



DEAR READER,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and tell you about one of the most outstanding higher educational institutions in Hungary, Szent István University (SZIU). More than 18,000 students study at the 7 campuses of the university. In addition to conventional agricultural and environmental sciences, SZIU offers courses in veterinary medicine, mechanical engineering, economy and social sciences, architecture, water supply management, medical sciences as well as applied arts.

The university headquarters are located in picturesque Gödöllő, but altogether 9 faculties and an institution located in Budapest, Jászberény, Békéscsaba, Szarvas and Gyula accommodate our students.

Most of the schools in Szent István University have up to two-centuries of history.

The university offers an exceptional blend of quality traditional and modern teaching, research and educational activities. Students may choose from various fields of study, ranging from mechanical engineering to natural sciences, economics or social sciences in programs which meet or exceed European scale and quality standards. Graduates can use their highly respected diplomas to gain meaningful, well-paying employment in many different fields.

Nowadays, when students have relatively easy access to any given institution, members of the higher education community have to carefully consider their priorities within the system. We, at Szent István University, have done this and placed our emphasis behind quality education. The ever-increasing number of applications evinces the very positive view and unbroken trust of the students in the university. This trust further motivates us in our responsibility towards meeting the dynamic needs of our students. Our goal is to educate our students to be sensitive to quality. In order to fulfil that purpose we have a quality improvement program, under which we evaluate students using a system of clear standards which are set in advance and are available to the student before their evaluation. We work hard to assist students in achieving the knowledge and skills needed to become successful adults and leave our university with a valuable diploma in-hand. We look on our students as we would our own children; their success is our success.

Our final target is always the same: to educate professionals who are experts in their field and are able to operate on an international scale. We have a Foreign Language Teaching and Examination Center, with its headquarters in Gödöllő and institutes in Budapest and the Békés region, where students can take the language exams which are prerequisites for graduation. We realize that studying abroad is an integral part of a well-rounded education, so we offer our students the chance to spend one or two semesters abroad to experience other cultures and international perspectives. We have been an active member in EU exchange programs for more than 10 years and have more than 50 bilateral university agreements or letters of intent. It is among our top priorities to strengthen our external relations on local,



regional, national and international levels. Szent István University operates in cooperation with more than 100 partner institutions in 50 countries on 5 continents.

"Mens sana in corpora sano - a sound mind in a sound body," the proverb says. This is especially true in the case of young people. Such a university as ours, which targets quality education, cannot concentrate solely on teaching only professional material. We strive to provide our students with a solid professional education that incorporates exposure to rich cultural activities. In order to achieve this we arrange creative camps, photo camp, folk dance camp, and several other events. We don't forget about sports either; our students have many opportunities to participate in different sporting activities like water-ball or ice-sports, to name just a few. The university has quite a few active teams, on which everybody is welcome to participate.

We are not here for loud propaganda or false promises. The efficiency of all we offer is continuously put to the test by our students and graduates. The career opportunities provided by an education at Szent István are highly valued.

The buildings and the surroundings of our university campuses are among the most beautiful in the country. We offer quality, recently renovated student hostels where there are clubs and other facilities for students to enjoy their free time. All of this makes university life for the students fantastic and memorable. This is the everyday experience of all those who join us.

I hope that I have given a "taste" of Szent István University in this short summary. I want you to see how we have become, through the efforts of so many people, one of the most outstanding universities in Hungarian and foreign higher education.

It is worth coming to SZIU and studying here!

It is my pleasure to invite you, dear reader, to personally visit Szent István University and see for yourself that all we offer is among the best!

I hope that we will meet soon. With best regards,

Prof. László Solti
Rector