

Student Exchange Program

for

Field Practice

at

Damjanich János Museum, Szolnok, Hungary

PROPOSAL



Transforming Boundaries

The Damjanich János Museum – as one of the most remarkable and multi-scientific museums of Hungary – has been engaged to foster and enhance archaeological and cultural linkages between People's Republic of China and Hungary.

Introduction

Location—on the Crossroads of Ancient Tribes

Damjanich János Museum is situated in the county seat of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county in central Hungary, the heart of Europe. The location of Szolnok city on the banks of Tisza river, at the centre of the Great Hungarian Plain, has made it an important cultural and economic crossroads for centuries. As a result of favourable geographic and climatic conditions the area of Szolnok has been suitable for human settlement since prehistoric ages.



Organisation&Structure

The Damjanich János Museum was founded in 1933 and moved to its present premises in an impressive Classicist building on Kossuth Square in 1952. Since 1962, it has functioned as the centre for the directorate of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County Museums.



Under leadership of the Directorate, the Museum is divided into five departments as follows: Department of Archaeology, Department of Ethnography and Folklore, Department of Contemporary History, Literature and Cultural History, Department of Art History, Library and Museum Pedagogy and Conservation Laboratory

supplemented by a technical supporter team. The Szolnok Art Gallery and the Tabáni Tájház (traditional residential house and folklore museum) are also considered to be as a part of the Damjanich János Museum.

Mission&Activity

The Damjanich János Museum serves the interests of high quality research and education, upon the best European traditions. The mission of the Museum is to preserve and enrich local, national and universal culture, to cultivate science and art, to pass on academic knowledge, as well as to shape and satisfy the real, long-term needs of Hungarian society and of mankind.

In Damjanich János Museum are preserved the county's complete archaeological and art, as well as the largest ethnographical and historical collections. In the well-developed museum building six permanent and several temporary exhibitions takes place. Moreover, the cozy arcaded courtyard also serves as a colourful background of cultural programs and external activities.

Exhibitions are divided into three sections: archaeological finds from the Palaeolithic age

until the 18th century; an extensive ethnographical collection; and exhibits relating to Szolnok's history, especially the artists' colony which often highlights contemporary local artists.

In the last ten years, new interactive programs, summer courses, museum pedagogical sessions have been launched paying greater attention to the public's needs and attempting to involve visitors more into the hidden secrets of museum activity.





As recognition of its outstanding scientific and cultural activity, Damjanich János Museum has been appointed by the *Museum of the Year* award in 1996 and 2005.

In 2013, honouring its efforts of improving the intercultural relationship between Poland and Hungary, the Museum has been awarded by the *Ponanski-price*.

Department of Archaeology

The antecedents of archaeological collection in Szolnok can be traced back to the foundation of Damjanich János Museum in 1933. Since the Mid-20th century apart from the efforts of a few indefatigable individuals, excavations over



a larger area have been conducted under large-scale construction projects. As a result of systematic field works and museum activity the archaeological collection contains more than 150.000 items, furthermore, numismatic and archaeo-zoological collections and database.

The archaeological repertory comprising various objects of each archaeological period (from the Palaeolithic ages until the 18th century) has been considered to be one of the most remarkable collections worldwide. Several unique items unearthed from multi-layered



settlements of the Late-Neolithic – Mid-Bronze ages (tell-settlements) are placing key positions of international research.

Today the Department of Archaeology splits into four sections: Prehistory and Early History [20.000 BCE – 450 BCE], Archaeology of the Pre-Roman and Roman



Period [450 BCE – 400 CE], Archaeology of the Migration Period [400 CE – 1000 CE], Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology [11th century – 18th century], supplemented by Underwater Archaeology and Archaeometrical researches.

After the establishment of the Department of Archaeology, the necessary technical

background was also developed: storage facilities, conservation and restoration workshops, as well as computer laboratories. Technical support for research improved significantly under the recent years, and the Museum is now engaged in several major research projects, usually in co-operation with Hungarian or foreign partners. Such as the Italian–Hungarian joint excavations with University of Naples, German–Hungarian project that is part of the Neolithic tell research project in the Great Hungarian Plain, and the M3 motorway rescue excavations conducted with the Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities, Eötvös Loránd University and various Hungarian museums and foreign partners.



The Department of Archaeology, Damjanich János Museum also gives a significant emphasis to the international educational relations, such as student and research exchanges, excavations and other kind of scientific co-operations.

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