

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE SZENT-GYÖRGYI STUDENT PROGRAMME 2026

For distinguished TDK students of the University of Debrecen

Dear TDK Students and Future Szent-Györgyi Students,

The **National Academy of Scientist Education** (NASE) was established on September 1, 2021, with the support of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, to provide financial and educational assistance to outstanding Hungarian students in biomedical sciences throughout their university studies. The University of Debrecen (UD) is proud to support top students in these fields. As part of this commitment UD joined the NASE programme in November 2021 and are now welcoming applications from international students during the current recruitment period.

Students are admitted to the NASE training programme through a competitive application process. Those accepted will become Szent-Györgyi Students, gaining valuable support for their academic careers. The **key components of this programme include:**

- ✓ The opportunity to work with a top-tier biomedical research team
- ✓ Intensive mentoring from Hungarian professionals throughout the research process (a mentoring contract with the TDK student's supervisor will be established to ensure high-quality guidance)
- ✓ Support in preparing posters, presentations, and scientific publications
- ✓ Assistance in building international scientific connections
- ✓ The chance to create a personalized academic timetable
- ✓ Regular English language training focused on conversation and public speaking

Main expectations for Szent-Györgyi Students (full details will be outlined in an agreement):

- ✓ Consistently participate in the work of their chosen research group at the UD (a weekly average of at least 10 hours dedicated to **laboratory work**)
- ✓ Regularly review literature relevant to their research area
- ✓ Actively contribute to the preparation of scientific publications, posters, and presentations
- ✓ Participate in professional events related to the NASE programme
- ✓ Publication requirements: By the end of their third year, Szent-Györgyi students must have submitted a **co-authored original scientific manuscript**. By the end of their final academic year, Szent-Györgyi Students are required to **first-author** an original scientific manuscript¹, accepted/published in a Scimago Q1-ranked journal with an impact factor of preferably at least 3. *Alternatively, this first-author requirement can be fulfilled by co-authoring a manuscript in a journal with an impact factor above 10.*
- ✓ **Payment of a tuition fee** of EUR 12,000 per academic year

¹ Successful completion of the program requires that the first-author paper be at least accepted for publication.

Application Criteria for TDK Students:

- ✓ Full-time, active student status in a medical or life sciences-related degree programme at a Hungarian establishment of higher education. (If the field's relevance to life sciences is indirect but can be justified, students are eligible to apply)
- ✓ Completion of at least two years of university education
- ✓ Interest in research related to any branch of human life sciences or medical biology
- ✓ Proven, ongoing participation in successful TDK work (see criteria below)
- ✓ At least an intermediate level of English proficiency (no formal language certification required)
- ✓ Publication requirements: Third-year students (whether enrolled in an undivided one-tier or divided two-tier programme) must have at least one co-authored or first-authored original publication submitted to a Scimago Q1-ranked journal with an impact factor of preferably at least 3 by the end of the 3rd academic year. Students in their 4th year or higher (whether in an undivided one-tier or an MSc programme) are required to have at least one accepted or published original co-authored or first-authored publication in a Scimago Q1-ranked journal with an impact factor of preferably 3 or higher.
- ✓ Payment of the EUR 75 application fee
 - Beneficiary: Nemzeti Orvosbiológiai Alapítvány
 - IBAN: HU45 1030 0002 1058 9992 4902 0028
 - SWIFT (BIC) code: MKKBHUHB
 - Reference: Applicant's full name, Application Fee
- ✓ Commitment to paying the tuition fee (we do not offer scholarships for foreign students)

How to Apply:

- ✓ Fill out the application form at:
<https://forms.gle/Vt71hJ7xR6rZhDjA9> (the application form will be made available starting September 1, 2026)
- ✓ Upload the following documents in PDF format (max. 1 MB per file; reduce the file size if necessary)*:
 - **Personal Statement** (max. 4000 characters)
 - File name format: PS + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., PSSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
 - **Europass CV** (<https://europass.europa.eu/en>)
 - File name format: CV + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., CVSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
 - **Proof of achievements** (merge into one PDF):
 - Certificates of competition results or awards from regional or national TDK conferences
 - Any other academic awards or prizes
 - File name format: IG + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., IGSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
 - **Scientific publications** (preferably combined into one PDF):
 - Abstracts of presentations, including those at TDK conferences



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- Scientific publications (published, submitted, or planned) in journals
- TDK research essay
- File name format: PU + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., PUSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
- **Recommendation** from your TDK Supervisor
 - File name format: REC + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., RECSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
- **Proof of application fee payment**
 - File name format: AF + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., AFSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)
- **English Language Certificate (optional)**
 - File name format: LC + your surname + your first name.pdf (e.g., LCSzentGyorgyiAlbert.pdf)

* Please note: file names **must not contain accented letters!**

Selection Criteria:

- ✓ Outstanding TDK Work:
 - Competitive or special award at a regional or national TDK conference
 - Professional scientific publications
 - Presentation abstracts, including those from TDK conferences
 - TDK research essay and any related awards
 - Scientific publications (planned, submitted, accepted, or published) in international journals. At least one SciMago Q1-ranked first- or co-authored original publication is required for admission
- ✓ Presentation of Research Topic: During the oral entrance exam, candidates must present their research topic, with a particular focus on their ideas for achieving a first-authored original publication in a SciMago Q1 journal by the end of their final academic year (research plan)
- ✓ English Proficiency: Language skills will be assessed during the admission process

Deadlines:

- ✓ **Submission of application: 20th September, 2026** (Sunday)
- ✓ **Oral interviews** will be held between **23rd and 30th September, 2026**. Exact details and the schedule will be sent via email
- ✓ Please note that scheduled times cannot be changed for technical reasons
- ✓ **Results** will be announced by Wednesday, **1st October, 2026**

This training programme is coordinated by the **National Biomedical Foundation** and supported by the Hungarian Government.



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For further details about the NASE training programme, please visit: <http://www.edu-sci.org>.

If you have a strong interest in biomedical or life sciences research and meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to apply!

For more information about the programme and application process, please contact the NASE Training Office at: szte@edu-sci.org or szbk@edu-sci.org

Debrecen, 7th August, 2026

Dr. András Varró
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Péter Hegyi
Programme Director

Dr. Zoltán Rakonczay
Director of University Education

Dr. Zoltán Papp
NASE Scientific Supervisor at the UD