

USERS' GUIDE to Hungary

2014/2015



SZÉCHENYI PLAN

Users' Guide to Hungary 2014/2015

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Our Dear International Friend,

We greet you with all our Hungarian heart! Welcome and thank you for coming to Hungary! We are extremely happy to see you in our beautiful country. There is absolutely no need to miss your homeland; this booklet will help you feel at home here, give you advice on how to spend your free time, manage any problems and give you directions to the places you want to go. Yes, it may look rather small but it is full of practical information about this country and its sights, habits, cities, cuisine and the list goes on and on.

We hope that this collection of interesting and helpful facts about Hungary can be a kickstarter for you to fulfill your goals, to make the best of your semester abroad or to develop your research the most fruitful way you can. We also wish to contribute to your successes in everyday life.

Hoping to have the chance to enjoy your company here in Hungary, we wish you a wonderful stay.

The Editor Team



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HUNGARY



Basic Information

Official name: Hungary

Area: 93,030 km²

Population: 9,906,000

Neighbouring countries: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia

Official language: Hungarian

State form: Republic

Capital and largest city: Budapest (population: 1,700,000)

Other large cities: Debrecen, Szeged, Miskolc, Pécs, Győr

Currency: Forint (HUF)

Time zone: CET (GMT +1)

Major rivers: River Danube (417 km), River Tisza (597 km)

Largest lakes: Lake Balaton, Lake Velence

Highest point above sea level: Kékes (1014 m) in the Mátra Hills

Hungary is a member of OECD, NATO, EU and the Schengen Convention.

Administratively, Hungary is divided into 19 counties with the capital city of Budapest being independent of any county government.

Hungary is one of the 15 most popular tourist destinations in the world with a capital regarded as one of the most beautiful cities. Despite its relatively small size, the country is home to numerous World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, the second largest thermal lake in the world (Lake Hévíz), the largest lake in Central Europe (Lake Balaton), and the largest natural grassland in Europe (Hortobágy).

Climate and Weather

Hungary is in the temperate zone and has a relatively dry continental climate. There are big differences in temperature between the four seasons: summers are hot, while winters are cold. Average temperatures range from -1 °C in January to 21 °C in July. Hungary is protected from extreme

weather conditions by the surrounding mountain ranges, the Alps and the Carpathians.

Weather forecast is available at: www.met.hu (Országos Meteorológiai Szolgálat).

Geography

Hungary is a landlocked country, situated in the Carpathian Basin. Its two longest rivers called Danube and Tisza divide Hungary into three parts: Transdanubia (to the west of the Danube), the plain between the Rivers Danube and Tisza, and the Trans-Tisza region (to the east of the Tisza). Hungary's 'mountains' are actually hills, which seldom exceed an elevation of 1,000 metres. Two-thirds of Hungary's geographic area is less than 200 metres above sea level.

Lake Balaton, covering 598 km², is one of the biggest tourist attractions of the country. The average depth of the lake is two to three metres, so the water warms up quickly in summer.



Lake Balaton



Grey cattle in Hortobágy

There are ten national parks in Hungary. Three of them situated on the Great Plain – Hortobágy, Kiskunság and Körös-Maros – provide protection to the wildlife and fragile wetlands, marshes and saline grasslands of the open puszta. Two are in the north: in the almost completely wooded Bükk Hills and in the Aggtelek region with its extensive system of karst caves. Duna-Ipoly is in Central Hungary, Balaton Uplands is in the West and Duna-Dráva National Park is located in the South-west of the country, at the Croatian border. Órség and the smallest park at Lake Fertő are situated at the Austrian border.

Hungary is home to more than 2,000 flowering plant species, many of which are not normally found at this latitude. There are a lot of common European animals here (deer, wild hare, boar, otter) as well as some rare species (wild cat, lake bat, Pannonian lizard), and three-quarters of the country's 450 vertebrates are birds, especially waterfowls, which are attracted by the rivers, lakes and wetlands.

World Heritage Sites

Today Hungary has eight locations on the World Heritage List:

Budapest: Danube Bank View, Buda Castle District and Andrásy Avenue

This quarter encompasses the area on the Buda side, which stretches from the Buda abutment of Petőfi Bridge across Gellért Hill and Tabán up to Castle Hill (Várhegy) and Water Town (Víziváros), and on the Pest side it extends from the Pest abutment of Margaret Bridge to Petőfi Bridge. Andrásy Avenue was added to the list as it presents a uniform architectural image of Budapest, connecting Elizabeth Square in the capital's innermost area with Heroes' Square.

The old village of Hollókő and its surroundings

The old part of the village Hollókő, a settlement nestling in the Cserhát Hills, has preserved its distinctive traditions to this day. Hollókő was the first



Hollókő

village to be declared a World Heritage Site. The history of the village goes back to the 13th century, when after the Mongol invasion a castle was built on Szár Hill. The name (holló=raven, kő=stone) perhaps comes from the legend in which the lord of a castle kidnapped a pretty maiden, whose nurse was a witch, and closed her into a room of the castle. The nurse made a pact with the devil to rescue the girl: the devil's minions, disguised as ravens, took the stones of the castle away.

The village is not just an open-air museum, which exhibits folk traditions, but also a living village where traditions and everyday life go hand in hand.

www.hollokotourism.hu

Aggtelek National Park

This area, which stretches across the Hungarian-Slovakian border, is extremely rich in caves. There is a spectacular 22-kilometre-long system of caves in the region. Dazzling rock and crystal formations with names including Dragon's Head, Tiger, Mother in Law's Tongue and the Hall of Giants, as well as dozens of underground lakes and winding passages can be explored on a different range of guided tours.

anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu

The Benedictine Archabbey of Pannonhalma and its natural environment

The Archabbey is one of the oldest historical monuments in Hungary. The first Benedictine monks settled here in 996. The 1000-year-long history of the Archabbey is detectable in the succession of architectural styles of the monastic buildings (the oldest dating from 1224), which house a school and a monastic community even today.

www.bences.hu

Hortobágy National Park

The area became a national park in 1973, making it the first of its kind in Hungary.

The area of the Park is over 800 km². Hortobágy is similar to a steppe: it is a grassy plain with cattle, sheep, oxen and horses tended by herdsmen, and it provides a habitat for various species (342 bird species have been registered). Its emblematic sight is the Nine-holed Bridge; and apart from this, the Park is characterised by traditional sweep-wells. Hortobágy is Hungary's largest protected area and the largest natural grassland in Europe at the same time.

www.hnp.hu

Early Christian Necropolis in Pécs

In the centre of the town of Pécs, beneath Cathedral Square (Dóm tér) and St Stephan's Square (Szent István tér), there is a Christian cemetery dating back to the 4th– 6th centuries. Research and excavations so far have uncovered various burial constructions and over a hundred burial sites around a tomb chapel, a cemetery building and a mausoleum. The first painted crypts were discovered in 1780. They are ornamented with Biblical scenes, images of the apostles Peter and Paul, as well as floral and animal motifs. Parts of the heritage site are open to the public.

www.pecsorokseg.hu



Old Christian Necropolis in Pécs

Cultural landscape of Lake Fertő

Lake Fertő is the second largest lake in Central Europe, and it is located at the Austrian–Hungarian border. The lake covers 315 km²: 240 km² is on the Austrian side, while 75 km² is on the Hungarian side. The special habitats and the rural architecture surrounding Lake Fertő, on both the Hungarian and the Austrian sides, provide the Heritage Site with a unique image. The territory, which has survived of the originally enormous area of marsh and wetland, has preserved a unique flora and fauna, as well as an invaluable array of landscape with its ethnographic and cultural historic assets.

www.fertopart.hu

Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape

Tokaj-Hegyalja is a historic wine region located in north-eastern Hungary. The region consists of 28 villages and 7 000 hectares of classified vineyards. It is the home of the world famous wine Tokaji Aszú, which French King Louis XIV called the 'king of wines and the wine of kings'.

www.tokaj.hu



Tokaj

Brief History

Below, some important dates from Hungarian history are highlighted.



