Dear Friends,

the Jagiellonian University welcomes everyone, having always remained open to new ideas and people.

The University’s success is tied directly to the dedication of its staff and its code of ethics. This is captured in its motto, “Plus ratio quam vis”, which firmly states that reason is more important than force.

Prof. Jacek Popiel
Jagiellonian University Rector
The Jagiellonian University was founded on 12 May 1364 by King Casimir the Great. This makes it the oldest university in Poland and one of the oldest in the region.

After a brief period of decline, the University was revived by King Vladislaus Jagiełło on 26 July 1400. The following decades proved to be some of the most prosperous ones in its history, during which time the University attracted students and professors from all of Europe.

The University was highly renowned for teaching law, mathematics, theology and astronomy, as evidenced by its distinguished professors: lawyers such as Stanislaw of Skarbimierz and Paweł Włodkowic (Paulus Vladimiri), co-originators of the concept of international law, as well as mathematicians, astronomers and geographers such as Marcin Król of Zurawica, Jan of Głogów, Wojciech of Brudzewo, and Maciej Miechowita (Matthias of Miechów).

The current name of the University was adopted in 1817.
The University was first known as the “Studium Generale” and comprised three faculties: Liberal Arts, Medicine, and Law. Over the centuries, the University adapted to the global change and development of science by creating more specialised faculties, of which there are currently sixteen.

Faculty of Law and Administration
Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Pharmacy
Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Philosophy
Faculty of History
Faculty of Philology
Faculty of Polish Studies
Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Faculty of Chemistry
Faculty of Biology
Faculty of Management and Social Communication
Faculty of International and Political Studies
Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology
Faculty of Geography and Geology
Space for research

• University Hospital – the most modern hospital in Poland, a leading medical facility that blends years of experience with the latest breakthroughs in medicine
• Jagiellonian Centre for Experimental Therapeutics – interdisciplinary research centre conducting studies on innovative methods of treatment
• SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre – the first and currently the only synchrotron radiation source in Central Europe. It boasts the latest generation cryogenic electron microscope Titan Krios G3i
• Małopolska Centre of Biotechnology – research centre specialising in several areas, including molecular biology and diseases of affluence

Unity through variety

Highest quality of research and successful education of future students using state-of-the-art facilities.
The University’s historic reputation is proven not only by its unique research equipment and laboratories, but most of all by its students and scholars. For centuries, it has represented the best that Polish academic institutions have to offer. In 1491, the famous astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus became a student of logic and philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. The Jagiellonian Library possesses in its collection the beautiful original six-volume manuscript of Copernicus’ “De revolutionibus orbium coelestium”.

“America terra noviter reperta” (the newly discovered land of America) is how the continent is described on the Jagiellonian Globe, the oldest remaining globe in the world on which the continent is present. The Globe was created in the 16th century, and is available for all to admire in the JU Museum. In 1883, Polish scientists Zygmunt Wróblewski and Karol Olszewski, after many attempts, finally managed to successfully liquefy oxygen and nitrogen in one of the University’s laboratories. Their accomplishment paved the way for major breakthroughs in treating diseases, preserving food, and even building spacecrafts.
The ANS coding method developed at the Jagiellonian University has increased the speed of information processing by thirty times. This breakthrough technology is now widely used to store information on computers and smartphones. It is also implemented in the JPEG-XL file format, which has revolutionised the way we store and transfer digital visual media. It allows us to reduce the size of an image by three times without losing any quality, which results in much faster data transfer, improving the resolution of images on social media and website loading speed.

A group of Jagiellonian University scientists in collaboration with leading Polish and international research centres is conducting a series of studies on the biological potential of stem cells and possibility to employ them to regenerate damaged tissue. Using the most innovative scientific methods and the most advanced equipment available, the researchers are working on treating diseases of affluence such as musculoskeletal system disorders in patients suffering from obesity, diabetes and heart conditions.

With the use of stylometry, researchers from the Institute of English Studies investigate authors, language and chronology in literature. This method allows them to identify unknown authors and changes in lexicon on the basis of quantifiable properties of texts. It also finds applications in forensic science and psychiatry, as it may be used to narrow down the list of suspects or detect certain mental disorders by analysing written information. Currently, the Jagiellonian University member of the largest humanities research consortium in Poland – DARIAH-PL, is one of the most important centres for stylometry research.
Studying

Nicolaus Copernicus, Wisława Szymborska, John Paul II, Stanisław Lem, Norman Davies, Leon Sternbach – these are just a few examples of famous Jagiellonian University students.

It was here that they gained the knowledge and experience which allowed them to create, discover, and leave their mark on the world.

There are nearly 40,000 students at the Jagiellonian University. They can choose from nearly 130 first-cycle and long-cycle programmes as well as more than 140 second-cycle programmes. There are programmes available in Polish, English, and other languages.

The University is much more than just lectures and laboratories. Students can apply for scholarships, take part in mobility programmes, and participate in other creative activities, like joining one of 300 student academic societies.

The Jagiellonian Library, which has the status of a national library, gives the University’s students and staff the access to over 5.8 million books and magazines. Its Internet counterpart, the Jagiellonian Digital Library, is developing rapidly, increasing its offer on a regular basis.

There are many opportunities to grow at the Jagiellonian University. It boasts an active student government, sports and tourist club, student theatres, song and dance ensembles, and a business incubator.
According to The Most Innovative European Universities ranking conducted by Reuters, the Jagiellonian University is the most innovative higher education institution in Poland and Eastern Europe. This would not be possible if not for the constant cooperation with scientists and universities from all over the world.

The Jagiellonian University collaborates with over 300 foreign universities from 70 countries within the framework of bilateral agreements and with nearly 560 higher education institutions from over 30 countries within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme.

The Jagiellonian University is part of many international organisations and cooperation networks. In 2019, it has received the status of a Research University. This prestigious Polish distinction, coupled with the University becoming one of the founding members of Una Europa – European University, will greatly contribute to the further development of the Jagiellonian University and its significance in the world.

The University also participates in international research initiatives and collaborates with prestigious research centres, including the Max Planck Society (biotechnology) and the National Institutes of Health (pharmacy).

Many of the Jagiellonian University’s inventions have been patented or are patent pending. The business aspect of the research is handled by the Centre for Technology Transfer CITTRU and Life Science Park.
Kraków is a city of students. Over 130,000 young people study here, and nearly a quarter of them chose the Jagiellonian University.

The old “City of Kings” is widely recognised as the cultural capital of Poland. It has the most museums, art galleries, and community centres of all cities in the country. Similarly, there are many theatres, concert halls, libraries, and cinemas. Kraków is also home to numerous festivals and parades.

At the same time, Kraków is a thriving business centre. Amongst the city’s greatest assets are numerous research and development institutions and new business centres filled with qualified individuals. The Jagiellonian University is the largest employer in the region.

There are over one hundred international corporations operating out of Kraków, providing services in information technology, business analytics, human resources management, accounting, and research and development. A few notable examples are Shell, Google, IBM Software Group, ESET, and ABB.

Kraków is a perfect place to study, grow, live, and work.