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The University of Debrecen has an uninterrupted history reaching back almost 500 years, and as such it is the oldest higher education institution in the country operating continuously in the same city. Ever since its foundation, it has been one of the most important centers of Hungarian scholarly research and development, one of the excellent educational centers in the country and one of the top 500 universities in the world.

By providing university programs corresponding to market needs, it caters for the training and labor-market needs of the region’s socio-economic players, using its own means to promote a smooth collaboration between multinational corporations, local small and medium-sized businesses, the academic sphere, as well as regional and national government.

Putting research results into practice is a key consideration for the university, along with establishing and operating successful partnerships and organizations that effectively facilitate the development of innovation processes in the region. Besides its basic activities, its main focus areas include the healthcare industry, pharmaceutical industry, medical device manufacturers, food industry, agriculture, sports, healthcare, and activities catering for these areas (IT, economics, engineering) and it is also committed to strengthening relations with social and economic actors, as well as fulfilling tasks related to the popularization of science, the advancement of culture and sports.
Everything UnDer One Roof: Wide Range of Educational Programs

Considering its student population, the University of Debrecen is the largest student center in Hungarian higher education outside the capital, with close to 30,000 people studying on 8 campuses, at 14 faculties, and in 24 doctoral schools. There are also more than 6,000 international students and their number increases year by year.

In addition to programs offered in Hungarian, students arriving from abroad may also sign up for English-language programs. The research and development activities of more than 1,700 faculty members, the knowledge and experience of approximately 500 practical experts working at off-site departments ensure that our graduates can enter the labor market with a competitive diploma.

In its program portfolio, the institution has developed a range of bachelor’s, master’s, and undivided (i.e., a combined bachelor’s and master’s), one-tier programs, in which the layers of knowledge progressively build up to guarantee development in the relevant field. Colleges for advanced studies, academic student circles, dual training platforms, and talent management programs support students in their academic endeavors. Teacher-training has a history stretching back over several decades at our institution, with teaching practice schools playing a key role. Those committed to lifelong learning may choose from a wide range of higher level vocational training programs, postgraduate specialist courses, and adult training programs.
International University

The university’s intensive international presence and network of relationships is also reflected in the fact that the highest number of international students in the country (more than 6,000) study here, coming from all over the world (almost 120 countries).

The university is unique in the sense that international students may choose from 60 English-language programs offered by 13 out of the 14 faculties of the university.

In addition to the medical and dentistry programs that have been the most popular for years, the number of international students has also been constantly increasing in the engineering and economics programs.

Our knowledge center has preserved its leading role in Hungarian higher education in 2020 and it continues to operate as a university that ranks in the first section of international academic rankings, while organizing its educational, research, patient care and agricultural activities in an integrated way. Of the 20,000 universities worldwide, UD ranks among the world’s top 3-5% in all rankings.

As a result of international agreements, and primarily within the framework of the Erasmus+ program, the number of students travelling abroad to the university’s partner institutions or arriving to our institution in order to study, gain new and valuable experience and see the world is around five hundred.

The University of Debrecen is also a center of cultural and educational cooperation with other countries, whereby the Russian Center and the Confucius Institute help students learn foreign languages and cultures, contributing to a broader cultural understanding and the promotion of cultural relations.
The University of Debrecen is one of the outstanding centers of Ph.D. education in Hungary with 24 doctoral schools. The university operates the University of Debrecen Talent Management Program (DETEP) with 600 outstanding students conducting their independent research work under the guidance of faculty tutors. The proportion of faculty members and researchers with a Ph.D. or equivalent degree is outstanding nationally, and this indicator places the institution in a leading position in the country.

Our university strives to develop basic and applied research meeting international standards and exploits the opportunities inherent in national and international networking. The university has developed a special integrated innovation system within the institution, with government and industry partners, other universities, academic partners and financial institutions as members. The designation of Research University and the associated financial support that comes with the title has provided an opportunity to define our institutional position and development objectives in view of international standards.

