currently analysing the results. Next year, we would like to submit an application within Erasmus Mundus, an EU framework specifically dedicated to the support of joint degree programmes. UP has a live presence in the African macro region with numerous universities, including student and teacher exchanges in various disciplines, as well as joint research. Its relations with The Republic of South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Botswana, Nigeria and Morocco, in cooperation with the higher education institutions of the EDUC association, are developed into a serious network of university contacts, on which an African Studies programme is likely to be successfully established.

Prof. dr. István Tarrósy

"...IT APPEARS AS A CALLING"

László Vidovszky, composer and professor, taught music theory at the Music Teacher Training Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music between 1972 and 1984. Since 1984 he has been an associate professor at the Janus Pannonius University, the predecessor of the UP, from 1993 he has been a university professor, and since 2011 professor emeritus. From 1996-1999 he was dean of the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts. In Pécs, he taught basic acoustics, composition, music history of 20th century and instrumental counterpoint.

Robert Balogh | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

In the early '90s, we could imagine anything. There was no Higher Education Act yet, we were working in a kind of exlex state. There were no venues. There were serious efforts, for example, to move the fine arts training to István-akna. We completed several academic years in this way, under fantastic conditions and as well as results.

Once, on New Year's Eve, a workshop session was going on, when a group of Swiss hikers wandered in, they were quite surprised to find a painting school in the woods! They had absolutely not expected this. In the end, we did not manage to keep the property, it could not have been run by higher education alone. It could have been recultivated, renovated and its transport infrastructure improved with national and international cooperation, but there was not yet a culture for that.

The rule is culture, art is the exception. This was the equation to solve. It was not always easy, but in the positive evaluation of the Pécs Cultural Capital of Europe tender, the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts and its work have been featured prominently.

The music education was originally an external branch of the Academy of Music, in Mátyás King Street. They understandably insisted on keeping the name of Ferenc Liszt and the established professional criteria.

The bureaucracy could hardly cope with the establishment of the master school. It is not an MA training in the modern sense of the word, but a material-discursive way of training. The presence of professors such as István Bencsik, Ilona Keserü, and Imre Schrammel, have naturally made the existence of the master school unquestionable, but even the naming of the diploma was problematic.

My job was to help integrate the unique qualities of art education into the existing framework of the university, while at the same time building up the education itself. I had some experience as head of an institute, which is perhaps why I was asked to do this.

Many people at the university did not understand how an art faculty works. It was easiest with the Faculty of Humanities, but it was harder with an engineer. Back at the Academy of Music, the following took place: a member of the Accreditation Commission visited a class where the piano accompanist and the singer and teacher were present. The person rushed out of the lesson, upset: one student and two teachers?! At the time, there was a tug-of-war about how many teachers to employ for so many students. This cannot be explained to someone who is constantly studying tables and charts. It is true that in England, we have seen courses where they just showed you a copper plate, and that was the end of the etching training.

Teaching is essential. Even musical innovators start by learning about the literature and tools of music. There is a lot to learn before you can ask yourself: do I want to do anything with this knowledge? Many people play virtuoso music during their school years, but decades later it turns out that they had something else to do. Kierkegaard says that "talent (...) is only beautiful, if it appears as a calling..." Not everybody does become an outstanding artist, however, they can still become great teachers. Some have the skill to do this, some have the ability to do that, but behind every great achievement, there is an exemplary master. Some people are obsessed with teaching. Kurtág said that for him, the real drug is teaching.



FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PÉCS SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the successful Pécs Summer School programme, which was launched in 2016 by the International Relations Office, the predecessor of the International Centre of the University of Pécs. As defined in the Internationalization Programme of the university, the primary aim of the initiative is to create a "Summer Trimester" with an increasing number of international summer school programmes on different topics. The academic programmes are provided by different university faculties, while the overall organization of the summer programmes is carried out by the International Centre. UP has become the market leader in Hungary in this respect.

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

The Study Abroad and Summer School Office led by Dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai organized 30 summer schools in the last five years hosting a total of 800 participants from 70 countries and 4 continents. Altogether 200 lecturers provided the education and training. In addition to the University of Pécs lecturers, visiting lecturers from abroad were also involved. The International Centre has employed 80 mentor students during the past five years. The 30 summer school programmes covered 350 days altogether.

In addition to the academic programmes, the summer schools offer a rich variety of leisure activities for participating students, such as concerts, intercultural evenings and sports competitions.

The summer schools are also an excellent opportunity to develop and expand relations with partner universities. Tailor-made, specialized summer programmes have been organized for groups of students from three partner universities in China, as well as for students from partner institutions in Japan, the US, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. Hangzhou Normal University in China has sent an increasing number of student groups to UP each year, with the most recent group of 60 students sponsored by the Jack Ma Foundation. On three occasions, the University of Pécs hosted a group of Japanese students who studied Hungarian folk music and folk dance. On five occasions, the Pécs Summer School programme was awarded a

grant from the CEEPUS programme to organize a summer course on the current challenges of the European Union. For the third year in a row, the Tempus Public Foundation supported a summer school programme introducing Hungarian cultural heritage. This year, summer schools will also be organized for students from two prominent university associations, the European Digital UniverCity (EDUC) and the Compostela Group.

