

# THE UNIVERSITY **COMPASS**

"Our university is inseparably linked with Warsaw; this is evident even in its very name. As the first institution of higher education to be established in Warsaw, it has always taken part in shaping the city's elites and, since the moment of its inception almost 200 years ago, its fortunes have run parallel to those of the capital", the Rector

of the University of Warsaw

Professor Marcin Pałys



## THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY - 200 YEARS IN A NUTSHELL

ary of the University's inception will be celebrated in 2016. It is the oldest institution of higher education in the capital, from which some others, like the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw Medical University or Frederic Chopin Music University have originated. The University's round anniversary will be celebrated by the entire city.

The University of Warsaw was established in 1816, at what was a difficult time in Poland. The country had lost its independence shortly before, its lands partitioned by the neighbouring powers.

After the fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna, Warsaw was controlled by Russia and so the inception of an university required permission from Tsar Alexander I. When this was finally obtained, a city of a hundred thousand inhabitants that Warsaw was then could boast of a university encompassing 5 faculties, having some 800 students and the staff of about 40-50 professors.

Throughout the 19th century the history of the university reflected the history of Poland. When uprisings against the occupying powers broke out, the students invariably participated. When they failed, the University got closed (in 1831 and 1869). Due to the vigorous Russification of Poland, from 1869 until 1915 Russian was the language of instruction at UW and the rectors were always Russians.

Polish was introduced as the language of instruction during the First World War. Poland regained its independence, and the University a full freedom of instruction, in 1918. It was then that our Alma Mater became the largest in the country.

After the outbreak of the Second World War the University was closed. Yet despite the enormous war losses it was back in operation in 1945. After the difficult period of the communist rule, the University regained full autonomy in 1989.

## THREE IN ONE

Three campuses provide a focus for the university life:

- 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście is an address familiar to everyone associated with the University of Warsaw. • The historic enclosure it is one of the loveliest spots in Warsaw. Elaborate sculpted decorations of the university buildings and the surrounding lush greenery make the
- and the city's residents. Faculties located at the campus and in its vicinity are mainly those teaching various branches of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

campus a very popular area, a favourite with both tourists

### THE OCHOTA CAMPUS

- It is home to research units conducting interdisciplinary research of special importance to medicine, environmental protection, industry etc. They also developing new materials: ligands, chemical compounds which find application in pharmaceutics, material science and
- · Modern, stylistically interesting architecture of the campus considerably enhances city space.

### THE SŁUŻEWIEC CAMPUS

- The southernmost campus with the area of over
- It houses the Faculty of Management and a part of the Faculty of Applied Linguistics buildings
- It is scheduled to include the University Halls of Residen-

### THE UNIVERSITY IN POLAND AND IN WARSAW

In Poland, students have a choice of about 400 institutions of higher education. Warsaw, with its 15 public and about 40 non-public academic institutions, is Poland's largest academic centre. Some 250,000 people, that is 15% of all Polish students, are studying here every year. 1/5 of them elects to study at the University of Warsaw.

Warsaw • the largest academic centre in Poland

• 250,000 students 1/5 of them study at the University of Warsaw



The University's influence on the capital city and the region of Mazovia does not end with education. It is also an important altural centre, it popularises knowledge and fulfils a social mission. The University cooperates with the city's key institu-tions, such as the National Museum, the National Centre for Culture or Copernicus Science Centre. Mutual agreements bind it with other Warsaw academies and with the local go-

Every year, the University co-organized the Science Festival, during which the teachers and students explain fascinating aspects of science to children and young people. The University is also host to many cultural events, lectures and conferences, which are open not only to students or scholars, but to everyone who is interested.

