PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

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INTERNATION: A L

#PécsCity #UPFamily #weloveyou #universitylife

#UniversityofPécs #centenaryoftheUP

#studyinPécsHungary



INTER NATIONAL CULTURAL DAY IN PÉCS

xciting cultural performances, energetic concerts. This is the International Culture Day in Pécs (ICDiP), a oneday festival organised by the International Seasons intercultural program series of the International Centre.

Once again the streets of Pécs are going to be filled with a lot of excitement. ICDiP will be held on the 18th September as Day 0 of the Pécs Days Festival. The successful festival returns to the main square of the city, Széchenyi Square. Enjoy the amazing performance of the UP Dance Team on Széchenyi Square. Let Lamine Siskora aka Afrikora, the master of the West African traditional stringed-blade instrument, transport you to another continent with his unique and captivating concert. Dance to the music of Brains, one of Hungary's most successful electronic music live bands, known for their big stage festival appearances and sold-out gigs across the country. Come and party with us!

If you are interested in other unique cultural experiences follow the International Seasons' social media pages.

QR: https://linktr.ee/internationalseasonsPTE



DEAR READER,

The true value of a university is not determined by who begins their studies, but by who finishes them. How much and what value you add during your years of study is up to you! Set up your curriculum wisely and then, without making excuses (there are always plenty of them), strive to achieve your goals. Of course, a lot depends on the instructors, but a motivated student also makes the instructor perform better. Student feedback is taken seriously and contributes to the quality of education.

In the 21st century, the development of technologies poses particularly significant challenges for higher education. On the one hand, these technologies have made it possible to generate unprecedented amounts of data that can be made available to everyone via the World Wide Web. It is another matter that, in addition to real, high-quality data, there has been a proliferation of bad or misinterpreted data. Our challenge is to educate a youth that can use modern technologies to extract real data and interpret it properly. In both these areas, the role of artificial intelligence is growing, and its education is one of our priorities.

Our university supports a wide range of projects, but the most prominent of these are in the fields of sustainable development and biotechnology development. We would like to see an increasing number of initiatives from both student and academic staff levels in these areas,

We have more than five thousand international students. They come from over 130 countries, so it is not surprising that many come from different cultural backgrounds. Hungarian students, as well as their compatriots who have already spent some time with us, should help them to integrate. Not only do foreign students bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to UP, they also make Hungarian students more open to the world.

Without personal connections and well-functioning communities, life in the UP doesn't work. We strive to give every university citizen the right foundations for this. We offer visits to our own sporting and cultural events as well as those organised in other parts of the city and country. We ask that everyone at these and everywhere in general behave as proud and disciplined UP citizens.

Unfortunately, there can always be minor or major problems, either with your studies or in other areas of life. Our university has a number of support services, and they will be happy to help you. I wish everyone success in overcoming obstacles and completing their studies in the best possible time!

Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of UP

work experience and competitive

nal and/or scientific project that

fits into the university's portfolio.

We will be happy to support those

not just about theory, but also

about developing practical skills.

We are working with an increa-

sing number of partners to ensure

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PÉCS OVER PARIS: STUDENTS FAVOR PÉCS FOR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

PÉCS outranked Paris, Nottingham, Auckland and Milan in the The Campus Advisor ranking, which lists ideal locations for university life. The organization released its survey based on personal experiences and interviews in November 2023.





The ranking criteria included, among others, a friendly atmosphere, living costs, safety, and a vibrant nightlife. Data were collected from students currently studying at a university in the given city, who rated the city's performance on a five-point scale according to several criteria. Melbourne, Berlin, and Newcastle took the top three spots in the overall list, and Pécs was the only city,

warming about this top ranking is two things: according to the researchers, University of Pécs students are notably friendly, and since there is no other higher education institution in Pécs that accepts international students, all positive feedback refers to the University of Pécs.

We must take all student feedback seriously. Criticism is very important because it helps



apart from the capital, to make it into the top fifty in Hungary!

Here's how the respondents summarized their experiences of Pécs in the survey:

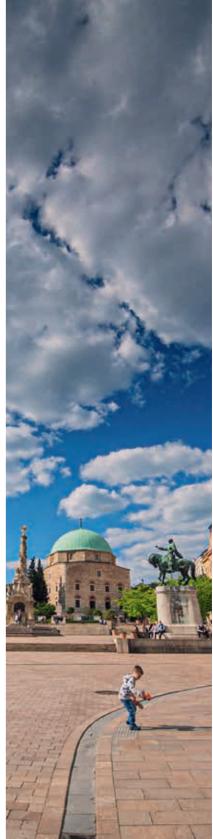
There are many parties even during the weekdays, international parties and cultural nights. There are many restaurants which can do delivery as well, delicious food and affordable prices. There are many bars but still, during nights all of them are filled. Pécs is a city filled with traditional stuff and culture such as art, and architecture.

I really like the city, it's not as big as the capital, but also not as expensive. It's mostly filled with students, so it's culturally diverse and quite welcoming. The rent is cheaper compared to larger cities and the town is not that expensive in particular. The center of Pécs is very lovely and pretty unique!

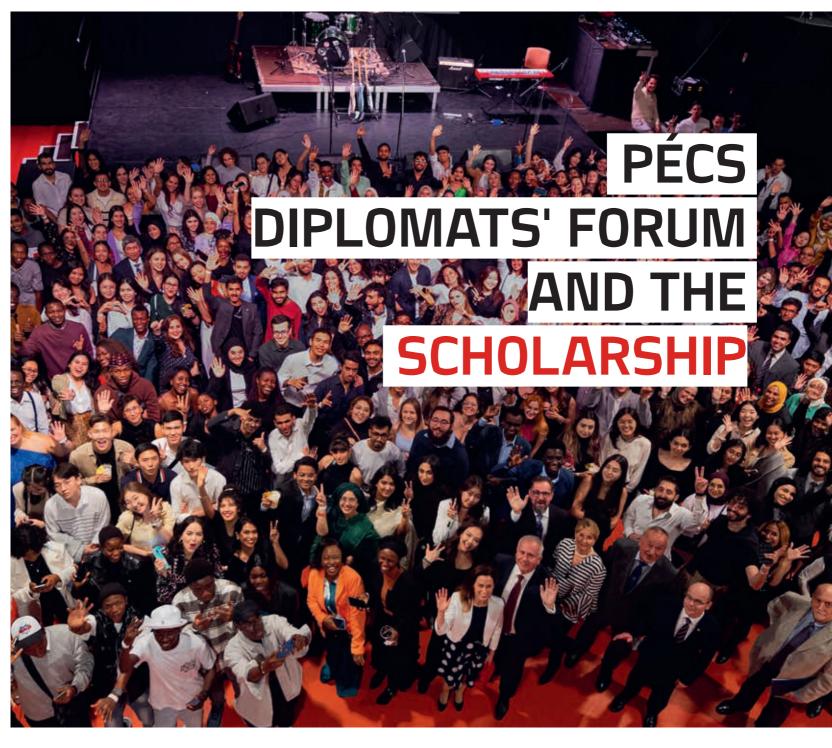
Looking at specific aspects rather than aggregating the list of the 50 cities, Pécs ranks as the 6th best in terms of low living costs. What is particularly heartus to further develop our unique Pécs-based intercultural learning and research environment. Naturally, we are also extremely pleased with the overwhelmingly positive opinions.

This outstanding ranking will allow us to showcase UP's sustainable and high-quality internationalization on a global scale. –

Dr. István Tarrósy, director of the International Centre of the University of Pécs, commented on the ranking results.



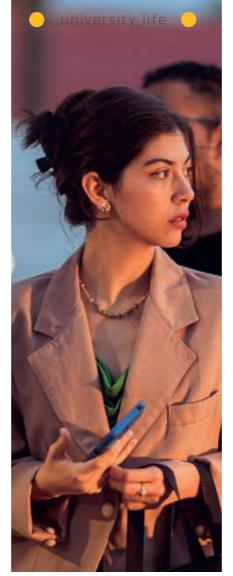




In October 2023, the International Center of the Rector's Cabinet of the University of Pécs organized a special event: the Pécs Diplomats' Forum combined with the 10th anniversary celebration of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship program. The event was held in the new theoretical block of the Medical School.

he roots of foreign language education at the University of Pécs go back 30 years. At that time, we were the first in Hungary at the University of Medicine in Pécs to launch an English-language program. Thanks to the popularity of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship program, every faculty of the university has caught up, and I am proud to say that this year we are already welcoming students from 80 countries. Thanks to the presence of five thousand foreigners, the University of Pécs has truly become international! I hope that its developments - and here I mean both the improvement of infrastructure and the quality/preparation of teachers - will be successful, said Rector Attila Miseta. Addressing the international students and ambassadors, he added: We are counting on you in the future!





Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich, President of the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy, said in her presentation that the program, which debuted 10 years ago with only three partners (Vietnam, Lebanon, and Jordan), has since grown to work with 91 countries on five continents. The program now spends HUF 38 billion per year and provides nearly 5,000 scholarships for students to study in Hungary, instead of the previous HUF 60 million per year and 68 scholarships.

Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich also explained that the scholarship contributes significantly to the costs of tuition, living expenses, and health care. "The Stipendium Hungaricum program not only has an impact on the students admitted to the scholarship system, but the number of students from partner countries who undertake self-funded education has also increased.

In 2013, a total of 23,000 international students studied in Hungary – their number today reaches 42,000!

said Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich. She also pointed out that, due to the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Students at Risk sub-program was created within the Stipendium Hungaricum from March 2022, which aimed to help Ukrainian and international students studying there, admitting 604 new scholarship holders to the system. The president also spoke separately about graduates: the alumni system has been built very consciously from the beginning, and its members reached 10,000 this year. Members receive career counseling, exclusive online services are available to them, they are involved in coaching programs and serve their needs with thematic webinars.

Dr. István Tarrósy, the head of the International Center of the UP, reported on the Pécs branch of the Stipendium Hungaricum program. The statistics are impressive: Every fourth international student at the University of Pécs is a Stipendium recipient, even though the number of foreign students has reached five thousand. Most of them are enrolled in Medical School and come from Jordan.



