



Museum

The museum is a department of VU that represents history, heritage, cultural, artistic, historical and scientific values, while seeking to represent VU in Lithuania and abroad.

The museum began its activities on 1 April 2010 during the 431st anniversary of Vilnius University, but its foundation is the old VU Science Museum, which was established in St. John's Church in 1979. The staff of the museum is dedicated to collecting important cultural, artistic, historical and scientific artifacts related to the history and development of the University, which reflect its activities and everyday life, as well as organising permanent, temporary and virtual expositions, and events depicting the social, scientific and cultural life of Lithuania and VU.

The museum currently consists of 3 divisions, whose joint work is focused on telling not only the history of VU in the city of Vilnius, but also the events that have branched out to reach other Lithuanian cities and other countries.

ARCHITECTURAL ENSEMBLE:

The architectural ensemble of the central building of Vilnius University, located in the very heart of Vilnius Old Town, hides almost 500 years of history and is framed by four streets: University (formerly Bishops), St. John, Pilies and Skapo. In this architectural ensemble the main architectural styles prevailing in Lithuania are preserved: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classicist. An integral part of the VU Museum is the baroque belfry of St. John's Church, which is the tallest building in Vilnius Old Town. Visitors who ascend via the modern elevator or who are brave enough to climb the 193 original stairs to the belfry observation deck are able to admire a panoramic bird's eye view of Vilnius.



ADAM MICKIEWICZ MUSEUM:

Adam Mickiewicz (1798–1855) Museum was founded in 1911 by Jan Konrad Obst at Bernardinų St. 11, Vilnius, where according to legend, A. Mickiewicz lived. Its long period of existence has given the museum the title of the oldest museum in Vilnius and the opportunity to preserve many memorable items. In 2021, the museum became a part of the VU Museum. In addition to permanent and temporary exhibitions, literary Wednesdays and book presentations take place, excursions are organised and there is extensive cooperation with the Polish community.

OBSERVATORY OF IDEAS:

The Observatory of Ideas is a space designed for education and entertainment. It offers cognitive science activities for small groups, while providing opportunities to learn about science and creativity in everyday life through non-traditional and innovative methods. The Observatory of Ideas is not yet open to visitors, but everyone will soon be able to open the door to learning about the scientific and creative process, while observing the results.

PARTNERSHIPS:

By uniting these departments, the museum has expanded its competencies in the field of museum management and organisation, as well as participating in the activities of Lithuanian, European and international universities and museum organisations, cooperating and maintaining relationships with Lithuanian and foreign museums, and participating in international projects and joint museum programmes. The museum belongs to the Lithuanian Association of Museums (LAM) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM). It participates in the activities of the ICOM International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC) and the European Academic Heritage Network UNIVERSEUM.