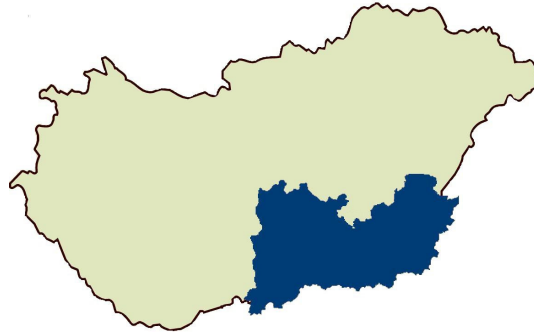


## **Short Introduction about the Southern Great Plain**

The Southern Great Plain Region, comprising three counties called *Bács-Kiskun*, *Békés* and *Csongrád*, is situated in the southern part of Hungary. It is bordered by Serbia in the south and Romania in the south and south-east.



## **Education and Research in the Southern Great Plain Region**

**The largest higher educational institution in the region:**

### **[University of Szeged](#)**

The University of Szeged is not only one of the most important higher education institutions and scientific research centres of the Southern Great Plain Region, but also that of the country. Our University is well-known and recognized both at national and international levels due to the results achieved by our university teachers, researchers and students in various fields of science. Education takes place at 11 faculties within the framework of 68 university- and 66 college-level majors.

- [Faculty of Arts](#)
- [Faculty of Economics and Business Administration](#)
- [College Faculty of Health Sciences](#)
- [Faculty of Law](#)
- [Faculty of Medicine](#)
- [College Faculty of Musik](#)
- [Faculty of Pharmacy](#)
- [Faculty of Science](#)
- [College Faculty of Agriculture](#)
- [College Faculty of Food Engineering](#)
- [Juhász Gyula College Faculty of Teacher Training](#)

We also offer 27 kinds of specialized further training and 8 kinds of accredited university-level professional training opportunities as well as 17 doctoral schools. There are several disciplines available for foreign students: medicine in English and German, law in French and German. We also have a special program for those interested in our country: the Hungarian Studies. Satisfying the needs for lifelong learning, we offer quite a few programs for adults. Higher education began in Szeged on 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 1921, when the University of Kolozsvár, the predecessor of the University of Szeged was moved to the city. At present, the University has about 30.000 students and more than 7 thousand employees.

The adequate-level educational and research work carried out at the University of Szeged is facilitated not only by the knowledge centre known all over the world but also by the modern infrastructure. The Study and Information Centre with a ground surface of nearly 25.000 square meters was handed over on 9th of December, 2004 and it fulfils four main functions in the region of the Southern Great Plain which are the following:

- \*studying
- \*educational
- \*conference and
- \*service functions.



University of Szeged, Study and Information Centre

The Centre has a Congress Room with a seating capacity of 700 persons, several lecture rooms, a huge exhibition room and a video conference room which make it highly suitable for hosting various conferences. The University Library is also to be found in the building of the Study and Information Centre. Our students and teachers can select from a book collection of 350.000 items stored on open shelves and from book holdings consisting of 1.5 million volumes and periodicals to be found in traditional stacks. It has over a thousand books specially selected for international students. Our library is the largest and most significant collection of the town and the region, and one of the most important scientific collections in the country.

Cultural and recreational opportunities abound at the University. A number of independent cultural groups, such as the university choir, the ensemble of folk dance and various student circles help to produce a lively atmosphere at the university.

The University of Szeged has several dormitories and residence halls in various parts of the town, not far away from the faculties.

Students may avail themselves of a variety of sports, including tennis, basketball or aerobics courses at our new Sports Center.

The outstanding, internationally recognized standard of our University is also evidenced by the World Ranking of the best 500 universities which was published by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University first in 2003 and then also for a second time in 2004 on the basis of its own research and evaluation. The University of Szeged is still the best among the Hungarian universities; and it



has been ranked 202nd –301st in the world sharing this place with other universities (the list is headed by Harvard University). Furthermore, it is also worth mentioning that – in a unique way among the Hungarian higher education institutions – our University has managed to maintain its distinguished 80th place in the ranking of the 100 best European universities.

### **Research Groups of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at the University of Szeged**

The number of research groups at the University of Szeged supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is 20.