In response to the coronavirus epidemic, the Pécs Summer School programmes were implemented online in summer 2020. Several new online programmes were developed to meet student needs, which included popular online virtual city tours, museum visits and Goulash cooking. The success of the online summer schools is demonstrated by the fact that the number of students applying for these programmes has increased this year.

Satisfaction surveys among participants show that students are very satisfied with the educational and social programmes, the thorough organization, and the work of the organizers and mentors. Some students have participated in the Pécs Summer School programme many times, and many students in the Summer University have decided to enroll in full degree programmes offered by UP.

Building on the success of the Pécs Summer School programme, the International Centre launched the Pécs Winter School programme in 2020.



UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS PHD GRADUATE TO RING NASDAQ CLOSING BELL IN NEW YORK

The Times Square in New York is one of the most well-known, iconic places in the world, to appear on its enormous screens is an opportunity that only a handful of people can experience. Dr. Christopher von Jako, a graduate of the Medical School, University of Pécs, is one of them, since he received the chance to ring the closing bell of the NASDAQ stock exchange on 5 May to highlight May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

NASDAQ is one of the biggest electronic stock trading systems of the world, where the symbolic event of ringing the closing bell for trading is followed by millions of people around the world. Realizing the exposure this event can create, the president and CEO of Brainsway, Dr. Christopher von Jako, the first among University of Pécs graduates, was invited to close the world market for the day. The highly popular event was also live-streamed on the seven-story high screens in Times Square, broadcast by various television stations of international importance. In his speech, the UP graduate Brainsway CEO described the activities of the medical company founded in 2003 and their extraordinary achievements in the treatment of non-invasive transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) in the treatment of depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and other mental illnesses. Since May is the month of mental health awareness, von Jako has emphasized the importance of mental stability and balance, which is especially in focus in this period of the pandemic. The stock index closed at a record high that day.

Christopher von Jako, who has Hungarian ancestry, after receiving his BSc in Physics and Mathematics from Bates College, his MSc in Nuclear Sciences, Radiological Sciences and Technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he studied medicine at the Boston University Medical School, then obtained his PhD diploma in Biomedical Sciences, Clinical and Experimental Neurosciences in 2014 at the Medical School of the University of Pécs.



Considering the mental health of students, the exam period comes immediately to mind. I asked the head of the global company for advice:

Exam period is one of the most stressful and anxious periods during the university experience. At this time is very important to organize your thoughts, take moments of rest when you hit milestones, get some physical activity in, and get much needed sleep. Overall, it is important to combat anxiety with positivity, and this is best done by spending time speaking with family and friends. The exam period will come and go before you know it, and you must control what you can control. Best of luck! – emphasized Christopher von Jako, PhD '14 in his message to the students of the University of Pécs.



DEVELOPMENT IS **WORTH THE EFFORT**



The Faculty of Engineering and Information of the University of Pécs organized a photo, poster and video competition titled “Being a Woman Engineer, Becoming a Woman Engineer”. Through their entries, participants aimed to highlight what the engineering profession is like from a woman’s point of view, as well as the appealing, interesting qualities of the process of studying and becoming an engineer, which can provide self-fulfilment for women in the 21st century. I asked the winner of the video category, Ons Ben Dhaou, 3rd year PhD student in Architectural Engineering from Tunisia, about her experiences.

Mariann Tóth | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

What is the message of your video? Do you think that women have a more difficult position in engineering?

I think it is so meaningful to observe that women’s participation in this science-based profession has increased, and the labour market has become more open to women, who have engineering, science and technology degrees, and the working environment of those fields has continuously improved to better include women. I was one of eight women in technical science in a class of seventy. It might be a little bit strange to say that I have never felt that I have been treated different because I am woman. I have always received technical feedback related to my work, not because of

my gender. I have always been treated as an equal. Sometimes I hear my friends saying that they faced these issues, but I have never been treated different. I do not know whether this was by chance or maybe people started to understand that even if you are a woman you can fulfil so many “manly” tasks.

You have been studying here for the third year. What was your experience about Hungary so far?

It is great! By the time I arrived here, I had already experienced the cultural shock, when I visited Morocco few years before. There I have met so many people from all over the world. When I came to Pécs, I felt

that I am a little bit more used to see so many people from many different countries and to have these talks about cultures, traditions, and differences seemed more natural. So when I came here, it kind of felt like home to me. I like Pécs, because it reminds me of my hometown. I live near the capital Tunis, in a suburb, about twenty minutes away by car. It is a small town, like Pécs. Even the atmosphere and this Mediterranean climate are similar.

What do you think about society's gender stereotypes about fields of study?

There are many people, who still believe that there are "manly" fields, and there are "female" fields, and that there is a clear separation between these fields. Growing up, I was often helping my father fixing things around the house, which inspired me to study in the field of engineering, architecture and design. I feel lucky to be able to choose what I would like to study.

When I won this award, one of my friends asked, what the competition was about, and I explained. Then he asked me, why there is never a competition to support men, who have difficulties in their fields, because of the judgement of society? First, I was surprised, and then I realized that it is true, men also have these gender stereotype type of problems, when they enter a field of study, which is considered to be more female, such as fashion design. For example, my friend was the only man in his class, he really suffered from this experience. Now, he is a cool fashion designer and he is known in Tunisia, he has his own brand. His work is great, and he fought for his dreams. Maybe if he did mechanical engineering or electrical engineering, he would not have had these difficulties, but would never be satisfied with his work.

