

The History of the Faculty

Humanities and social sciences featured as early as 1962 on the palette at the higher education institution launched in Szombathely in 1959. Besides the training of primary school teachers, 1962 also saw the first students majoring in library studies and in the organisation of cultural events. At the beginning of the 1970s Russian, history and Hungarian language and literature were also added to the available courses; neatly illustrating the fact that Szombathely was on its way to become the centre of philological training and research in the Western Hungarian region. The next important phase of development took place when a new building opened up on Berzsényi Square in 1990 to host a range of new departments offering courses in English, German, French, Italian and Finno-Ugrian studies.

In 1992, the institution underwent vital structural changes as a result of which further faculties were established. The newly set up Institute of Philology had always considered it a key objective to eventually set up university courses and this long-term aim was realised when three subjects were accredited to be run at university level: general and applied linguistics as well as Finno-Ugrian linguistics in 1998, International Studies in 1999, and philosophy in 2004. The refurbished and extended building D on Berzsényi Square could now give home to the European Documentation Centre and Reference Library operating in close cooperation with the ISES (Institute for Social and European Studies). The Faculty of Arts (BTK) was established in line with the governmental decree becoming effective on 1 January 2002. The Faculty of Arts, together with the other two faculties operating in Szombathely, joined the University of West Hungary on 1 January 2008 raising the number of faculties to ten.