OUTSIDE WARSAW

The University of Warsaw is not only the pride of the capital: some of its centres are located outside the city, in the Tatra Mountains and on the Baltic coast, as well as abroad. They are mainly research centres, but also serve the university staff, students and guests as places in which to study or re-

### NORTHERN POLAND

The University's seaside resort hotel is located in Łukęcin. Pilchy, Urwitatt and Sajzy are field research stations. To the south, there is the geographic research centre in Murzynowo, whereas to the east – the primordial forest of Białowieża, the last patch of well-preserved natural forest to be found on the North European Plain.

### SOUTHERN POLAND

At Ostrowik, the University's astronomers measure the brightness of stars. Geologists conduct their research a few hundred kilometres away, at Chęciny; in the new centre, which is being built in a disused quarry, it will be possible to examine the oldest surface rocks in Poland. Construction of a new archaeological research centre at Chroberz is scheduled to begin soon. Zakopane, in turn, is home to creative work centres and resort hotels.

### UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW **OFFERS:**

## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The University cooperates with over 1,150 foreign partners. Contacts with universities in Russia and in the Asian countries, including India and China, are developing particularly dyna-

UW is a member of the leading European associations promoting higher education, including the European University Association (EUA) and the Network of the Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA). The University belongs to over 90 international scholarly organisations and associations, as is a member of numerous consortia.

Several of the University's scholars are laureates of the prestigious European Research Council grants. Since 2007, seven projects conducted at the University of Warsaw, focusing on various branches of science from physics and astronomy to sociology, were granted additional financing by the ERC.

For many years, the University of Warsaw has been considered the most effective of all Polish universities in making use of the opportunities offered by Poland's membership in the European Union. Every year, it collaborates in over 70 research projects financed from the EU budget.

The University's achievements due to its participation in European programmes such as Erasmus or Erasmus Mundus are also appreciated. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Erasmus programme, the Foundation for the Development of the Education System, which coordinates the programme in Poland, granted awards to outstanding Polish institutions of higher education. UW came first with regard to the number of employees and students who received their grants abroad or at the University.

The percentage of foreign students at the University of Warsaw has risen three times in the last decade: in 2003 they constituted only 1% of students, whereas today the student body includes 3% of foreigners. This is a satisfactory percentage in comparison with other universities, where the average share of foreign students is about 1%.

Some of the University's research centres are located abroad.

• A centre of research on Egypt's past, the university field

research station in Cairo, has been in operation since

eologists going to sites in Sudan and Syria depart from

1959. It also serves as a logistic centre, since archa-

Archaeological sites researched by the UW are located

not only in Egypt, but also in other parts of the world,

in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Iran

and other places. In the recent years, among the many

have been the discoveries of Maucallacta, a village of

the Quechua Indians, the Celtic hoard at Nowa Cerkiew,

undisturbed tombs in Peru, and Sudanese amphorae in

Aswan, as well as conservation works on the Temple of

· Our astronomers watch the skies not only above Poland;

several times a year they go to Chile, where they work

in the Las Campanas observatory. It is located in the

Atacama Desert, which is considered to be one of the

best places in the world for observing the sky. The obse-

rvatory has one of the largest Polish telescopes. The UW

researchers have so far discovered some thirty extrasolar

planets and hundreds of thousands previously unknown

Hatshepsut at Dayr el-Bahari in Egypt.

variable stars.

research achievements of the University's archaeologists

Ukrainians, Belarusians, Lithuanians and Russians constitute the largest group of students opting for a full course of study at the University of Warsaw. Many students come also from Iraq, China, Vietnam, Germany, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Turkey and Iran.

About 1,500 foreigners are now completing a full course of study at the University of Warsaw. More than as much again are coming for a temporary course, for instance as part of the Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus programmes. The University of Warsaw very actively participates in both those programmes.

In 2013, from among the over 3,000 European and non-European institutions of higher education the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission selected a hundred that are particularly effective in organising student exchanges. The University of Warsaw came 7th on this list with regard to the number of students going away fro exchanges. Polish students usually select Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain and Portugal. Poland, in turn, is popular among Spanish, German, Italian, French and Turkish students. In the recent years, the Erasmus exchange program included over 11,000 students of the Warsaw University.