Feszty Á.: The Arrivals of the Hungarians

5th century

The Hungarian tribes (who called themselves Magyar, which roughly means ‘the ones who can speak’) left the area of the Urals. They passed along the Volga and the Caspian Sea. After several hundred years of wandering, they reached the Carpathian Basin.

895–907

The Conquest: seven Hungarian tribes conquered the Carpathian Basin under Árpád’s leadership.

1000

István I (Saint Stephen) was crowned king and it was during his reign that Christianity was adopted and the structure of the Hungarian state and church was established.



István I

1222

Andrew II was forced by the nobles to accept the Golden Bull, the first constitutional document of Hungary. The Bull is often compared to the Magna Charta Libertatum of England.

1241–1242

The Mongols invaded Hungary. After the defeat of the Hungarian army at the battle of Muhi, the

king had to flee from the country. About 50% of the population died during the invasion. King Béla IV reconstructed and rebuilt the country and the state, and invited settlers mostly from Saxony, and Bavaria.

14th–15th centuries

After the dynasty of Árpád died out, under the reign of their successors, the Anjous, Hungary became a dominant power in Central Europe. Anjou Louis the Great of Hungary was also crowned King of Poland. The first university was established in Pécs, Hungary during his reign. Louis' successor and son-in-law, Sigismund from the Luxembourg dynasty was King of Bohemia and the Holy Roman Emperor at the same time. The kings of this era made special efforts to unite Christian forces to prevent a possible conquest by the Ottoman Turks.

1456

Hunyadi János, Governor of Hungary stopped the attacking Ottoman Turks at Belgrade. Pope Callixtus III ordered the bells of every European church to be tolled as a call to pray for the defenders of the city of Belgrade. As the news of the victory spread before the arrival of the papal order, the chiming of bells at noon was transformed into a commemoration of this victory.



Béla IV



Hunyadi János



Hunyadi Mátyás

1458–1490

Hunyadi Mátyás' (Matthias) reign brought a golden age in Hungary. The country became an important Central European power again and a centre of renaissance culture.

1526

The battle of Mohács fought against the attacking Ottoman Turkish Empire sealed the fate of an independent Hungary. 150 years of Turkish occupation followed in the country.

1541

The Ottoman Turks occupied Buda, the then capital of Hungary. The country was split into three parts. The Habsburgs governed the western and northern parts of the country, the central area was ruled by the Turks, and the south-east Principality of Transylvania became the stronghold of Hungarian culture and independence for a long-long time.



1683–1699

The Ottoman Turks were expelled from Hungary by the armies of the Saint League (alliance of the Habsburgs, Poland, Venice, the Pope, and others). Afterwards, Hungary was united under the reign of the Habsburgs. Habsburg absolutism and tyranny ignited several riots and independence wars in Hungary until the Compromise between the Habsburgs and Hungary was concluded in 1867.

1703–1711

An independence war was fought under the leadership of Rákóczi Ferenc II, Prince of Transylvania, against the Habsburgs. The rebels defeated the Imperial army in several battles but the rebellion was eventually put down.

18th century

As a consequence of the constant warfare between Hungarians, Habsburgs and the Ottoman Turks, population and economic growth in Hungary stunted for one and a half centuries. After the Saint League forced the Ottomans out from Hungary, the ethnic composition of the Hungarian Kingdom dramatically changed due to internal and external migration. Economic reconstruction only began mainly under the reign of Maria Theresa and her son Joseph II.

First half of the 19th century

A national reform movement was launched to promote both the political and economic transformation of the country and the cultivation of the Hungarian language and culture. This was the time when the National Anthem was written and composed, and when the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was established. The construction of the first permanent bridge (the Chain Bridge) between Pest and Buda commenced, and also the first railroads were built. The initiator of these major events was Count



Rákóczi Ferenc II



Maria Theresa



Széchenyi István

Széchenyi István, an eminent figure in the Reform Era.

1848–1849

A revolution broke out in Pest on 15 March (now a national holiday), which extended to the entire country and escalated to an independence war. The Habsburg Emperor was dethroned after the Hungarian army won several significant battles. In 1849, Kossuth Lajos was appointed Governor-President of Hungary. The longest European national revolution could be oppressed only in the summer of 1849 by the Habsburgs, with the intervention of the Russian army.



Kossuth Lajos

1867

Compromise with the Habsburgs was concluded. Franz Josef I was crowned King of Hungary, and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was established. A dynamic development of the economy and modernisation started in Hungary, while political and ethnic tensions aggravated.

1896

The Millennium, the 1000th anniversary of the Magyar Conquest was celebrated with great pomp.

28 July 1914

Following the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne, the Monarchy declared war on Serbia: World War I broke

out. As a result of defeat in 1918, the Monarchy fell apart.

1918–1920

The First Republic was established but it shortly collapsed due to a coup of the Communist Party. The soon-to-emerge Hungarian Soviet Republic also collapsed because of the invading armies of the surrounding countries and an emerging conservative counter-revolutionary movement. In 1920, Hungary became a monarchy again under the rule of Governor Horthy Miklós. Limited parliamentarism was established.



Franz Joseph

4 June 1920

The Treaty of Trianon was signed, which reduced Hungary's territory from 288,000 km² to 93,000 km² and its population from 18.2 million to 7.6 million. Millions of Hungarians found themselves in the successor states of the collapsed Monarchy, and the revision of the Treaty became a key objective for Hungarian foreign policy until 1945.

1941–1945

Hungary entered World War II in 1941. Hungary's loss of human lives was approximately one million, and 40% of the national wealth was destroyed. The Soviet army drove the Germans out of the country and occupied Hungary until 1990. After the few years of the





Second Republic in Hungary, a Soviet-style dictatorship was established.

23 October–4 November 1956

A revolution and freedom fight for Hungary's democratic transformation of domestic politics and for her national independence was fought. The revolution was put down, and an unprecedented bloodshed in the aftermath of retaliation claimed well over two hundred lives.

23 October 1989

The Opposition Round Table, a formal meeting between the representatives of the ruling political regime and its opposition was formed; Hungary subsequently became a republic for the third time. The first democratic, multi-party elections were held in 1990.

1997

Hungary became a member of NATO.



1 May 2004

Hungary became a member of the EU.

2007

Hungary joined to the Schengen area.

2011

Hungary held the EU presidency in the first half of the year.

National Symbols

Coat-of-arms

The coat-of-arms of Hungary is a pointed, impaled shield. The right side consists of a silver double cross on red base, situated inside a small golden crown; the crown is placed on the middle heap of three green hills. On the left side, there is the so-called Árpád stripes, four silver and four red stripes. The top of the shield features the Hungarian Holy Crown.



Flag

The flag of the of Hungary is a tricolour consisting of horizontal red, white and green bands of equal width.

The three colours represent three virtues: red is for strength, white is for faithfulness and green is for hope. Alternatively, red represents the blood spilled for the country, white stands for freedom and green is for the land.



Anthem

The text of the Hungarian national anthem was written in 1823 by Kölcsey Ferenc, one of the great poets of the Reform Age. The music was composed by Erkel Ferenc in 1844, when he won the contest to compose the national anthem.

Holy Crown

The Hungarian crown was given to Saint Stephen by the Pope on the occasion of his coronation at around 1000. The crown and the coronation insignia (the orb and sceptre, the coronation sword and the coronation mantle) were



Holy Crown

taken to the US after World War II and were eventually returned to Hungary in 1978. Now they are on display in the Parliament building in Budapest.