Dr. István Tarrósy proudly listed the services that emerged from the cloak of internationalization: among others, the Legal Aid, Student Consueling, Cultural Sensitivity, Dream Apply!, Summer School, Travelling Ambassadors, and International Seasons programs. He also pointed out that, apart from the UP, there is no other university that has published not one, but two cookbooks showcasing the gastronomic culture of its international students.

On the occasion of the scholarship, several speakers mentioned how heartwarming those life stories are that the scholarship holders occasionally tell them. There was an opportunity to experience this at the event: South African, Chilean, Colombian, Kazakh, and Yemeni students spoke up and thanked one by one for the opportunity that the Stipendium Hungaricum offered them.

In addition to the many thanks, three striking themes emerged. The majority of Stipendium students - especially if they had previous experience with other Hungarian higher education institutions - are impressed by the kindness and helpfulness of the citizens of the University of Pécs. "I failed the neuroanatomy exam, but there was a way for me to try again in the summer without losing my scholarship. I studied hard, but I received a lot of encouragement and help with my studies, and I am very happy that I was able to pass the exam for the second time. There really is no instructor or administrator at this university who does not answer my questions and is not extremely helpful," said a Nigerian girl."I study at the Faculty of Arts, but I had the opportunity to get to know the Faculty of Economics through one of my instructors. I feel that

the openness I experience here is amazing," said a painting student from Kazakhstan.

The other direction was the manifestation of the emerging advocacy needs of international students. It is clear that the growing number generates the need to be able to articulate the various special needs in a more organized form. The forum revealed that the Filipinos studying in Hungary recently established their first natiothe International Center and the ambassadors enthusiastically encouraged these initiatives.

The third direction is the increasingly strong bond between the embassies, students, and the UP. For example, the Nigerian ambassador said that he is aware of the amount of effort involved in dealing with international students, and he considers it respectable that the UP not only has a high level of academic education, but also pays attention



nal association, a body specifically representing the needs of international students has recently been established at the Faculty of Health Sciences in cooperation with the student government, and there is also a similar demand at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Both the leadership of to the proper balance between education and community life.

At the end of the event, students could also talk to the ambassadors of their home countries in a relaxed manner.

The day was closed by the well-deserved Stipendium Gala in the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter.



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FOREIGN, LESS FORTUNATE, BUT TALENTED? UPOFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

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Global social mobility, social and societal sustainability, and gains at both national and international levels. How can the UP contribute to this? Péter Árvai, Deputy Director of UP's International Centre, commented.

Éva Harka

By ensuring that foreign students also have access to Hungarian higher education, we can enhance the quality of the student experience for everyone. An increasing number of international students are enrolling in PhD programs, and we are very proud that some of them have joined the faculty of the UP. These faculty members then contribute to the creation of an intercultural learning environment by also being involved in the education of Hungarian students.

Beyond what we have already provided – that is, we offer relatively affordable tuition fees and high-quality education at a relatively affordable cost of living on a global scale – we want to do even more and specifically join communities where we can offer opportunities to students who are talented but, for financial reasons, cannot afford the programs.

In this way, the university can also give something back on a global scale to those large-emitting countries from which many students come to UP who can afford the fee paying programs. This is beneficial for everyone: the foreign student gets a chance to succeed, and UP gains positive visibility thanks to its 'charitable' activities, which has outstanding marketing value, while at the same time

gaining students who, in terms of academic talent, are above the average student quality and are committed.

The UP is the first and only Hungarian higher education institution to implement this idea in its internationalization. We have contacted the Second Chance, which seeks host institutions for exceptionally talented students who have been admitted to top American universities but cannot start their studies for financial reasons. The first swallow was Ranjan Shankar, who came to the Faculty of Science through this organization. With the generous contribution of the faculty, he can attend the bachelor's program in physics tuition-free.

We are cooperating with the High Achieving Low Income (HALI) network, which brings together African secondary schools and searches for and mentors very talented but not well-off young people across Africa, and we are negotiating with the Access Scholar program, which is a joint project of the UN Refugee Agency and Duolingo. The latter prepares refugee or refugee background children for higher education.

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RANJAN'S QUANTUM EAP: WHY THE UP OVER U.S. UNIVERSITIES?

Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák 🖸 Dávid Molnár

Ranjan Shankar, a promising physics student from Nepal, embodies the spirit of ambition and adaptability that defines today's global scholars. First to be awarded the Academic Excellence Scholarship from the University of Pécs, Ranjan's decision to pursue his education in Hungary rather than wait for admissions at U.S. universities reflects a journey of profound personal and academic growth.

| university life 🥚

What inspired you to pursue a degree in physics?

When I was in ninth grade, I felt a desire to branch out and explore new interests. Around the same time, I got my first internet connection, which opened up a world of knowledge for me. I started watching science videos on YouTube and found myself increasingly fascinated by the subject. This was inspiring; everyone had aspirations to pursue careers in physics, mathematics, or related fields.

What appealed to you about the European Education System and Europe?

Although I had the opportunity to study in the U.S. with substantial support, I felt that diving deep into physics at the UP would be a bet-



curiosity grew into a passion for physics. Also, participating in the Astronomy Olympiad, a national competition, in grade 10, was a pivotal experience for me. There, I met fellow enthusiasts from across the country. Engaging with them ter fit for me. I chose Pécs because I believed it aligned more closely with my academic and personal goals. The in-depth study of Physics, without worrying about the subject which I am not interested in, has helped me dive deeper into Physics. Its appealing environment and location in a European country, known for its rich cultural heritage, made it an attractive choice. I was eager to immerse myself in a completely different culture and experience life in Europe, so I committed to the UP without hesitation.

Now that I'm here, I'm thoroughly enjoying my time and am confident that I made the right decision.

Could you elaborate on your decision-making process?

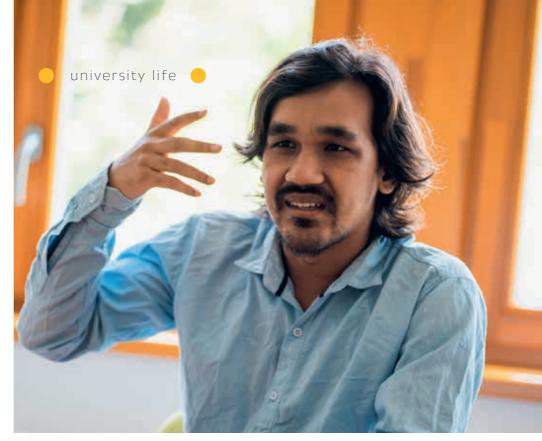
There were several universities that offered me partial scholarships, but they didn't cover all my expenses, which I couldn't afford. This financial aspect was a significant factor in my decision-making process. I needed to attend a university that provided a full scholarship, as anything less wouldn't be feasible for me.

I primarily applied to top-tier universities where I had a chance of receiving full funding. While there were many great schools that offered me partial scholarships, it wasn't enough to make attending them a viable option. So, I focused on institutions that could provide the comprehensive financial support I needed.

Ultimately, the UP was the best fit, offering both an excellent education in physics and the financial support necessary for me to attend. This allowed me to pursue my academic goals without the burden of unmanageable costs.

What were some of the factors you considered when choosing UP?

The UP appealed to me for numerous reasons. The town itself is small and charming, which is a significant change from the crowded places I've lived in before. I've always preferred studying in quieter, less hectic settings.



The safety in Pécs is remarkable. I often see campus security patrolling. I haven't encountered or heard about any unsafe incidents. This sense of security is very reassuring.

Before coming here, I researched the area online and was struck by its beauty. Despite evaluating it based on various objective factors, I couldn't ignore how visualyly appealing it is, which added to its allure. The scholarship I received also played a crucial role, as it made it possible for me to afford the education here.

I am confident that graduating from this university will open up many opportunities for me. Hungary has a strong reputation for science education. The practical approach to science education in Hungary, which is different from the more theoretical focus in the Indian subcontinent, aligns well with my interests.

How did you feel when you got accepted with a full scholarship?

It was a moment of immense joy. I remember getting the call while having dinner and feeling a surge of happiness and relief. The scholarship included medical insurance, which was a huge help.

Can you tell us more about this scholarship?

My scholarship, named the Academic Excellence Scholarship, covers full tuition, dormitory placement, and medical insurance. When I received the scholarship, I was ecstatic, especially since I was the first recipient of this newly established scholarship. Explaining this scholarship to others, including during my visa interview, was sometimes challenging as it was not widely recognized or previously existed.

The visa interview experience was memorable. Despite having

to wait for several hours, the interviewer was impressed by my academic achievements. However, when it came to explaining my scholarship, the interviewer initially did not believe such a scholarship existed. I had to clarify that it was a newly established scholarship and show the detailed offer letter. Eventually, I was able to convince her by explaining the unique nature of the scholarship and my journey through the Opportunity Funds Program.

The scholarship requirements seemed to take a holistic approach, focusing on my motivation letter, academic achievements, and overall application. I prepared extensively for the interview, revisiting my high school physics and brushing up on university-level concepts. The interview questions turned out to be simpler than I anticipated, allowing me to answer them in detail, which seemed to impress the professor. My detailed and thorough approach to answering questions likely contributed to my successful acceptance.

How has your experience at the UP been so far?

Our physics department has about 10 students this year, which is considered a large number compared to previous years. The small class size fosters a close-knit, diverse environment, with students from various parts of Asia, Africa to Central America. This diversity enriches our classroom interactions and makes learning more enjoyable.The small class size means that lecturers know us well.

In addition to academics, our department offers a vibrant extracurricular scene. We have an organization called the Physics Circle that hosts events regularly, such as Christmas evenings and quiz nights. These events provide opportunities to socialize with both international and Hungarian students, as well as professors, in a more relaxed setting. I recall an instance where I was casualyly drinking wine with a professor, which was a new and somewhat surreal experience for me, coming from a South Asian culture. The supportive and interactive environment in the physics department has been instrumental in my growth as a student and a researcher.

BUILDING DREAMS



Could you share with us what motivated you to pursue a Master's degree in Architecture at UP?

I grew up in Nigeria. I wanted to study outside Nigeria due to the challenges in our education system, including frequent strikes that prolonged academic programs. The desire for better educational standards and exposure led me to explore opportunities abroad. I considered various countries like the UK, US, Canada, and Hungary.

AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TURNED ASSISTANT LECTURER

In the pursuit of higher education, the motivations that drive individuals are often as diverse as the paths they choose to tread. For one international student, hailing from the vibrant landscapes of Nigeria, the quest for excellence in architecture led to a transformative journey at the University of Pécs. David Ojo is now moving from the university benches to the cathedral, inspiring the next generation as a university lecturer. His ongoing PhD in architecture and his focus on sustainability perfectly reflect his commitment to shaping the future of the profession.

Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

Hungary stood out for its affordable yet high-quality education, particularly in architecture. The University of Pécs caught my attention, especially with its user-friendly website and prompt responses to my inquiries. The smooth application process and positive interactions encouraged me to pursue my studies there.

Why teaching? What was attractive about the academic career?

Initially, I didn't consider academia despite gaining teaching experience during my undergraduate years. However, graduating during the COVID-19 pandemic made job prospects uncertain. I received an offer from the Dean and my supervisor to work at the university, which I accepted out of necessity. It was during my first year of work that I

realized academia was my calling. Unlike the predictable routine of a 9-to-5 job in architecture, academia offered versatility. It involved teaching, research, and student projects, allowing me to nurture creativity and stay at the forefront of the field. Despite the long hours, the dynamic nature of academia keeps me engaged and allows me to continuously grow as both a teacher and a researcher. The synergy between teaching and research enhances my effectiveness in both domains and contributes to the overall academic environment.

Pursuing a Ph.D. in Architectural Engineering at the Breuer Marcell Doctoral School of Architecture must present its own set of challenges and opportunities. Can you share some insights into your research interests and how you

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envision your doctoral studies contributing to the field of architecture?

Balancing studies and a full-time job presents its challenges, but it's an endeavor I'm deeply committed to. My research focuses on solutions for adaptability in residential buildings, addressing the need serves as a guide for future urban and residential projects, fostering innovation in the field.

Reflecting on your academic journey at the University of Pécs, are there any memorable moments or experiences that stand out to you? How has your time at the university enriched nessing the transition from design to reality was transformative. It solidified my passion for sustainable architecture and set me on my current research path. Additionally, Dr. Ágnes Borsos played a pivotal role in my academic journey. Her mentorship, opportunities for involvement, and dedication to



for structures to evolve alongside dynamic environments and changing human needs. Sustainability is a key aspect of my research, aiming to create buildings that last longer and minimize environmental impact. My goal is to develop an adaptable building model that

your understanding of architecture?

One standout experience was my participation in the Solar Decathlon, a design-build competition that ignited my interest in sustainability. Working on-site, building a fully functioning house, and witstudent growth shaped my career trajectory. The interior design course she taught not only influenced my research but also fostered my appreciation for detail-oriented design. My time at the university has enriched my understanding of architecture by providing handson experiences, mentorship, and opportunities for growth.

How do you believe your education and experiences at the University of Pécs have prepared you for your current and future endeavors in the field of architecture?

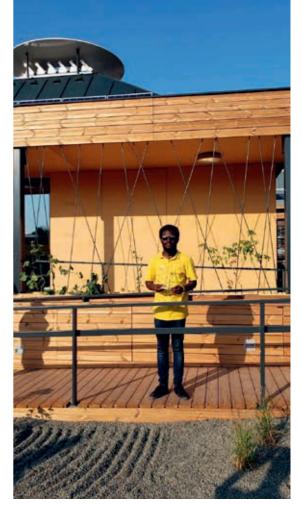
My education at the University of Pécs has equipped me with diverse experiences and knowledge



crucial for navigating the multifaceted field of architecture. The broad curriculum provided insights into various aspects of architecture, teaching me to adapt and excel in different domains. The rigorous workload and emphasis on time management prepared me for the demanding nature of the profession, where efficiency and prioritization are key. Additionally, my involvement in academia has fostered a lifelong learner mentality, essential for staying abreast of advancements in the field and continuously improving as a teacher and researcher. Interacting with international classmates and faculty members enriched my perspective and taught me to appreciate diverse viewpoints, a skill invaluable in a globalized profession.

What sets the University of Pécs apart as a destination for aspiring architects and researchers? The University of Pécs distinguishes itself by fostering a supportive and innovative learning environment. The faculty's dedication to student success is evident through their proactive approach to mentorship and involvement in student growth. Small consultation groups allow for personalized attention and guidance, enhancing the learning experience. The university's commitment to innovation is reflected in its dynamic curriculum, which challenges students to tackle relevant issues and embrace technological advancements while maintaining architectural standards. Additionally, Pécs's historical charm and international atmosphere provide a unique backdrop for academic pursuits, offering students a culturally enriching experience. The university's emphasis on excellence, innovation. and student-centered education makes it an ideal destination for aspiring architects and researchers seeking a comprehensive and fulfilling academic journey.

You were an international student ambassador at the University of Pécs. Could you elaborate on that experience?



It began in my final year at the university. I saw it as an opportunity to give back to the university that had provided me with an exceptional education and a second home in Pécs. The ambassador program involved various activities aimed at promoting the university to potential students. We started with simple initiatives like Instagram takeovers, where we shared our daily experiences as students. We participated in webinars, especially for Stipendium Hungaricum students and others interested in studying at the university.

One memorable aspect of the experience was the impact it had on prospective students' decisions. For example, I recall interacting with a student from Nigeria who eventually became my flatmate. He reached out to me through Instagram after seeing my posts as an ambassador, and our conversation led to him choosing to study at the University of Pécs. Knowing that my efforts played a role in his decision was truly rewarding.

What advice would you offer to current or future students, especially those pursuing studies in architecture or related fields?

One piece of advice I always emphasize is to read the syllabus thoroughly. It may seem simple, but the syllabus contains valuable information that guides your academic journey. Another crucial aspect, especially for students in architecture or related fields, is to put in the work. Architecture is as much about collaboration as it is about individual effort. Your ability to excel depends on your dedication to the work and your willingness to engage with your instructors and peers.

In architecture, practicing and honing your skills is essential. Whether it's sketching, design, or technical aspects, improvement comes through consistent practice. Dedicate time to developing your abilities, and don't be afraid to seek guidance from instructors or peers when needed. Remember, every architect has unique talents, and success comes from



leveraging those strengths while continuously improving weaker areas.

Lastly, find a balance between dedication to your studies and maintaining a fulfilling personal life. Architecture can be demanding, but it doesn't have to consume every aspect of your life. Prioritize your well-being, manage your time effectively, and cultivate interests outside of academia. Finding this balance will not only enhance your academic performance but also contribute to your overall happiness and success.



EDUC DAY IN PÉCS

The Central UP Office of the European Digital UniverCity held an information day for all university citizens in April at the Trafik. The day-long event started with a round table discussion, during which the interested participants could learn about EDUC's objectives and opportunities with the help of Dr. István Tarrósy, International Director and EDUC Institutional Head, Dr. András Komócsi, Vice-Rector for Science, and Dr. József Betlehem, Vice-Rector for General, Strategy and Relations.

DUC is a consortium of eight European Universities aiming at the digitisation of higher education and the creation of an integrated European University. Since 2019, the University of Pécs has been part of the European University Alliance (EDUC), which was established in 2017 with the aim of making European higher education more competitive in the global space, both in terms of education and research.

Dr István Tarrósy said that

EDUC has not only provided the ammunition to further strengthen internationalisation, but also actually ready-made handholds, ideas, good practices and good models. The members of the partnership share their culture, knowledge, skills and resources in order to achieve common goals, which will help each institution to become more visible in the international arena, and thus provide better quality collaborations and opportunities for stu-

dents, teachers and administrative colleagues.

Dr. József Betlehem, Vice-Rector for General, Strategy and Relations at UP, said that from the beginning, the common dimension was to establish a European way of thinking in which European universities help each other, in which excellent universities can be even more excellent", and added that in the last cycle, there have been very significant advances in terms of the many platforms for



EDUC

promoting student activities, referring to the need to transform physical activities and mobility into some form of digital space due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, Dr. József Betlehem emphasized that this has led to an increased interest in short-term mobility programs, and online courses have also become increasingly popular.

Regarding the current state of scientific and research fields, Dr. András Komócsi, Vice-Rector for Science, said that "in the case of a university, in addition to teaching, the diversity of scientific life and the presentation of its results are also very important. The EDUC cooperation affects the daily life of the University of Pécs in several dimensions, and in fact, it is so interwoven and involves so many programs that it is not so easy to answer this question."

Due to its nature as a university association, EDUC already has a lot of activities that have been initiated, aimed at and implemented to exploit synergies between the participating universities. In this sense, the exploration of joint scientific projects and synergies between the participating universities, the mapping and sharing of scientific infrastructures for the benefit of the application results is a very important element of this process", said Dr. András Komócsi.

Dr. István Tarrósy also stressed that one of EDUC's important objectives is to bring the research and other infrastructures of the universities participating in the alliances closer together, to harmonise different governance concepts, and to create a large virtual campus before our eyes. In the case of EDUC, this could be a virtual campus of 200,000 students, where different opportunities, calls for proposals, can appear. The aim is to give current and future students the opportunity to develop their own creativity in research methodology, in solving practical problems, and to move flexibly between different countries, sectors, disciplines, languages and career paths.

Dr András Komócsi stressed, EDUC is not just a successful bid, not just a collaboration where we get together from time to time and discuss how we can be more successful, but actually a story of concrete results, now fortunately looking back over many years and hopefully with a long future ahead of us.





EDUC QUARTERLY

YOUR WORLD JUST GOT BIGGER.

Subscribe to stay updated on events, calls, and opportunities from the European Digital UniverCity.

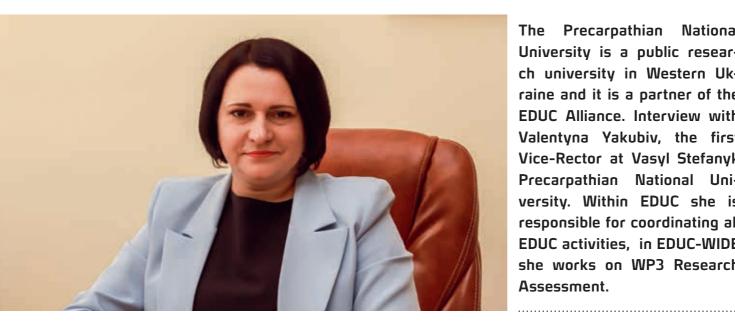
Stay tuned for updates to broaden your perspectives and enhance your educational experience.