Do you have any advice for women, who are interested in engineering?

My advice: if you are interested in engineering, do not be scared. Any kind of growth is worth the fight, so do not down your own self, your skills; you can learn what is needed. Just bring your own skills to the table, where everyone is sitting. You have to make a huge difference!

You are awesome and we need you in the field of engineering!



FATHER AND SON

The photograph by Hasan Yıldırım (İstanbul Aydın Üniversitesi, Turkey) titled Father and Son (Baba ve Oğlu) is the winner of the public vote of the PosiTivE Photo contest of the University of Pécs.

Éva Harka | 📷 Szabolcs Csontos

The Turkish student has been taking photos for about six years. Photography makes me realize the wonderful little things that surround me every day. I always notice things like lights, shadows and colours that I can use in my photos. More importantly, I notice meaningful things like connections, expressions, gestures and feelings. The reason I am in-

As for the winning photo, he pointed out: It was taken at our house and the people you see in the photo are my father, my brother and the one on the camera is my mother. I aimed to highlight the bond between father and son with a black and white effect. During the pandemic, Hasan Yıldırım had to face challenges himself: I tried to turn the negativity of the pandemic



terested in photography is, because I like to look at the world from different angles. I like to record memories and make a moment immortal. I try to provide an aesthetic image as much as possible in these photographs.

into an opportunity. I focused on my personal development and read as many books as possible, improved my foreign language skills and naturally attended my online classes.

TO THE MOON AND BACK!

Encouraged by last year's successes, UP announced the MoonBike challenge in 2021 as well. Anyone could join by submitting documented distances cycled by bicycle or stationary bike. The organizers arranged partial challenges and bicycle tours in order to help the members of this virtual community to get to know each other, the University of Pécs, and its projects aspiring to promote a healthy lifestyle and environmental awareness. Such meetups were held in Orfű and Baja, where they biked together aiming to reach the Moon! "Landing" together on the surface of the Moon and covering the distance of 384,400 kilometres between the two celestial bodies took just 55 days for the community this year! By the time you read this article, the team has come back, what is more, they have covered 1,000,000 kilometres! How will this extra-terrestrial bike challenge continue? Find the answer and more details on the PTE MoonBike Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/ptemoonbike>

(Éva Harka)



THE **WINNER** OF THE V4GU CLIMATE PROTECTION CAMPAIGN: **CAMILA ALCÉRRECA CUEVAS!**

The University of Pécs, together with its four foreign partner universities, organized a video competition in the framework of the V4 Green Universities project, in which university citizens could participate and share their own green ideas. From the numerous self-made videos, a jury of experts from the participating universities has chosen the winner. At UP, Camila Alcérreca Cuevas won the first prize, an electric scooter.

Mariann Tóth | Szabolcs Csontos

The winner of the video competition, Camila Alcérreca Cuevas, is a fourth-year architecture student at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (PTE MIK) who came to Pécs from the city of Metepec, Mexico, with the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme. Camila is an active student of UP, she has also participated in the international recipe book project 50 Delicacies on Earth, and as a Student Ambassador for Mexico, she helps prospective students in a number of issues.

She is a member of the communication team of the faculty's LUNGS of the CITY team, competing in the Solar Decathlon architectural sustainability competition. At the encouragement of the group leader, she submitted a tender for the V4GU climate protection campaign. Although she did not have much experience in video production before, she entered her own animated video on the topic of recycling aluminium.

I have noticed that in many cases it is not entirely clear, how to sort recyclable garbage. We need more knowledge and experience to fix more things, so we can produce less waste – said Camila Alcérreca Cuevas.

From the many self-made videos submitted to the competition, we learned what the participants thought could be done differently at UP or how we could create a more environmentally conscious, energy-efficient, healthier lifestyle in general. The videos as well as further information about the competition are available on the Insta account of the UP Green University.

<https://www.instagram.com/zoldegyetem/>



UNITING CULTURES THROUGH FASHION DESIGN

Olagoke Boluwatife comes from Nigeria, he is a fourth year student of BSc in Nursing at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pécs with the Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People. His interest nursing comes from his mother, and he saved a girl's life two days after he learned how to do CPR. In his spare time, he designs and makes unique garments using colourful African fabrics. The talented student presented his own brand at a fashion show in July 2021.

Mariann Tóth |  Szabolcs Csontos

Why did you choose to study abroad in Pécs?

Ever since I was younger, I always liked to do something out of my comfort zone. When I saw the scholarship programme, I googled the universities in Hungary, and selected UP, because of its rich cultural background and its historical roots. I came to Hungary in 2017, when the university celebrated the 650th anniversary.

What was it like, when you arrived? Did you experience culture shock?

Coming to Hungary, travelling from Budapest to Pécs is another experience on its own! I think the first couple of days are the most challenging, because you arrive at a completely unfamiliar place, you barely know anyone, and you cannot speak the language. I got lost in the city a couple of times. But luckily, my mentor in Pécs really tried her best to help me. Hungarian people are very helpful! Even if they do not speak English, I can show a picture of my dormitory, or my address. I am at fault not speaking Hungarian, I should not put the blame on them. I always joke around with my friends that one of my best friends in Hungary is Google Translate! When I ask for help, I use my limited knowledge of Hungarian "Kicsit beszél magyarul", pointing and doing everything I can to be understood.