## AT KRAKOWSKIE PRZEDMIEŚCIE

The Main Gate 🜟 leading to the campus from Krakowskie Przedmieście is one of the University's chief symbols. The University coat of arms was placed on it in October 1916, that is five years after it was constructed; it is a crowned eagle surrounded with five stars, which symbolise the first five faculties of the University: those of the Law and Administration, Medicine, Philosophy, Theology, and Fine Arts and Sciences.

The gate's niches hold statues of Athena and Urania, the first holding a helmet, the other a globe. Thus, entering the Warsaw University campus enclosure, we find ourselves under the protection of goddesses of wisdom and knowledge about the

The Old Library was built in 1894. It was extremely modern for its time: the library was able to hold 750,000 volumes, and the large storage space resembled a huge steel grille. The venerable building was emptied in 1999, when the new Main Library opened at Powiśle. Subsequently it was thoroughly rebuilt; in effect, the building now merges architectural modernity with tradition. Currently it contains lecture rooms. Fragments of the impressive steel construction are still visible in the former storage space of the Library. An interesting fact is that during the Second World War Czesław Miłosz, the future Nobel Prize laureate, worked in the Old Library as a janitor.





The University's oldest building, the Kazimierzowski Palace 🜟, was constructed before 1643. Standing at the edge of the slope running down towards the Vistula, it was initially the summer residence of the kings of Poland: Władysław IV, Jan Kazimierz, who gave the palace its name, and Jan III Sobieski. In the 18th century, King Stanisław Augustus Poniatowski put the entire property to a completely different use: instead of being a residence, the palace became headquarters of the Noble's School, an academy for young gentlemen. The building was handed over the education authority board only in 1808.

The palace was bombed and burnt out in the Second World War. Rebuilding works were concluded in 1954; the architect modelled the restoration on design drawings dating from ca. 1820. Today, it is the headquarters of University authorities. It also contains two large rooms, where the University celebrations are held: the impressive late-baroque Golden Room and the

Auditorium Maximum 🜟 dates from the inter-war period. The Second World War left it in ruins, and its main lecture hall was used as stables. It was rebuilt in the 1950s. Four beautiful Ionic columns at the main entrance porch give it a neoclassical feel. The building contains offices and the University's largest lecture hall, which has the seating capacity of nearly 1200

## WITH A BOOK...

The University Library \* building is located not far from the hibank. Since its opening in 1999 it has been one of the greatest architectural and tourist attractions of Warsaw.

The combined collections of the University Library and the forty--seven other faculty libraries hold over 5.7 million volumes. The Library (BUW) has 3,500 visitors per day, which amounts to over a million per year. It is also a venue for exhibitions and other cultural events.

The Library was visited by many distinguished guests, including Pope John Paul II and the US President George W. Bush.

> More info on the Botanic Garden: www.ogrod.uw.edu.pl

The University Library roof garden opened in 2002. With the area panorama of the city seen from there is breathtaking; it is also possible to peep into the interior of the Library

But the University Library garden is not the only place for the students and staff to relax among lush greenery. The spectacularly beautiful UW Botanic Garden is located at 4 Aleje Ujazdowskie. Established in 1818 by the distinguished botanist Michał Szubert, it is one of the oldest institutions of this type in Poland. It covers 5.16 hectares and its collection includes 5,000 species and varieties of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The Botanic Garden is open from April to October; guided tours of the glass-houses are available in the winter.

Greenery at the historic Main Campus at 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście is just as beautiful. A hundred species of trees, including exotic ones, and over 120 shrubs decorate the area.