UKRAINIAN PARTNER STRENGTHENS EDUC-WIDE

EDUC



Éva Harka

Since 2022, you have been an associated partner university of EDUC. What are your experiences with the alliance so far? Do you have any previous connections with other alliance members?

PNU has been an associated partner university of EDUC for almost 2 years, and it has been a wonderful experience. The collaboration has opened numerous opportunities for our researchers. We also appreciate the strong sense of community and shared values among the EDUC member institutions. Before 2022 PNU had experience working with Masaryk University.

Your strategy includes internationalising your research in

nanotechnology. What kind of research are you conducting in this field, and what collaborations do you anticipate within **EDUC-WIDE?**

We focus on the synthesis of nanomaterials and the study of their structure, morphology, chemical composition, and magnetic, electrical, optical, thermal and electrochemical properties. As a result of cooperation with scientists within EDUC-WIDE, we expect to find partners for joint research and projects in the areas of nanomaterials and nanotechnology application to develop new solutions in applied materials science.

One of the goals of the PNU strategy is to make our research visible internationally. We strive to achieve this because our research results are of world-class quality.

The Precarpathian National University is a public research university in Western Ukraine and it is a partner of the EDUC Alliance. Interview with Valentyna Yakubiv, the first Vice-Rector at Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University. Within EDUC she is responsible for coordinating all EDUC activities, in EDUC-WIDE she works on WP3 Research Assessment.

EDUC-WIDE will significantly aid in this effort, particularly by offering training and workshops on open science practices, including open-access publishing, data management, and digital tools for research dissemination.

In your opinion, in which directions should Europe focus its innovations?

From my research background, I believe one of the most important directions is the emphasis on recycling, reusing, and reducing waste to create a more sustainable economic model. Additionally, the current war has highlighted the critical importance of cybersecurity. Therefore, the focus should be strengthening cybersecurity measures to protect data, infrastructure, and individuals in an increasingly digital world.

EDUC

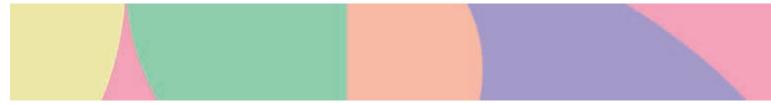
NEW HEAD AT THE EDUC UP OFFICE

There has been a change of personnel at the UP office of the EDUC European Digital UniverCity Alliance: as of 1 July, Dr. Ágnes Temesi, is the new head of the office.

The new office manager is a Pécs native and an alumna of the Faculty of Law. After graduation, she worked at the Pécs District Office of the Government Office and later at the Centre of the Education Office in Pécs. I was looking for challenges, for a job with a variety of tasks. When the advertisement came my way, I felt called, says Dr. Ágnes Temesi. As far as EDUC is concerned, she underlines, "I think that alliances of all kinds are very important: I be-

lieve that everyone benefits from the cooperation of several actors, both at community and individual level. From what I have learned so far about the EDUC European Digital UniverCity Alliance, it is a wonderful opportunity. It is not only the mobility opportunities that are important but also the cooperation with partner universities that will shape the future of higher education in Europe.





BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

As a member of the EDUC European University Alliance, the University of Pécs is organizing a community-building training event for the staff of European university alliances from October 1-4, 2024, in Pécs. The PTE EDUC Office, which operates within the International Centre of the University of Pécs, will organize the event.

In 2019, the European Commission initiated the establishment of European university alliances; now, there are 64 alliances in Europe. The institutional communication coordinators continuously face new challenges, mainly in the fields of community building and intra-alliance communication.

The training, targeting the Community Managers and Hungarian colleagues of the European university alliances, aims to address these challenges through the sharing of good practices, theoretical and practical ideas, information, lectures, workshops, and community-building programs.

During the 4-day training, the program will highlight the meeting of university representatives of alliances from Hungary. With the involvement of the Tempus Public Foundation, this event provides an excellent opportunity for participants to share their good practices and strengthen their professional community within higher education in Hungary. The organizers expect participants from 12 Hungarian universities. On the first day, this strengthening will take place in a separate section while the program continues in parallel for the other participants.

The main goal of the organizers is to facilitate future community-building work for the participating Hungarian colleagues, strengthen the relationship between the alliances and Hungarian universities, and provide opportunities to organize similar events with a traditional purpose.

THE VIETNAMESE GIRL WHO GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL STUDYING IN HUNGARIAN

university life 🥚

Pham Nhat Linh is a special creation: she came to Pécs from Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam with a population of more than eight million, in the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme, learned Hungarian, graduated in law and is currently researching the possibilities of utilizing the Hungarian and European legal systems in her home country as a research assistant at the Vietnamese General Prosecutor's Office. She was the first Vietnamese student at the UP International Studies Centre and the first Asian student at the Faculty of Law and Political Science to study law in Hungarian. A true pioneer!

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

How can a Vietnamese girl know about Pécs and the UP? I have been asked this question many times! After graduating from high school, I studied at Hanoi Law University for a year, where I was introduced to the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship. It was a great opportunity for me to study in Europe, in Hungary to be precise. Before applying online, I tried to find out more about this country and its universities. It caught my attention that the UP was the first university in Hungary. After some serious research, I thought that the high quality of education and the calm and comfortable atmosphere of the city were the two most important factors that made me choose UP. I think I made the right decision. If I had to choose again, Pécs and UP would always be my first choice.

You graduated from the university studying in Hungarian. Where did you learn Hungarian so well?

Before I came to Hungary, I didn't speak any Hungarian at all, so I had to take part in a language preparation programme. In the first semester I studied Hungarian grammar and vocabulary, while in the second semester I studied European and Hungarian history. Thanks to this, I passed the Hungarian B2 language exam and applied for university. I was the first Vietnamese student at the UP International Studies Centre. I got a lot of help from the teachers and my language skills helped me to be able to get my law degree.

Language difficulties always proved to be the biggest challenge for me during my studies, but I think any international student would answer this question in the same way. In the first semester, I had a very hard time following the lectures because my technical vocabulary was not at the right level but I studied and performed in law like any other Hungarian student! It was tough. I am the first foreign student of the faculty to study in Hungarian, no one before me had a similar experience. The professors helped us a lot, they even organized extra professional language classes for us to better follow the lectures and the course material. I am very grateful for their support, without them I would not have been able to complete this course.

What were your favourite subjects, who were your favourite teachers?

For me, criminal law was the most interesting subject. I wrote my thesis on the same subject, dealing with sexual offences, and I am very happy that I achieved a good result with my thesis. It is very difficult to name just a few of my favourite teachers! First of all, I am grateful to Professor Adrián Fábián, without whose help I would not have been able to study law. He asked me about all our concerns, discussed all our questions and found solutions to all our problems. I would also like to thank Dr János Jusztinger, Dr István Gál and Dr Csabáné Herger for all their support and for the opportunity they gave me!

Can you tell us about a memorable event in Pécs, such as an exam or a party, that you remember fondly?

I have a lot of fond memories, but if I have to talk about one particular moment, the day of the civil law final exam comes to my mind, when I sat the exam in front of Dr. János Jusztinger and Dr. Tibor Fabó. Dr Fabó immediately recognised me from my online exam (I had taken an online exam with him during the coronavirus epidemic), and I had also met Dr. Jusztinger before. They both congratulated me on passing the exam. Dr. Jusztinger even published a post about me on his Facebook page, and that surprised me a lot.

I will always be grateful to him for his help, for cheering me on to achieve my goals. He was the first to acknowledge my efforts and ambitions. I was motivated to get recognition from the instructors, that was the biggest success and happiness for me. That is why I still consider this memory unforgettable and heartwarming. I lived in Pécs for the whole six years of my studies and have only fond memories of the city. I love the atmosphere, the people, the little cafés... Pécs is my second home.

How can you benefit from a Hungarian degree?

On the one hand, the knowledge acquired in Hungary is the biggest advantage for me when researching the Hungarian and other European legal systems. My goal is to draw the right lessons for my home country, Vietnam, and thus contribute to the recent legal reform process. On the other hand, I have mastered critical and logical thinking on both theoretical and practical levels at the law school in Pécs.

I understand you graduated in 2022. What are your plans for the future?

As I had a scholarship, I went straight back to Vietnam after graduating from law school. After my first successful professional examination in law, I have been working as a clerk at the Legal and Prosecution Management Department of the General Prosecutor's Office in Vietnam since November 2023. We mainly do professional research and academic work with regards to laws and decisions.

My main goal at the moment is to work hard and try to pass the bar exam in the next four years to become a first-degree prosecutor in Vietnam. Through the link between the Vietnamese and Hungarian General Prosecutor's Offices, officials like me can receive training on cybercrime in Hungary. As I am interested in criminal law, if I get the opportunity, I will definitely apply for this short-term programme and continue my studies in this field, again in Hungary.

THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER UNIVERSITY IN PÉCS TURNS 25

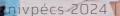
The Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University aims to provide participants with an enjoyable and effective way to learn the Hungarian language and gain cultural experience. The programme has attracted great interest year after year, with many students returning to further develop their language skills in a varied and interactive learning environment.

ore than 60 students from 23 countries, from Austria to Australia, from the USA to Venezuela, from Norway to Chile, attended the programme. The two-week summer programme offers participants the opportunity to learn Hungarian at 9 different language levels. In addition to the classroom activities, students can learn about Hungarian gastronomic traditions, take part in thematic walks, visit the film club or improve their pronunciation in the phonetics club. These clubs offer additional opportunities to practise and develop the language in an interesting and varied way. The trainers of the course have been working together for

several years. Many have been involved in the development of the curriculum, which guarantees high quality teaching and fresh, relevant material. The MagyarOK family of textbooks, written by Szilvia Szita and Katalin Pelcz, is used by the participants in the summer university, which follows the methods of model-based teaching, with a particular emphasis on the transmission of living language knowledge, natural language use and Hungarian cultural knowledge that allows for the presentation and comparison of the students' culture. The programme is organised by the International Education Centre.