Why did you choose to study nursing?

My mother is a nurse. I think, my dream in life is just to make people happy and to see the end result of people being happy. I discovered that when I was in Nigeria. I heard a story of a girl, who died, so I asked my mother, what I could do to help, if somebody collapsed. She taught me CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Two days after that, I was just walking on the road, and there was this girl, she attended the same church as me, and her parents started shouting that she is not breathing! I did the chest compressions, and I managed to help her. I was so happy that she survived! I am grateful for being able to learn more about nursing and soon being able to do it professionally.

What was your topic of research for your thesis?

The use of complimentary alternative therapy among university students, such as acupuncture, massage, aromatic oils, exercise or music therapy. The target group was university students studying in Hungary. With the help of my supervisor, I was able to compare the results of Hungarian and international students in this respect. I discovered that contrary to my hypothesis, Hungarians have a wider, general knowledge of various forms of therapy, than international students know about this topic.

I heard that you design clothes, how and when did that start?

I learned a few things in Nigeria about fashion sense. When I came to Hungary, I always had a problem with length of trousers, so I decided to get a sewing machine. That is how the whole story began. My friends also brought their clothes that needed some change to me. Later on, when I travelled home to Nigeria, I found a large print type fabric called ankara that I really like and it got me thinking, how I could incorporate it to European style. My goal is to mix the cultures together, so that it makes sense and allows us to see their uniqueness. That is how I got the idea for my fashion brand, Largo Collections. I actually had my first fashion show in collaboration with others in Budapest in July at the Afro Festival Hungary!

How did you learn all that?

A lot of what I know about fashion, about sewing, I learned from YouTube! I am a student, so I have to go to school, I have to study and do a lot of hospital work. I do not have a lot of free time. However, any time I feel like I want to watch a movie, I tell myself: let me just see, what is happening on YouTube. Then I end up watching countless videos, I have learnt many things this way. I



designed and made what I am wearing now, I also make hoodies, turtle necks, shirts, jumpsuits, for every season, for people from anywhere in the world.

Are there any challenges?

This is my final year, and apart from school, you have to do research, you have to study for the final exam, so it is quite challenging. I want to have at least a little knowledge about everything. Also it is not just about sewing now, after I make the clothes, I take pictures, edit them myself and upload them to Facebook, hoping that maybe someone will like them, and want to wear my designs. I probably need some business knowledge as well.



Do you already know, in which direction you want to continue in the future?

I do not know yet. I would like to have some work experience in nursing. Then while I am doing that, maybe I could do fashion design in my free time. Now I am just building a solid foundation. I want to have a proper plan. I want to put a smile on people's face, either through helping them as a nurse, or through fashion design.

Do you have a message for the students of UP?

Do, what makes you happy, spread positive vibes. If you want something, do not look for excuses, just go for it! People often say that they need more time. If you do something for ten or five minutes each day consistently, is actually better long-term, than not doing anything, because you do not have one hour every day. The little time you have, just do something with it. Be consistent, and over time, it will be something wonderful. Moving beyond your comfort zone is difficult. But when you are able to move out of it, then you keep on going and exploring.



NEW HAND SANITIZER!

The value of different hygiene products and substances rose substantially due to the coronavirus. Researchers at the University of Pécs Faculty of Pharmacy's Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmacy and the Department of Pharmacognosy have been working on the development of a special hand gel with disinfecting properties well before the coronavirus outbreak. Based on the contracting party's expectations this gel could prove to be effective against bacteria and viruses as well. UP employees and students could volunteer to test the product. Summing up their experiences, we can state that the gel is soft and creamy, it spreads across the hands easily and it smells pleasant. The product is going to be publicly available soon.



CONTROL THE MOSQUITOS!

Mosquito Alert is a non-profit cooperative citizen science project, coordinated by different public research centres. The goal is to study, monitor, and fight the spread of invasive mosquitoes capable of transmitting global diseases such as dengue fever, Zika, or West Nile fever. The tiger mosquito and the yellow fever mosquito are some of the invasive species that Mosquito Alert watches out for. In Hungary, the Szentágotthai Research Centre is the lead participant. You can join and help the researchers by using the app called Mosquito Alert, which allows anyone to notify the team, by means of a photo, the possible discovery of one of the mosquitoes studied, as well as that of their breeding places in public spaces. Along with the photo, the location of the observation and other necessary information to help in the identification of the species.

SAVE NON-PERENNIAL RIVERS AND STREAMS

River networks are among Earth's most threatened hot-spots of biodiversity and are essential for human well-being. However, climate change and increased human water use are causing more rivers and streams to dry out, but these drying river networks (DRNs) have received little attention. DRYvER is a Horizon 2020 project, which aims to collect, analyse and model data from nine DRNs in Europe and South America to create a novel global meta-system approach that incorporates hydrology, socio-economics, ecology and biogeochemistry in order to craft strategies, tools, guidelines, and recommendations for adaptive management of river networks in the EU and worldwide. On behalf of Hungary, the Faculty of Sciences of UP is the participant. You can join and help the researchers by using the app called DryRivers.





