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# HONORARY DEGREE FOR TOMAS TRANSTRÖMER

On 12 September 2014, in Stockholm, the Swedish poet Tomas Tranströmer received the title of honorary degree of two Polish universities: the Jagiellonian University and the University of Silesia. It was the first ceremony of this kind in the history of Polish science.

The JU Senate, following the resolution of the Faculty of Philology as well as the reviews written by Prof. Leonard Neuger, retired Professor at Stockholm University, and Prof. Lech Sokół from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, conferred the title of honorary doctorate on Tomas Tranströmer in particular for:

- his poetry, which by referring to the richness and diversity of the world combines the contrasts and paradoxes of existence and expresses the metaphysical unity of the world,
- his affirmation of nature, art and people's fates that restores to the reader a fresh perspective on the surrounding reality as well as confidence and faith in the sense of existence,
- for restoring to words their magic power and poetic significance in the times witnessing the devaluation of words,
- that his life and attitude bore witness to his solidarity with man, beyond any limitations, which he proclaimed in his poetry.

In her laudation Prof. Magdalena Wasilewska-Chmura stressed that the awarding of the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* to Mr Tranströmer fell on the 60th anniversary of his debut. She presented the poet as a man whom she had met several times. She recalled his cheerful smile encouraging readers to ask questions during the meetings, 'Each time his face was lit up by the same kind smile as he approached every event with curiosity.' She also stressed that the academic work focuses on the pursuit of truth as Mr Tranströmer wrote, 'You can see beauty only from the side, hastily.' The poet discovers truth for us and combines it with beauty according to John Keat's formula. 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty.'

Tomas Tranströmer is a Swedish poet, writer and translator. He was born in Stockholm on 15 April 1931. He studied poetry and psychology at the University of Stockholm. Since his 1954 debut '17 Poems,' his poetry has been enthusiastically received by critics and readers. In Sweden he is known as the favourite poet of Swedes.

His numerous collections of poetry include *Windows and Stones* (1972), an International Poetry Forum Selection and runner-up for the National Book Award for translation, and *The Great Enigma: New Collected Poems* (2006, 2011), Robin Fulton's translation of Tranströmer's complete body of work. His longstanding friendship with poet Robert Bly, who has also translated and edited some of his works, is documented in *Air Mail* (2001), a collection of more than 25 years of their correspondence. Tranströmer has also published a memoir, *Minnena Ser Mig (Memories Look At Me)*, 1993). His poetry has been translated into over 60 languages. Tranströmer is acclaimed as one of the most important European and Scandinavian writers since World War II. Critics have praised Tranströmer's poems for their accessibility, even in translation; his poems capture the long Swedish winters, the rhythm of the seasons and the palpable, atmospheric beauty of nature. He was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Literature. The decision was motivated with the following words, 'Through his condensed, translucent images, Tranströmer gives fresh access to reality.'



Rector W. Nowak handing the diploma to Tomas Tranströmer

Tranströmer's poetry was introduced into the Polish language by, among others, Czesław Miłosz and Leonard Neuger. The poet has visited Poland a few times: he has been to Warsaw, Gdańsk, Kraków and Katowice. He was also hosted by the Jagiellonian University where he met students and academic staff.

Let us quote some verses of Tranströmer's poetry:

Spring lies forsaken.  
The velvet-dark ditch  
crawls by my side  
without reflections.

I am cradled in my shadow  
like a fiddle  
in its black case.

The only thing that shines  
are yellow flowers.

The only thing I want to say  
glimmers out of reach  
like the silver  
at the pawnbroker's.

*April and Silence,*  
translated by P. Crane



Tomas Tranströmer and his wife



# HONORARY DEGREE FOR ANTONY POLONSKY

During the solemn session of the Jagiellonian University Senate, held on 30 October 2014, the doctorate *honoris causa* of the Jagiellonian University was conferred on Professor Antony Polonsky, one of the most outstanding historians of our times.

The JU Senate, having considered the resolution undertaken by the Council of the JU Faculty of History, conferred the title of honorary doctorate on Prof. Antony Polonsky in particular for:

- the overall scholarly activities in the domain of the history of Poland and Polish Jews,
- his achievements in promoting good Polish-Jewish relations and developing studies on the history and culture of Polish Jews,
- promoting the achievements of the JU scholars around the world,
- providing assistance to the JU Institute of Jewish Studies in establishing international contacts and co-operation as well as strengthening the prestige of this JU unit both in Poland and abroad,
- developing and promoting studies on the history of the Jews of Kraków.

The reviews were written by Prof. Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin and Prof. Marcin Wodziński from the University of Wrocław. The reviewers stress that Prof. Polonsky is ‘a one-man-institution,’ being the editor of the *Polin* yearbook since its very beginning, ‘a man of dialogue, working tirelessly to build bridges within the field of Polish-Jewish studies,’ the author of the three-volume history of Jews in Poland and Russia, one of the best international experts on Poland’s history, a mentor to young scholars and ‘passionate scholar brimming with enthusiasm for all his undertakings and therefore inspiring other scholars and new generations of students.’

The laudatory speech was delivered by Prof. Edward Dąbrowa, Head of the JU Institute of Jewish Studies and President of the European Association for Jewish Studies. He stressed that the scholarly activities of Prof. Polonsky had revolved around the history of Poland and Polish-Jewish relations since the beginning of his career. His interests resulted partly from the history of his family and his experiences gained during his first scholarship in Poland in 1964 when he had met many Polish historians. In the 1980s, he began systematic research in the area of Polish-Jewish relations and in 1984, he organised a conference at Oxford to which he invited Polish historians, including Prof. Józef Gierowski or Prof. Jan Błoński from the Jagiellonian University. The conference gave rise to the *Polin* yearbook as a forum for discussing various aspects

*Prof. Polonsky in Collegium Maius*



A. Wojnar

*Prof. Polonsky receiving the distinction*

of the history of Polish Jews and Polish-Jewish relations. Since the Oxford conference Prof. Polonsky has been one of the most important animators of studies on the history of Polish Jews. Moreover, Prof. Dąbrowa recalled Prof. Polonsky’s visits to the Jagiellonian University. Prof. Polonsky participated in the first international conference on the autonomy of Jews in the Republic of Nobles organised by the Inter-faculty Department of Jewish Studies. In the 1990s, on his initiative, the JU Inter-faculty Department of Jewish Studies and the Judaica Foundation organised several editions of summer schools devoted to the history and culture of the Jews in Poland for American universities. These schools allowed Kraków scholars to establish contacts with international academic centres. In 2006, Prof. Polonsky gave a series of lectures at the Jagiellonian University.

Antony Polonsky was born in the Republic of South Africa to a Lithuanian-Jewish family. He went to schools there and then graduated from Witwatersrand University of Johannesburg as a Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics. In 1961, he began his studies at the University of Oxford and in 1968, he defended his doctoral dissertation on contemporary history. He lectured at the University of Glasgow and the London School of Economics. Since 1992, he has been a professor at Brandeis University. In 1999 he began working at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

In his research Prof. Polonsky focuses on the history of the 20th century Poland, the Holocaust and the Polish-Jewish relationships and literature as well as the history of the Jews in Poland and Russia from the mid-14th century until the contemporary times. The last subject was discussed in Prof. Polonsky’s *opus magnum*, a three volume publication *The Jews in Poland and Russia* (2010-2012). The book is valued for its idea and perfection of performance: elegance of writing, truthfulness of the facts, interesting interpretations as well as openness to various opinions and points of view.

Finally, Prof. Polonsky’s achievements have been highly valued by the scientific community and recognised by the Polish government. In 1999, he was decorated with the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and in 2011 – the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

*Maria Kantor,  
based on the JU documents*

A. Wojnar





A. Wojnar

*The participants of the meeting with the Governor General of Canada David Johnston*

## Governor General of Canada visits JU

On 25 October 2014, the Jagiellonian University hosted the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston. He was received in Collegium Novum by the Jagiellonian University authorities: Rector Prof. Wojciech Nowak, Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs Prof. Andrzej Mania, Vice-Rector for Collegium Medicum Prof. Piotr Laidler, and Prof. Radosław Rybkowski, Rector's Proxy for Alumni Affairs.

The Canadian delegation included the Ambassador of Canada to Poland Mrs Alexandra Bugailiskis, the MPs Geoff Regan and Wladyslaw Lizon, Mr Matthew Levin, Director General of Europe and Eurasia Bureau at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Mr George Jackowski, Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Pivotal Therapeutics Inc., and Mrs Karen McBride, President of the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

After being welcomed by the JU Rector Prof. Nowak in front of Collegium Novum, Prof. Johnston paid homage to the victims of *Sonderaktion Krakau* at the commemorative tablet inside Collegium Novum (this year the Jagiellonian University is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of *Sonderaktion Krakau*). Then the honourable guest had a short meeting with the JU authorities in the Rector's office and from there he went to the JU Senate Hall to take part in a discussion with the members of the Polish Association for Canadian Studies represented among others by its President Dr Marcin Gabryś from the JU Institute of American and Polish Diaspora Studies and Ass. Prof. Marta Kijewska-Trembecka, Vice Director of the Institute. Acknowledging the merits of the Polish Association for Canadian Studies, David Johnston honoured it with the Governor General's Medal, which is a unique distinction for this type of institution.

The last part of the visit was a guided tour to the Collegium Novum Aula where Prof. Krzysztof Stopka presented the Governor General the history of the oldest Polish university. Then a commemorative picture of all of the participants of the meeting was taken.

The Governor General of Canada is the representative of Queen Elizabeth II in Canada. Prof. David Johnston has fulfilled this function since 1 October 2010. He is also an eminent professor of law – specialist in securities regulations, IT and company law. He holds an LL.B. from Queen's University (1966), an LL.B. from the University of Cambridge (1965) and an AB from Harvard University (1963) as well as honorary doctorates from over 20 universities. He is the author and co-author of 24 books.

*Kamil Jodłowiec,  
Department of Communications and Marketing*



A. Wojnar

*Governor General David Johnston and Rector Wojciech Nowak*



# Opening of the Centre for Experimental and Innovative Medicine for Veterinary Studies

On 2 October 2014, the Centre for Experimental and Innovative Medicine for Veterinary Studies was officially opened. It is part of the University Centre of Veterinary Medicine, an interuniversity unit established on the basis of the agreement between the Jagiellonian University and the University of Agriculture in Kraków. On 7 March 2011, the Rector of the Jagiellonian University Prof. Karol Musioł and the Rector of the Agricultural University Prof. Janusz Żmija and Prof. Tadeusz Wijaszka, Director of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Puławy, signed an agreement of scientific co-operation within the framework of the Veterinary Medicine Centre affiliated at the University of Agriculture in Kraków. This unit conducts research in veterinary, in particular food security and health of people and animals.

The newly opened Centre for Experimental and Innovative Medicine for Veterinary Studies (its construction started in December 2011) is an experimental base for researchers of both universities. 'So far there has been no place in Kraków and Poland where medical doctors could conduct complex research on animals and practice their treatments,' said Prof. Dorota Zięba-Przybylska, the head of the Centre.

The Centre for Experimental and Innovative Medicine for Veterinary Studies consists of five buildings (6,000 square metres) housing laboratories: molecular biology, biochemistry, cytogenetics, microbiology, cell and tissue culture, histology. One of the buildings has a fully equipped operational block for small and middle animals (from rodents to sheep or pig). Various experiments, including transplantology, implantation, implementation of mother cells within research projects, leading to the development of medicine will be carried out in the Centre.

It is worth adding that 65 students have been enrolled in the interfaculty programme of veterinary in the academic year 2014/2015. The solemn inauguration was held in the JU Collegium Maius on 3 October and was presided over by the JU Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs Prof. Andrzej Mania. Then a word of welcome was given by Prof. Sylwester Tabor, Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs of the University of Agriculture in Kraków. Upon graduation, after 11 semesters of studies, students of veterinary medicine will receive a diploma of veterinary doctor, issued by both universities.

Maria Kantor

## Luigi Cherubini as a challenge. The Collection of his autographs

The Jagiellonian Library and the JU Institute of Musicology together with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Liszt School of Music Weimar organised an exhibition on Luigi Cherubini, an Italian composer (1760-1842) who spent most of his working life in Paris. The initiator and curator of the exhibition was Prof. Helen Geyer, the Director of the Institute of Musicology Weimar-Jena, who has collaborated with the JU Institute of Musicology for 30 years. The Polish co-ordinators of the exhibition were Mrs Małgorzata Kusiak and Mr Michał Lewicki from the Jagiellonian Library.

The opening of the exhibition was held in the main hall of the Jagiellonian Library on 14 November 2014 and gathered numerous distinguished guests, including the Dean of the JU Faculty of History Prof. Jan Świąch, the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kraków Dr Werner Köhler, the Consul General of the Republic of Slovakia Mr Ivan Škorupa, Prof. Teresa Malecka from the Academy of Music in Kraków. The host of the opening ceremony was the Director of the Jagiellonian Library Prof. Zdzisław Pietrzyk. The programme of the ceremony consisted of a concert performed by the students of the Academy of Music in Kraków and a lecture 'On the research of Cherubini. Aspects regarding development and style' delivered by Prof. Geyer. The students performed Cherubini's *La Libertà e la Palinodia a Nice, No 1 Grazie agli inganni* and *No 2 Manco li antico* (two sopranos and harpsichord) and *String Quintet in E minor* (two violins, two cellos and a viola).

In her opening speech Prof. Geyer, an outstanding expert in Cherubini's musical output, spoke of her chance to study Cherubini's autographs from the Berlin Collection, kept at the Jagiellonian Library, after the fall of the



Luigi Cherubini  
Eine Herausforderung  
Autographe Bestände

Berlin Wall. In her opinion Cherubini was a kind of a 'draft horse' of Europe undergoing unification: an Italian living in Paris, looking at the court of the Habsburgs and Berlin as the place of his activities, temporarily residing in London, saved from the turmoil of the French Revolution, combining in his music and works things we long for, and creating an European style which was admired in the 19th century. Cherubini, a music dreamer, philosopher and ironist, skilful in all kinds of styles, deserves much bigger attention than he has been given so far. He composed magnificent and spectacular works: Masses and operas, paving the way to the heroic opera.

Luigi Cherubini was born on 14 September 1760 in Florence. Thus he was a leading representative of the Viennese classicism and a contemporary of the great French and Italian composers. His first works were admired for their original fusion of different styles and traditions as well as for their unique compositions, which could be seen in his High Masses, requiems and operas. Cherubini composed works for 70 years and embraced almost all music genres. He directed



*Exhibition in the Jagiellonian Library*

the Conservatoire du Musique with much success from 1822 until his death in 1842. Cherubini won fame by his numerous operas: *Lodoïska* (1791), *Eliza* (1794), *Médée* (1797-1800), *Faniska* (1806), *Koukourgi* (1792), *Les Abencérages* (1813) and *Ali Baba* (1833) – a *grand opéra*. After having stayed in Chimay, Belgium, Cherubini focused on church music, composing *Messe de Chimay* in F (1809), *Missa solemnis* in D minor (1811) *per il Principe Esterházy* or two coronation Masses (1819 and 1825). One should not forget Cherubini's *Requiem in C minor* (1816) and *Requiem in D minor for male chorus* (1836) written for his own funeral. In his old age he composed unique and stylistically innovative string quartets, which inclined Schumann to compare Cherubini with Dante.

The exhibition presents 30 autographs of Luigi Cherubini: Masses, antiphonies, shorter sacred works, instrumental pieces and operas, including *Ifigenia in Aulide*, *Il Giulio Sabino* and *Eliza*). Each manuscript has been described in detail in the comprehensive 166 page catalogue, its scientific editor being Prof. H. Geyer.

Let us add that the exhibition will be open till 5 December 2014.

*Maria Kantor,  
based on the speeches and catalogue*



## New seat of the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science

New buildings on the Jagiellonian University campus were opened on 27 October 2014. The modern premises house the JU Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science. The whole area of the teaching facilities embraces 1,367 m<sup>2</sup>, the computer workshops – 772 m<sup>2</sup>, laboratories and research workshops – 4,414 m<sup>2</sup>, studies and rooms for doctoral students 3,537 m<sup>2</sup> and the library ca. 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Currently, the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science includes the Astronomical Observatory, the Institute of Physics and two computer science sections. It employs over 180 academics. At the Faculty there are 1,379 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing the study programmes of physics, biophysics, astronomy and applied computer science as well as interdisciplinary studies in mathematics and biology, taught in collaboration with the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, and in advance materials and nanotechnology, taught in collaboration with the Faculty



*The Faculty Library*



of Chemistry. Moreover, there are 216 doctoral candidates enrolled in five PhD programmes in physics, astronomy and computer science (the latter taught in collaboration with the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences) as well as postgraduate studies in science journalism and information society.

The present-day Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science was established in 2003, following the division of the JU Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science. However, its history goes back to the foundation of the Jagiellonian University in 1364. Astronomy and physics were part of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. These fields were rapidly developed after the year 1400 when the University, called *Studium Generale*, was transformed into a classic mediaeval university.

In 1402, the Kraków's burgher Jan Stobner donated a chair of astronomy and mathematics. In the 15th century, several Polish scholars won European fame. Marcin Król of Żórawica was a known lecturer of astronomy and geometry. Marcin Bylica of Olkusz was an astrologer of the Hungarian king and co-founder of the university in Bratislava. Jan of Głogów and Wojciech of Brudzew were regarded as eminent lecturers and might have taught Mikołaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus). One of the alumni of that period was the famous Viennese astronomer Konrad Celtis. The most famous Polish astronomer Mikołaj Kopernik (1473-1523) studied liberal arts at the Jagiellonian University in 1491-1495.

This golden period of the University lasted till the mid-16th century. It was followed by a decline of the University's greatness caused by many factors.

Only after 1865, thanks to Franciszek Mertens' works in mathematical analysis and theory of prime numbers, mathematics in Kraków was revived and raised to the world level by Kazimierz Żorawski and Stanisław Zaremba, who later founded the Polish Mathematical Society. The liquefaction of oxygen conducted at the Jagiellonian University in 1883 by the physicist Zygmunt Wróblewski and the chemist Karol Olszewski reverberated all over the world.

The second half of the 19th century began the next golden period of the University's history. Astronomy, mathematics and physics were included in the Faculty of Philosophy. In 1913, the chair of physics was given to the outstanding physicist Marian Smoluchowski, co-author of the theory of kinetic matter.



*A laboratory*

Another famous figure was Władysław Natanson, a theoretical physicist in the interwar period. From 1919, the astronomer Tadeusz Banachiewicz, who invented a theory of 'cracovians' – a special kind of matrix algebra, created a scientific school at the University.

After World War II the development of physics was connected with professors from Vilnius: Henryk Niewodniczański, the creator of the Kraków's nuclear physics school, Jan Blaton and Jan Weyssenhof who specialised in theoretical physics. Their successors included Franciszek Leja, Tadeusz Ważewski, Stanisław Gołąb as well as their students: Jacek Szarski, Andrzej Pliś and Zdzisław Opiał. Radioastronomy as a new discipline was developed during Banachiewicz's life.

From 1945 the structure of the Faculty changed a few times. In 2012, the Marian Smoluchowski Kraków Scientific Consortium 'Matter-Energy-Future,' embracing the JU Faculty, was granted the status of a Leading National Research Centre (KNOW).

From now on, the JU Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science is writing further chapters in its new seat on the new Jagiellonian University Campus, at 11 Prof. Stanisława Łojasiewicza Street.

*Maria Kantor*



*The new premises of the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Computer Science*



# OPENING OF THE 651ST ACADEMIC YEAR



A. Wojnar

*Rector W. Nowak in the JU professors' procession*

As usual, the opening of the new academic year 2014/2015 at the Jagiellonian University was held on 1 October. That day was filled with various solemn events. It began with Mass celebrated in St Anne's Collegiate Church in the morning. Then a procession of JU professors in university gowns and guests was formed in Collegium Maius and marched to the JU Auditorium Maximum where a solemn session of the JU Senate took place.

On its way the procession stopped at Collegium Novum where the JU Rector Prof. Wojciech Nowak unveiled a plaque commemorating King Władysław Jagiełło, the restorer of the University. Then the JU authorities stopped by the Oak of Freedom in front of Collegium Novum to lay a wreath under the commemorative plaque.



A. Wojnar

*Unveiling the plaque on Collegium Novum*

A few minutes past 11, the main hall in the Auditorium Maximum was resounding with *Gaude Mater Polonia*, a medieval Polish anthem sung at every opening of the new academic year.

In his speech, Prof. Wojciech Nowak first referred to the 650th Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University and officially announced its closing. He enumerated some of the most important events that had taken place during the Anniversary. Then he went on to mention the challenges that the whole academic community was facing: an effective use of the modernised scientific base, optimal and adequate use of the possibilities of co-financing of research from the EU means, especially from the Europe 2020 programme, the necessity of creating interdisciplinary and many-centre research teams, collaborating with European research centres, increase in the quality of research and didactic process, widening the process of internationalisation, making the JU study programmes attractive and competitive through their quality, teaching staff and internationalisation.



A. Wojnar

*In front of the Oak of Freedom*

The Rector also talked about the investments in the JU new campus: new seats for the Faculty of Chemistry and for the Institute of Geological Sciences as well as the new JU hospital in Kraków-Prokocim.

In his opinion the power and pride of the Jagiellonian University are its students. The University is obliged to understand their needs and desires.

Finally, Prof. Wojciech Nowak quoted the Anniversary motto: *Inspired by the past we look to future* and opened the new academic year wishing everyone: QUOD FELIX, FAUSTUM, FORTUNATUMQUE SIT!

Then the annual university awards were presented: the Polonia Restituta Knight's Cross to Prof. Piotr Tworzewski, the Merentibus Medal to Prof. Ralph Jozefowicz, the JU Person of Merit Awards to Dr Joanne T. Wyszomirski-Witkowski and Mrs Ellen Bergene, the *Plus Ratio Quam Vis* Medal to Prof. Piotr Sztompka and Prof. Wojciech Fronczisz and the JU Rector's Award 'Jagiellonian Laurel' to Prof. Tomasz Placek, Prof. Zbigniew Błocki and Prof. Maciej Tadeusz Małecki.

The most important part of the opening ceremony was the matriculation conducted by the JU Vice-Rector for Educational





A. Wojnar

*In the Auditorium Maximum*



*JU procession in the University quarter*

Affairs Prof. Andrzej Mania. Addressing the freshmen he challenged them to develop a passion for seeking, gaining knowledge and acquiring skills, using the rich offer of the JU study programmes. 32 first year students swore an oath on behalf of all the freshmen. After the singing of the university anthem *Gaudeamus Igitur*, a speech was made by the President of the JU Student Self-Government Dawid Kolenda. He greeted all the freshmen and wished them much success, knowledge, experience and involvement in student life.

The last element of the inauguration was a lecture delivered by Prof. Elzbieta Richter-Wąs. The tradition of inaugural lectures goes back to the year 1400. The title of this year's lecture was, 'A great breakthrough in physics: discovery and study of Higgs boson.'

The inauguration was accompanied by an exhibition of the congratulatory addresses and gifts presented to the Jagiellonian University to mark its 650th Anniversary and exhibition of the Jubilee publications of the Jagiellonian University.

Last but not least, there was an evening concert by the JU *Ślowianki* Song and Dance Ensemble.

\* \* \*

**In the academic year 2014/2015 the Jagiellonian University offers:**

- 84 study programmes
- 159 specialisations

**Total number of students: 47,925:**

- 44,561 Bachelor and Master students
- 3,364 PhD students

University unit	Bachelor/ Master	doctoral
Faculty of Management and Social Communication	7,964	194
Faculty of Law and Administration	6,535	647
Faculty of International and Political Studies	4,455	184
Faculty of Philology	4,181	162
Faculty of Philosophy	3,762	456
Faculty of Medicine with the Division of Dentistry	3,080	202
Faculty of History	2,216	243
Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences	2,140	327
Faculty of Health Sciences	2,129	30
Faculty of Polish Studies	2,053	257
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science	1,693	106
Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science	1,435	204
Faculty of Pharmacy with the Division of Medical Analytics	1,166	72
Faculty of Chemistry	1,013	144
Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology	575	136
Interfaculty Studies in the Humanities	164	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>44,561</b>	<b>3,364</b>

*Maria Kantor*



A. Wojnar

*Matriculation*



*Concert of Ślowianki*



# A YEAR OF LIFE AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

## Interview with Anna Rataj, BA, MA, LL.M. (Heidelberg), LL.M. (Harvard) PhD Candidate at Chair of Constitutional Law, Jagiellonian University

**Newsletter:** Every stage of life begins with a first step. Graduating with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Harvard is a rewarding conclusion of a long journey. How did it begin?

**Anna Rataj:** The very first time I thought about studying at Harvard was in 2007 when I was a trainee at an international law firm in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Some of the associates and partners had an LL.M. from Harvard and it was seen as something very respectable in this environment. But during that time, getting into Harvard sounded like something completely unattainable and impossible to happen.

**N:** But it did happen.

**AR:** Yes, dreams come true, sometimes. And it was a long road, indeed. I had to get my MA in law from the Jagiellonian University and do my 3-year legal training at the Kraków Bar Chamber while working at a law firm. Somewhere in-between, I spent two years studying in Germany, a semester in Israel, I graduated from Kraków Conservatory with major in piano and obtained my BA in Jewish Studies. I did also an LL.M. in Heidelberg, postgraduate studies in specialized translation at the UNESCO Chair and I started my PhD studies in constitutional law at Jagiellonian. I know it all sounds chaotic, but somehow I learned the ability of multitasking which helped me to accomplish all of my goals. The only thing that was still missing on my résumé was an LL.M. from Harvard. So I decided to apply.

**N:** What did the application process look like?

**AR:** First, I had to take the TOEFL exam. I did it in the Summer 2012 when I was in Israel on a scholarship. I started preparing my application only after learning that my TOEFL results would satisfy the Harvard threshold. I had to collect transcripts of records from all previous higher education institutions in Poland and Germany, obtain three letters of recommendation, prepare an academic essay, résumé and personal statement. Sounds easy, but it was not. This packet of

documents decides whether you will be chosen as one of the 180 out of over 1,600 fully qualified applicants to the programme or not, so I had to put in all of my effort to make it as perfect as possible.

In my application, I emphasized my extraordinary achievements, additional skills and social engagement. It is not enough to have excellent results in studies or at work. Harvard looks for outstanding people with potential to change the world, you cannot be an average person. I think my passion for playing the piano also helped me to get into Harvard.

**N:** What were your first impressions after arriving at Harvard?

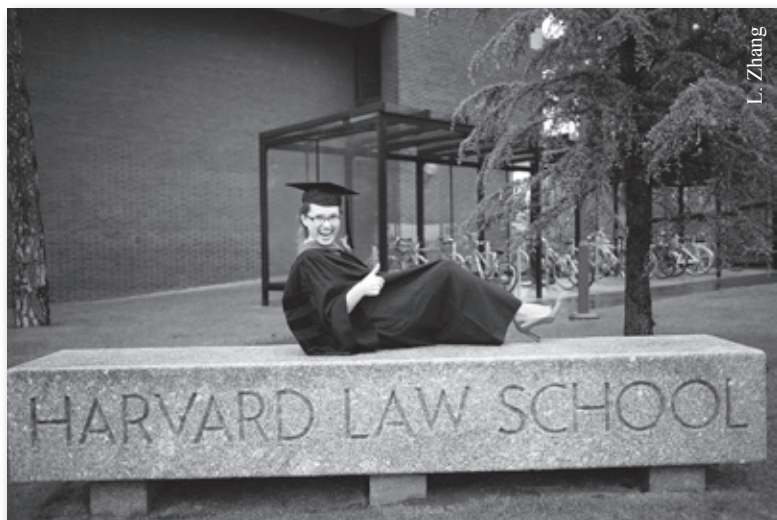
**AR:** I knew I was going to experience a higher standard of studying than in Europe. But what I saw had by far exceeded my expectations. Everything was student-oriented: different student facilities, a 24/7 access to the central Law School building with the student ID, study rooms, huge student lounge with two fireplaces, helpful administrative staff, ITS services, printed materials ready to pick up, free coffee, and even free relaxing massages during the final exams. Not to mention the academic aspect of studying – Harvard has the largest law school library in the world and its resources seem to be unlimited. There are special research librarians who help you to look up materials you need for your thesis. Professors always answer e-mails and are happy to meet and discuss any questions you may have. No wonder; a year at Harvard costs 54,000 USD, but you see what the money is spent on.

**N:** Which courses did you take? Did you have to study a lot?

**AR:** I concentrated mainly on two areas of law: constitutional law and corporate law. Both of them have a special significance in America and it was a great experience to participate in courses taught by the best legal scholars in those areas. The courses were very demanding and required a lot of work. It was hard especially at the beginning because I had to read the 19th-century Supreme Court cases which were written in a very difficult legal jargon. But as time passed by and I read more and more, I got better and was even able to participate in class discussions.



*Anna Rataj with the logo*



*Graduating from Harvard*



For the January term, I got accepted into the Harvard Negotiation Workshop which is recognized as the best negotiation programme in the world. It was a challenging but very rewarding experience. I also cross-registered at Harvard Business School for a course on 'Boards of Directors' and that was a very good choice. I saw a completely different way of thinking that MBA students presented, and it helped me to look at corporate law from a business perspective.

**N: You also graduated from Jewish Studies in Poland. Did you attend any courses on that topic while at Harvard?**

**AR:** Yes, I cross-registered at the Modern Hebrew Programme at Harvard College. During the whole academic year, I had a Hebrew class every day, Monday through Friday, and we got a lot of homework to do as well. Each student was given an iPad with special software and apps to study Hebrew any time and place he or she wished. The course was very demanding but extremely effective. I am now fluent in speaking Hebrew. I had a wonderful teacher who even invited me for Thanksgiving at her home. Last year, Thanksgiving coincided with the Jewish holiday of Chanukah, and I got a chance to celebrate it with her family. Also thanks to her, I was able to give a lecture on 'Jewish Life in Poland Today,' which was co-sponsored by the Harvard Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard Modern Hebrew Programme. The lecture was attended by a large audience, including the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, members of the local Polish-American-Jewish community as well as Harvard and MIT students.

**N: You have mentioned you play the piano. Did you get a chance to play at Harvard?**

**AR:** Oh yes, and how! Right after arriving there, I joined the Chamber Music Society and soon I became a Board member. Harvard University takes care of music; there are over two hundred pianos and grand pianos on campus in different University buildings and undergraduate dorms. I used to practice at the Music Building which was located right next to the Law School campus. During my year at Harvard, I was able to organise and perform four concerts at Harvard Law School and additionally, two concerts for a wider community. Those concerts were an excellent opportunity to contribute to cultural life at Harvard and to present Polish culture, especially by performing works of the most



*Performing the piano at John Paine Hall*

famous Polish composer, Frederic Chopin. I was also able to perform Chopin during the most important international event at Harvard Law School, namely the 'International Party' organised yearly by the Graduate Programme. I also managed to find another three pianists (one from China, one from Israel and one from the USA) who agreed to perform the 'Galop-Marche' with me, a piece for eight hands written by Albert Lavignac. It was a great success. The report from our Spring Concert was even on the website of the Polish Consulate General in New York. The video of the first performance of Lavignac at Harvard is still available on You tube.

**N: Sounds like you had a busy time at Harvard. Did you get a chance to enjoy student life there?**

**AR:** I did! I lived on campus so I had student life round the clock. In my dorm, people were studying together, cooking national dishes, playing guitar, singing and having fun. Our lounge was the best place to socialize and even students living off-campus used to hang out there with us. And during winter, every evening we organised fitness there. I had wonderful floor mates.

Harvard organised many official receptions, conferences, meetings with important personalities and gala evenings. For example, during the conference 'Alan Dershowitz: 50 years at Harvard Law School,' I met Professor Aharon Barak, the former Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, and I discussed with him some issues connected with my PhD dissertation on the Israeli Supreme Court. Numerous students' organisations offered endless lists of academic and social events. I got involved in the Harvard Asia Law Society and I participated in many events concerning Asian law and culture, I celebrated Chinese New Year with my friends and I even mastered the difficult skill of using chopsticks!

I was also an active member of the Harvard Polish Society, an organisation of Polish students and scholars at Harvard. Within that activity, I helped in organising events aiming at integration of the Polish community at Harvard and in the Boston area.

**N: How about cultural diversity?**

**AR:** In terms of cultural diversity, Harvard is the best place one can imagine. In my LL.M. class, there were students from over 70 countries, representing different cultures and legal systems. It was an excellent enrichment of the Harvard academic curriculum. I have made very good friends mostly with American students, but my best LL.M.-friends were from



*Graduation of lawyers*



Asia and Africa. I have already been invited to weddings in Vietnam and Kenya.

**N: How would you sum up your year at Harvard?**

**AR:** Participating in the LL.M. programme at Harvard Law School was a great opportunity to study with the most brilliant students from all over the world and to meet the most prominent legal scholars. The courses I attended helped me not only to deepen my knowledge, but first and foremost to develop new academic skills and master the ability of analytical thinking. I can now say that I graduated from the same school as President Obama, six out of the nine current US Supreme Court Justices and many other famous people who play an important role in law and world politics. I am sure that one day many of my classmates will be the ones who are going to change the world.



*With the Harvard Diploma*

**N: What are your plans for the future?**

**AR:** At the moment, I am beginning my one-year fellowship at the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg. It is a world-renowned institution for research on comparative constitutional law. I am going to finalize my PhD while being there.

**N: And then?**

**AR:** The world of investment banking knows two types of investments: short-term and long-term investments. A degree from Harvard is definitely the latter one. I am not yet sure if I will stay in academia or go into business, but I am sure a Harvard diploma is going to help me in any career I choose.

**N: We wish you all the best. Thank you for the conversation.**

**AR:** My pleasure. Thank you very much.

## ON THE SCIENTIFIC HIGH SEA some of the realities of scholarly life

When on the 74th Anniversary of *Sonderaktion Krakau* the Rector of Jagiellonian University Prof. Wojciech Nowak and the Rector of the Ruprechts-Karl Heidelberg University Prof. Bernhard Eitel handed me the Prof. Stanisław Kutrzeba Award 2013 – a one year research scholarship at Heidelberg University and the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg – I did not even imagine that scholarly life could resemble a sailor's life to such an extent.

My scholarly journey began at the Katowice-Pyrzowice Airport in February 2014. The flight to Frankfurt was short, but with some turbulence in the German airspace. Frankfurt welcomed me with stormy weather (the captain of the plane warned the passengers to be careful while getting off the plane due to strong squalls). 'Am I on the sea since the captain has just warned me about heavy weather conditions?' I asked myself. But then I could not yet predict that the similarities between a scholar's life and sailor's life were about to affect me.

Heidelberg – one of the two German cities which were not destroyed during World War II – belongs to the state of Baden-Württemberg and has a unique climate. When I arrived in Heidelberg in February it was 10 degrees Celsius above zero. It is said that during the year the temperature in Heidelberg is always about 3 Celsius degrees higher than in the other neighbouring cities. This medium-sized German city (with about 200,000 inhabitants) is located between the hills in the valley of the Neckar (a basin of the Rhine). It is a very green and leafy city with lovely little streets in the *Altstadt*; an impressive castle on the mountainside and a walking path – *Philosophenweg* – where, as we may imagine, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe strolled during his stay in Heidelberg on his way to Weimar.

Due to lots of luck and helpful souls, I received a one-room apartment in the University Guesthouse which is located in the main University Campus Im Neuenheimer Feld, a few minutes away from the University Mensa. Every meal in the 'Mensa' reminds me of all those breakfasts, lunches and dinners I have had on board many ships (the German word *Mensa* means 'a canteen' and due to the influence of German terminology sailors use this term all around the world).

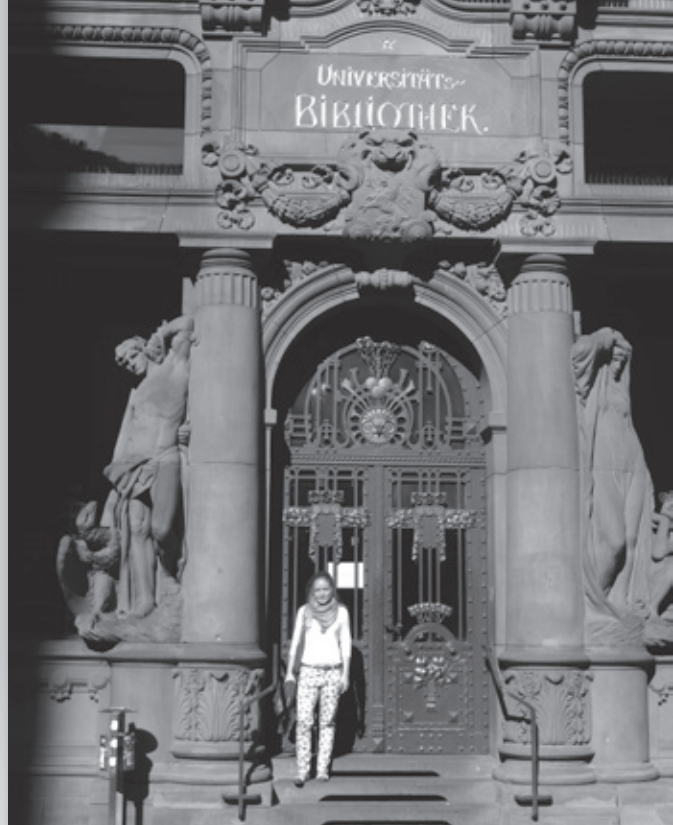
Since February I have been walking along the same short route – from the Guesthouse, passing the 'Mensa,' crossing the street and 'boarding' the Max Planck Institute. Almost every morning friendly faces of the very helpful librarians Sandra and Ali welcomed me at the Loan Deck in the lobby of the Institute. Every few days I visit Peter – a very friendly and helpful Brit who has been working in the MPI for many years



*On the Carl Theodor Bridge, Heidelberg Castle in the background*

B. Stępień





*In front of the University Library*

and always clarifies our doubts about the English language. I share my time on board of the MPI with time spent at the University Library Heidelberg.

People working and conducting research at the Max Planck Institute can be divided into a few groups: administrative workers (like librarians, archivists, etc. without whom it would be impossible to use the vast collections of the Institute's library), scientific staff (contract research fellows) and visiting scholars (like me).

At the Max Planck Institute there is a great rotation of guest scholars and researchers. They come from all over the world to visit the MPI sometimes just for a few days – sometimes for a few years. But, regardless of their nationality, personal beliefs, research fields or age there is one common opinion: if you once cross the doors of the MPI in Heidelberg you do not want to do research anywhere else. Reasons for this phenomenon are different. Certainly, at the “pole position” there are the vast collections of the Max Planck Library, one of the biggest libraries in the world. In the basement of the MPI we can find the first editions of the pearls of scientific books from the 18th century, for example *Collection Complete des Oeuvres de J.J. Rousseau*.

At the MPI there is a tradition of ‘Monday’s meetings’ (*Referentenbesprechung*), which are run by the Directors of the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg: Prof. Anne Peters and Prof. Armin von Bogdandy. During those meetings the guest researchers and the MPI employees have a marvellous opportunity to discuss issues pertaining to international and comparative law with international scholars, researchers and professors, which is an undoubted significant contribution to their scientific development. At the Max Planck Institute, like young adepts of the sailing art we – young scholars – learn how to navigate on the rough sea of science from many highly experienced captains, such as Prof. Rüdiger Wolfrum, a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The reference to the scientific high sea in the title of this article is not accidental. A scholar's life is surprisingly similar

to the life of a seafarer. Even though sometimes there is an impression of the repetition of daily schedule, at the same time every day is completely different from the day before.

After spending more than half a year in the reading room at the MPI, I can admit that the people I meet almost every day have become not only my friends but also my German (even though they come from different countries) family.

Every time I enter the reading room I say ‘Hola!’ to Pedro – my neighbour in the reading room, a marvellous scholar from Mexico City, always cheerful and popular because of his ability to make us laugh with his jokes. On my right-hand side I can see Thomas, a Luxembourgian speaking three languages as his mother tongues, and an *aficionado* of coffee. On the other side of the huge square desk there is Marta – a scholar from Padua who takes care of our health and feeds us with fresh strawberries during every sightseeing trip. On the opposite side of the room there is Arturo – a Mexican constitutional law specialist providing us with wild guitar music during many meetings. The ‘permanent members’ of the reading room include Salim – an incredibly kind scholar from Afghanistan teaching us Pashto, and Dulce – a lecturer from the University of Coimbra, cooking the best *bacalao* I have ever eaten.

Like crewmembers embarked on the same ship, we spend almost all day long together. In the morning we meet in the reading room, at about one p.m. we go together for lunch to the *Mensa*, afterwards we have *espresso* in the Italian restaurant, which is located in one of the guesthouses. Sometimes during the lunch break we play table tennis. Afterwards we go back to the Institute and work there until evening. It is not unusual that we meet again for dinner or a glass of wine (delicious, regional – but known all over the world – wines such as Spätburgunder or Riesling) late in the evening. As a very unique family or crew of one ship, we work together, we eat together and we spend leisure time together. We share our problems and joys, discuss scientific matters and consult our works.

The life of a scholar, like the life of a sailor, teaches us perseverance, team-work (and also leadership), conscientiousness and a sense of duty. Scientific work and experience as well as coexistence with top international scholars are important contributions not only to our intellectual and professional development as scholars, but also as young men and women. Every day I appreciate more and more the opportunity of experiencing my ‘Heidelberg life’ and I am very happy that its second part is still ahead of me...

*Barbara Stepień,*

*PhD candidate, JU Department of International Public Law*

In order to pay tribute to the professors of the Jagiellonian University, who on 6 November 1939 within the framework of *Sonderaktion Krakau*, were arrested and taken to the concentration camps in Sachsenhausen and Dachau, where many of them died, the Ruprecht-Karl University of Heidelberg, the Max Planck Institute of Public Comparative Law and International Public Law founded the Stanisław Kutrzeba Award in the field of human rights protection in Europe, in the hope of strengthening, reviving and developing understanding between Poland and Germany. The award in the amount of 12,500 euros is granted to a worker or alumnus of the Jagiellonian University for a year's research at Heidelberg University. The award is annually granted on the anniversary of *Sonderaktion Krakau*.





## DISCOVERING VAT AS A WONDERFUL TAX\* DURING A ONE MONTH RESEARCH STAY IN VIENNA

This year, the University of Vienna, within the framework of bilateral co-operation with the Jagiellonian University, has granted scholarships to three JU doctoral students. I was one of the students who received this grant.

I was kindly hosted by the Department of Tax Law (Institut für Finanzrecht) at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna, directed by Prof. Sabine Kirchmayr-Schliesselberger. All the organisational issues related to the grant were dealt with in the Relations Offices at both universities: by Dr Tatjana Antalovsky in Vienna and by Dr Maria Kantor in Kraków. The purpose of the grant was to encourage young researchers to make use of the partnership exchange by offering them the possibility to spend a one month research stay at both universities.

During my research stay I was collecting materials for my PhD thesis on theoretical and normative characteristics of value added tax (VAT) in Poland. In this work I will assume how Polish VAT implements the requirements resulting from the European Union law as well from the doctrinal pattern of the very tax, concerning the neutrality of taxation, which is defined as a backbone of the entire structure of the value added tax system.

Vienna, beyond its obvious attractiveness as a tourist destination (11.4 million overnight stays in Vienna in 2011), is also a magnificent place for carrying out scientific research as it is a renown academic city. The University of Vienna is the largest teaching and research institution in Austria (91,898 students and 9,703 staff in 2013). In fact, it is the oldest German-speaking university (established in 1365), and it made notable contributions to the 20th-century research, giving, *inter alia*, five Nobel Prize winners in Medicine (in 1914, 1927, 1930, 1936 and 1973) as well as in Physics (1933) and most recently – in Economics (Friedrich von Hayek, 1974). At the same time it is striking and to be highly appreciated that our Alma Mater is one year older than its Viennese partner university. The magnificent 650th Anniversary of the University of Vienna will be celebrated in 2015.

Studying at the University of Vienna reminded me of my Alma Mater. The main building of the University of Vienna is located at the centre of Vienna's Old City and it is as impressive

as all the other buildings around the Ring (which may be compared to Planty Park in Kraków). When the Austrian and Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I started to re-vamp the Ringstraße, he commissioned one of the best known architects of those days, Heinrich Ferstel, to design a neo-Renaissance style building (that was finally erected between the Votivkirche and the Rathaus – Town Hall in the years 1877-1884). Soon after the opening of the building, the University of Vienna started to spread and acquire more buildings. This trend continues until today. Indeed, the Faculty of Law has its own separate building, called 'Iuridicum' (completed in the early 1980s). However, the particular Institutes and Chairs, as well as their libraries are spread in different parts of the Old City. Therefore, in the course of my research, I visited six different libraries located at the University. Of great usefulness was the library of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics where I could find the books I needed most. All of the libraries possess various international books and journals (especially in English), which to some extent constitutes a reflection of students' multiculturalism in the Austrian capital (the share of foreign students there was at an estimated 27.8% in 2013).

I also had the opportunity to visit and carry out research at the newly opened campus of the Vienna University of Economics and Business (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, WU). This campus represents a further milestone towards the WU reaching a top position among European business schools.



New building of the Faculty of Business Economics and Statistics

M. Matecka

\* Title inspired by: R. Lyal, 'VAT-It's a wonderful tax' (in:) M. Lang and others (eds.), *ECJ – Recent Developments in Value Added Tax. The evolution of European VAT Jurisprudence and its Role in the EU Common VAT System*, Vienna 2014.





The campus buildings were designed by six internationally renowned architectural studios (among them by Zaha Hadid's firm in Hamburg) and are very functional. The world-renowned Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law directed by Prof. Michael Lang, dealing with tax law, is located in the building which to me looks most optimistic in the whole campus (with its warm colours: yellow, red and orange). This is exactly the place where I took part in a prestigious international conference entitled 'The Future of VAT in a Digital Global Economy.' Experts in indirect taxation (from the OECD, the European Commission, the IMF, various national governments as well as global tax advisory business) gathered to discuss critical VAT issues in this ever-expanding branch of economy.

I would like to point out that, in addition to scientific values, Vienna impresses me with its vastness and splendour. The city has certain features which render life (and research stay) very convenient, for example the very well-organised public transportation and great facilities for cyclists. However, it was a little difficult for me to get used to the fact that stores close much earlier than in Poland, and on Sundays all shops (except for few shops in the underground), are closed

so on Saturdays people hurry to do their shopping for the weekend before 6 p.m. On the other hand, it shows clearly that the state economy is able to function (and does very well) without trading on Sundays.

Vienna is, naturally, a special place for Poles. It was here that on 12 September 1683 King Jan III Sobieski commanded the joint forces in the great battle of Vienna, which ended in a resounding defeat for the Turks and protected Europe from being conquered by the Islamic forces. Subsequently and paradoxically, it was also Vienna (as the capital city of the Habsburg Empire) which led to the disappearance of Poland for 123 years from the world's maps (because the Empire was one of Poland's occupants). Today Vienna is a huge cluster of Polish émigrés. Many Poles work and live in the city. Numerous projects at the state level, co-ordinated by the Polish Embassy, or the existence of the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Vienna, opened in 1991, testify to the multitude and vitality of the Polish diaspora. A living example

of the presence of Poles in Vienna is the Polish Church in 5a, Rennweg Street, where Sunday services are held as often as in large Polish cities – (in Vienna it is eight times a day). The parish also gets involved in a number of patriotic projects and invites interesting people to give their testimonies. During my stay in Vienna (it was one of those rare non-scientific moments) I was able to attend a meeting with Floribeth Mora Díaz, the Costa-Rican woman who had been miraculously healed of an inoperable brain aneurism through the intercession of Pope John Paul II. Her medically inexplicable recovery in 2011 paved the way for John Paul II's canonization.

Sadly, one month is a relatively short period of time, especially when spent in such a magnificent and inspiring scientific environment where even half a year could hardly be enough... However, this time – thanks to the fruitful co-operation with the Jagiellonian University – was a period of conducting a profound, valuable research as well as listening and learning from several top-class experts in tax law. I shall treasure this one-month experience in Vienna, which will help me complete my doctoral dissertation.