The MagyarOK coursebook series, published under the supervision of the University of Pécs, is a one of a kind that leads Hungarian as a Foreign Language learners from beginner level to the gates of advanced language use. The aim is to write material that provides students with accurate knowledge of the language by means of promoting continuous and conscious learning with transparent methodology.

QR: magyar-ok.hu/en/home. html



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WHY TAKE A LANGUAGE EXAM?



WE SPOKE TO RÉKA WERNER, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECL EXAMINATION CENTRE.

Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák 🗖 Csortos Szabolcs

Would you introduce the ECL exam in a few words?

The ECL examination centre has been operating at the University of Pécs for 25 years. Its special feature is that it is an examination system operating in the Hungarian context, accredited by the Educational Authority Accreditation Centre for Foreign Language Examinations. At the same time, it is also an internationally recognised language examination, as the Hungarian and German language exams also have international accreditation. This means that ECL language certificates in German are accepted by German embassies around the world for employment and visa purposes. Currently, there are no other Hungarian-based examination centres that offer this kind of international accreditation.

There are around 200 ECL examination centres world-wide, correct?

We currently have exactly 169 active examination sites around the world and ECL exams are availab-



le in 38 countries. We have exam sites in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Our biggest markets are Africa and Asia.

What languages are tested in the ECL examination system? We provide language exams in 15 languages in total. The Eng-

15 languages in total. The English, Hungarian and German exams are accredited in Hungary. Examinations in other languages (Italian, French, Polish, Slovak, Spanish, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Russian, Czech, Croatian and Hebrew) can be nostrificated. English is the language that most candidates register for in Hungary, while German is the language selected for 95% of candidates abroad.

Can international students take exams in any of the 15 languages in Hungary?

Of course! Our language exam is monolingual. This means that there is no translation task, so there is no obstacle for a foreign student to take a language exam in any language because a language test measures knowledge in the target language. The ECL exam is open to anyone over the age of 14 in the calendar year of application.



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SHORT, ENJOYABLE, REWARDING



▲ Earlier this year, the Hungarian Marketing Association awarded the Marketing Diamond Award to UP Study Abroad.

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

The summer university programmes are complex, but what makes them so popular?

Every year we expand the number and type of programmes we offer to students. In addition to the European Studies Summer University, which has been popular in previous years, this year we have also offered Leadership, InternaA new kind of summer university programme is being organised, this year Pécs Summer School students can return home with micro-credits that can be credited. The number of applicants is growing, many of whom are returning for paid, full degree programmes. Dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai, Head of the Study Abroad and Summer University Office of the International Centre revealed workshop secrets.

tional Human Rights and Debate Skills programmes, in two- and four-week formats. The high quality of teaching was ensured by lecturers from the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Eduaction and Regional Development. Participants came from four continents, 48 universities and represented 22 nationalities. Our goal is to help students learn more and more about Hungarian culture, the city of Pécs, the county and each other's culture, and to this end we are constantly expanding our community programmes.

This is based on very thorough market research, a large number of partnerships, a lot of promotional activities and the work of a whole team. There are different types of summer universities around the world, and I am happy to say that we are involved in all of them! We have what we call open summer schools, which anyone can apply for. In addition to the previous tailor-made programmes, in 2024 we welcomed for the first time a faculty-led group from a US partner university. We also keep an eye on scholarship opportunities, having successfully applied for the Tempus Public Foundation's interstate scholarship, the Diaspora Summer University programme and, for the first time this year, we have hosted a large group of students through the UK Turing Scheme scholarship programme.

How is the Study Abroad programme developing?

Study abroad is a short-cycle, semester- or academic-year-long, tuition-fee-based programme that is in high demand in a growing number of higher education markets. The programme is flexible, allowing students to mix courses from several faculties. Originally developed for students in the US, we have successfully expanded the programme to other higher education markets, including Mexico, Japan and China. We have also successfully applied again for the Indonesian Government's Excellence Scholarship Programme. This autumn we will welcome 78 students under this programme. This makes UP one of the largest groups of Indonesian scholarship students in the world for a full semester!

#BEYONDEXPECSTATION

Thirty-nine enthusiastic Indonesian students completed their studies at the University of Pécs in December 2024, as participants of a scholarship program offered by the Indonesian government.

The government of Indonesia launched a special scholarship program for high-achieving students. It is with great pride that the highest number of Indonesian students participated in the program at the University of Pécs in two faculties during the autumn semester of 2023.

Ifan Mahdiyat Sofiana, a staff member of the Indonesian Embassy in Hungary welcomed the students. He said that their identity is defined by the fact that they build on relationships and experiences outside their country. The leaders of the two student groups summarized their experiences in Pécs. Nur An Nuha Muniroh praised the diagnostic laboratories at the Faculty of Health Sciences: It was a great experience to learn about the most modern diagnostic equipment, and we really appreciated the opportunity! Muhammad Ghozian Rosis discussed how diverse and impactful the study experiences were in Pecs with the expression #BeyondexPECStation.

The Indonesian scholarship program continues in 2024.



SUMMER '24 SHINE BRIGHT



The University of Pécs organised six different summer schools this year as part of the Pécs Summer School, which attracts students from all over the world. The programmes took place in five periods during July, August and even during the Autumn in two- and four-week cycles, and cover a wide spectrum of academic and cultural content. For the first time this year, students will also receive a micro-certificate for completing the programme.

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

ur long-term goal is to connect as many students as possible to the University of Pécs, either in the form of shorter-term programmes or longer-term degree programmes. So far, this strategy is working well and the number of students enrolling in these programmes is steadily increasing. We also think it is important to spice up and enrich our bilateral contacts, said Dr István Tarrósy, Director of the International Center.

We asked Blessing Onwudiwe, a student of the Pécs Summer School - European Studies and Leadership programme from Nigeria, why she chose UP: There were two main reasons that influenced my choice. First, the programme came highly recommended by former students who praised the quality of the school, the studies and the overall experience. They particularly appreciated the exposure to European culture and the relaxed learning

| univpécs 2024 |

environment during the summer school placement. Secondly, the nice weather also played a big role!

In addition to the various summer university courses, the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the US also runs three summer courses at UP for its own students. The so-called "faculty-led programme" is becoming increasingly popular in American universities. This means that one or more faculty members take their own university group to a partner university abroad during the summer, where they can continue their studies in the same seamless way. We have managed to make an agreement with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where three of their instructors accompany a group of 24 students and teach three different classes at the University of Pécs over a period of four weeks. We also organise a number of cultural programmes and field trips for the students, explained Dr Gyöngyi Pozsgai, Head of Study Abroad and Summer School Office.

university life 🔴

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA DAY: FOSTERING ACADEMIC HARMONY



The University of Pécs welcomed esteemed delegates from four distinguished universities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2024.

Representatives from each university (University of Tuzla, University of Mostar, University of Banja Luka, University of Sarajevo, University of Pécs) had the opportunity to introduce themselves, offering insights into their institutions' rich histories and academic offerings. Participants delved into multifaceted dimensions of academic collaboration. In the words of H.E. Biljana Gutic-Bjelica, Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Hungary, *This is an excellent start and opportunity to promote each other's institutions, to keep young people in this region*.

Dr. István Tarrósy, director of the International Centre of UP emphasized the need for sustained dialogue and collaboration. Communication at the level of science, education, and innovation will help us to solve problems collectively. Dr. József Betlehem, Vice-Rector of UP emphasized: International cooperation is a key element for each university.

CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE BALKANS

In 2023, under the leadership of Professor Norbert Pap, UP submitted an Hungarian Scientific Research Found (OTKA) proposal on behalf of the Centre for Historical and Political Geography of the Szentágothai Research Centre, with the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies as consortium partner. The OTKA research will allocate 48 million HUF over 4 years to the strategic objective of the PTE.

It will examine the region in four thematic areas, exploring the interaction between the changing great power and small state situations in the Balkans, the development of national identities, images of Europe, border perceptions, transnational thinking and self-images, and also what the Hungarian economy can and does in this Balkan context. The study of Hungarian cross-border areas is also important for cross-border cooperation. About 30 researchers are involved in the research process, not only Hungarians, but also Bosnians and Turks.

RARE GOLD COIN AND FUTURE VISITOR CENTRE IN TURBÉK

We stand with our feet in the ground in the middle of the archaeological site, the silence broken only by birdsong, surrounded by small piles of dirt, small markers and carefully spread archaeological tools everywhere. Two researchers bend down to carefully clean an old stone remnant with a brush. This is none other than the site of the excavation of the former mausoleum of Sultan Suleiman I at Turbék. On the basis of a contract signed between the Szentágothai János Research Centre of the UP and the Turbe of Gül Baba Heritage Foundation, researchers set out once again to uncover the secrets of the site in Turbékpuszta, which they announced at a press conference and field visit in Szigetvár in June 2024.

Kovács-Csincsák Mercédesz | 🖸 UnivTv



The research was started in 2013 under the leadership of Dr. Norbert Pap, and by 2015 the first significant result was achieved: the turbe of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I, who died in 1566 during the siege of Szigetvár, was discovered. Since the beginning of the research, the research team from Pécs, supported by the Turkish state agency TIKA, has been working hard to uncover the turret built on the vineyard. The discovery is of not only historical but also of cultural significance, as it has brought a piece of the past back to the present, giving us the opportunity to better understand the shared history of the Ottoman Empire and Hungary.

The search can be compared to a giant jigsaw puzzle, where every find, every tiny piece contributes to the big picture. The painstaking work of the researchers reveals the details



that make the past accessible to the present.The results published in recent years have given us a deeper insight into the world of medieval Ottoman architecture and culture.

The new research phase aims to systematically scan around 50% of the area. This will not only contribute to scientific knowledge, but will also pave the way for the planning of a museum facility to be established at a later date. In the year 2024, a systematic survey of the site will be carried out in order to determine how the heritage values can be properly explored and the infrastructure needed to present them can be placed on the site, explains Dr. Norbert Pap, professor at the Szentágothai János Research Centre of the University of Pécs.