Recently, we have concluded health industry cooperation agreements with significant multinational companies such as GE, Rosatom International Network, the world’s largest genomics company, Beijing Genomics Institute in China, and QuintilesIMS specializing in drug clinical trials. In order to coordinate engineering, technical, economics, management and IT programs of the university with industry needs, the Institute of Engineering and Business Development Innovation has been established in cooperation with GE.

The University of Debrecen plays a pioneering role in the elaboration of technology transfer programs in Hungary and it was the first Hungarian university to launch a “Proof of Concept” program in support of university innovation activities and facilitate the market utilization of research results and technologies created at the university. The primary goal of the PoC program is to provide support for the evaluation of opportunities arising from inventions, indicate the path towards utilization, and bring technologies to a suitable stage for licensing or raising capital through spin-offs.

Our institution has also been chosen as a member of EIT Health, the health department of the key institution of innovation in Europe, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. Together with GE Healthcare’s center in Budapest, the University of Debrecen was the first university in Hungary to receive an opportunity to participate in the European implementation of the Catalyst methodology of the world’s leading engineering university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
A Flagship in Healthcare

The University of Debrecen operates Hungary’s largest healthcare system which, in addition to high-quality patient care, also offers an ideal place for clinical trials of health industry research and development results in a real healthcare environment.

Located on one of the most beautiful campuses in Europe, our institution strives to heal patients while keeping pace with an unprecedented development in technology.

At the Clinical Center and the Gyula Kenézy University Teaching Hospital, highly qualified and internationally recognized physicians and healthcare professionals contribute to the recovery of nearly 3 million patients a year in a modern and comfortable environment with the highest level of healthcare.

The Clinical Center provides patient care with more than 1,700 beds, 130 outpatient clinics and 49 diagnostic units.

The versatility of university patient care is also well attested to by the fact that it provides health services in almost 60 inpatient care specialties and nearly 80 different specialties for outpatient care and diagnostics.

The country’s first complex institutional primary care system with a university background was established in Debrecen: the Debrecen Institute for Primary Care and Health Development is responsible for the city’s on-duty adult and pediatric GP care services, primary and on-duty dental care, as well as the school and kindergarten health services in collaboration with the Health Development Office and the District Nurse Services.

A patient-friendly attitude is also reflected by a unique development of the university, the UD Mediversity mobile application, the aim of which is to help patients and relatives find the services of the Clinical Center and the Gyula Kenézy University Hospital easily and quickly. The health service search application of the University of Debrecen provides its users with up-to-date access to health-related university information.

3 million patients a year
Efficient Operation, Financial Stability

In recent years, the University of Debrecen has implemented a budget in line with current and future plans and its finances are balanced, thus creating the basic conditions for high-quality educational, research and patient care activities. As a key market player, it fulfills a service-providing function, which is also reflected in its steadily increasing revenue.

The aim of this Hungarian higher education institution with the largest budget is to increase its revenues by achieving the most efficient use of its capacities, designing services fitted to market needs, and completing its tasks at a high standard. The university has a stable budget and a reassuring vision for the future.

Besides the proper maintenance of existing facilities, the infrastructure of this educational and knowledge center of Eastern Hungary is developing constantly.

A 7,000 m² multifunctional Learning Center will be built costing almost 3 billion Forints, with the aim of integrating the large number of students of different nationalities into one learning community, also taking into account the individual needs of each culture.

With a floor space of more than 5,000 m², a three-story Innovation Center will also be built, which is suitable for carrying out incubation activities, serving as an educational and practical center, providing employee public services, and offering activities related to project management and operation as well as innovation processes. The Hungarian state provided 3,883 million Forints for its construction.
Students in the Focus

The University of Debrecen has 14 dormitory units with almost 5,000 dormitory places available. A minimum of 88% of applicants have received dormitory accommodation in the past five years which is outstanding nationwide. This capacity will be further expanded with a seven-year dormitory development program that will provide more than 200 new rooms built on campus by 2023.