## www.uw.edu.pl

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## MUST-KNOW ABOUT WARSAW

Warsaw was probably founded in the 13th century. In 1596, after a fire damaged the royal residence at Wawel in Cracow, King Sigismund III Vasa transferred his court and chief state offices from to Warsaw, where the castle was being conveniently extended. From then on Warsaw was the centre of state administration and the permanent royal residence, although it was officially declared the capital city of the Kingdom of Poland only after the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The city was destroyed during the Second World War; the losses and damage incurred during the siege and occupation are estimated to reach over 60%. Meticulously rebuilt after the war, it was listed as a UNESCO's World Heritage Site. Currently Warsaw is one of the most modern cities in Poland.

## THE CITY IN NUMBERS:

- 517 km² area, of which 21% are green
- 1.7 million residents, that is ca. 4.5% of the inhabitants of the country;
- 2.7 million tourists per year;
- 18 districts; • ca. 1,500 historic monuments;
- 196 libraries;
- · 106 museums and art galleries;
- 6,000 named streets, boulevards, squares and roundabouts;
- 28 km of the Vistula, Poland's longest river, bisecting the city.



The Old Town 🗶 according to tourists, the loveliest area of Warsaw. It includes the Royal Castle, the Barbican, Gothic and Renaissance churches and charming town houses. Razed to the ground during the Second World War, it was meticulously reconstructed and is now a UNESCO-'s World Heritage Site.

The Łazienki Park (Royal Baths Park) 🜟 a picturesque garden surrounding interesting historic architecture. Founded in the 17th century, in the following century it was the summer residence of King Stanisław Augustus Poniatowski, to whom the park owes its unique character. The king's ideas were carried out by outstanding architects: Dominik Merlini, Jan Chrystian Kamsetzer and Jakub Kubicki. Visitors to the park can see the Palace on the Water, the Myślewicki Palace, the Old Orangery, the Amphitheatre and the Officer Cadet School. The Park is located in the vicinity of the University of Warsaw Botanic Garden along the beautiful street of Aleje Uiazdowskie.

The Wilanów Palace Museum a place and park complex with the Baroque royal palace at Wilanów, originally built in the late 17th century for King Jan III Sobieski and Queen Maria Kazimiera and later extended by the subsequent owners. The palace's architecture is a unique combination of European style with the architectural tradition of Old Poland. One of the first Polish museums opened in a section of the palace in 1805, established by the then-owner of the Wilanów estate Stanisław Kostka Potocki.

Poland's capital city boasts over a hundred of museums and art galleries and nearly 35 theatres. During a sojourn in Warsaw, it is worth to find time to visit at least a few.

\* THROUGH PLAY The Copernicus Science Centre 20 Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie St. www.kopernik.org.pl

The Centre has 450 exhibits housed in LEARNING the space of nearly 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Among them is a Foucault's Pendulum which is the heaviest in Europe and the fourth heaviest worldwide, as well as the first Robotic Theatre in the world

IN A MODERN WAY The Warsaw Rising Museum 79 Grzybowska St. www.1944.pl

One of the most modern museums in Poland, it was opened on the 60th anniversarv of the outbreak of fighting. It combined history and modernity in a fresh and challenging way. The visitors walk in the scenery of ruined Warsaw of six decades ago. The route includes a 1:1 replica of a Liberator B-24J bomber.

FOUR SENSES The Chopin Museum l Okólnik St. www.chopin.museum

The museum has the largest collection of Chopin memorabilia worldwide. It presents the composer's life and achievements in four floors of innovative displays. Each floor focuses on one stage of Frederic Chopin's life. Multi-media displays refer to the four senses: sight, tough, hearing and smell.

\* ART AND SOCIETY Centre for Contemporary Art www.csw.art.pl

Located in the Ujazdowski Castle, the Centre is a modern institution combining many cultural concepts and spheres of culture. Various areas of art coincide, permeate one another and exceed their boundaries here to create new qualities and phenomena. The Centre emphasises the links between art and society, as well as interactivity and the interdisciplinary aspect. With various exhibitions, workshops, film shows and performances, every visitor will find the Centre enarossina.

Warsaw Tourist Information: