



PÁZMÁNY

Pázmány Péter Catholic University
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
NATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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DEAN'S WELCOME

The Faculty of Law and Political Science of Pázmány Péter Catholic University has become a leading institution in Hungary, educating the next generation of lawyers over the last two decades. Although the Faculty of Law ceased to function as a Catholic law school a century after its foundation in 1667, it resumed Catholic legal education in 1995, and to this day educates its students to carry out their professional duties in line with the moral values of the founding archbishop, Péter Pázmány.

As a student, you will be a member of a lively and active community, with a genuine enthusiasm for acquiring new knowledge and a strong commitment to explore the legal profession. Once a lawyer, whether you serve in the judiciary or legislature, you will have the power to resolve conflicts between your fellow humans and to shape their future in many ways. As an attorney, you will advise your clients and provide legal counsel to corporations. As a Pázmány graduate, you shall be expected to do so while undertaking to act in such a way as to advance the common good. We are going to teach you that justice is more than a well-structured set of legal arguments. Here, you will understand that true liberty is in taking up your duties without being forced into it, and not in disregarding your obligations in the name of freedom.

We are proud to offer a strong educational programme, which provides prospective lawyers with a holistic understanding of business, law, and moral principles, and how these areas converge. Not only do we introduce our students to a system of legal regulations, and teach them to understand the economic interests behind different legal solutions, but we also equip them with the ability to recognize and respect the underlying moral foundation of norms, even if it may happen that in some cases they have to assert different interests.

You will be in the charge of professors who are acknowledged authorities in their fields. Some of them have served or are still serving in high positions of important national institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Competition Authority or the Ombudsman Office. Others are members in respected international institutions, such as the EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

As the sixth Dean of the renewed Pázmány Law Faculty, I am equally committed to building on our strengths in education and scholarship, as well as to nurturing our family of students, faculty, and staff. I invite you to browse our website, visit our campus, reach out to our faculty and staff, and connect with your fellow students.

Welcome to Budapest, welcome at Pázmány!



István Szabó
Dean

WHY BUDAPEST?



Being one of the ten most frequently visited cities in Europe, the Hungarian capital is one of the most attractive international tourist destinations, and as such, it is also an ideal place for your study abroad experience.

Budapest's cultural life is characterised by a diversity of many traditions; Hungarian folklore events, classical music concerts given by renowned orchestras, dance theatres and a vibrant party scene are all equally at home here.

The city's unmatched natural beauty, combined with its rich architectural heritage, and a pedestrian-friendly downtown full of inviting public places and landmarks of our thousand-year history create a uniquely welcoming atmosphere for all visitors. Do you prefer a specialty café, or one that has stayed mostly the same since it was the meeting place of our 19th century poets? Would you like to see an opera, or an improv dance performance? For a special dinner, do you go for fusion kitchen or slow-food? Are you more interested in the works of the Italian Old Masters at the Museum of Fine Arts or contemporary art at Ludwig? Do you prefer nature hikes or team sports? Would you rather take a city walk or go to a thermal bath? No need to choose, Budapest has it all, and more.

On the practical side, Budapest is an interesting modern city with a lot to offer. The cost of living is quite affordable compared to other European capitals, and it is very easy to organise weekend trips to the surrounding countries thanks to the nearby airport and the international railway station. With a valid student ID, you are eligible for a reduced price monthly public transport pass, as well as discount entrance tickets to many events.



WHY PÁZMÁNY?

Each year about a hundred exchange students spend one or two semesters at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of Pázmány University, one of the most renowned universities in Hungary. The proven scientific excellence, the wide-ranging courses on offer, and vibrant community life ensure an unforgettable stay abroad.

However, a foreign country with a strange language may seem a bit intimidating at first. To help you ease into this new environment, we organize cultural, social and educational programmes: trips abroad, excursions, escape rooms, sport events, a regular youth language bar, intercultural evenings, city tours, parties and pub crawls. A welcome week kicks off the semester during which you can get help with paperwork, begin to get to know your fellow students, and participate in a variety of team building events.

To help guide our international students through the maze of administration, local customs, and getting around the university and the city, each international student is assigned a Hungarian tutor. Members of the Pázmány tutor network assist exchange students during the whole term. In addition to showing you around, and introducing you to academic and social life in Budapest and at Pázmány, Erasmus tutors consider the emotional and physical well-being of their fellow students their personal responsibility.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

The university is a scientific community that, through its strict and critical approach, promotes the protection and development of human dignity and cultural heritage through research, education and other activities provided to the given national and international community, especially in the field of theology and human sciences, but as much as possible in the area of natural sciences as well. At the same time the University has the mission to ensure the presence of the Catholic Faith in the Hungarian culture.

The University fulfils its ecclesiastical mission according to the Apostolic Constitution *Ex corde Ecclesiae*:

"Since the objective of a Catholic University is to assure in an institutional manner a Christian presence in the university world confronting the great problems of society and culture. (...) A Catholic University, therefore, is a place of research, where scholars scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each academic discipline, and so contribute to the treasury of human knowledge. Each individual discipline is studied in a systematic manner; moreover, the various disciplines are brought into dialogue for their mutual enhancement (...)"