State administration

The President of the country, elected by the National Assembly every 5 years, has a largely ceremonial role, he represents the nation's unity and safeguards the democratic functioning of state administration.

The Prime Minister selects cabinet ministers and has the exclusive right to dismiss them. Each cabinet nominee must be formally approved by the president.

The unicameral, 199-member National Assembly is the highest organ of state authority and it initiates and approves legislation sponsored by the Prime Minister. National parliamentary elections are held every 4 years. A party must win at least 5% of the national vote to form a parliamentary group.

Famous Persons of Hungarian Origins

Nobel Laureates

- 1905 Lénárd Fülöp: Physics
- 1914 Bárány Róbert: Physiology and pathology of the vestibular apparatus
- 1925 Zsigmondy Richárd Adolf: Colloid chemistry
- 1937 Szent-Györgyi Albert: Vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid
- 1943 Hevesy György: Isotopes as tracers
- 1961 Békésy György: Stimulation within the cochlea
- 1963 Wigner Jenő: Structure of the atom and its nucleus (atomic bomb and nuclear engineering)
- 1971 Gábor Dénes: Holography
- 1986 Elie Wiesel: Peace prize
- 1986 Polányi János: Chemistry
- 1994 Oláh György: Ingredients of oil and natural gas
- 1994 Harsányi János: Equilibrium in the theory of 'non-co-operative games'
- 2002 Kertész Imre: For his novel Fateless
- 2004 Herskó Ferenc: Chemistry

Inventors and Scientists

- Semmelweis Ignác (1818– 1865): physician. Known as the 'saviour of mothers', he discovered that the principal reason behind childbed fever was inappropriate hand washing.
- Szilárd Leó (1898–1964): physicist who conceived the nuclear chain reaction.
- Bíró László (1899– 1985): inventor of the ballpoint pen. Ballpoint pens are still widely referred to as a biro in many English-speaking countries.
- Neumann János (1903–1957): mathematician, the 'Father of the Computer'.
- Teller Ede (1908–2003): theoretical physicist, known colloquially as 'the father of the hydrogen bomb'.
- Csikszentmihályi Mihály (1934–): psychologist. He is best known for his concept and notion of 'flow' and for his research and publications on the topic.

Rubik Ernő (1944–): inventor of the world famous logical puzzle, Rubik's cube.

Domokos Gábor (1961–) and Várkonyi Péter (1979–): inventors of 'Gömböc', a convex three-dimensional homogeneous body, which has only one stable and one unstable point of equilibrium.

Losonczy Áron (1977–): inventor of light-transmitting concrete Litracon.



"Gömböc"

Artists

Liszt Ferenc (1811–1886): composer and pianist. Liszt was a revolutionary figure in romantic music and was acknowledged as the greatest pianist of his time.

Bartók Béla (1881–1945): one of the most significant musicians and composers of the 20th century. His music is invigorated by the themes, modes, and rhythmic patterns of Hungarian and other folk music traditions he studied, which he integrated, along with various kinds of influence by his contemporaries, into his own distinctive style.

Kodály Zoltán (1882–1967): composer and ethnomusicologist of the 20th century. As a scholar of Hungarian music, Kodály collected, arranged, and published folk songs. He was also the creator of a special music-teaching technique known as the Kodály-method.

Pulitzer József (1847–1911): journalist and publisher. Best known for the Pulitzer Prizes, which were established posthumously.

George Zukor (1899–1983): Oscar-winning director (*The Wizard of Oz*, *My Fair Lady*).

Harry Houdini (1874–1926): the greatest magician on Earth.

André Kertész (1894–1985): photographer. He is recognised today as one of the creators of photojournalism.

Victor Vasarely (1908–1997): painter. His geometrical style of painting won him recognition all over the world.

Szabó István (1938–): film director. In 1981, he won an Oscar for his motion picture *Mephisto*.

Koltai Lajos (1946–): cinematographer and film director. He was nominated for an Academy Award in 2000 for his work on film *Malena*.

Kocsis Zoltán (1952–): pianist, conductor and composer.

Sebestyén Márta (1957–): folk vocalist. She sang the score for the movie *The English Patient* (*Szerelem, szerelem* – Love, love).



Kodály Zoltán



Victor Vasarely: Zebras

Hungaricums

Hungaricums are high value products of Hungary, which show Hungarian uniqueness, specialty and quality, they embody the top performance of the Hungarian people. Some of them are listed below.



Táncház Method: a Hungarian Model for Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Táncház (dance-house) model is a special method of teaching folk dance: participants learn dances from tradition bearers by observation and imitation, with the accompaniment of live music.

www.tanchaz.hu



Busójárás

It is an annual festival in Mohács, located in southern Hungary. These festivities are held in late February to mark the end of winter. The event begins the Friday before Ash Wednesday and lasts for six days. The carnival ends on Tuesday, when “winter’s coffin” is burned at the main square, which symbolizes the “burning” of winter and giving a welcome to spring. Then the villagers and visitors dance until dawn.

The festival is named ‘busó’ in acknowledgement of the awesome-looking costumed men wearing wooden masks and large sheepskin coats. According to legend, the roots of the festival date back to the Battle of Mohács in 1526, when villagers dressed up as fearsome monsters to frighten away the occupying Turkish forces.

www.mohacsibusojaras.hu

Pálinka

Pálinka is a generic name for the fiery fruit brandy often distilled by farmers from home-grown plums, apricots and pears. Hungary's most famous pálinka distilleries can be found in Kecskemét.



Porcelain of Herend

Herend offers luxury hand painted and gilded porcelain. Now among the biggest porcelain manufacturing factories in Europe, the Herend Porcelain manufacturing factory was founded in 1826 in the small Hungarian village of Herend near the town of Veszprém. Herend Porcelain was soon to follow. In 1855, the international exhibition in Paris, the Exposition Universelle brought the highest appreciation for Herend, which resulted in orders on behalf of several European royal courts, among them Queen Victoria and Francis Joseph I.



Hungarian National Values

Folk Art of the Matyó: Embroidery of a Traditional Community

The Matyó community lives in and around the town of Mezőkövesd in the north-eastern part of Hungary. The heritage of the community consists of the ethnographic group's living traditional culture, which is embodied by their characteristic style, colourful



folk art and unique costumes, as well as a cultural identity imbued with strong Catholic religiosity.

This folk art is characterised by special floral embroidery filling on textile and ornamented objects.



Tokaji Aszú

Described by Louis XIV of France as “the king of wines and the wine of kings”, Aszú is in fact referred to even in the Hungarian national anthem. It is one of the world’s finest dessert wines. Aszú is made of grapes that have succumbed to fungus *botrytis cinerea*, also known as noble rot. If conditions are right, botrytis mould causes sweet grapes to dry out and shrivel. The resulting Aszú berries have a very high concentration of sugar and rich flavours.

Bull’s Blood (Bikavér)

The Bikavér (Bull’s Blood) blend, exclusive to the Eger and Szekszárd regions, is the best-known of all Hungarian wines. Legend has it that the name originates from the unsuccessful siege of Eger by the Turks in 1552, when the heavily outnumbered Hungarians had nothing to drink but red wine. This proved to be an advantage for them: their red-stained beards and wild eyes terrified the Turks, who thought they had been drinking Bull’s Blood.



Winter Salami of Szeged

The PICK factory in Szeged has been producing this famous and popular salami brand for about

140 years, using a secret recipe. Made from pork and spices, winter salami is cured in cold air and is slowly smoked. During the dry ripening process, a special noble-mould is formed on the surface of the product.

