

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The Jagiellonian University is the oldest higher education institution in Poland and one of the oldest in Europe. It was founded in 1364 by the Polish king Casimir the Great. Since its very beginning, the Jagiellonian University has been an international institution. Poles, Ruthenians, Lithuanians, Hungarians, Germans, Czechs, the Swiss, the English, the Dutch, the French the Spanish, Italians, and even Tatars studied here in the old days. Today, the Jagiellonian University comprises 15 Faculties, where 4 thousand academic staff conduct research and provide education to almost 50 thousand students, within the framework of more than 80 different fields of study. The eminent researchers and state-of-the-art infrastructure make the JU one of the leading Polish scientific institutions, collaborating with major academic centres from all over the world.

Yet another advantage of the Jagiellonian University is its location in the historic city of Kraków, the former capital of Poland and a great cultural centre, visited by millions of tourists.





THE CENTRE FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

The Centre for Holocaust Studies at the Jagiellonian University is an autonomous unit of the Faculty for Political and International Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland since 2007. While there are other academic centers in Poland that carry out research on the Holocaust, the Centre is the first university level body in Poland whose sole purpose is to conduct research, educate and commemorate the Holocaust.

The mission of the Centre is twofold: to consolidate studies of the Holocaust into one academic research center and to support and promote young researchers and educators in this field. This mission is put into action mainly by the development of the MA program in European studies, specialty "Knowledge about the Holocaust and Totalitarianism", a support for PhD students and the integration of the topic of the Holocaust into Polish school curricula. This purpose is achieved through an annual International Summer Institute for Teachers "Teaching about the Holocaust" since 2006. The main goal of this program is to provide teachers with tools for teaching about the Holocaust, scenarios for classes and appropriate materials in order to remember the victims and to build an open and democratic society.



THE UNESCO CHAIR IN EDUCATION ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

The major goal of the **UNESCO Chair in Education about the Holocaust** established in 2014 within the Institute of European Studies, cooperating closely with the Center for Holocaust Studies, is to teach about the Holocaust and related issues from the perspectives of history, political and social sciences, philosophy, law and cultural studies. The Chair's activities aim for understanding the meaning of the Holocaust for European societies and for the world, memory of the Holocaust and the origins and effects of prejudices, racism and antisemitism. The Chair provide strategies and methods to counteract and prevent such negative phenomena, targeting students, teachers, multipliers, teacher trainers, civil society activists and scholars.

Since the territories of occupied Poland were the epicenter of the Holocaust including the location of the former major death camps, the Polish landscape has been marked forever. The creation of the UNESCO Chair in Education about the Holocaust in Poland, and especially at the Jagiellonian University, has great meaning and importance. Since its inception the University has been known not only for the high quality of education it provides but also for the values of tolerance, respect for human rights and the democratic standards it promotes.



“The March of the Living commemorates the darkest and most tragic experience in the European history.

The Holocaust is for us today one of the most meaningful memories in the European heritage - a lesson which we must learn so that it will never happen again. But we must also remember the lesson of Nuremberg Laws – that the rule of majority is not everything that democracy is about, that minority rights and individual civic and human rights must be respected and protected, and that those who violate this principle will eventually be brought to justice.”

Prof. Zdzisław Mach

Rector's Proxy for International Relations

Head of Centre for Central and Eastern European Studies

UNESCO Chair for Education about the Holocaust

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