Dear Alumni,

We are all proud when the lives of the people linked to the University of Pécs reach a milestone, because their hard work has paid off. Graduation is such an occasion.

We have come through a challenging few years, and together we can also be proud of our success in overcoming an unprecedented pandemic situation. I congratulate you for being able to cope well with difficult situation to the extent that you have earned your degrees. The University

of Pécs has done its best to contribute to reducing the scale of the pandemic, from research to health care. We used our own methods, i.e. we used the knowledge, experience and contacts that are unique to our University.

I trust that you have gained valuable knowledge during your studies and will be professionally prepared and successful in your chosen professions. To excel in the practical aspects of your profession, you need openness, trust and patience during your careers. You should rely on your more experienced colleagues and be more tolerant of your younger colleagues in the future. I also hope that you have made friends during your university years. With your diplomas in hand, remember to take care of those links, even if life takes you far apart geographically.

I want you to know that you can count on your Alma Mater, both now and in the future.

The University of Pécs is a stable point. Decades may come and go, legal frameworks may change. The goal remains the same: quality education and good academic/research staff to ensure that our students are as prepared as possible for life.

You are always welcome back, whether as students or colleagues, or at your children's future graduation ceremonies.

Sincerely,
Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta
Rector

PÉCS ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Have you registered?

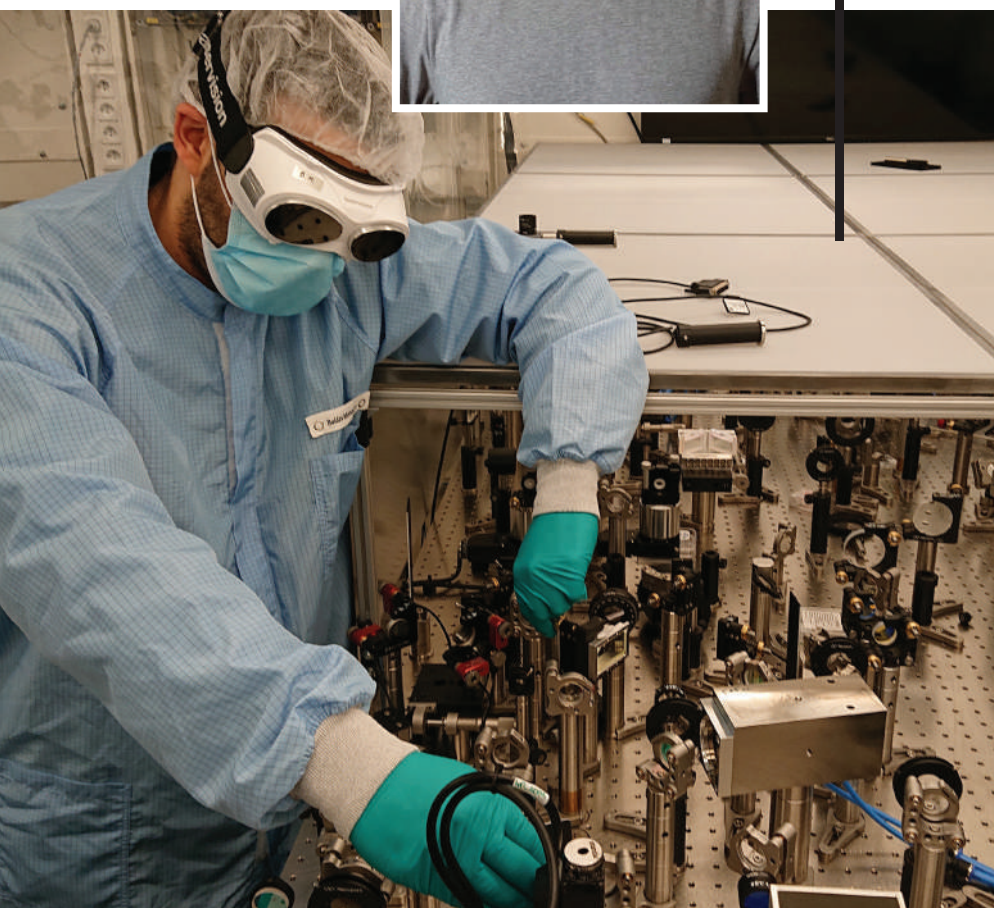
<https://alumni.pte.hu/>





Do not be Afraid to Take Risks!

Balázs Monoszlai is a physicist working at the European X-ray Free Electron Laser Institute (European XFEL). He graduated with a BSc in Physics and Informatics in 2010, an MSc in 2012 and a PhD in 2018 from the Institute of Physics at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Pécs. Together with nearly 400 colleagues, they provide a wide range of infrastructure and support to users from all over the world to conduct cutting-edge research.



What exactly do you do?

I am partly involved in the operation and further development of the high-energy laser systems at the institute, but mainly – in line with my area of expertise – in the design and construction of terahertz-emitting optical systems based on nonlinear optical processes. For example, our institute has also been involved in a series of experiments about the coronavirus, investigating the molecular structure of several different drug candidates and their binding efficiency to coronavirus spike proteins.

