

## GET TO KNOW OUR UNIVERSITIES

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### IVAN FRANKO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LVIV

I would like to present to you the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, which is one of the oldest universities in Eastern Europe and the oldest one in Ukraine. The university was founded on January 20, 1661 when King John II Casimir of Poland issued the diploma granting the city's Jesuit Collegium "the honour of the academy and the title of the university." Over the centuries, the university has undergone various transformations, suspensions, and renamings that reflected the geopolitical difficulties of this part of Europe. The current institution can be dated to 1940.

The city of Lviv, where our university is located, is an ancient picturesque city in Western Ukraine, which has a long history dating back to the Middle Ages, where the beautiful local architecture, national Ukrainian culture and patriotism of the population are integral attributes of the local atmosphere.

Among the prominent examples of local architecture and Ukrainian science in general, of course, is the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, named after the famous Ukrainian poet, writer, literary critic, and political activist of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Ivan Franko, a man who was the embodiment of intelligence and patriotism and, thus, became a moral ideal for our teachers and students.

Notably, the slogan on the pediment of the main building of Lviv University is "*Patriae decori civibus educandis*," which translates as "*Educated citizens are the glory of the Homeland*," thus aptly expressing the values of our university.

Lviv University is a classic higher education institution with long traditions and powerful scientific schools combined with modern innovative trends. The mission of the university is 1) to provide high educational and scientific standards, to satisfy cultural and social needs of a person, the society and state in the process of training highly qualified specialists; 2) formation of personality – the bearer of intellectual and innovative potential, as well as the development of cultural and artistic environment for the harmonious formation of the spiritual world of youth, fostering a sense of national and patriotic duty and respect for historical memory.

The University belongs to the fourth accreditation level of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. It trains high-quality specialists with Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. The structure of the University includes 19 faculties, 146 departments, 3 colleges, 9 institutes, 6 museums, the Astronomical Observatory, Botanical Garden, Scientific Library, the sports complex, and dormitories. Currently, Lviv University has more than 20,000 students and more than 2,000 teachers.

The priority of the university is scientific work and implementation of world-class research, which become the basis for improving educational programs. The University is actively developing partnerships with the world's leading educational and research institutions, as

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well as creates conditions for the students and teachers mobility, involvement of foreign specialists and students in the educational process.

Every year, the University holds about 100 scientific conferences, 30% of which are international. The university is also the founder and publisher of 44 scientific periodicals, many of which are included in international scientometric databases.

The no less important part of the University life are the active cultural and educational activities of teachers and students, examples of which are various open lectures and seminars, forums, festivals, music ensembles and choirs, sporting events, art exhibitions and installations, talent shows, and charity evenings, among others.

An important structural part of the university that promotes active interaction of teachers and students with international colleagues is the Faculty of Foreign Languages, which consists of 9 departments. The faculty also has international language centers, including British, German, Austrian, Italian, Greek and Spanish, which facilitate student participation in international programs, prepare people for specialized language exams, and promote corresponding languages in Ukraine.

The Department of World Literature is part of the Faculty of Foreign Languages. As a separate structural unit, the department began operating at the Philology faculty in late 1939. Its teaching activities cover the faculties of Lviv University that teach courses in world literature, children's literature with teaching methods, as well as corresponding national literatures in major languages studied at the faculty.

Every two years, the department holds an International Scientific Conference "Chicherin Readings," where teachers and graduate students from Ukraine and other countries comprehensively discuss current issues of contemporary literary studies and the latest literary trends.

The department maintains contacts with literary critics from all around the world. Our cooperation with foreign research centers involves exchange of scientific products and consulting on various issues in the research of the world literary process, conferences, scientific seminars with students and graduate students, as well as joint publications.