*Magdalena Malecka*

*PhD candidate, JU Financial Law Department*



M. Malecka

*The author in the famous Café Central*



M. Malecka

*The logo of the 650th Anniversary*



# IRUN MEETINGS IN SIENA AND NIJMEGEN

## Joint Programmes Group meets in Siena

On 26 September 2014, the second meeting of the Building Block Joint Programmes within the International Research Universities (IRUN) was held at the University of Siena. This recently developed group began its activities during the last IRUN meeting at the University of Münster in June 2014. The Joint Programmes group was called into being to respond to the accelerating process of internationalisation of higher education and the necessity of creating wider study possibilities for foreign students at European institutions of higher education. The main aim and task of the group is to establish collaboration concerning joint as well as double degree Bachelor and Master study programmes between the IRUN member universities.

The meeting in Siena was presided over by Prof. Alessandra Viviani, Vice-Rector for International Relations of the University of Siena, who co-ordinates the works of the IRUN Joint Programmes Building Block. The other participants of the meeting included the representatives of the University of Siena, the Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Budapest and the Jagiellonian University that was represented by Dorota Maciejowska from the Office of the JU Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs. During the several hours of intensive work the following tasks were mentioned:

- the format and content of the electronic informational-working website (Intranet) as a database of all double degree and joint programmes of which the IRUN universities can be partner institutions;
- creating a current map of collaboration between the IRUN universities that have already declared some of their study



D. Maciejowska

*The main square in Siena*

programmes to possible double degree schemes;

- working out a guide explaining all the stages of the development and management of Double/Multiple Degrees and Joint Study Programmes (the guide will be accessible to all of the IRUN universities);
- working out a final format of the draft template for the IRUN Joint Programmes and Double Degree Call to the existing study fields that could be transferred into a double degree programme;
- preparing the text of an academic co-operation agreement for the establishment of a double degree programme on the basis of the agreement used by the University of Siena.

The meeting in Siena was held in a special atmosphere: preparations for the Researchers' Night which was to take place simultaneously in 500 European universities. Beautiful weather and masses of tourists and students who had arrived

in Siena before the opening of the academic year favoured the intensity of the discussions and creative solutions in the IRUN group. Talks of the Joint Programmes Building Block will be continued during teleconferences.

## IRUN Rectors' meeting in Nijmegen

On 16-18 October 2014, the JU Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs Prof. Andrzej Mania participated in the IRUN Rectors' meeting at the Radboud University Nijmegen. The meeting concerned the expansion of the network, the Building Blocks and action lines as well as IRUN presidency.

On 17 October, the gathered rectors of the IRUN universities joined the cortege during the Academic Ceremony of Transfer of the Rectorship of the Radboud University. Prof. Sebastian Kortmann, who was Rector of the Radboud University Nijmegen in 2007-2014, was succeeded by Prof. Theo Engelen. The ceremony took place in St Stephen's Church in Nijmegen.

During the ceremony Prof. Andrzej Mania handed a JU silver medal *Plus ratio quam vis* to the departing Rector Prof. Kortmann honouring his special merits for the Jagiellonian University and for the development of the IRUN network. Professor Sebastian Kortmann exerted enormous influence on



D. Maciejowska

*The meeting in Siena*



*Prof. Kortmann handing over the Rector's chain to Prof. Engelen*

From the IRUN archive





*Prof. Mania delivering his speech in Nijmegen*

the development of international co-operation, including staff and student mobility, research projects and EU research grants. Thanks to his activities the IRUN network was made visible in Europe, promoting high quality research and academic teaching. Moreover, thanks to him the Jagiellonian University could develop its international contacts in many fields of science and educational programmes. He supported and developed the agreement between the Jagiellonian University and the Radboud University Nijmegen (signed in 2005). The Jagiellonian University appreciated his organisational skills as well as friendliness towards the University.

Prof. Kortmann ended his final speech as Rector saying, 'I have often wondered what my role would become in the coming years. My desire to return to join the artists in and above the circus ring was the deciding factor. I am aware that I will have to train hard and long in order to show my skills. But challenged by the students, I will manage, albeit with ups and downs. I am moving over to the Faculty of Law in the knowledge that the university is gaining a Rector who may rightly be called 'Magnificus.' I will come back to him presently. I stand here a satisfied and grateful man, but that could hardly be otherwise with such a wonderful Cirque de l'Académie. There is perhaps no better way for me to conclude than with our university's motto: *in Dei nomine feliciter.*'

*Dorota Maciejowska  
The office of JU Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs*



*Rectors and Vice-Rectors from IRUN participating in the meeting*

## Ambassador of South Korea lectures at JU

On 14 October 2014, the Jagiellonian University hosted His Excellency Ji-in Hong, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Poland, within the Jagiellonian Diplomatic Encounters.

Firstly, Ambassador Ji-in Hong gave an open lecture entitled 'The Situation in Northwest Asia and Korea's Foreign Policy' in the main hall of the JU Collegium Novum. Then he was received by the JU Rector Prof. Wojciech Nowak.

The meeting in Collegium Novum was opened by Rev. Prof. Krzysztof Kościelniak, Head of the JU Institute of Near and Far Eastern Studies. He spoke about the modules of studies conducted in the Institute: Near Eastern, Indian and South Asian, Japanese, Chinese and Korean Studies, stressing that these were interdisciplinary studies. He finished by quoting a Korean proverb, 'Even if you know the way, ask once more.'

In his lecture Ambassador Ji-in Hong spoke about the strategic location of Korea, the Northwest Asia related powers: the USA, China, Japan and Russia as well as the changes in leadership in all of these powers. He defined the trademarks of policies of these countries: Korea – trust politics, the USA – rebalancing in Asia Pacific, China's dream, the return of Japan, strong Russia and parallel development of nuclear weapon and development (Korea).

Then he presented briefly the history of Korea which is celebrating the 4347th anniversary of its foundation. The Republic of Korea was established in 1948. Korea is the eighth largest trading country. Its foreign policy embraces: trust building process on the Korean peninsula, Northwest Asia peace and co-operation initiative and middle power diplomacy (e.g. environmental issues) between South and North Korea. The Ambassador emphasized that although Europe and North East Asia were different we could still learn a lot from each other. He also focused on the importance of historical reconciliation (healing the wounds), giving the example of the unification of German and the unification of Europe. Korea has learnt an important lesson from Europe looking at its experience. Korea is not a super power but can contribute to the growth and co-operation of the world community, to the common prosperity of the world.

Finally, he discussed the relationships between Poland and Korea, which were established in 1989. Both countries collaborate in the area of economy, culture and higher education. The Jagiellonian University has signed agreements of scientific collaboration with the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Sungkyunkwan University (both located in Seoul). After the lecture there was time for asking questions.

*Maria Kantor*



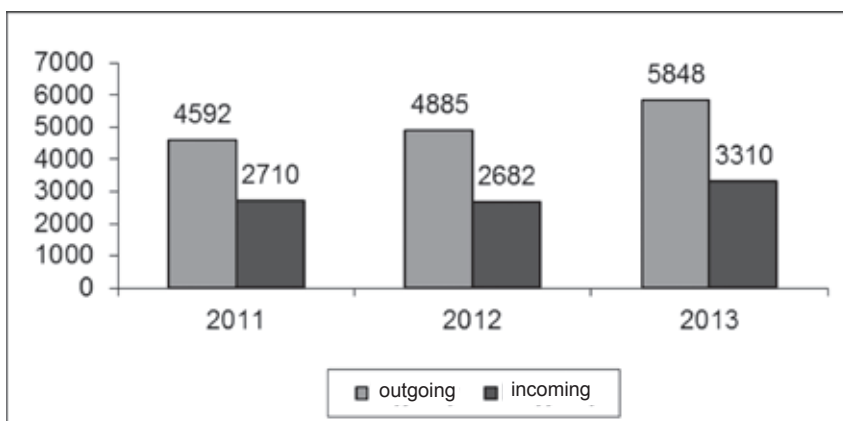
*His Excellency Ji-in Hong*



# INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN 2013/2014

In 2013, 5,848 JU employees and doctoral students visited foreign institutions of higher education in 82 countries whereas 3,310 international visitors from 80 countries came to the Jagiellonian University (the numbers do not include Bachelor and Master students).

The table below presents the visits of JU employees and doctoral students to countries with which the JU maintains most vivid contacts (percentage of each country's share in the total amount of visits).



Country	Year					
	2011		2012		2013	
Germany	612	13.3 %	761	15.6 %	905	15.5%
France	398	8.7 %	361	7.4 %	403	6.9%
Italy	376	8.2 %	390	8.0 %	463	7.9%
Great Britain	280	6.1 %	319	6.5 %	519	8.9%
USA	303	6.6 %	342	7.0 %	298	5.1%
Spain	212	4.7 %	243	5.0 %	195	3.3%

The table below presents the visits of international guests to the Jagiellonian University (percentage of each country's share in the total amount of visits).

Country	Year					
	2011		2012		2013	
Germany	544	20.1 %	436	16.3 %	494	14.9%
USA	170	6.3 %	194	7.2 %	338	10.2%
France	202	7.5 %	180	6.7 %	184	5.5%
Ukraine	151	5.6 %	178	6.6 %	190	5.7%
Spain	112	4.1 %	120	4.5 %	124	3.7%
Great Britain	107	3.9 %	87	3.3 %	161	4.9%



*Inauguration procession*

**The bilateral exchange** based on the agreements signed on the general level embraced 15 countries and 128 people in 2013.

Country	Outgoings	Incomings
Austria	9	9
Bulgaria	1	-
Croatia	4	5
Czech Republic	4	3
Finland	3	-
France	3	-
Germany	17	14
Holland	2	-
Hungary	6	5
Italy	5	3
Macedonia	1	1
Russia	2	3
Slovakia	2	4
Ukraine	6	8
USA	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>



*International Relations Office at 4 Czapskich Street*



In 2013, the Jagiellonian University collaborated with 184 institutions of higher education (77 agreements on the general level, 60 – on the faculty level and 47 – on the institute level). The JU signed 17 new agreements: 7 on the general level and 10 – faculty.

