

His Excellency Mr. István S. Pálffy
Embassy of Hungary
2 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2

27 April 2017

Dear Ambassador,

The Irish Universities Association wishes to express its grave concerns regarding recent developments in Hungarian higher education, particularly in relation to the targeting in recent legislation of the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest.

The CEU has developed as a unique example of successful graduate level education in Europe, with a strong regional and international profile, and has fostered a new generation of critical thinkers and researchers in the Central European region and further afield. A number of high profile Irish academic and public figures have also benefited from their time at CEU and collaborations with CEU students and staff.

The recent legislative changes are causing collateral damage to the wider Hungarian system of higher education and reducing the opportunities available to Hungarians – students, academics and other professionals - who wish to collaborate with European and international partners.

We therefore echo the call of the European University Association and many other respected voices in recent weeks for university autonomy and academic freedom in Hungary to be fully respected, both in legislation and practice, as essential elements contributing to democratic, innovative and prosperous nations.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Ned Costello
Chief Executive