Makó Onion

The town of Makó, situated in south-eastern Hungary, is famous for its onion, which is an important ingredient of traditional Hungarian cuisine.

Hungarian Paprika

Paprika powder is one of the most widely used spice of Hungarian cuisine. Due to the favourable climate and geographical conditions, Hungarian paprika has a bright red colour and a distinctively rich flavour. Kalocsa and Szeged in the southern part of Hungary are the heart of paprika production.



Language

The official language of the country is Hungarian, which forms part of the Finno-Ugric language family. Hungarians call their language magyar. Although Hungary is located in Central Europe, Hungarian is not related to any of the languages that surround the country.

Hungarian is spoken by 10 million people in Hungary. There are also sizable populations of Hungarian speakers in Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia, the Ukraine, Israel, the U.S., and Australia. Smaller pockets of Hungarian speakers also live in Canada, Slovenia and Austria.

Guide to Hungarian Pronunciation

Vowels:

A – as in guard

Á – as in hut

E – as in set

É – as in grey (without the
I sound)

I – as in hit

Í – as in deal

O – as in boy

Ó – as in boar

Ö – as in girl

Ő – as in learn (pronounced
longer than ö)

U – as in bull

Ú – as in cool

Ü – as **Azur** in Cote d'Azur

Ű – same as ü, but pro-
nounced longer

*Some consonants that are
usually problematic for non-
natives:*

C – as ts in tsar

Cs – as ch in cherry

Gy – as d in duty

J – as y in yes

Ly – as y in yes

Hungarian Names

Hungarians not only celebrate birthdays but namedays as well. Each given name is assigned to one or more days of the calendar, based on religious traditions, historical events, birthday of a famous person who had the same first name, or on other facts. Namedays are celebrated in work places, among friends and – of course – in the family. People usually give flowers, dessert or small gifts as a present to celebrate someone's nameday.

In Hungary all names are given with family name first followed by a given name. So the terms “first name” and “last name” are potentially confusing and should be avoided as they do not in this case denote given and family names respectively.

The name of a woman can be confusing to those unfamiliar with this custom. The bride has a chance to choose from 5 possibilities.

1. She may keep her maiden name after her marriage. E.g. Szabó Eszter.
2. She may adopt her husband's family name followed by her maiden name. E.g. Kovács-Szabó Eszter.
3. She may use her husband's family name followed by her own given name. E.g. Kovács Eszter.

4. She may use her husband's name with a -né suffix (Mrs.) at the end followed by her maiden name. E.g. Kovácsné Szabó Eszter or Kovács Jánosné Szabó Eszter.

5. By the old Hungarian custom, the bride adopted the entire name of her groom with a -né suffix at the end. Her given name was thus disguised by her official name. E.g. Kovács Jánosné.

Ny – as n in news (including the I sound)

S – as s in sugar

Sz – as s in skip

Ty – as t in tube (including the I sound)

Zs – as ge in beige

Traditional Hungarian given names, which you cannot find in any other languages

Réka (first wife of the Hun king Attila), *Emese* (mother of High Prince Álmos, meaning mother), *Enikő*, *Villő*, *Csenge*, *Tünde*, *Csilla* for women.

Vajk (pagan name for King Saint István), *Árpád* (Grand Prince of the Hungarians), *Álmos* (father of Árpád), *Attila* (leader of Huns) for men.

Public Holidays

1 January: New Year's Day

15 March: National Day in memory of the outbreak of the 1848 revolution and war of independence

Easter Monday

1 May: Labour Day

Pentecost Monday

20 August: Saint István's Day

(founder of the Hungarian state)

23 October: National Day in memory of the 1956 revolution and the day in 1989 when the Republic of Hungary was proclaimed

1 November: All Saint's Day

25–26 December: Christmas

Biggest Towns

Budapest

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary and the country's principal political, cultural, commercial, industrial and transportation centre. With its almost two million inhabitants, Budapest is the biggest and most densely populated town in the country. One in every five Hungarian citizens lives in Budapest, and over half of the nation's GDP is generated here. Half of Hungary's university students study in the capital, and the majority of professors work here, too. The proportion of researchers working in Budapest is even higher.



The Parliament in Budapest

The town itself stretches along the banks of the Danube, which divides the city into two parts: Buda, dominated by hills and slopes, and Pest with its plain.

Budapest is a city of diversity, where you can find the marks of different historical eras: to feel the Turkish atmosphere go and see the burial monument of Gül baba, the historic streets and monuments of the Castle District are equally noteworthy, you can witness the rapid transformation that took place during the 19th century by walking along Andrassy Avenue or the boulevards. If you prefer undisturbed calmness, take a stroll in the villa quarters in Rózsadomb. The capital is rich in historical monuments and there are countless architectural treasures such as the Parliament or the Opera House, Szent István Basilica and the Buda Castle.

Apart from all this, there are numerous sites and various events to see: more than 200 museums and 40 theatres, festivals throughout the year, and around 80 thermal springs and spas. The list is really endless!

www.budapestinfo.hu, www.budpocketguide.com, english.budapest.hu

Debrecen

After Budapest, Debrecen is the second largest city in Hungary with a population of 200,000. It is the regional centre of the Northern Great Plain region and the seat of Hajdú-Bihar County. The city has preserved its ancient mercantile character and also has a rich cultural life.



The symbol of Debrecen is the Great Church, built in classicist style, which is unique in the country. A flower carnival takes place in the city every year on 20 August.

Debrecen is home to the University of Debrecen, whose main building is a widely recognized work of architecture. The university has many departments and is a major research centre in Europe.

Debrecen also makes an ideal starting point for excursions to the Hortobágy National Park, or to the nearby homely towns of for example Jászberény or Mezőkövesd.

www.debrecen.hu

How to get there from Budapest?

By car: take motorway M3 towards Miskolc, then take highway M35 to Debrecen. The distance is approximately 230 km.

By train: the time of the journey by Intercity train from Budapest Nyugati Railway Station is 2.5 hours.

Miskolc

Miskolc is a town situated in North-East Hungary, and is mostly known for its heavy industry. With a population close to 190,000, Miskolc is the third largest town of Hungary. It is also the seat of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County and the regional centre of the Northern Hungary Region.

Miskolc is not a historical city, but already in the 19th century it was an important commercial centre due to its geographical location. Later, with the industrialization of the country, Miskolc became an industrial centre thanks to the coal and ore mines in its vicinity.

From Miskolc, the famous Tokaj wine region is within easy reach, or you can take nice excursions to nearby towns including Eger, Sárospatak and the beautiful Szilvásvárad. The world heritage site of Aggtelek is also located in the nearby area.

The University of Miskolc is a relatively young higher education institution: it was founded in 1949. The 'University Town' is located to the south-west



of Miskolc, along the road to Miskolctapolca. The university was built in the fashion of the American campus model and it is surrounded by a large park and sports facilities.

www.miskolc.hu

How to get there from Budapest?

By car: take motorway M3, then follow highway M30. The distance is approximately 180 km.

By train: the journey takes approximately 2 hours by Intercity train from Budapest Keleti Railway Station.

Szeged

Szeged is the fourth largest town of Hungary. With a population of 175,000, it is the regional centre of south-eastern Hungary and the seat of Csongrád County. Szeged and its area have been inhabited since ancient times. The name Szeged was first mentioned in 1183, in a document issued by King Béla III.



The city's most impressive monument is the Cathedral, which is located in the town centre. Every summer the square in front of the Cathedral transforms into a huge open-air theatre to host the Szeged Open-Air Festival.

Szeged is the sunniest town in the country: it boasts of the highest amount of annual sunshine. The charming warm weather invites you to take excursions to the town of Kecskemét, the Kiskunság National Park or the National Historical Memorial Park of Ópusztaszer.