What was it that got you into physics?

In high school, I was going to be a programmer, but the Institute of Physics had a roadshow that included exciting demonstrations in the surrounding high schools to promote physics as a career. The computer sciences and physics major seemed very attractive, as it was less monotonous than a course exclusively in

programming. I was very interested in optics from the first course onwards, so I started to specialise in that direction. Fortunately, it is a field still actively researched, so I can do very varied and diverse work.

Do you have any advice for recent graduates?

Do not be afraid to take risks, even if you are unsure or feel that something will not work. It is worth testing yourself, because you might be surprised at what you can do.

MARIANN TÓTH

Moving towards the Third Dimension

Jordanian-born Shatha Al-Majali studied ceramics design at the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts, UP. After graduating in 2020 and returning to her home country, she opened her own studio where she designs ceramic tiles that reach into the third dimension



What was your motivation to choose the University of Pécs and your major?

I was fascinated by the rich history of ceramics in Pécs, the proximity of the faculty to the Zsolnay factory and the beautiful ceramics spread around the city. I spent two wonderful years in Pécs, which was a challenging experience that helped

me grow in many ways. Two of my teachers had a particularly strong influence on my education. Márta Nagy was my supervisor, and I fondly remember our conversations and her kindness. The other was Csaba Máté, who was always available for advice, patiently answering my never-ending questions. I really felt that they took care of me, which meant a lot, especially as I was far away from home.

What have you been up to since your graduation?

I have opened my own ceramics workshop in Jordan, where I use the knowledge I gained at UP and continue to learn more about the industry. I collect traditional patterns from my region and use them in my creations, which reach out into the third dimension, creating a visually stimulating experience through light and shadow.

Do you have any advice or message?

Do not be afraid to try something different if you feel good about it. I chose ceramics design after completing a BSc in architecture, and although many people advised me against, I am so happy I chose it!

MARIANN TÓTH



I have opened my own ceramics workshop in Jordan, where I use the knowledge I gained at UP

A man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a blue patterned polo shirt and light-colored trousers, stands smiling in a paved plaza. In the background, there is a large equestrian statue on a pedestal, and behind that, a building with a prominent green dome. The scene is bright and sunny.

Leading by Example

A noted physician scientist, accomplished executive, and published researcher, Ron von Jako graduated in the first class of the English Program at the Medical University of Pécs in 1990, where he also obtained his PhD degree. He has invented, patented, and licensed many leading-edge surgical products, and is currently engaged in the global surgical and integrated X-ray product efforts of a Fortune 50 company. He has been an invited speaker at academic medical and technical institutions and other symposia worldwide.



The establishment of the English Medical Program in Pécs started with his father, Prof. Géza J. Jakó, a wonderful surgeon, scientist, and educator, in collaboration with his old friend, Prof. József Tigyi. In his recollections published in the book *The First 30 Years*, GJ. Jako wrote: *Creating the first English Program and first foreign language medical teaching was a tremendous undertaking. He looked after and spear headed the curriculum design, books, first graduation gowns, while his wife Maria helped to scout for prospective student candidates. We also provided one enthusiastic secondary school student, our oldest son, Ronald, who was already eager to attend Pécs.*

Could you tell me how it all started?

I was born near Boston; my parents immigrated from Hungary during the 1956 revolution. My father, and generations of our family were in medicine. My great grandfather Prof. Géza Krepuska contributed to the early field of Otorhinolaryngology. I basically grew up in the hospital watching and learning from my father how he communicated with his pa-

tients, and I was touched by his ability to treat the ill. My first summer job was at the hospital. Here I learned CPR, phlebotomy, and more throughout my secondary school years.

How do you remember your university years in Pécs?

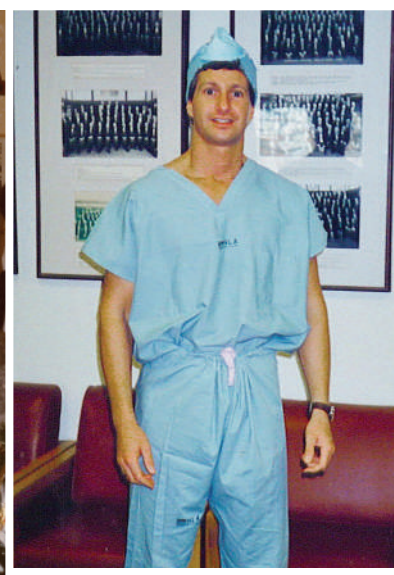
It was a beautiful time. The quality of the six-year combined basic science and clinical sciences English program was terrific from the start! I remember gross anatomy was not just a branch of the biological sciences, but almost a religion. Outside academics my classmates and I traveled in Europe to see and learn the cultures. We were a proactive group of students; we wanted to also meld in locally, which improved our fluency in Hungarian.

In 1989-90, parts of the field of surgery were going through a paradigm shift. Many large incision surgeries were transitioning to smaller and smaller incisions because of new emerging technology. Endoscopic surgery with the fiber-optics and multi-chip cameras made it possible to do percutaneous minimally invasive surgeries (MIS).

My father was a pioneer in this field, helping to develop soft tissue micro and endoscopic laser surgery in the head and neck. He and Prof. György Wéber performed in Pécs the world's first aorto-bifemoral bypass implantation through a mini-incision using the Jakoscope™.

