

## Research 'sans frontiers' – Hungarian PhD students publish online to an international audience

**To make its research more accessible and to promote itself as a rising player in academic investigations, Semmelweis University in Budapest recently began publishing graduate dissertations with UMI Dissertation Publishing from ProQuest.**

Semmelweis is a specialist academic establishment with a strong focus on medicine and associated sciences. The University incorporates the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physical Education and Sports Sciences and the College of Health Care. There are currently around 9500 students enrolled at the University, and over 1000 teaching staff.

"The University grants around 1700 Masters Degrees and 100 PhDs each year," says Dr Livia Vasas, General Director, Semmelweis University Central Library. "They cover research in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, health science and biology."

"Prior to using UMI Dissertation Publishing, dissertation abstracts were made available at the Ministry of Education here in Hungary, which provides a good opportunity for young researchers to make their work known to the Hungarian speaking scientific society. But we are fully aware that publishing in a small language means a huge barrier between us and the rest of the world."

"In addition, everything was simply published on paper, which meant that only a few people could read the research."

"Now we submit our dissertations electronically in English to UMI Dissertation Publishing, which is easier and reaches a much wider audience."

Dr Vasas believes that using UMI Dissertation Publishing helps to keep Semmelweis at the forefront of new academic technology.

"Semmelweis University was the first university in Hungary to introduce new information technologies, so we have more than fifteen years

of experience in managing medical and scientific information. We started with CD-ROMs, CD networks, and a wide area network that is integrated with internet technologies. We have highly prestigious databases and full text services, including those of ProQuest."

Dr Vasas values the international exposure that UMI Dissertation Publishing brings both to Semmelweis University as a whole, and to individual students.

"I think that ProQuest's UMI Dissertation Publishing is good for our new young scientists, and also for the reputation of Semmelweis University. It gives us prominence, we get more citations, and students can compare their research with dissertations from other universities and learn from them."

"The publishing programme is a good way to get Semmelweis University's research into the hands of the wider academic community. Discoverability of PhDs is increasingly important in an internet-focused world, particularly in emerging research centres. It has clear advantages for both young researchers and their advisors."

Dr Vasas has also seen enthusiasm from students about the programme.

"Students like this programme, because they recognise the benefits of being more involved in international scientific life," says Dr Vasas.

"The programme enhances researchers' prestige, since their dissertations are much more likely to be cited. Needless to say, the honour shines on their institutes and universities as well."

"It's good to publish alongside other famous universities," she adds.

"We are convinced that the UMI Dissertation Publishing programme has a very important role in education, so the benefits of the product are much more than a database. We believe that more and more institutes will utilise the programme in the future."

*"Students like this programme, because they recognise the benefits of being more involved in international scientific life"*