The University of Szeged was founded in Cluj (currently situated in Romania and called Kolozsvár in Hungarian) in 1872 and was moved to Szeged in 1921. At present, the University consists of 12 faculties, where you can study almost everything ranging from humanities to business studies or health sciences.

www.szegedportal.hu

How to get there from Budapest?

By car: take motorway M5. The distance is approximately 170 km.

By train: the journey takes approximately 2 and a half hours by Intercity train from Budapest Nyugati Railway Station.

Trains from Budapest Nyugati Railway Station stop at Liszt Ferenc Airport station in Ferihegy so you can get on a train to Szeged right after arriving in Hungary by plane.

Pécs

Pécs is located in the south-west of the country. It is the administrative and economic centre of Baranya County. The area of the town has been inhabited since ancient times, with the oldest archaeological findings dating back to a history of 6000 years.

The town lies on the southern slopes of the Mecsek Hills, and has a moderate, almost Mediterranean climate. When western Hungary was a province of the Roman Empire, the Romans founded several wine-producing colonies at this place.

Pécs has a rich cultural life, hosts a wide variety of galleries and museums as well as boasts of numerous historical buildings such as the Basilica of Pécs, an 11th century Christian monument. Several Turkish monuments dating back

to the age of the Ottoman Empire (16th–17th centuries) give the city a cross-cultural character.

The town of Pécs was selected as European Capital of Culture for 2010.

The surrounding countryside is also well worth discovering: the Villány wine region, the Harkány spa, Lake Orfű, and the historical fortress of Siklós are all famous tourist attractions.



The University of Pécs was founded in 1367: it is the oldest university in Hungary, and ranks among the first European universities. It has 10 faculties and offers a wide range of training programmes covering nearly every possible field of study.

www.pecs.hu

How to get there from Budapest?

By car: follow motorway M6, then highway M60. The distance is approximately 230 km.

By train: the journey takes approximately 3 hours by Intercity train from Budapest Keleti Railway Station.

Győr

Győr is located in the north-western part of Hungary, close to the Slovakian and the Austrian borders. The seat of Győr-Moson-Sopron County is situated



on one of the important roads of Central Europe, halfway between Budapest and Vienna.

The area has been inhabited since ancient times. The first large known settlement, named Arrabona by its Celtic inhabitants, dates back to the 5th century BC.

Győr has an enchanting centre and is abundant in beautiful baroque buildings. The oldest part of the town is Káptalan Hill at the confluence of the Danube, Rába and Rábca rivers. Today, Győr is one of the most important administrative and cultural centres of Hungary. The city is also a university town and a popular tourist destination.

The nearby Benedictine Archabbey of Pannonhalma is well worth visiting.

www.gyor.hu

How to get there from Budapest?

By car: take motorway M1. Győr is 125 km away from Budapest.

By train: the journey takes one and a half hours by Intercity train from Budapest Keleti Railway Station.

Foreign Students about Hungary

We have interviewed some students studying in Hungary about Hungarians and the country. Here is what they think.

What do you like the most in Hungary?

Othman, Morocco, Erasmus student:

The history of Hungary is very rich due to the Ottoman civilisation, the Soviet era and the wars, which destroyed but also left intact some interesting buildings. Hungarians are also very friendly. They are enjoying their lives and don't seem to be driven by some kind of routine.

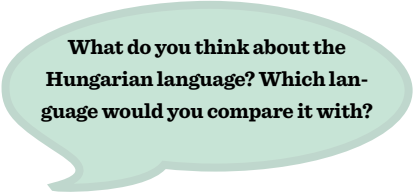
Maria del Mar, Spain, Erasmus student:

Hungary is a great place for travelling thanks to its position in Central Europe. It is also cheap.



Margit, Estonia, Erasmus student:

I love nature in Hungary, I love the climate of Hungary. I love Lake Balaton and Budapest. I just love Hungary in general! Also I love goulash and fried cheese. Oh, and I love it that wine is almost as cheap as water.



What do you think about the Hungarian language? Which language would you compare it with?

Othman:

The Hungarian language is totally different from the other languages but it is not by all means the most difficult one. (Chinese and Arabic are worse.) I would compare it to Russian or Polish.

Maria del Mar:

Hungarian language is understandable, but very, very difficult!

Margit:

To me, the Hungarian language sounds quite weird, yet I love it! It is in the same language family as my mother tongue, Estonian, although the two languages do not sound similar. Estonian is like ratatata and Hungarian is like shshshshsh. I don't know what to compare it with, though. The two languages sound like one of a kind to me.

What is your favourite Hungarian food?

Othman:

Rántott csirke and babgulyás.

Maria del Mar:

Lángos.

Margit:

Csirkepaprikás and lángos. I love them!

What is your message to the Hungarian people?

Othman:

Stay the way you are and think up-front.

Maria del Mar:

They are nice people.

Margit:

Enjoy what your country has to offer: the magical nature, the delicious food, the perfect geographic location.

What would you say to a fellow student who is planning to come to Hungary?

Othman:

Go and enjoy yourself. You are going to love it. Great country, great people.

Maria del Mar:

Come here without any hesitation, you will spend the best year of your life here! You will be able to travel all around Europe and it will be very cheap.

Margit:

Make the most of your time in Hungary. Travel, travel and travel! And have fun and don't think about tomorrow.





FORMALITIES



Since December 21 2007, Hungary has been a member of the Schengen Area, and applies the Schengen legislation in full. At present, 26 states, 22 of the 28 member states of the European Union, as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are part of the Schengen Area. On the other hand, several members of the European Union, i.e. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Croatia do not yet participate in the Schengen cooperation. The United Kingdom and Ireland opted out the Schengen area.

Significant changes subsequent to Hungary's Schengen membership are:

- ▶ visas and residence permits issued by one of the Schengen States are valid for Hungary,
- ▶ visas issued by Hungarian representations abroad and residence permits issued by Hungarian national authorities are also valid for the entire Schengen Area.

The visa sticker, designed with the same appearance for all Schengen States, bears the words “valid for Schengen States”. The Schengen visa and entry regulations are only applicable for a stay not exceeding 90 days within a 180 days period. Rules relating to stays exceeding 90 days are laid down in the national law of the member states concerned.

Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence

Right of entry and residence for a period not exceeding 90 days

Citizens of the EEA (EU + Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland may enter the territory of Hungary with a valid travel document or personal identification document and have the right of residence for a period not exceeding 90 days from the date of entry.

Family members of the above mentioned citizens who are not citizens of EEA states but are citizens of third countries and family members of a Hungarian citizen or an EEA citizen may enter the territory of Hungary with a valid travel document and – unless otherwise prescribed by any directly applicable EU legislation or an international agreement – with a valid visa.

Right of residence for a period exceeding three months

Students who are EEA citizens can reside in Hungary for more than three months if they are enrolled at an education institution offering accredited programmes. Within ninety-three days from the time of entry, such students have to register at the regional directorate of the Office of Immigration and Nationality. At the time of registration, students should be able to present a certificate of admission issued by the education institution or any other document for the verification of their student status. The registration certificate has no expiry date, and is valid together with a valid travel document or personal identification document.

The spouse and children of students who satisfy the above-mentioned requirements shall have the right of residence for a period exceeding three months.