The finds from the sections excavated so far already enrich the historical significance of the area. The most remarkable find was an extremely rare gold coin from Genoa, but it bears a Venetian pattern. The coin is special not only because there are less than ten of them in the world, but also because it is historically significant.

It is rare because in the middle of the 16th century coins of this type were minted only for a short period. When the Venetians noticed that the Genoese were making gold coins just like theirs, they immediately protested. Because of this, there are only a few of them in the world and their value is quite high, said Dr. Máté Kitanics, research fellow at the Szentágothai János Research Centre. The gold coin weighs 3.5 grams and is about 20 mm in diameter.

Research is not only the work of archaeologists, but also a community effort.

In addition to Hungarian archaeology and geography students, Turkish students also participate in the research, and this year we were



joined by students from South Africa, the United States, China, Japan and Uruguay, said Dr. Erika Hancz, Head of Excavation, Archeologist and Assistant Research Fellow at the Department of Archaeology at UP. This international cooperation not only raises the quality of research, but also contributes to building cultural and scientific relations.

With the planned visitor centre, the excavation at Turbék will pro-

vide a unique insight into a significant period of the Ottoman era. The results achieved and the new excavations will provide an opportunity for those interested in history to better understand and appreciate the rich heritage of the past. The new research and the implementation of the visitor centre will not only increase interest in archaeology, but will also contribute to the cultural enrichment of the local community.



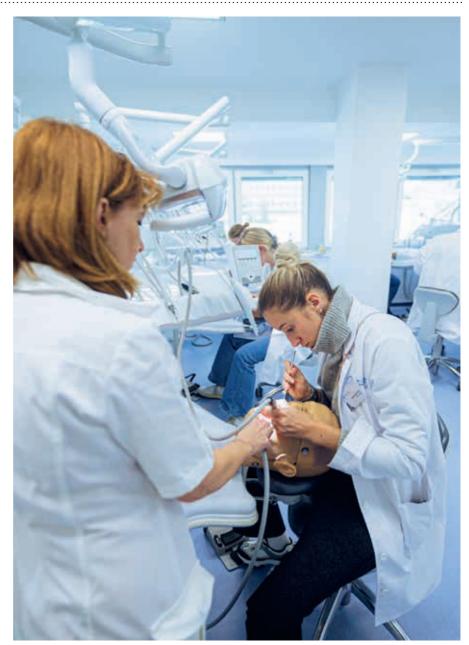
SKILL LAB ON 1700 SQUARE METRES

Hungary's largest European level skill laboratory was inaugurated in November 2023 at the Medical School of the University of Pécs.

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

The facility cost more than two billion forints and features a wide variety of manual disciplines, meaning that future doctors can practice in as many different simulation situations as possible to ensure they are properly prepared when they start treating a living, feeling patient.

The Medical School in Pécs wanted to have an ultramodern simulation centre: such a facility has been operating since 2015 on the 4th floor of the old main building, on 280 square metres. Now the institution has more than doubled this, not only in terms of area, but also in terms of equipment. It now houses a teaching theatre, a teaching laboratory with virtual and augmented reality technologies, dental classrooms and even a department of operative medicine. The new lab also supports the playback and recording of educational content, facilitating the development of digital curriculum. The skill lab will benefit all fields of medical and healthcare education, not only students but also doctors, specialists and the general public through their work.





THE UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS AT THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

We projected a moving image installation on the arches of the entrance to the Rector's Office and on the facade elements. Visitors were able to manipulate the patterns moving on the trees with

illuminated flower controllers in the middle of the space," says László Papp Pala, head of the Fényhangár. The team was selected by a competition, they projected on the square for four days.



TOUR DE HONGRIE

The final stage of the Tour de Hongrie arrived at Pécs on Sunday, 12 May 2024 where the participants had to climb the Bárány road hill three times.

Martina Aknai-Kiss 🔟 Szabolcs Csortos



zéchenyi Square in Pécs was already full with the tents of sponsors and exhibitors, the University of Pécs supporters' tent was open: the younger ones were attracted by getting glittering tattoos, the older ones by the virtual bike race and the prize draw with UP souvenirs. The competitors could be cheered on at several locations in the city, including the UP Szigeti Road Cheering Zone.

Thanks to the tailwind, the riders arrived in the city about 20 minutes before the scheduled time where they had to roll up Bárány road, which is a challenge even for a person used to sports, not to mention a challenge on foot and jogging, let alone on a bike! And three times! The finish line was at the Pécs Zoo. On the final 173-kilometre stage, the 117 cyclists conquered 3 categorised climbs and 2300 metres of ascent. The Siófok-Pécs stage was won by Dutchman Wout Poels, while Thibau Nys was the overall champion of the 45th Tour de Hongrie.

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR UNIVERSITY IS BIKE-FRI-ENDLY? A network of bike lanes connects all the faculties, so you can easily travel around using sustainable transportation. Explore the bike paths with the Bringázz Pécs App!

Recommended Bike Touring Routes:

- Pécs-Orfű: Ideal for those with good stamina
 Pécs-Pellérd: Perfect for a family-friendly ride, even suitable for kids.
- Ős-Dráva Roundtrip: Bike from the Ős-Dráva Visitor Center, visiting Kisinci Lake, Tésenfa, Kémes, and Cún.

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FLYING BLOODSUCKERS!

The UP National Virology Laboratory's research group focusing on disease vectors has been monitoring the situation, spread, and diseases carried by domestic mosquitoes for the past decade and a half. According to the studies, the mild winters and the settlement of new, Asian species may rearrange the already familiar mosquito season in the long term, which could last from the end of February to the end of October.

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

•he main invasive species in Hungary are the Asian tiger mosquito, the Korean mosquito, and the Japanese bush mosquito. The Asian tiger mosquito is 6-8 mm in size, its body is black, covered with a white/silvery pattern. It prefers to feed on humans. During one "meal", it can bite us several times. They fly low, primarily attacking the legs and ankles. The Korean mosquito has a dark brown body with a pattern of golden lines on its thorax. Its legs are striped, the femur is completely white. It bites both humans and domestic animals, mostly during the day. The Japanese bush mosquito is dark brown, with a black spot before the white section at the origin of the femur. It is active during the day and at dusk, feeding on other mammals besides humans.

The only effective way to prevent mosquitoes is to eliminate small bodies of water - we cannot eradicate them, but we can keep their numbers low. A single decilitre of water is enough for thousands of mosquitoes to be born every 1-2 weeks!

The presence of the mosquito itself, as a vector carrying pathogens and parasites, is not enough to cause serious epidemics. For this, the presence of the pathogen is necessary, as well as environmental factors that help to establish the chain of infection. A single imported case will not be spread by bloodsuckers, but with climate change, the conditions are becoming increasingly favorable for this!

The risk of diseases and potential epidemics is increased by large crowds and frequent encounters. In this respect, exotic species are usually highlighted, but it is good to know that the domestic ones are not far behind: the common and native common mosquito, for example, is one of the main potential vectors of West Nile fever, and is also capable of transmitting malaria.

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Identifying mosquitos: Mosquito Alert applications



GREEN SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN FLOODING

In response to the escalating challenges posed by extreme weather conditions, the University of Pécs has launched the innovative "Sponge City" programme, a collaborative international effort aimed at developing sustainable urban water management solutions. Starting January 2024, this initiative brings together experts from 12 countries to tackle urban flooding and enhance cities' resilience to climate change through cutting-edge research and green infrastructure projects.

Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

The extreme weather conditions of recent years, including intense rainfall events and dry spells, have increasingly highlighted the need for effective water management. Flooding and rapid run-off in urban areas is a major problem and new innovative solutions are needed.

Under the leadership of the University of Pécs, municipalities, water boards and development agencies from 12 countries are working together from January 2024 to June 2026 on the "Sponge City" programme. The researchers are taking a look at the city's topography, the risks posed by rainfall, and the infrastructure. They are developing an action plan to improve the city's stormwater management and carry out a feasibility study on one of the investment proposals in the action plan.

The increasing proportion of impervious surfaces due to climate change and urbanisation is a major contributor to the increase in surface runoff. Traditional engineering solutions often fail to adequately manage sudden rainfall events, which often lead to flooding and damage to urban infrastructure. The key to the solution lies in smart urban water management, one of the most effective elements of which is the use of rain gardens.

Rain gardens are green spaces that collect and store rainwater and slowly return it to the soil, reducing runoff and increasing groundwater. Such solutions are ecologically sustainable and environmentally friendly, contributing to improving the urban microclimate and increasing biodiversity.

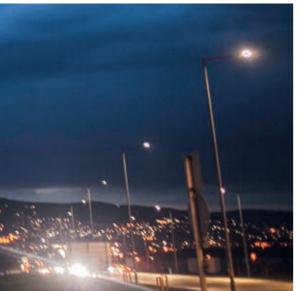




Researchers from the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Pécs are setting up an experimental rain garden in the university's botanical garden to study the effects of different soil mixes and plant coverings on infiltration. The project is based on the scientific works of Dr Ervin Pirkhoffer and Dr Szabolcs Czigány, who research flash floods at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Pécs. According to Dr Szabolcs Czigány rain gardens not only aid in water retention but also improve the ecological condition of the urban environment. By installing such gardens, rainwater is not directly discharged into the sewer system but infiltrates into the soil, thereby reducing runoff.

The 10x3 meter experimental area offers environmentally friendly solutions to help cities adapt to the challenges of climate change. The burial of five plastic containers below ground level allows for efficient rainwater collection and storage, while their filling with different soil mixes ensures proper filtration and absorption of water. These tanks, placed on the University of Pécs Ifjúság Road campus, are currently being filled.

The results of this research can be applied to urban rain garden investments. As a result, recommendations will be made to







the city administration to facilitate the design of rain gardens in public spaces similar to the one on Rákóczi street. The creation and testing of Pécs' rain gardens could be a crucial step in the city's sustainability efforts. The experience and results could inspire other cities to implement similar projects, making rain gardens a key element for the future of urban areas. university life 🧲



LET YOUR FIRST THOUGHT BE GREEN!