Shortly after I graduated from Pécs, I completed a surgical research fellowship in Boston for MIS developing a new medical device referred to as the Jakoscope™, co-founded two medical instrument companies, and stayed in contact with Prof. Wéber. We started to work on new minimally invasive techniques with it. We created a group of surgical instrumentation for which we won funding from several large American medical device companies and an FDA classification type of instruments. Since then, this device design inspired many competitive versions for the global surgical industry, and my passion for innovation in MIS utilizing stereotactic surgical navigation for improved patient safety and outcomes.

MARIANN TÓTH



From Pécs to Ohio

She graduated from the Faculty of Business and Economics, UP in 2008 and is currently responsible for academic technology at Ohio University. Eszter Major-Rohrer was introduced to the Ohio University delegation through the Simonyi Consulting Program and went on to earn her MBA (Master of Business Administration) in the US, where she lives with her family.



Why did you choose this major at the University of Pécs?

I became interested in small business management, its opportunities and challenges. I wanted to learn about the transparent movement of finance and its role in business success.

Is there a professor you remember particularly vividly?

I have very pleasant memories of my years in Pécs. To this day, one of my favourite subjects is economic history, which 99% of the class (including me) dreaded, but it opened my eyes and gave me the ability to think critically. Dr. Tibor Tóth, Dr. Zoltán Kaposi, Mária Szende (to whom I owe my love of the English language), Dr. Mária Törőcsik (who made me understand, why marketing is so crucial) - to name but a few.

How did you end up in Ohio?

At Simonyi Summer University, I heard about the Ohio University MBA program, which really appealed to me. I applied and was accepted. I am currently responsible for digital education technology at Ohio University. I did not anticipate a career in IT, but I am enjoying every minute of it. Every day, I work with faculty, staff, and students to develop and support the technologies that are needed in education. In addition, I prepare students who are travelling to Pécs, Hungary (GCP) in a course every spring for their time there.

MARIANN TÓTH



Magic and Challenge Composed for Guitar

Mexican-born Roy Joel Pérez Sahagún graduated in 2019 with a Master of Arts degree in Guitar Performance from the Music Institute of the UP, Faculty of Music and Visual Arts, and now teaches music to young people in his hometown.

Why did you choose the University of Pécs?

I come from the beautiful city of Guadalajara, which is known for its mariachi music and tequila. I always wanted to study abroad. The classical guitar department at UP stood out from the rest because Sándor Szilváy, a Liszt Ferenc Prize-winning guitarist, teaches there.

How do you remember your university years?

My guitar teacher was very strict, so I had to work very hard every day. At the same time, every day was a new adventure, it was magical to walk around this calm, artistic city. I learned a lot, not only academically, but also about life. Not only the university years, but also the whole experience of studying abroad have made my perception wider, and the way I play and prepare the music is different now. I highly recommend the experience of studying abroad and if you prefer a place where you can really feel at home, the University of Pécs is the perfect choice!

MARIANN TÓTH



PTESHOP.hu



Curiosity and Agility

Zsolt Láng graduated from the University of Pécs in 2004 with a degree in Economics, Management and Business, and a second degree as an English-Hungarian business translator. He worked for BAT for nine years in various HR and management positions, before continuing his career at Coca Cola, first in Hungary and then in Switzerland. He is currently responsible for the operational management of the group's HR department and has just moved back to Hungary.

Why did you choose this major?

I am from Pécs, I grew up there. However, I spent the last two years of high school in the UK thanks to a scholarship, where I was able to study economics as well. This led me to want to study economics. As I was abroad, I could not just turn up for the admission test, and the UP was very flexible about admission, so I ended up back in Pécs, which I did not regret at all.

How do you remember your university years?

I think anyone who graduated from the University of Pécs, looks back with pride. It is a community that stays together even after you have graduated. It was also a very good and very intense period in the life of the faculty, of which I was a relatively active part. As president of the student council, I had a closer look at what was happening and I had a say in what was going on. It was then that the first major renovation of the faculty building took place including the exterior, not only the curriculum. I think that the Faculty of Business and Economics has most of all shaped our attitudes; how to look at the world, a business, a community, what it means to be a leader. I think these are the main skills that we could take with us.

What skills and abilities are most needed in the labour market today?

One: being inquisitive. Always asking why this works, why it works this way, how it could be done better. And to keep asking that of ourselves, not just the outside world. I think that in today's fast-changing world, understanding why things are the way they are and what could be next is a great advantage. The second is this kind of agility: being able to change very quickly, always looking for the opportunity in change and moving forward. I think those two things are necessary. Everything else, like factual knowledge, is constantly changing, which is why it is more beneficial to think skills rather than positions. What is it that I want to understand, what experi-

ence do I want to gain and how can I get it in a next step? No matter what the position is called, you can then take the skills to a higher level later on and use them.

What has happened since then? How did you end up at Coca Cola in Switzerland?