Third Country Nationals

Third country nationals are required to have a visa for entering the territory of Hungary and also for a stay of up to 90 days within a 180 days period if they come from a country that is under visa obligation according to the Schengen acquis. The visa application has to be submitted to the Hungarian Consulate in the country where the permanent or temporary residence of the applicant is located or in the country of the applicant's nationality. If third country nationals wish to stay longer than three months, they need to have a valid travel document, the necessary permits for return or continued travel and they



should be able to verify the purpose of entry and stay, they should have both accommodation and enough financial resources to cover their costs plus a full healthcare insurance or sufficient financial resources necessary for taking out healthcare services. A residence permit authorizes third-country nationals to reside in Hungary for a period of minimum 90 days but not exceeding two years. The application for a residence permit should be submitted to the Hungarian Consulate in the country where the permanent or temporary residence of the applicant is located or in the country of the applicant's nationality and will be judged by the competent Hungarian regional directorate. Those already residing in Hungary can submit their application directly to the competent regional directorate.

Students who are third-country nationals can obtain a residence permit if they have full time legal student relationship with a registered Hungarian public educational institution working in line with the public education information system, or wish to stay in Hungary in order to carry on full time studies organized by a state-recognized higher education institution, or to participate in a preparatory course for studies organized by a state-recognized higher education institution and can prove to meet

the language skill requirements. Researchers can get a residence permit when their purpose of stay is to carry out a research project under a hosting agreement concluded with a research organization accredited in line with specific legislation.

For citizens of third countries, the Immigration Office issues a new biometric document, the EU Blue Card, a work permit and a residence permit enabling highly-skilled non-EU citizens to work and live EU-wide. The EU Blue Card is valid for a period of minimum 1 year and maximum 4 years. After 4 years, the card can be renewed for another 4 years. Blue Card holders are granted the same social and labour rights as the citizens of the receiving country.

Since 1st January 2014 as a result of law changes a single application procedure aims the authorization of the establishment of a legal employment relationship of the third-country national with a specific employer in the territory of Hungary on the basis of his application for more than ninety days.

The single permit is a residence permit, which entitles the third country national to establish residence and legal employment relationship with a specific employer in the territory of Hungary.

Cases of single application procedures:

- ▶ In case the stay of the third country national submitting an application for residence permit for gainful activity aims the establishment of a legal employment relationship with a specific employer;
- ▶ In case the third-country national intends to establish a legal employment relationship, and he/she: submits a residence permit application for family reunification, or submits an application for EU Blue Card;
- ▶ In case the third-country national intends to establish a legal employment relationship, and he/she is in possession of a residence permit issued for family reunification, or is in possession of an EU Blue Card.

Students from a third country carrying out regular studies in Hungary as part of a cooperation programme can work in their term-time for a maximum of twenty-four hours weekly, and sixty-six working days beyond their term-time or during a period not exceeding ninety days.



Insurance

First aid is free for every foreigner. EU citizens are insured on the basis of the European Health Insurance Card when they are in another member state and are, from the point of view of social security, entitled to the same rights and have the same obligations as citizens of that given member state.

Those with jobs are insured in the country where they exercise their occupational activity. If you participate in an international student exchange programme or study at a state-run institute, you are entitled to free medical care. Based on the valid agreement between the host and the home universities, you are allowed to use the facilities of the Hungarian social security system. In possession of your residence permit and your attendance certificate, please contact the local Health Insurance Fund. If you study in Hungary independent of any placement, you can take out health insurance with the Health Insurance Fund at a cost of 30% of the local minimum wage.

Customs Regulations

These regulations are not very different from the rules of other European countries. It is, for example, forbidden to bring guns in or through the

country. Certain types of food are also forbidden to import or export. You may carry and take HUF and other convertible currencies out of the country without any restriction of denomination value. (If the value of the currency brought in or taken out through the external border of the European Union exceeds the limit of EUR 15,000, this must be declared at the customs office.) Every Hungarian Embassy can inform you about these rules, or you can request the help of a customs office once you are already in the country.

Student ID

If you have a student ID in your own country, all you need to do is obtain an international student ID prior to your visit to Hungary. This will entitle you to reductions on train and coach tickets, museum entrance fees, Youth Hostel accommodation, library memberships and will offer various other discounts.

A Hungarian student ID will be supplied by the institute to which you are placed as a student (the application for such an ID costs HUF 1,400). This will be indicated in the conditions of your scholarship. Students planning to begin partial studies usually receive a Hungarian ID from the International Department or the Registrar's Office of the institution at which they are studying; please, contact your institution for further details. When you submit your application for a student ID, make sure you can present your attendance certificate, your letter of acceptance from the institution in question and (if this is a state scholarship) the letter confirming your state grant.

National Tax and Customs Office
1054 Budapest, Széchenyi u. 2.
Phone: +36 1 428 5100

**Office of Immigration and
Nationality**
1117 Budapest, Budafoki u. 60.
Phone: +36 1 463 9100

Embassies

Here you can find a list of the European embassies in Hungary. For other countries see the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

www.kulugyminiszterium.hu

ALBANIA

1027 Budapest, Feketesas u. 3/A.

+36 1 336 1098

embassy.budapest@mfa.gov.al

AUSTRIA

1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 16.

+36 1 479 7010

budapest-ob@bmeia.gv.at

www.austrian-embassy.hu

BELGIUM

1015 Budapest, Toldy Ferenc u. 13.

+36 1 457 9960

budapest@diplobel.fed.be

diplomatie.belgium.be/hungary

BELARUS

1126 Budapest, Agárdi út 3/b.

+36 1 214 0553

hungary@belembassy.org

hungary.mfa.gov.by

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1026 Budapest, Verseggy Ferenc u. 4.

+36 1 212 0106

bihambud@yahoo.com

BULGARIA

1062 Budapest, Andrásy út 115.

+36 1 322 0824

embassy.budapest@mfa.bg

CROATIA

1065 Budapest, Munkácsy Mihály u. 15.

+36 1 354 1315

croemb.bp@mvpei.hr

horv.nagykov@mvp.hr

CYPRUS

1051 Budapest, Dorotytya u. 3. III.

2-3. • +36 1 266 1330

cypembhu@axelero.hu

CZECH REPUBLIC

1064 Budapest, Rózsa u. 61.

+36 1 462 5011

budapest@embassy.mzv.cz

www.mzv.cz/budapest

DENMARK

1122 Budapest, Határőr u. 37.
+36 1 487 90 00
budamb@um.dk
www.ambbudapest.um.dk

ESTONIA

1025 Budapest, Áldás u. 3.
+36 1 354 2570
embassy.budapest@mfa.ee
www.estemb.hu

FINLAND

1118 Budapest, Kelenhegyi út 16/A.
+36 1 279 2500
sanomat.bud@formin.fi
www.finland.hu

FRANCE

1062 Budapest, Lendvay u. 27.
+36 1 374 1100
consulat.budapest-amba@diplo-
matie.gouv.fr
www.ambafrance-hu.org

GEORGIA

1125 Budapest, Virányos út 6/B.
+36 1 202 3390
budapest.emb@mfa.gov.ge
www.hungary.mfa.gov.ge

GERMANY

1014 Budapest, Úri u. 64-66.
+36 1488 3500
info@budapest.diplo.de
www.budapest.diplo.de

GREECE

1063 Budapest, Szegfű u. 3.
+36 1 413 2600 • +36 1 413 2610
greekemb@axelero.hu
www.greekembassy.hu

ICELAND

1126 Budapest, Orbánhegyi út 3.
+36 1 488 0128
iceconsul@islandia.hu

IRELAND

1054 Budapest, Szabadság tér 7. –
Bank Center Granite Tower,
7th floor
+36 1 301 4960
www.embassyofireland.hu

ITALY

1143 Budapest, Stefánia út 95.
+36 1 460 6200 • +36 1 460 6201
ambasciata.budapest@esteri.it
www.ambbudapest.esteri.it

KOSOVO

1054 Budapest, Szabadság tér 7.
+36 1 688 78 72
embassy.hungary@ks-gov.net
www.ambasada-ks.net/hu

LATVIA

1124 Budapest, Vas Gereben u. 20.
+36 1 310 7262
embassy.hungary@mfa.gov.lv
www.am.gov.lv/en/hungary

LITHUANIA

1052 Budapest, Deák Ferenc u. 15.
+36 1 224 7910
amb.hu@urm.lt • hu.mfa.lt

MACEDONIA

1062 Budapest, Andrássy út 130.
+36 1 336 0510 • +36 1 336 0511
budapest@mfa.gov.mk
www.missions.gov.mk/budapest

MOLDOVA

1024 Budapest, Ady Endre u. 16.
+36 1 336 3450
budapesta@mfa.md
www.moldovaembassy.hu

MONTENEGRO

Temporary address: 1051 Budapest,

Arany János u. 15/I.