No.	Country	University	City	Level	Co-ordinating unit
1	Azerbaijan	Baku State University	Baku	U	different units
2	China	Tianjin Medical University	Tianjin	F	Collegium Medicum
3	France	FACO	Paris	F	Faculty of Law and Administration
4	Greece	European Public Law Organization (EPLO)	Athens	F	Faculty of Law and Administration
5	Holland	Maastricht University	Maastricht	F	Faculty of Health Sciences
6	India	University of Calcutta	Calcutta	U	different units
7	Israel	University of Haifa	Haifa	U	different units
8	Japan	Kyoto University	Kyoto	U	different units
9	Japan	National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences	Tsukuba	U	Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology
10	Japan	Kobe University	Kobe	U	IRO
11	Russia	International Law Institute	Moscow	F	Faculty of Law and Administration
12	Ukraine	Taras Shevchenko National University	Kiev	F	Faculty of Law and Administration
13	Ukraine	Odessa Mechnikov National University	Odessa	U	different units
14	USA	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine	Pennsylvania	F	Collegium Medicum
15	Italy	Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca	Milan	F	Collegium Medicum
16	Italy	Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia	Modena	F	Collegium Medicum
17	Italy	University 'G.D.' Annunzio	Chieti-Pescara	F	Collegium Medicum

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT JU

List of international students pursuing full and partial study programmes, short term research stays and courses at the JU in the academic year 2013/2014.

Bachelor studies	333
Master studies	415
Master long-cycle studies (including 706 in medicine)	810
Doctoral studies	71
Erasmus LLP	715
Students from exchange programmes	133
Short term stay students (up to 3 months)	12
Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World (semester/one year courses)	156
School of Polish Language and Culture (one semester courses – 71) (2-8-week courses – 612)	683
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,328</b>

List of doctoral and exchange students according to the JU faculties and interfaculty units.

Faculty	PhD students	Exchange students
Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology	3	1
Biology and Earth Sciences	12	4
Chemistry	3	10
Pharmacy	1	0
Philology	5	13
Philosophy	4	10
Physics, Astronomy and Applied Sciences	12	1
History	8	5
Medicine	1	0
Mathematics and Computer Science	5	0
Interfaculty Studies in the Humanities	0	1
Health Sciences	0	4
Polish Studies	2	42
Law and Administration	7	26
International and Political Studies	7	9
Management and Social Communication	1	7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>133</b>

Maria Kantor





# JU INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE MOVES TO NEW PREMISES

It was 50 years ago that on 16 December 1964, the Jagiellonian University Senate adopted a resolution that 'due to an increase in issues concerning international contacts, in particular research contacts with foreign universities or individuals, it seems necessary to create a new department of the JU administration, which would deal with scientific collaboration with institutions of higher education in Poland and abroad, with contacts between Polish academic staff and foreign researchers as well as the organisation of all kinds of symposia and sessions.' The Senate also appointed the first director of the Department of International Co-operation (DWZ), Mrs Elżbieta Małachowska (she held this position from 1 January 1965 till 68).

During those 50 years the Department has changed its names, size and scope of duties several times, but its seat was the same – Collegium Novum, until 7 November 2014 when it moved to new premises in another JU building, at 4 Czapskich Street (five minute walk from Collegium Novum).

After its creation, which followed the 600th Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University, the Department expanded rapidly, employing more people and embracing a wider scope of international matters and numerous agreements with foreign universities. However, it should be stressed that before 1964 the Jagiellonian University had collaborated with international institutions and exchanged academic staff and students in the framework of bilateral agreements with the Universities in Jena (agreement signed in 1962), Pécs and Bratislava (1963) and Helsinki (1964).

Throughout these 50 years numerous wonderful people, specialists in various areas, dedicated to their entrusted tasks have worked in the Department of International Relations. Regretfully, there is no space to mention all of them but let us honour those who

made significant contributions to the JU international relations: Elżbieta Małachowska (1965-68), Franciszek Palowski (1968-72), Jerzy Lisowski (1975-1985), Stefan Depowski (1976-84), Irena Malkiewicz (1971-75 and 1983-1998), Krystyna Kominowska (1973-2011), Renata Dobrowolska (since 1976), Małgorzata Komenda (since 1981), Krystyna Otrębska (1984-2008), Karina Kindykiewicz (1986-2006), Halina Michalik (since 1986), Mirosław Klimkiewicz (1994-2004), Iwona Brzozowska (1996-2006) and the undersigned (since 1998).

The scope of matters dealt with by the International Relations Department varied but in general this JU unit participated in the implementation of the University's policy concerning international relations and pursued related activities. These included negotiations and preparation of international bilateral agreements at the university level, advising and assisting in the preparation of international bilateral agreements at the faculty or institute level, organising visits of delegations from foreign universities, co-ordinating visits of guests coming to JU within bilateral agreements and visits of JU staff members abroad within bilateral agreements, coordinating the Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) for graduate students, dealing with the SOCRATES/ ERASMUS Programme and other EU research and educational programmes, dealing with student mobility within agreements signed on the governmental level and the bilateral JU agreements, participating in the IRUN network activities, receiving international relations officers from partner universities for training and informational purposes, registering the Fulbright visiting lecturers at JU, spreading information about stipends, summer schools, conferences and other international academic events through a distribution list, editing of the



'Newsletter' (since 1996) and *Guide for International Students* (1997 – 2004) or reporting on the JU international collaboration.

Moreover, the International Relations Department organised various cultural events: New Year's concerts for foreign teachers and students (the performers were the international and Polish students as well as the JU Choir), concerts of student choirs and orchestras from partner universities and concerts of the JU Choir abroad.

Currently, the International Relations Office consists of two sections: international co-operation (agreements of academic collaboration, bilateral exchange of academics and students, co-ordination of various scholarship programmes, editing of the 'Newsletter') and administration-finances (assistance to JU staff and students going abroad). Since 2004, student mobility (incoming and outgoing), including the Erasmus Programme, is managed by the International Students Office while all international research and educational programmes are dealt with by the International Research Programmes Department (since 2006).

Maria Kantor



International co-operation section

A. Wojnar



Administration-finances section



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' WELCOME MEETING

The Jagiellonian University, welcomed its Erasmus incoming and other foreign students for the winter semester 2014/15 on 29 September 2014. The official meeting was held in the aula of Collegium Novum. The welcome from the International Students Office was given by its head Mr Mirosław Klimkiewicz.

Then Dr Maria Kantor from the International Relations Office gave a power point presentation of the Jagiellonian University. In turn the President of the ESN Szymon Brylski talked about the ESN UJ and the attractions of the Orientation Week, including a visit to the Jagiellonian Library, university campuses, the City Game, sightseeing tours, various parties (Tram Party, i.e. 2- hour trip in an old tram where you can drink, have fun and socialize with people or Language Evening – meeting in a club where the tables have been assigned to different nationalities so that students can talk to native speakers), ESN drama, ESN Band, sports activities and planned trips.

The presentation of Krzysztof Byrski 'Studying at the Jagiellonian University' obviously attracted the students' attention as it focused on the formalities and practical aspects of studying: on-line registration to courses, ID cards, learning agreements or certificates. It was followed by questions. The last speaker was Mrs Katarzyna Jurzak-Mączka, Rector's Proxy for Student Safety and Security.

**In the autumn semester of the academic year 2014/15 there are 443 Erasmus students (275 female and 168 male) from 24 countries.**

## Erasmus incoming students according to nationality – winter semester 2014/2015

Spanish	102
German	80
Italian	56
French	55
Turkish	26
Czech	17
Dutch	16
Hungarian	16
Croatian	10
Slovakian	8
Romanian	7
Greek	6
Belgian	6
Bulgarian	6
Austrian	5
British	5
Latvian	4
Irish	4
Lithuanian	3
Slovenian	3
Maltese	3
Portuguese	2
Swedish	2
Macedonian	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443</b>



*Sightseeing Wawel Hill*

## Erasmus incoming students according to JU faculty – winter semester 2014/2015

International and Political Studies	84
Law and Administration	68
Philosophy	67
Philology	62
Management and Social Communication	56
History	38
Biology and Earth Sciences	17
Polish Studies	16
Medicine	12
Chemistry	9
Mathematics and Computer Sciences	3
Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology	3
Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science	3
Pharmacy	3
Health Sciences	1
Interfaculty Studies in the Humanities	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443</b>

In the winter semester 2014/15 the Erasmus incoming students can enrol in over 200 courses conducted in English, French, Spanish, German and Russian at the Jagiellonian University.

*Krzysztof Byrski, Maria Kantor*



*S. Brylski welcoming all the students in Collegium Novum*



# SUMMER SCHOOL AT CAMBRIDGE

In summer 2014, the Jeremi Króliczewski Educational Trust financed the attendance of four JU students: Ms **Dominika GNATEK**, 1st year of MSc programme in Nanotechnology (Science School Term II, 29.07-2.08.2014), Mr **Mateusz KOŁAKOWSKI**, 1st year of MA programme in American Studies (Interdisciplinary School Term I, 6-19.07.2014), Ms **Agata KOWOL**, 1st year of PhD programme in Literary Studies (Literary School Term II) and Ms **Natalia CZYŻOWSKA**, 1st year of PhD programme in Psychiatry (Science School Term II, 20-26.07.2014).

## Interdisciplinary School – Mateusz Kołakowski

I had an opportunity to participate in the first term of the Interdisciplinary Summer School in Cambridge. During those two weeks I studied some very interesting topics from the fields of political and social sciences, international relations, economics and ecology, all of them being part of one extensive course 'International politics in a global age.' It consisted of three classes daily, during which we listened to the lectures given by a number of interesting teachers, including renown academics and a former British ambassador to Russia, discussed the topic of the day and asked questions about it. Apart from the main course I also took part in the plenary and evening lectures, open to every participant of the Summer School, and spent some time learning in the University Library, one of the greatest of its kind.

