

## University of Gdańsk – on the brink of the new 2020/2021 Academic Year

As the preliminary summary reveals almost 10 thousand freshmen students (almost 8 thousand full-time students) enrolled at the University of Gdańsk for the 2020/2021 Academic Year. We will have to wait for the full enrollment data, as the process started late at the University so as to adjust the enrollment schedule to the Matura exam results and allow secondary school seniors to apply for the field of study of their dreams.

The most popular fields of study within the current admissions are: Criminology (14,45), English Studies (12,29), Artistic Institution Management– Manager Studies (11,04), Psychology (9,99), Scandinavian Studies (9,64), Health Care Institution Management (8,93) Production of Audio-Visual Forms Studies (8,2) Informatics - General Academic Studies (8,05).

The 2020/2021 educational offer of the University of Gdańsk comprises 89 fields of study, full-time and part-time studies, at the level of first or second cycle studies, or within comprehensive (long cycle) five-year master's programs. The University also offers three doctoral schools and postgraduate courses to facilitate graduates' professional development. The 2020/2021 academic years saw the launch of two new, full-time fields of study: Maritime Hydrography (full-time, first cycle engineering degree) and Performing Arts – management and communication (full-time, second cycle field of study).

### The Structure of the 2020/2021 Winter Semester

Due to the epidemiological situation, the majority of 2020/2021 winter semester classes will be held on-line or with e-learning methods, via the UG Educational Platform or MS Teams application. Courses that cannot take place online, like field exercises, some laboratories, workshops or classes, will be held partially or entirely at the University of Gdańsk facilities. Freshmen students, going through the induction process, will have more on site meetings, including integration meetings. Student houses and assistant hotels will be open but will be housing a limited number of students, due to high infection risk in large gatherings and State Sanitary Inspection's regulations in force. Therefore, since October 1 only freshmen students (dormitory accommodation's recipients), as their situation is the most challenging, and foreigners, as the University is obliged to do so under international agreements, will be allowed at the UG student houses sites. Other students could be housed in student houses later along the way, depending on the pandemics restrictions lifting. UG student houses accommodation prices will not increase. All of the decisions concerning structure of the new academic year are dictated by the safety of the University of Gdańsk employees and students and the need to arrange work and classes for the entire, diverse in its nature, academic community, including students from outside Tricity and our Province.

### About the University of Gdańsk during the Anniversary Year

The University of Gdańsk was founded on 20 March 1970. It was formed from an amalgamation of two institutions of higher education: the Higher Economics School in Sopot and the Higher Pedagogical School in Gdańsk. Later, it also included the Higher Teacher Training School. The precursor of the Higher Economics School in Sopot was the Higher School of Maritime Trade in Sopot, which opened in 1945. During the Anniversary Year University of Gdańsk celebrates half century of its existence and 75-year anniversary of Tricity university traditions.

Currently, the University of Gdańsk is the largest higher education institution in the Pomorskie region. It comprises eleven faculties with almost twenty five thousand students, doctoral students and post-graduates and over one thousand seven hundred members of the academic staff. The University of

Gdańsk provides education in almost 89 fields of study at all levels of education. The offered courses are innovative, adapted to the needs of the job market and the challenges the XXI century society faces.

Academic classes and research take place at the state-of-the-art campuses in Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot. Modern buildings, workshops and laboratories, equipped with the cutting edge devices, open door to the new research possibilities, cooperation with business and industry and create studying conditions suitable for the 21st century. That all helps educate and develop the administrative and industry staff of Pomorskie region and the whole Baltic Sea Region.

The University remains truthful to its motto from 1970 - 'In mari via tua' (Your path leads through the sea). The University of Gdańsk is involved (as one of only ten Polish universities) in the creation of a network of European universities selected by the European Commission's competition. In conjunction with its partners from Spain, Croatia, France, Germany and Malta, University of Gdańsk forms a consortium of the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU)

The University of Gdańsk is the only Polish university which can boast a state-of-the-art research vessel, the r/v Oceanograf catamaran, intended for interdisciplinary research into the environment and nature of the Baltic Sea but also a place for conducting classes with students. The University's maritime authority has been substantiated by the excellent and internationally renowned research stations – the Institute of Oceanography's Prof. Krzysztof Skóra Hel Marine Station, the Bird Migration Research Station and the Biological Station in Sobieszewo. The University's maritime image is also reflected in fields of study it offers, specialties and research connected with the sea, in particular with the Baltic coast. The University of Gdańsk is actively involved in Baltic cooperation through the implementation of various international research projects. It is also the leader of the National Centre for Baltic Research Consortium.

The most notable scientific successes of the University have been achieved in biomedical and biomolecular fields, as well as theoretical foundations for quantum technologies. The University has been a two-time winner of the special programme of the Foundation for Polish Science, the International Research Agendas, aimed at establishing innovative centres of excellence in Poland with the participation of the best researchers from across the world. The University of Gdańsk received 76 million PLN to establish two agendas, the International Centre for Cancer Vaccine Science and the International Centre for Theory of Quantum Technologies.

The research activity of the University of Gdańsk translates into significant numbers. At present the University of Gdańsk is implementing eighty international scientific, research and development and didactic projects to the total value of over PLN 187 million. In addition, 241 domestic scientific and development projects are being implemented to the total value of over PLN 158 million (the majority of which span several years and the amount given reflects the entire funding).

devised by dr Beata Czechowska-Derkacz, Spokesperson of the University of Gdańsk