+36 1 373 0300 • +36 1 373 0301
ambasada@cg.t-online.hu

THE NETHERLANDS

1022 Budapest, Füge u. 5-7.
+36 1 336 6300
bdp@minbuza.nl
www.netherlandsembassy.hu

NORWAY

1015 Budapest, Ostrom u. 13.
+ 36 1 325 3300
emb.budapest@mfa.no
www.norvegia.hu/Embassy

POLAND

1068 Budapest, Városligeti fasor 16.
+36 1 413 8200
budapeszt.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl
budapeszt.msz.gov.pl

PORTUGAL

1123 Budapest, Alkotás u. 53., MOM
Park, Building C
+36 1 201 7617
embport@budapeste.dgaccp.pt

ROMANIA

1146 Budapest, Thököly út 72.
+36 1 384 8394

postmaster@roembbud.axelero.net
budapest.mae.ro

RUSSIA

1062 Budapest, Bajza u. 35.
 +36 1 332 4748
rusemb@euroweb.hu
www.hungary.mid.ru

SERBIA

1068 Budapest, Dózsa György út 92/b.
 +36 1 322 9838 • +36 1 342 8512
budapest@amb.srbije.net
www.budapest.mfa.rs

SLOVAKIA

1143 Budapest, Stefánia út 22-24.
 +36 1 460 9010
emb.budapest@mzv.sk
www.budapest.mfa.sk

SLOVENIA

1025 Budapest, Cseppkő u. 68.
 +36 1 438 5600 • vbp@gov.si
budimpesta.veleposlanistvo.si

SPAIN

1067 Budapest, Eötvös u. 11/b.
 +36 1 202 4006 • +36 1 202 015
embesphu@mail.mae.es

SWEDEN

1027 Budapest, Kapás u. 6-12.
 +36 1 460 6020
ambassaden.budapest@gov.se
www.swedenabroad.com/budapest

SWITZERLAND

1143 Budapest, Stefánia út 107.
 +36 1 460 7040
bud.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
www.swissembassy.hu

TURKEY

1062 Budapest, Andrássy út 123.
 +36 1 478 9100
embassy.budapest@mfa.gov.tr
www.budapest.be.mfa.gov.tr

UKRAINE

1125 Budapest, Istenehegyi út 84/B.
 +36 1 422 4120
emb_hu@mfa.gov.ua
www.mfa.gov.ua/hungary

UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1051 Budapest, Harmincad u. 6.
 +36 1 266 2888
info@britemb.hu
consular.budapest@fco.gov.uk
www.britishembassy.hu



STUDYING IN HUNGARY

Education System

In Hungary, schools and kindergartens are established and maintained by the state, local governments, minority local governments, legal entities (foundations, churches, etc.) as well as natural persons. The state provides maintainers with a budget subsidy for the performance of their services. About 90 per cent of children attend public sector institutions.

Administrative control related tasks and management responsibilities are shared among the central (national) government, local (county and district level) authorities and the education institutions. Overall responsibility lies with the Ministry of Human Resources, which is in charge of education, culture, social affairs, health care, youth and sport. However, school-based VET and adult training is within the competence of the Ministry for National Economy.

Participation in education is mandatory between the age of 5 and 16.

Pre-primary Schools (in Hungarian: óvoda)

In Hungary, most parents regard pre-primary schools as an essential part of education. In spite of the fact that attending pre-primary school is optional



(except beyond the age of 5), more than 80 per cent of children between the age of 3 and 7 attend such institutions. (From 2014, pre-primary school will become compulsory from the age of three.) Public and private pre-primary schools both make an effort to meet the growing parental demand for extra courses, such as computer use, language learning or sports activities.



Primary Schools (in Hungarian: általános iskola)

All children start their education in a primary school. Traditionally, the primary school has 8 grades, but there are some with 4 or alternatively 6 grades, after which pupils continue their education in another 8-grade or 6-grade secondary school of a type of their choice.

General Secondary Schools (in Hungarian: gimnázium)

Most pupils who plan to continue their studies in higher education pursue their secondary education in a general secondary school, which provides general education and concludes with the so-called maturity examination. General secondary schools offer four, six or eight-year-long courses and have diverse curricula.

Secondary Vocational Schools (in Hungarian: szakközépiskola)

Secondary vocational schools currently provide general and pre-vocational education at upper secondary level in grades 9 to 12 (or 9 to 13 in bilingual and other programmes starting with a 'language preparatory year'), and lead to a secondary school leaving examination, which qualifies for higher education entry (ISCED level 3A). After passing such exams, students can also choose to stay in vocational education and training (VET) to pursue further studies in post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED level 4C).



Pursuant to the new VET Act of 2011, as of September 2013, secondary vocational schools will provide VET parallel to general education from grade 9, leading to a ‘vocational secondary school leaving examination’.

Vocational Schools (in Hungarian: szakiskola)

This school type typically provides general and pre-vocational education in grades 9 and 10, normally followed by three or two years of VET. At the end of their studies, students will acquire a qualification (ISCED 2C or mostly 3C).

At the same time, three-year ‘early VET’ programmes providing VET from grade 9 were introduced in 2010.

The new VET Act of 2011 provides for the introduction of a new, uniform three-year (grades 9–11) programme. This was launched in some schools in 2012, and as of September 2013 vocational schools can only offer this type of training. As this school type does not award a secondary school-leaving certificate, graduates can currently continue their studies at post-secondary non-tertiary level or in higher education only if

they complete three more years of a full- or part-time general education programme in order to pass the secondary school leaving examination. In the new structure of vocational education, which is to be introduced from 2013, graduates will be able to obtain the secondary school leaving certificate within two years, and even those who do not have this certificate but have passed the master craftsman examination (in Hungarian: mestervizsga) and concurrently have five years of work experience will be allowed to enter post-secondary VET.

Initial Vocational Education and Training

Having completed the 8-grade primary school, pupils might opt to continue their learning pathway in general secondary schools or in institutions of initial vocational education and training (IVET). Institutions of initial vocational education can be of two different types: vocational schools and secondary vocational schools. Approximately 20% of students opt for vocational schools, 42% for secondary vocational schools, 35% for general secondary schools, and 3% for other institutions.

Preparatory and pre-vocational courses are offered in the lower grades of both types of institutions (in grades 9–10, in the case of vocational schools, and in grades 9–12 in the case of secondary vocational schools), with vocational education and training starting only at

The Hungarian Grade System

- 5:** excellent
- 4:** good
- 3:** satisfactory
- 2:** sufficient
- 1:** insufficient

grades 11 or 13, respectively. Following the completion of vocation training, students are awarded state-approved vocational qualifications, all listed in the National Qualifications Register.

Further measures aiming at reducing drop-outs from IVET include a scholarship programme combined with mentoring (the

‘Út a szakmához’ /Road to vocation/ Programme), supporting a growing network of ‘extra-curricular afternoon schools’ (tanoda) and various second-chance programmes.