In 2022, the Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities was established on the initiative of the University of Pécs, and in 2024 it was expanded by two new members. In addition, in the spring semester of the academic year, as a result of the joint work of 11 Hungarian universities, an online sustainability course similar to the UI GreenMetric WUR initiative was launched, entitled Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The three-credit elective

UP remains the #1 greenest university in Hungary and the 23rd greenest in the world! In 2023, the University of Pécs ranked itself for the eighth time in the "UI GreenMetric World University Rankings" international programme. The University of Pécs was ranked 23rd among the world's greenest universities with 1183 universities, and for the fourth time out of the 12 Hungarian universities in the ranking, it was once again named the greenest Hungarian university. All this is thanks to the wide range of activities carried out under the Green University programme.

Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák 🗖 Szabolcs Csortos

course could be completed online and was the first major joint action of the platform, with 11 of its member universities participating.

In terms of small but important everyday events, from a recipe competition for eco-conscious eating to garbage collections aimed at primary school children and the promotion of stair climbing, the UP Green University programme has organised many activities to raise awareness. In a few decades, the most spectacular of these will be the 400 oak trees planted in the Mecsek by the programme's volunteers. Energy saving is becoming an increasingly important topic not only for researchers, but also for university citizens in their everyday lives - UP has launched several campaigns on energy awareness.

Greening transport is also a constant concern: this year, the

Green University focused on UP staff, with applications for bicycle usage among other things. No wonder that UP has been awarded the title "Cycling Friendly Workplace" for the third time.

QR: zoldegyetem.pte.hu





MY PÉCS

special program was opened in March 2024 as part of the International Seasons program series of the UP International Centre. The exhibition features photos taken by international students of UP. The theme of the exhibition is "My Pécs", and the photos capture what is important to international students about the city.

Éva Harka

| univpécs 2024 |



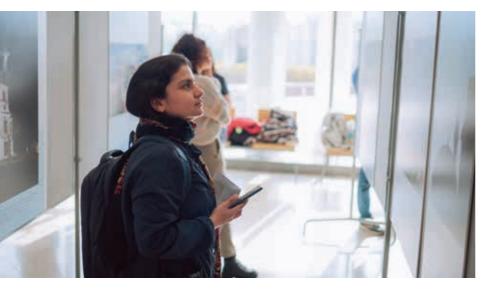




e wanted to see what is important about Pécs for the international students of PTE. That's why we announced the call for applications in December under the title My Pécs, said Péter Árvai, Deputy Director of the International Centre, at the opening of the event. He announced that a total of 37 applications were received from 7 different faculties of PTE. In addition to the diversity, you can also see that there are pictures where you don't understand at first glance why the buildings on them are important. But if you read the texts next to the photos, it turns out that there are serious stories and experiences behind them, said Péter Árvai.

The PTE International Centre originally intended the call to be a competition, but after seeing the photos received, they decided to reward all applicants with a large joint cultural program.

The exhibition is open until March 30th at the Knowledge Center. You can also view the photos online on the International Seasons Facebook page.





QR: facebook.com/InternationalSeasons-PTE



DISCOVER THE WORLD WITH INTERNATIONAL SEASONS!

Are you ready to embark on a global adventure without leaving Pécs? The University of Pécs proudly presents the International Seasons program series your ticket to exploring the diverse cultures of over 110 countries right here on campus!

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Don't miss out on this incredible chance to broaden your perspective and experience the richness of global cultures. Join us at the International Seasons and become part of a vibrant, multicultural community that celebrates diversity and learning.

For more information, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages. Get ready to discover the world at the University of Pécs!

QR: facebook.com/InternationalSeasonsPTE



"AFRICA IS WORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION"

UP'S AFRICA RESEARCH CENTRE IS 15 YEARS OLD



I think the first time I was confronted with how different the countries and cultures of Africa are was during a thematic day at a performance in Theatre Square. This educational, sensitising function has remained with us in recent times – what do you think, how lasting is the inte-

rest in Africa generated by

cultural events in Hungary? I think this educational, sensitising dimension is important. In April 2019 the Hungarian government published its Africa Strategy in the Hungarian Gazette, and earlier the so-called Opening to the South, yet society knows very little about how Hungary aspires to relations with Africa, and what it is doing in terms of building and developing relations. There is little information, plus it would be important to communicate all these without stereotypes, but at least in their complexity. Over the past decades, a Hungarian professional team has developed and strengthened that understands





this continent increasingly better. But it is important that this pool of experts is also able to explain clearly what it is dealing with and present it to our society in an appropriate way. We, in Pécs, have taken up this mission. I think this is a lifelong work, but perhaps there are already signs that these fresh and valid ideas about Africa are beginning to take hold in public life. In Pécs, certainly, but also nationally, I see trends that convey the message that it is indeed worthwhile to deal with Africa. We belong to the economically and technologically more advanced world, and we have a duty to ensure the transfer of technology and knowledge to the less developed South, namely Africa. Hungary is certainly leading the way in this by extending the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme to African countries,

which will ensure an increasingly strong Hungarian presence on the continent.

The research centre also has an internationally-renowned interdisciplinary journal, Africa Studies, which is without exaggeration Hungary's Africa journal. What can you tell me about its development, so far? Founded in 2007, this year marks the 18th year of its uninterrupted publication. Looking at who currently makes up the journal, the editorial board is backed by a strong international academic community, with leading Africanists from Japan, the Czech Republic, the US and several European and African countries. A few years ago, with the help of the University Library and Knowledge Centre of UP, we digitised everything and moved Africa Studies to the library's journal collection, and

introduced the OJS publication system. We publish three issues per year, two of which are published in English. Our materials are freely available online, and we publish one print summary volume per year. We would like to continue to involve PhD students in our work, I consider their presence indispensable.

The symposiums you organise are responsive to what is happening in the world, always presenting the continent in a new dimension.

Indeed, this responsiveness is very important, and we consider it an absolute priority to discuss current issues at these symposia and conferences. That is why this year we tried to reflect on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, its impact and consequences for the African continent in political, economic, social and other dimensions. We have added a special feature to the programme by giving an opportunity to colleagues from the Central and Eastern European region who are working on this issue to present their work, as this conflict is taking place in our immediate neighbourhood.

What fields of research do you focus on within the research centre?

There are several directions. One of them is the issue of relations with Afro-Asia, and in particular the Chinese presence across Africa. There are thousands of colleagues around the world working to understand Chinese-African relations. So we need to find niche topics that can position Hungarian researchers. We have a regionalisation strand that focuses specifically on the East African region.

As for the field work: you started working with the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in 2010. How did this relationship develop and where is it heading?

The Oder of Malta has a deep commitment to people living in the slums and segregated areas of metropolitan East Africa in particular. They are helping to ensure access to clean water, as they have experience in this field and they have dedicated financial resources. As researchers, we have been looking at the social embeddedness of this, at how people in their locality respond to initiatives from outside. I must emphasise that it is important not to 'take the solution there', as former European colonialists did, without any meaningful input from the local people, but to involve them from the very first idea of planning, so that they feel ownership of the project. Fortunately, colleagues in the Order of Malta have been working towards the latter for decades.

We are also planning further field projects, for example research into the characteristics of persecuted Christian communities in the Great Lakes region of East Africa.

What collaborations do the centre and the UP have with African higher education stakeholders?

We work with many African universities, from South Africa to Kenya and Rwanda to Ethiopia, from Botswana to Morocco, Tanzania and Nigeria. These are truly active university partnerships, where we mainly contribute to the development of teaching/learning methodologies, developing teaching materials together. Let's not forget that the University of Pécs led the establishment of the Study in Hungary recruitment office in Nairobi a few years ago! Thanks to our presence in Kenya, more and more people are getting to know higher education in Hungary and that of the UP among the six consortium partners. The number of enquiries has increased exponentially recently! The range of collaborating institutions and partners has also grown over the past 15 years. We are not only talking about university partnerships, but also NGOs, humanitarian partnerships, and even umbrella organisations for multilateral institutions.

If someone is about to apply for a university or thinking about doing a PhD related to Africa, where should she/he knock on the door, what kind of preliminary studies are needed?

Within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School at UP, there is an English-language programme that includes African topics. If someone wants to do a PhD on a topic related to Africa, this could be perfect for them, as long as they are coming from a political science background related to international politics.

We have put together an MA degree programme, which we will be able to implement jointly within the EDUC European university association. This will allow us to serve needs from Serbia to Romania, that can either support meaningful policies as academics, or can support development in Africa, or can promote economic relations between Africa and the different actors. Or they will be able to "merely" better understand the historical legacy, heritage, linguistics, cultural values of the African people. It will be an interdisciplinary training. I think that if we persevere and get the necessary funding, we will be able to launch the course in two or three years.



48





NAVIGATING GLOBAL TURBULENCE

In April 2024, during the AEGIS CRG Africa in the World Symposium of the PTE, experts gathered to explore global conflicts and regional dynamics. Dr. Danilo Babić, a Research Fellow at the Institute of International Politics and Economics, discussed the Sahel amidst the Russo-Ukrainian conflict.



He emphasized Africa's diversity, stating, *Africa is not a monolith block*. Babić advocated for investing in African agriculture for food security and reducing dependence on global markets: "*We need to shorten global value chains*. Regarding France and Niger, he noted, *France believes it is being pushed out by Russia*. He also referenced another theory: *The United States is trying to push France out of Africa because they believe France can no longer adequately represent the interests of the collective West on the continent*. Babić's insights highlight the complexities shaping African geopolitics, urging sustainable development amidst global turbulence.

More info: international.pte.hu/news/navigating-global-turbulence-interview-dr-danilo-babic



ALUMNI AT THE BUDAPEST–BAMAKO RALLY

As part of the International Seasons series of events, Zoltán Győrffy, UP's Director of Public Relations and Dr. István Tarrósy, UP's Director of International Centre, talked to alumni Dr. Tibor Gonda, István Szász and Zoltán Barnaki, who had taken part in the Budapest-Bamako Rally.