John Paul, II., Ex corde Ecclesiae, 1990, nn. 13–15.



10 FACTS ABOUT US

1. Pázmány University is the direct successor of the oldest Hungarian universitas, established in 1635 by Cardinal Péter Pázmány, an influential philosopher, prominent statesman, and talented orator. A Jesuit priest and noted theologian, he was the leading figure behind the 17th century Catholic palingenesis in Hungary. Following the change of the regime marking the end of the People's Republic of Hungary, the University was formally founded with the licence of the Apostolic Holy See, then the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences was established in 1995, and also received state recognition.
2. The overwhelming majority of Pázmány Law professors hold a PhD, and a great many of them are leading experts in their respective academic fields.
3. Pázmány consistently ranks as one of the first two law schools by student preference, according to national surveys.
4. Several Pázmány professors serve as Constitutional Court Judges.
5. We consider it an international acknowledgement that our professors have been asked to work for EU organisations, serving as judges at the EU General Court and the International Criminal Court.
6. Our campus is a haven of higher learning, peacefully nestled between the elegant landmarks of the distinguished Palace District of Budapest, right in the heart of the vivid downtown area.
7. Each term, the Faculty offers 35-45 specialized legal courses in English, a few in French or German, most of which are interactive practical workshops in small groups. Also, a 'Hungarian as a foreign language' course is offered for beginners.
8. Our Erasmus Tutor Network is there to support the integration of our international students – each incoming student is assigned to a Hungarian Pázmány Law student Tutor prior to the mobility to help them from the very beginning. Diverse cultural and social programmes are organised weekly to create a strong student community.
9. Pázmány students have plenty of opportunities to meet global experts, visiting professors, internationally acclaimed foreign teachers, even without the need to travel abroad to a partner university. Visiting lecturers tend to give either a few lectures spread over a week, or full block courses in the course of a few weeks.
10. Our excellent staff at the International Office wishes to ensure a friendly, supporting atmosphere by providing all students, staff and teachers with helpful information and flexible administration.



EDUCATION WITH SPIRIT

In accordance with its mission, Pázmány Péter Catholic University does not only strive for educating future experts who excel in their profession, but it also aims at helping students deepen their spiritual life and to strengthen their own moral commitment. Since what they are preparing themselves for is nothing else than service: serving both individuals and the community by maintaining peaceful order within society, administering justice and protecting the defenceless, and thus promoting public good. For Christian lawyers this service cannot be separated from the love of God, the final source of all charity, justice, equity and peace. Therefore, their vocation and everyday work shall be deeply rooted in their personal faith and close connection with God.

In order to enable students to carry out their mission in this sense, the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences makes sure they are equipped with the necessary skills to succeed. On the one hand, subjects that primarily focus on the basics of Christian teaching, such as the social doctrines of the Catholic Church and the ethical requirements of the legal profession are included in the educational programme. It is a natural obligation of all instructors to embed the results of their research in a coherent world vision and to show their students also by personal example that professional competence and Christian wisdom may go together. On the other hand, the Faculty also provides opportunities for deepening personal faith, partaking of the sacraments and joining in charity works under the auspices of the university Chaplaincy. Attending the holy mass, spiritual exercises, and other religious programmes are not compulsory for students, rather it is an open invitation extended to all university citizens.





INTERNATIONAL FOCUS



We are proud to host excellent Erasmus students from all over Europe. During the past few years, usually around 60-80 students have opted for studying with us per semester. Most of our Erasmus students come from France, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Italy. Occasionally, we also host students from outside of Europe, eg. from Ecuador, Kenya and Lebanon.

At undergraduate level, about 35-45 legal courses are offered in languages other than Hungarian, the majority in English.

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

Our students can sign up to courses offered by international visiting scholars and can also attend the presentations given by our numerous Erasmus guest lecturers. We organize a U.S. law programme inviting two U.S. professors each semester, who then teach a number of intensive block classes for two or three weeks. Past courses include, among others, constitutional law, privacy, civil procedure, criminal law, M&A law, and competition law. Our guests come from the University of Notre Dame, St. Louis University, the University of Louisville, the University of St. Thomas, and Tulane University.

OUR COURSES IN ENGLISH

Top 10 most favoured courses in English:

- **Comparative Constitutional Law**
- **Comparative Ecclesiastical Law**
- **Competition Law Case Studies of the EU Court of Justice**
- **EU Environmental Law**
- **EU Intellectual Property Law**
- **International Humanitarian Rights**
- **International Public Law**
- **EU Environmental Law**
- **International Criminal Jurisprudence**
- **Banking and Securities Regulations**



PÁZMÁNY SUMMER LAW SCHOOL

The Faculty of Law organises every June-July a three-week-long summer school. The topics chosen are global, multidisciplinary and relate to the social teaching of the Catholic Church. Our students come from five continents, representing many different nations with different cultural and legal backgrounds. Our international faculty includes professors from a number of our international partner institutions, such as the USFQ (Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador), UMK (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland), Stockholm University (Sweden), Aberystwyth University (UK) and the University of Notre Dame (USA), with St. Thomas University (USA) and Pázmány being the core members. Courses are provided in the morning, after which students have time to prepare for the following classes and they can also participate in sports and cultural events. The summer school programme focuses on relevant and complex topics each year, such as the legal aspects of sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, and the rule of law and constitutional identity in a democracy.