The University and National Library of the University of Debrecen is the second largest library in the country and one of the largest service units of the university. It offers users a collection of more than 6 million publications, in eight library units on the university’s six campuses with spacious reading areas, a modern service environment, and its own digital archives.

The university pays special attention to maintaining good relations with students graduating from the University of Debrecen or its predecessor institutions. In 2011, the Alumni Community was founded, which has more than 27,000 members as of 2020.
Also Ranked at the Top in Sports

The university offers diverse sports services and opportunities, which include the sports science programs (bachelor’s and master’s, post-graduate programs), broadening national and international relations, and the coordination of the Sports Diagnostics, Lifestyle and Therapy Center located in the Nagyerdei Stadium with over 1,200 m². There are also regular physical education opportunities for students, mass sporting events for the enjoyment of leisure time, as well as opportunities for highly talented students to participate in competitive sports in addition to learning.

The University of Debrecen sports development program began a decade ago and has served as a model for physical education and sports in Hungarian higher education. The University of Debrecen has become one of the most successful institutions in winning national university championships. Moreover, there are now European champions, Olympic champions and world champions among its student body.

As a result of the cooperation between the city and the university, the university - with the support of the city - is now responsible for basketball, futsal and volleyball teams, so that sports may develop in a coordinated way both at the university and in the city of Debrecen.

The basis for competitive sports is provided by the University Athletics Club (DEAC), established in 1919, and the DASE Students Sports Association, founded in 1907, the latter being more active today in youth training and leisure sports.
Also Ranked at the Top in Sports

The most important institutional sports features include university teams competing in top championships in several sports, more than a thousand signed athletes, the Sports Science Coordination Institute, the Sports Office, various new programs and a modern sports infrastructure.

More than 2,700 athletes compete in the traditional black-and-white colors of DEAC, which with its 23 divisions is the largest university club in Hungary. With its unique mentoring program, beautiful and modern infrastructure, and novel initiatives it has become a model in Hungarian higher education.

The University of Debrecen is exemplary among Hungarian education institutions not only in educating students and employees in a healthy lifestyle but also in its commitment to the development of sports facilities necessary for the performance of such activities.

The recently completed investments in sports infrastructure stand as perfect examples to this commitment.

The UniFit Fitness & Gym Center in the Nagyerdei Stadium located in a 2,600 m² floor space with 200 training stations is one of the newest training complexes of the city.

At the DEAC-DAK Table Tennis Training Center, professional and amateur table tennis players and college students can play on 15 tables on 700 m². The youngest building named TEKNŐS is the Sports Economy Management and Tennis Center, located on the Bószőrmenyi Street Campus, which welcomes sports enthusiasts with its floor space of 3,748 m² and 4 hard courts.
Community Building at Its Best

The University of Debrecen is present at almost every phase of life from preschool to membership in the alumni community: with 30,000 students, 10,000 employees, 3,000 primary and secondary school students, a 27,000 strong alumni community, that is, with a university community of 70,000 people, our institution has an indirect impact on the life of 150-200,000 people.

As an integral part of the city, the university’s goal in broadening the links between the university community and residents, is to create a cultural and sports environment that attracts both individuals and economic players, thus strengthening the power of the region to retain its population and increase its positive impact on economic actors and investors.

In addition to program-based collaborations, the institution and the city are also looking for further possibilities to cooperate in the field of sports and healthy lifestyle, including the joint development and operation of infrastructure and services.

- **Campus Festival**: with 114,000 visitors, it is the largest, comfiest and most visited festival in Eastern Hungary.
- **yoUDay**: a stadium show that is unique in all Europe opening the academic year and organized for more than 20,000 people from both the university and the city.
- **HALL**: the largest student club in the country with 2,000 m² offering multifunctional services.
- **Lovarda**: a popular community venue for cultural and entertainment programs of the university and the city.
- **Nagyerdei Water Tower**: one of the iconic buildings of Debrecen, which after its renovation has become a multifunctional cultural and experience center: with a ‘wine spritzer’ terrace, a climbing wall, exhibition space, a 34-m-high panorama observation point at the top, and a great variety of outdoor programs.