It was really great to be able to hear what some of the best specialists in the subject have to say about the world's biggest contemporary problems and then to discuss it with them as well as with the other students. The fact that the participants came from a variety of backgrounds and countries made it even more interesting – everyone could add something new to the debate and present a slightly different point of view. After the classes I was further developing my knowledge while browsing through the multitude of books in the library, searching for those which would be useful for writing my final essay. I am looking forward to receiving my grade, for it will be accompanied by the detailed feedback given by one of the teachers, which will help me to understand the evaluation criteria of the best teaching institutions in the world. Moreover, since back home I study at the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University, for me the course was not only very interesting, but it will also earned the credits for completing my degree.

M. Kołakowski



Selwyn College

The Interdisciplinary Summer School at Cambridge was great, but it was not only about studying – I also had a chance to discover this beautiful city and visit its wonderful museums and monuments, and, what is probably the most important, to make a lot of new friends from around the globe. Some of them I will surely meet in the future, maybe at some other summer school since for me this form of education proved to be both pleasant and efficient.



M. Kołakowski

Third from the left: M. Kołakowski

## Science International Summer School – Dominika Gnatek

The purpose of this report is to describe my experience of attending the University of Cambridge International Summer School which took place on 20 July-2 August 2014. This two-week period was divided into two courses: 'Energy generation and sustainability' and 'Approaches to diffraction and imaging'.

The first part of the programme was focused on the problems of the energy generation from the renewable sources such as hydrogen economy, nuclear power, or intermittent sources, for example. The scope of the course involved the physics of each method and the challenges for materials science and engineering that emerge from the modern innovative methods of the energy generation.

The second course involved the structure analysis of the solid state materials. The programme included not only the theoretical explanation of the most important diffraction and microscopy methods but also the practical examples of the data analysis. This course was especially important to me because it provided a helpful knowledge for my day-to-day work in the laboratories.

Apart from the previously described courses, the Summer School involved morning and evening lectures that focused on the interesting issues of modern science, such as the discovery of Higgs Boson, the Bee chemistry or the cryptography, for instance. These additional lectures provided a new insight into many scientific subjects. Even though the topics of the lectures were not included in my specialisation of studies, they were presented in a very interesting way to arouse curiosity.

I believe that the Science International Summer School was a fulfilling experience. As a graduate student of *Advanced*





A. Kowol

*From the left: D. Gnatek, G. Berman, A. Kowol, R. Rosser*

**Materials and Nanotechnology** I found the courses useful for my future studies. The programmes extended the scope of the subjects I have taken at the Jagiellonian University and my previous knowledge enabled me to fully understand the presented problems. I have acquired knowledge not only from the classes and lectures but also from the debates with the world-class specialists. In addition, the international character of the Summer School allowed for the exchange of the different ways of thinking in tackling scientific problems. All in all, the University of Cambridge International Summer School was a very intensive programme and an excellent opportunity to enhance my scientific knowledge.

### Literature School – Agata Kowol

Cambridge University Literature Summer School 2014 provided me with a wonderful opportunity to experience what academic life is like in one of Europe's and the world's best universities. The very atmosphere of this picturesque mediaeval town full of old colleges and stunning gardens is unique, but being able to attend lectures and classes alongside people from all over the world made my stay at Cambridge an extremely valuable experience.

I am a PhD student of English literature at the Jagiellonian University and it was especially useful for me to have access to the Cambridge University Library, which apparently houses every single book published in the United Kingdom. Thanks to my stay in Cambridge, I managed to enrich my bibliography and research notes by using books I would not have had a chance to access otherwise. My research project focuses on 19th and 20th-century literature and my choice of subjects at the Summer School was influenced by my interests. I attended classes on Charles Dickens, 19th-century poetry and Philosophy of Literature. Apart from seminar-type classes, I also had the chance to listen to a wide variety of plenary and evening lectures ranging from ancient Greek tragedy and Shakespeare's plays to Tolkien and 20th century Israeli and Palestinian novels. The overall umbrella theme of this year's Literature Summer School was 'Crime and Punishment,' which I found particularly interesting as I could relate the issues raised to my research on ethics in Joseph Conrad's novels.

While the lectures offered a chance to broaden one's horizons, the classes were an excellent opportunity to take part in discussions and compare perspectives with other people. I found it very inspiring to hear and discuss viewpoints of people of various cultural backgrounds. It was also interesting to juxtapose the way classes were conducted with my own

experience and that of people from other countries. I am happy to say that the mode of English literature classes adopted at Cambridge University, and especially the encouragement of classroom discussions rather than a prescriptive lecture, is quite similar to what I have been accustomed to at the Jagiellonian University. Moreover, I had the opportunity to write two final essays which are going to be marked by Cambridge University teachers – I expect feedback in October or November.

### Science School – Natalia Czyżowska

During the Science Summer School in Cambridge I have participated in a course 'Autism – a modern epidemic?' led by Dr John Lawson from the Autism Research Centre. This course gave me an opportunity to increase my knowledge of autism and the related condition – Asperger syndrome (AS). The programme was designed to provide the participants with a broad understanding of the process of diagnosis and diagnostic features. I found it very important because presently there is no medical test that can diagnose autism, which means that psychologists and psychiatrists have to be aware of early signs of autism because delay in diagnosis of autism delays the opportunity of early intervention therapies. What is really important Dr Lawson shared not only his theoretical knowledge but also his clinical experience. I believe that participation in this course will help me in my work as a clinical psychologist.

The course provided also an introduction to the latest research. During sessions we explored some of the main areas of research currently taking place. Dr Lawson presented the results but what was even more interesting for me he also explained how the studies were designed and what methods were used. I also had a chance to present my own work and exchange ideas with Dr Lawson and other participants. I think that was very helpful for me as a young researcher. Talking to other people helped me to realize which aspects of my scientific work are innovative and which aspects should be change or analyze once again. I was given a good piece of advice on the direction of my research and career.



*Natalia Czyżowska*

N. Czyżowska



D. Gnatek

*The Bridge of Sighs over the River Cam, St John's College*



# MASTERING GERMAN IN HEIDELBERG

**I**nternationaler Ferienkurs für deutsche Sprache und Kultur – the red banner on the building of Neue Universität in Heidelberg welcomes the participants of the summer school from all over the world. It was also our sign and the beginning of our one month long, wonderful adventure. We wrote ‘was’ but should have written ‘is’ because vivid memories from the course are still in our minds. We do remember the hours spent with international participants – young people conversing in German – obeying the ambitious rule of the German language teachers: *kein Englisch*. Homework, tests, presentations, workshops, seminars on the one hand and concerts, excursions, film evenings and a sports picnic on the other. Some preferred *Ferien* while the others – *Kurs*. We did our best to use the chance we received from our University, mastering our skills during obligatory classes and seminars as well as through numerous cultural and tourist occasions provided by the organisers and time spent with the participants of the course. We are satisfied with the effects of our work and surprised to see that intensive learning of a language can be both pleasant and effective.

## Aleksandra's experience

Sunjung from South Korea, Virgil from Switzerland, Sumi from Japan, Gabi from Hungary, Shageldi from Turkmenistan, Teo from Greece and Aleksandra from Poland – these seven people from different parts of the world met in a charming place called Heidelberg to study business German (*Deutsch als Wirtschaftssprache*). The language courses in an international group was an ideal occasion to get to know other cultures that were so far from my usual experiences in Poland. What was interesting is that seeing numerous differences between us I could get to know my fatherland better and perceived its characteristics. Thanks to many conversations with the participants of the course I also learnt how Poles were seen by foreigners.

The language course within the summer school turned out to be very demanding. After several days we collected piles of material which was the so-called ‘Zettelwirtschaft’ until the end of the course. Mastering language skills was not limited to classes. The effects of our homework were continuously checked by our teachers. The afternoon workshops and seminars were conducted in a slightly less strict formula. The University of Heidelberg had a rich offer of additional classes. I participated in the seminar on German trade correspondence and seminar on interviews and writing a CV.

My stay in Heidelberg was a chance to get to know new people and places. There were also excursions on the weekends. They were very popular with the participants. I visited Strasbourg in France, with its old architecture and the European Parliament, the university town of Tübingen and the fabulous palace of the Hohenzollerns located in the vicinity of Heidelberg,



A. Harasim

*View over the Old City of Heidelberg*

as well as Konstanz on Lake Constance (*Bodensee*) with its picturesque view over the Swiss Alps.

## Justyna's experience

The participation in the summer school in Heidelberg was one of the best adventures during my studies. It was not only an occasion to develop my language competences but also to get to know new people and cultures. The organisers cared for every detail of our stay in Heidelberg. I lived in the very centre of the Old Town, at the bottom of the castle, near the university buildings. Thus I dare say that for me it was both a course and summer holiday. Every day I could admire the Old Town, the impressive castle and the banks of the Neckar River. Few cities can compete with Kraków but certainly Heidelberg can. It is a truly charming place.

My evaluation of the course is very high. The classes were divided into obligatory ones held in the morning and optional thematic seminars and workshops in the afternoon. Consequently, the participants could decide themselves how intensive their involvement in the course would be. Towards the end of the course we took the final test and after passing it we received certificates. The cultural-entertainment-sports aspects of the course were excellent. Every participant could choose what suited him best and use their free time to the maximum. We could go on weekend excursions, which were not very expensive. So we could visit several German cities, including Cologne, Nurnberg, Strasbourg in France as well as the Schwarzwald and the surroundings of Lake Constance.

*Aleksandra Harasim, Justyna Ciszek*



*A class in the Castle Gardens*

J. Ciszek

*Visiting the Museum of Contemporary Art in Strasbourg*



A. Harasim