Summer school students also have a chance to get to know Hungarian history, culture, and hospitality. We organize trips to Lake Balaton and world heritage sites in and outside Budapest.





PREVIOUS EXCHANGE STUDENTS

„I would recommend Budapest as an Erasmus destination because it is something else than you are used to probably. Step out of your comfort zone and go to an adventurous place like Hungary. You will meet many interesting and friendly people and even pick up something from the Hungarian language!”

Stefan from the Netherlands

„It is a great, lively and multicultural city, with an impressive historical heritage and I think it is hard not to like it. In my opinion student life here is blooming and therefore it is a perfect destination for Erasmus.”

Patricia from Spain

„I like Budapest for all these reasons: the beauty and calm of this city which becomes crazy when the night falls. The ambience of an international city.”

Marco from Italy

“This semester was one of the best experiences of my life. I would like to recommend Pázmány Law and Budapest to everybody! The kind staff and other international students that I met, made this semester even much better.”

Alicia from Lyon

“If you’re looking for a unique experience and to meet great people, Budapest is certainly a great destination for your Erasmus experience.”

Luc from Canada

“I really had a wonderful semester at Pázmány, everyone was very welcoming and kind, thank you so much to everyone for this unforgettable experience <3.”

Louise from Versailles

“An amazing year. Budapest is a beautiful city that I will miss. I was happy to be at Pázmány University, a marvelous university with amazing teachers.”

Lizon from Paris



Alicia



Louise

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Deák Ferenc Institute of Postgraduate Studies

The Institute offers 31 postgraduate programmes for both lawyers and non-lawyers. Most of the legal programmes are taught in Hungarian, but there are more and more English-language programmes. In addition to the two EU law specific programmes, we are working on launching a Compliance LLM in the near future. The English language courses are also available for Master level Erasmus students with at least B2 level English skills. Graduates of these programmes can use the LLM title. As a rule, lectures are organized once a week, in the afternoon and evening hours, so that they are convenient also for students who have already started their legal career.

Combatting Cybercrime

The aim of the Postgraduate Program is to provide lawyers extensive legal knowledge which is indispensable in view of the criminal challenges posed in the 21st century. The Postgraduate Program is interdisciplinary: in other words, in addition to imparting knowledge on substantive and procedural criminal law, criminal forensics and criminology, the training program gives an introduction to EU public law and EU policies, the main global judicial regimes and into different structural models of the prosecution service.

Corporate Compliance Lawyer

The aim of the Postgraduate Program is to provide lawyers strong ethical, cultural and legal foundations as well as comprehensive knowledge about legal and corporate governance instruments regarding compliance. Intercultural issues are prominently discussed. The programme offers international outlook and an analysis of current cross-cultural challenges.

European Law

The aim of the English-language postgraduate specialist training is to provide complementary knowledge for law-degree holders, primarily in the areas of the application and harmonization of European Union law.

The Faculty of Law hosts a number of international conferences and workshops, in which our international students are welcome to participate. Most of these academic events are in English, with occasional German, Italian and French speaking conferences as well.

Our research centres focusing on administrative law, competition law and environmental law play an important part in organizing scientific events.

- The Ereky Public Law Research Centre (erekj.jak.ppke.hu), founded in 2011, aims to become actively involved in the current trends and development of public administration. The Ereky RC participates in various development projects related to human rights, the rule of law, the exercise of state power, and public administration and its control mechanisms. All fields where knowledge management, scientific background, and international comparison are essential.
- The Competition Law Research Centre (versenyjog.com), established in 2006, has evolved into a respected institute in the CEE region organizing postgraduate education, research projects, conferences, and workshops both in Hungarian and English. Recent research focused on online platforms and tourism, state and market, competition law sanctions, and the protection of human rights in administrative competition procedures. Visiting students can also contribute to the success of the Centre.
- The Faculty of Law also hosts a Jean Monnet Chair for environmental and sustainable development studies with a wide international network of lawyers and researchers, publishing documents and organizing events.

FELLOWSHIP



The Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University has established a fellowship programme in order to enhance the international competitiveness in the field of research and education through involving postdoctoral foreign researchers in the academic work. The duration of the programme is 10 months, the knowledge of Hungarian is not part of the eligibility criteria, but fluency in English is required. As for research and teaching topics, any area of law is accepted, with a preference for comparative law, public international law, or European law.







CONTACT

Pázmány Péter Catholic University Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

H-1088 Budapest, Szentkirályi str. 28.

Tel.: +36 1 429 7200

Fax: +36 1 429 7201

facebook.com/pazmanyjog

[@ppke_jak_official](https://twitter.com/ppke_jak_official)

International Office

Tel.: +36 1 429 7263

E-mail: erasmus@jak.ppke.hu





PÁZMÁNY EGYETEM

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