Martina Aknai-Kiss 🖸 Dr. Gobasz Team

The roundtable discussion entitled We Went, We Saw, We Came Back, that is We Took Part in the Budapest-Bamako Rally was held in a very good mood, with a lot of laughter and astonishing details. It was a conversation that could not have taken place without Zoltán Barnaki, as this trip fulfilled his ten-year dream. An economist who graduated from UP in 1990, he gave up his first years of peaceful retirement to fund his participation and hit the road. Finally, this year, with the full support of his family, he embarked on this great adventure with two friends, Dr Tibor Gonda, associate professor at UP and István Szász, a UP alumnus. For more than ten years, it's been my desire to take part in this rally. Actually, I was looking for adventure, I like to travel and see other countries. Luckily, I found two friends who joi-



ned me on the first word, but what we were really afraid of was how we would get along with each other for 30 days together. I can now say that we did very well, and I can honestly say that our friendship has deepened even more, said Zoltán Barnaki.

Dr. Tibor Gonda jokingly remarked that he never thought in his worst nightmare that he would participate in the Budapest-Bamako Rally, so he joined the team out of a sudden idea. I love to travel, I teach and research tourism, but as a responsible tourist, I would never go to a country that the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not recommend for travel. So, I thought it was the right time to break this rule, shared the UP lecturer, whose professional profile covers different areas of tourism.

István Szász graduated in history and geography at university, so he was mainly interested in cultures, landscapes and geography: Tibor and I visited India once, which was also a culture shock for me, and since then I think that everyone should go to a place like this for therapeutic purposes, and not to the tourist ghettos, but to the places where people really live, because that's how you can really get to know a country.

For understandable reasons,

the company placed great emphasis on navigation, as there were no designated routes during the trip, but they had internet connection all the way through, which allowed them to navigate with confidence. As experienced travellers, they were also equipped with a conventional map. The first serious challenge they faced was not on the African continent, but in Nice, where the clutch broke down, fortunately not far from a garage. According to Tibor Gonda, this was one of the most mentally stressful parts of the trip: 'We always hoped that we would go on Monday, we would go on Tuesday. If we had not gone on Wednesday, we would not have caught up with the rest of the field and we wouldn't have been able to enter Mauritania because we shared the same visa. But by Thursday night we were in Casablanca." The team can also count themselves

lucky from a health point of view, as while other teams have had to deal with serious illnesses such as dysentery, they have escaped relatively cheaply.

PDK-279

The three adventurers were also asked about how they were received by the people: For me, one of the positive experiences of the trip was meeting people, we were welcomed with friendship and love everywhere we went. I would add that as a private tourist I would certainly not have felt that way, but Budapest-Bamako has a status in these countries, Tibor Gonda pointed out. István Szász also told the audience about a more unpleasant side of the journey: Wherever we were going, as soon as children saw us from 100 metres away, they ran to us by the dozens. It is an incredibly young region, half the population are teenagers, and since the 1960s the population has increased fivefold in almost

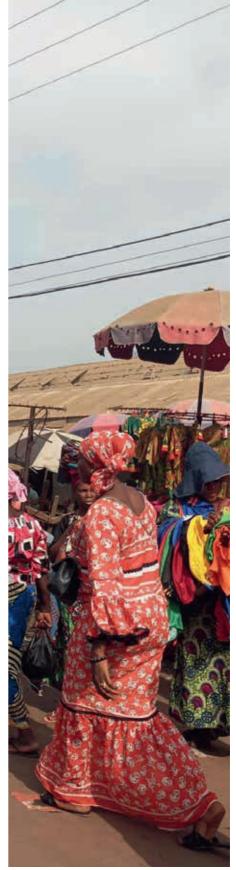




every country. Kaduzas is a French word, meaning gift. There was a debate at the Bamako about whether or not we were doing a right thing by giving these children gifts, because some people thought that we were actually getting the locals into the habit of begging. Our original aim was to drop off the gifts at designated places where they would be received in an organised way. However, there were several locations along the way where everywhere we went, all the kids would run up and offer their hands. If we gave them anything, even the smallest gift, they were so happy that I thought it was sincere.

When he had the opportunity, Tibor Gonda also observed the areas they visited with an eye of a person who is professional in the field of tourism. On Sierra Leone, for example, he said. I have never been to a country where I have seen more beautiful scenery than in Sierra Leone. English is one of the official languages, which is a big advantage for tourism. On the other hand, the government is very peaceful now and Bamako is a demonstration for them, as we were welcomed by the Minister of Tourism himself at the finish line. They were proud to be visited by people from eleven countries as part of the Rally. There was a huge ovation when the owner of Bamako announced that the finish line would be here in two years' time.

The trip was a major physical, mental, and spiritual ordeal, and the team members returned home a changed man. They agreed that everyone should go to these places in life, because the experiences and lessons learned here may form our attitude towards our common future. István Szász's thoughts on this are something we should all consider: When I was in India, I also had a convers-



ion, if you can call it that. Then I realized that I had too much, too many things that I should not have, because why should I? We accumulate, we buy, when maybe less would also be enough.

NEXT 50 DELICACIES ON EARTH

The sequel of the unique international cookbook of the University of Pécs, "NEXT 50 DELICA-CIES ON EARTH", has been published, focusing mainly on soups, salads and desserts, but the aim has not changed: to get to know the gastronomic culture, tastes and special dishes of the home country of the students coming to Pécs.

Martina Aknai-Kiss 🗖 Szabolcs Csortos

very academic year, students from more than 130 countries come to the University of Pécs,

The idea behind the volumes was inspired by Anikó Berta, who initially collected recipes of dishes

UP, this time focusing on soups, salads and desserts rather than main courses, as a complement to

who, in addition to learning about Hungary, its language, history and culture, also have the opportunity to present their own country. And what better way to bring together the diverse citizens of the university than to share a delicious meal together.

"It is an essential part of the internationalization process that different cultures can meet, in the easiest possible way, when we sit around a tab-

le, get to know each other's food and food cultures better, exchange ideas about these foods while eating them, and in the process become even closer to each other", said Dr. István Tarrósy, Director of the UP International Center, in connection with the cookbook.



prepared by international students at the International Evening, which showcased their culture. After the great success of the first edition, the editors once again launched a recipe competition between the 5,000 foreign students and 17,000 Hungarian students studying at

the previous collec-

tion of recipes.

The jury had a very difficult task, as there were a lot of fantastic entries, from which 50 dishes were selected, which were finalyly included in the publication, and were prepared by the students with the help of chef Ákos Lokodi at the canteen of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs. It is important to emphasize that the editors also paid special attention to

the fact that the ingredients of the dishes in the cookbook can be easily obtained by the students themselves.

The publication is available in the Líra bookstores, and the authors wish you a good time reading it and a good appetite for the food!

INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2024

Éva Harka 🕋 Szabolcs Csortos

The International Evening, which has a rich tradition, was held again in 2024. The cultural celebration of the international students of the University of Pécs was organised in the Expo Center in Pécs on 9 March 2024.





The slogan of this year's event is "Shine Bright", as the International Evening inspires individuals and cultural groups to bring their true values to life.

QR: youtube.com/watch?v=ez5tZtAQP9A



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HELLO PÉCS!

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FLIGHTS TO AND FROM PÉCS? YES!

March 26th 2024 is a date to remember, as international flights have begun arriving and departing from Pécs. Universal Air operates scheduled flights between Malta, Munich, Corfu and Pécs.

Éva Harka | 🖸 Szabolcs Csortos

Tam particularly pleased with this development, and I am convinced that these flights represent a major step forward both in terms of the internationalisation of UP and the strengthening of its international visibility.

Personal contact will be significantly easier, and not only will our partners be more easily accessible from Pécs, but it will also be easier to invite our foreign colleagues to Pécs for our events. I think this is also good news for our international students, not only for them but also for their families and friends. As far as the region is concerned, the launch of flights will lead to a revival of international tourism.

You can fly anywhere in the world via Munich. This airport is a very good choice, as UP delegations often transfer there, even for overseas flights; it is an excellent hub. Malta is an opening to the Mediterranean area, opening more travel opportunities. Corfu is now a holiday option that can be quickly accessed by all of us, emphasised Dr. István Tarrósy, Director of the International Centre.

The journey between Munich and Pécs takes 1 hour 20 minutes, and between Pécs and Malta, it takes 2 hours 20 minutes. During the summer the Corfu-Pécs journey is also avaible.

To help passengers, Tükebusz Zrt. has been operating a free shuttle bus. The schedule is adapted to the flight times. Baggage transportation is also free on the shuttle, and the passenger and their companion(s) can also travel to the airport for free. Bus number: KC10. You do not need to show your flight ticket to board.

ntre. Parking at the airport is free in The journey between Munich a public, unguarded parking lot!



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SUSTAINABILITY FORUM PODCAST

A FRESH VOICE ON BUILDING A GREENER FUTURE

Amidst the diverse array of podcasts available today, one standout series is the University of Pécs Podcast Series, featuring thought-provoking discussions on various topics. Among its gems is the "Sustainability Forum," hosted by Modar Ali, offering a unique perspective on sustainability within our built environment.

s part of the University of Pécs Podcasts, "Sustainability Forum" stands out for its insightful exploration of sustainability issues. These podcast episodes, curated by the esteemed institution, aim to engage listeners with intellectually stimulating content that reflects the university's commitment to academic excellence and societal relevance. Each episode offers a

deep dive into various aspects of sustainability, providing listeners with practical insights and innovative ideas to address climate change and environmental concerns.

Through insightful discussions, expert interviews, and thought-provoking insights, the UP Podcasts serve as a springboard for action, empowering individuals to embrace sustainability as a guiding principle in their daily lives. Explore other thought-provoking episodes, visit our website. Join the conversation

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https://pte.hu/hu/podcast/sustainability-forum/sustainability-forum-podcast

IMPRINT

UnivPécs International is a special issue by UnivPécs, published in September distributed to UP students. Founded in 2000 | Managing Publisher: Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector | Published by: University of Pécs, 4 Vasvári Pál str., Pécs, Hungary Editor-in-Chief: Éva Harka | Journalists: Éva Harka, Martina Aknai-Kiss, Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák Photo editor: Szabolcs Csortos, Péter Aknai | Cover: Tamás Lugosi | Layout Editor: Péter Aknai Photos: Szabolcs Csortos, Envato, Dr. Gobasz Team, Dávid Molnár, UnivPécs Archives Translators: Éva Harka, Mercédesz Kovács-Csincsák, Dr. Róbert Märcz Press: Keskeny és Társai 2001 Kít. | 1158 Budapest, Rákospalotai határút 6. | ISSN 1586-1767

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