#### *Faculty of Arts*

- Research Group for History of Ideas in Early Modern Period
- Research Group for Ability Development
- Research Group for Medieval Hungarian History
- Research Group for Turkology

#### *Faculty of Medicine*

- Research Group for Dermatology
- Research Group for Microbiology
- Research Group for Cardiovascular Pharmacology
- Research Group for Protein Chemistry
- Research Group for Natural Effect and Embryology

- Research Group for Neurohumoral Studies
- Research Group for Neurology

*Faculty of Pharmacy*

- Research Group for Heterocyclic Chemistry

*Faculty of Sciences*

- Research Group for Organic Catalysis
- Research Group for Laser Physics
- Research Group for Artificial Intelligence
- Research Group for Nanostructured Materials
- Research Group for River Tisza
- Research Group for Analysis
- Research Group for Reaction Kinetics
- Research Group for Bioinorganic Chemistry

**Other higher educational institution in the region:**

[Sámuel Tessedik College](#)

[Pál Tomori College](#)

[College of Kecskemét](#)

[József Eötvös College](#)

**The most important research institution in the region:**

[Biological Research Center](#)

Based on the concept of interdisciplinarity, scientific work at the BRC is carried out in 5 institutes:

- [Institute of Biophysics](#)
- [Institute of Biochemistry](#)
- [Institute of Genetics](#)
- [Institute of Plant Biology](#)
- [Institute of Enzimology](#)

The research groups of the Institutes have the freedom to choose their field of research. Traditionally, the major activities are dominated by molecular and cellular approaches. Topics from developmental or environmental biology belong to the research priorities as

well. Collaborative projects among groups of different institutes of the BRC and with international partners have gained considerable significance over the years.

In 2001 the BRC was nominated as a **Centre of Excellence** by the European Union, paying tribute to the quality of the research at the BRC. Out of 36 groups which were evaluated, 14 were classified as excellent. The real strengths are in the fields of developmental genetics, enzymology and plant biology."

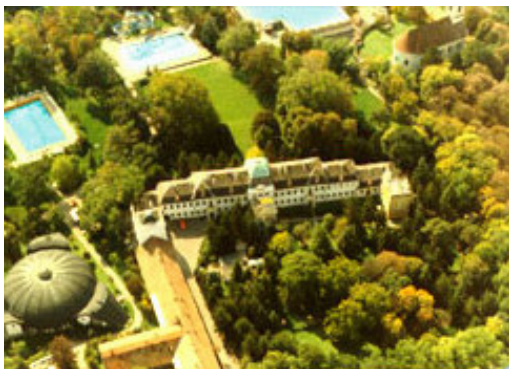


The BRC employs about 450 persons, 220 of which belong to the scientific staff including 15-20 graduate students of the International Training Course and 6070 in various Ph.D. programmes.

Concerning Szeged, we should mention the **Biopolis Szeged - Life Science Consortium**. The Consortium integrates activities in the fields of biology, medicine, biotechnology, and plant breeding in the town. Functional genomics and bioinformatics serve as a common platform to improve teaching and research performance furthermore to organize technology transfer companies.

### **The Southern Great Plain Region from a Touristical Point of View**

Visitors of the Southern Great Plain may not know that numerous gastronomic and (folk) artistic specialities - known as '**Hungaricums**' abroad - originate from here and/or have significant traditions in the Southern Great Plain. The paprika of Szeged, the embroidery and



wall paintings of Kalocsa, the lace of Kiskunhalas, the "whistling" peach palinka [Hungarian brandy], the onion of Makó, the fish soups of Baja (with pasta) and Szeged (hot), sausages of Békéscsaba and Gyula, the goose liver are all rooted in this land.

The Southern Great Plain is preeminent primarily in offering tourism services connected to nature, like equestrian tourism, medical tourism, eco- and water tourism (**Castle Bath of Gyula, Orosháza-Gyopárosfürdő**, etc).

The unadulterated charm of the nature is indigenous in this landscape. The national parks and nature reserves - the **forest of Gemenc** (territory of the **Duna-Dráva National Park**), territories of the **Kiskunság National Park** and the **Körös-Maros National Park**, the stately surging river Danube and the "blond" river Tisza, the **lake Fehér**, the sand dunes of Kiskunság or the arboretum of **Szarvas** - provide unforgettable experience for hikers, anglers, as well as for cyclists.



For more information about the region please visit: <http://www.pusztaregion.hu>

### **Szeged – The City of Sunshine**

The town situated at the junction of the rivers Tisza and Maros is often called the "city of sunshine" as there is an average of 2100 hours of sunshine annually. After the great flood of the "blond Tisza" in 1879, a well-designed, new town was built with international help in splendid eclectic-secession style.



A row of famous buildings can be found in the Dom square: the Bishop's Palace, the Theological College, university buildings, the Catholic Boarding House, the neo-roman Bishop's Cathedral of monumental size built by survivors of the great flood. The Cathedral also known as Votive Church was completed in 1930.

One of the richest archaeological collections is in the Móra Ferenc Museum, where varied fine-art and natural-science materials and works of contemporary Hungarian sculptors are also displayed. The University Botanical Garden has a nice collection of eye-catching cacti, palms and unique plants.

For more information about Szeged please visit:



<http://www.szegedportal.hu>

## Cultural life

- Szegedi Open-Air Festival in summer  
(<http://www.szegediszabadteri.hu/>)
- Wine Festival, Szeged in May
- Castle plays of Gyula in summer  
(<http://www.c3.hu/~casteatr/>)
- International Military Airshow, Kecskemét  
(<http://www.repulonap.hu/airshow/>)



Szegedi Open-Air Festival