At the university, I managed to get an internship at British American Tobacco at a career day event, which is how I started my career. I spent nine years at BAT in various HR and management positions. I have been working abroad several times, in Germany, UK, the Netherlands, but I always came back to the Hungarian team. I then went to work for Coca Cola, where I started as HR Director of the Hungarian team for two years, and then continued at Coca Cola in Switzerland. This was an assignment, and I ended up leading the HR team in Switzerland for four years, and for the last two years I worked in the group commercial team - also headquartered in Switzerland - and was responsible for commercial capabilities. Now I have recently moved to a new position, responsible for the operational functioning of the HR department on group level. So after six years, we are moving back to Hungary.

MARIANN TÓTH



"I am not the Type to Give Up."

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Péter Pék, who graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy, UP in 2015, opened his own pharmacy in Germany. He also works on his own products! And it is not just his way of thinking that transcends national boundaries...

Originally, I wanted to do sports, football was my everything. I also played for Fradi and PMFC for a short time, but an injury intervened. That is when I decided to enrol at the university. – says Péter Pék. He found the pharmacy training quite difficult, but the perseverance he learned through sports, helped him through the difficulties. After graduation, he tried to get a job in Germany because of the much higher earnings potential - where he was in demand. He started running a pharmacy in June last year and another in March this year.

The coronavirus had taken a heavy toll on our work, but I thought, as an employer responsible for eight families, I cannot give up after a few months. Their website is very interactive and they are also looking into alternative therapy. They have also created a product of their own, available for a few months now, which is a digestive bitters. It improves appetite, has anti-inflammatory properties and relieves

gastric acid reflux. There is a high demand for these products, so I can help people and the pharmacy at the same time. It will be a lot of work, but I definitely want to create my own range of products and market them on a website under my name. He met his partner, Dr. Cynthia Panyi, who graduated from the Medical School, UP in 2019, in Pécs. We work together, we put a lot of energy into it, and I think the results are slowly but surely getting more visible. Maybe in a few years, she will be working in her own profession, but in the meantime, she makes our team stronger. In September, we are expecting our first child, who will be a true citizen of the world: a Hungarian-American baby to be born in Salzburg!

ÉVA HARKA



Unisex and unique. This is our ring, the ring of the students of the University of Pécs.

<https://alumni.pte.hu/en/university-ring>

Cherish the Language, and the Traditions

In 1987, Mrs. Attila Simon, Klára graduated from the newly launched ethnic German kindergarten teacher training major at the Illyés Gyula College Faculty (now Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development) of the Kaposvár Teacher Training College in Szekszárd. Throughout her decades-long career, she has worked at the present-day Wunderland Kindergarten, where she was also the principal for 20 years.



What was the Szekszárd faculty like then?

Most of us grew up there, and we had to realize that it was different from high school. We were given tasks, but we had to find our own solutions, not only in terms of our studies, but also because the college has launched this major. It was a busy period from a learning point of view, but they were very good times. I enjoyed the training practice and had a lot of respect for our teachers. None of my classmates have left this field, we are all working as kindergarten teachers.

What has happened since then?

I became the head of a large institution quite early on. Today's Wunderland Kindergarten was then a kindergarten with 12 groups and 270 children; today it cares for the education of 250 children in 11 groups. After 20 years, I did not re-apply for the post of principal in 2019, because I thought I would like to spend the few years before my retirement with more daily success with children. I have always been humane and empathetic, so I have been able to easily settle back into the life of a kindergarten teacher and I am having a great time.

Who would you recommend this profession to?

I would highly recommend it to people who have any kind of ethnic German connection, whose parents or grandparents can still share the customs and traditions, because nowadays, unfortunately, very few people speak the dialect. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who feels it is important to be able to pass on segments of their family and their past, and also to those who do not feel the same way, but are interested in this subject.

MARIANN TÓTH

"I am a Curious Person"



His innovative research has won him several major awards and he was awarded the Nobel Prize of Brain Research, The Brain Prize, in 2011. Last year, he received the Ralph W. Gerard Prize, the most prestigious award of the Society of Neuroscience. He is in the top 1% of the world's most cited neuroscientists. The scientist, who researches the organisation and function of neural networks, graduated from the Medical School of the University of Pécs in 1974. From 1 September 2017, the Day of Hungarian Higher Education, he is not only an alumnus of the University of Pécs, but also an honorary doctor. He is György Buzsáki!

Everything connects me to Pécs, everything I know, I have gathered here. It was a fantastic time, a good working group was formed under the leadership of Prof. Endre Grastyán.

I "inherited" the "brain problem", and with it, what I knew about the hippocampus, from my master Grastyán. Memory is interesting to me, because it is perhaps the most likely of all cognitive functions to be understood. We can conceptualize the problem, we know, what brain structures it is associated with and we have a

well-constrained neuron-synaptic-level model at the molecular level. Our work focuses exactly on this synthesis, at the mesoscopic level.

I am a curious person, I am interested in everything. But perhaps above all, the most interesting thing is how we humans work. How did the nervous system evolve over 4 billion years? What principles govern the transmission, storage and recall of information? Why do we spend a third of our lives sleeping? These questions are powerful drivers,

are they not? Even the tiny answers are very welcome.

I will never know what would have happened if I had stuck to my original plan and become, for example, a radio astronomer or a brain surgeon. I remain a simple scientist, and what I do, I try to do well. So most of my everyday life is devoted to this profession. Modern architecture remains a hobby.

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