

Letter in support of CEU

Katharine.Wright <Katharine.Wright@winchester.ac.uk>

Tue 4/4/2017 9:02 AM

To: info@emmi.gov.hu <info@emmi.gov.hu>;

Cc: orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu <orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu>; erkeztetok@me.gov.hu <erkeztetok@me.gov.hu>; Support_for_CEU <Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu>;

Mr. Zoltán Balog

Minister of Human Capacities

1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.

Hungary

Dear Minister Balog,

As academics and staff at the University of Winchester, UK, we are writing to express solidarity with Central European University and express concern at proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40. The University as a whole is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its masters and doctoral programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as various as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Katharine Wright, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

Dr Robin Baker, Professor of Old Testament

Dr Angus Paddison, Acting Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Winchester

Bruno Bonizzi, Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Winchester

Dr Neil Ewen, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communication

Vincenzo Scalia, University of Winchester, UK

Kass Boucher, Lecturer, University of Winchester, UK

Reader in English and Creative Writing

Julie Wharton, Senior Lecturer

Gordon Murray, Senior Lecturer

Natasha Bye-Brooks, Senior Lecturer Childhood, Youth & Community Studies, Faculty of Education, Health & Social Care

Simon Keyes, Professor of Reconciliation and Peacebuilding, The University of Winchester

Dr Rachel Wilcock Reader in Psychology

Stephen Thompson, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing

Dr Tim Worth, HPL History

Dr Natalya Chernyshova, Senior Lecturer in Modern History

Beth Sennett - Specialist Dyslexia Tutor

Andrew Knight, Professor of Animal Welfare and Ethics

Ryan Lavelle, Reader in Early Medieval History

Catherine Murgatroyd Senior Lecturer in Social Work

Dr Katherine Weikert, Lecturer in Early Medieval European History

Stephanie Richardson Senior Lectutre

Stephanie Richardson Senior Lecturer

Joanne Parish, Senior Lecturer in Education

Cath Hicklin, Administrator

Dr Colin Goble Senior Lecturer in Childhood Youth & Community Studies, university of Winchester, UK

Lydia, administrator

Dr Matt Clement, Senior Criminology , University of Winchester, UK

Tim Prentki, Professor of Theatre for Development, University of Winchester, UK

B Kozłowski Programme Administrator

J. Passmore, Winchester Busines School

Thomas Norgaard, Senior Lecturer in Liberal Arts

Dr Steven P. McCulloch

Paul Summers, Lecturer in project and operations management

Paul Taylor, Senior Administrator

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary; Office of the Prime Minister; Central European University



University of Winchester, a private charitable company limited by
guarantee in England and Wales number 5969256.
Registered Office: Sparkford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22
4NR