In fact, social partners and chambers of commerce have been playing a significantly more active role in IVET than before (through providing practical training, cooperating in the organisation of examinations, designing the training profiles of the institutions, etc).

Finally, it must also be noted that the establishment and rearrangement of regional training centres is an ongoing process, which was started a few years ago with the aim of increasing the quality of IVET, focusing particularly on practical training with a view to create a more cost-effective institutional structure and training facilities.

Higher Education

Hungarian higher education has represented academic excellence for more than 600 years. The first university in Hungary was founded in 1367 in Pécs, located in the southern region of Hungary. Today there are 67 higher education institutions in Hungary ranging from top research universities to minor colleges. These universities and colleges are financed either by the state, private organizations or a church.

Hungary joined the Bologna Process in 1999 by signing the Bologna Declaration with 28 other countries with a view to establishing the European Higher Education Area by 2010.

The key objectives of the process are:

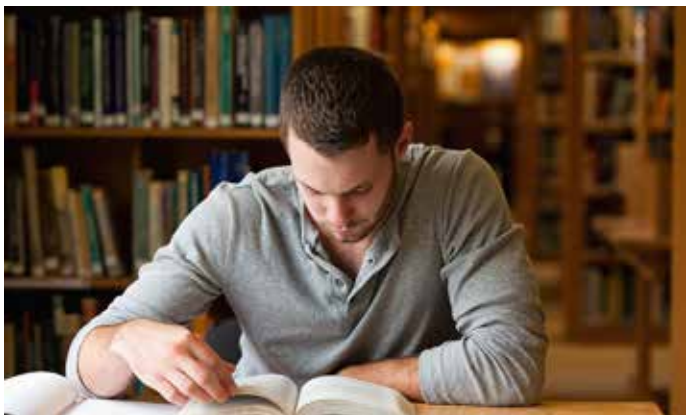
- to increase mobility by improving the comparability of higher education structures, qualifications and degrees through developing proper tools for the recognition of periods of studies and degrees,

- to improve employability through the modernization of curricula and to strengthen links with the labour market,
- to enhance the quality of training by developing a scheme of quality assurance.

The Three-cycle System

The Hungarian Act on Higher Education was inspired by the objectives of the Bologna Process. The new degree structure based on three cycles of higher education was adopted in December 2004. All main fields of study have been restructured in accordance with the new system. However, there are some exceptions: medicine, pharmacy, dental and veterinary studies, architecture, law and certain crafts, arts and design related study programmes, which retain a long single-cycle structure of 5–6 years of study. A new Act on National Higher Education was approved in 2011, which restructured teacher training into the long single-cycle.

The first cycle programmes last 6–8 semesters (3–4 years, 180–240 credit points) and lead to a Bachelor's degree (in Hungarian: alapfokozat). The second cycle, leading to a Master's degree (in Hungarian: mesterfokozat),

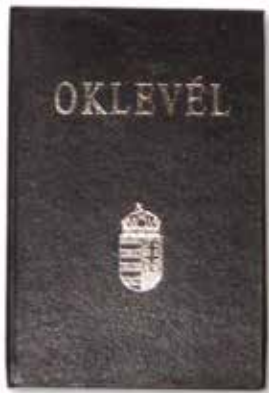


last 2–4 semesters (1–2 years, 60–120 credit points). Two-year advanced vocational programmes (in Hungarian: felsőoktatási szakképzés) are also available on an optional basis prior to first cycle programmes and lead to advanced vocational qualifications. A maximum of 60 credit points of the advanced vocational programme are compatible for recognition in the first (Bachelor) cycle. Any Bachelor's and Master's degree can be followed by specialised higher education training programmes (in Hungarian: szakirányú továbbképzés). Such training programmes do not lead to another degree but offer the option of specialisation in a particular field of study.

Programmes can be full-time, part-time or of a distance learning nature.

A three-year doctoral programme (doktori képzés) is a post-graduate alternative to follow any Master's or equivalent qualification. In order to be awarded a doctoral degree, each candidate needs to possess a type 'C' intermediate level foreign language certificate and has to take an entrance exam to be admitted to a doctoral programme, which includes the elaboration of a written dissertation plan and an interview. Institutions are entitled to request further entrance requirements. A doctoral programme consists of two modules: the module of contact-hour courses is composed of diverse courses lasting for a period of 6 semesters (180 credit points) and a written dissertation supported by scientific publications. The applicants have to pass several doctoral exams and have to defend their dissertation. The prerequisite of launching the doctoral degree awarding process is intermediate level language proficiency in two foreign languages.

The three-cycle system allows for lower admittance requirements while making the transfer between programmes a lot easier. Responding to the challenges of having to train a growing number of students, bachelor courses





are less specialised and offer broader and more general knowledge. The new Bologna cycles provide a higher level of efficiency concerning adaptability of training to the changing needs of the labour market and are better positioned to meet the purpose of lifelong learning.

Credit System

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is the only existing credit system in Hungary. The ECTS was developed within the framework of European higher education cooperation and mobility programmes for recognising periods of studies. The ECTS was initially implemented in the academic year 2003–2004.

Diploma Supplement

The Diploma Supplement (DS, in Hungarian: oklevélmelléklet) has been issued by higher education institutions since July 2003. Since 2006, all higher education institutions have provided the document automatically

and free of charge both in Hungarian and English and/or in the language of an ethnic minority. The DS contains all information about the qualification and the degree programme and provides a short description of the subjects taught.

Admission

According to the Higher Education Act, admission for Bachelor's degree programmes and some long-term Master's degree programmes is selective. The minimum requirement for admission to these degree programmes is a secondary school leaving certificate or its non-Hungarian equivalent. There are a few programmes where practical examinations or tests are also required. Higher education studies are financed either by the state or by the students themselves. International students wishing to attend a full degree course in Hungary should contact the National Higher Education Admissions Office (www.felvi.hu) for more information.

An average student's annual timetable:

Autumn semester

First half of September: registration and signing up for courses

Second half of September to middle of December: term time

Middle of December to beginning of February: exam period

Spring semester

First half of February: registration and signing up for courses

Second half of February to the first half of May: term time

Middle of May to the beginning of July: exam period

Holidays

Autumn break: end of October

Winter break: end of December

Spring break: Easter week

Useful Links

For more information about Hungarian higher education, please, visit the following websites:

- Tempus Public Foundation: www.tpf.hu/en
- Ministry of Human Resources: www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources
- National Higher Education Information Centre: www.felvi.hu/for_foreigners
- Campus Hungary: www.campushungary.hu
- Hungarian Scholarship Board: www.scholarship.hu
- Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre: www.naric.hu
- Hungarian Accreditation Committee: www.mab.hu



Hungarian Institutions of Higher Education

State universities

- Corvinus University of Budapest: www.uni-corvinus.hu
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics: www.bme.hu
- University of Debrecen: www.unideb.hu
- Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest: www.elte.hu
- University of Kaposvár: www.ke.hu
- Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest: www.zeneakademia.hu
- Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest: www.mome.hu
- Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest: www.mke.hu
- University of Miskolc: www.uni-miskolc.hu
- National University of Public Service: www.uni-nke.hu
- University of West Hungary, Sopron: www.nyme.hu
- University of Pécs: www.pte.hu
- Óbuda University, Budapest: www.uni-obuda.hu

- Semmelweis University, Budapest: www.sote.hu
- Széchenyi István University, Győr: uni.sze.hu
- University of Szeged: www.u-szeged.hu
- Szent István University, Gödöllő: www.sziu.hu
- University of Drama, Film and Television, Budapest: www.filmacademy.hu
- University of Pannonia, Veszprém: www.uni-pannon.hu

Non-state universities

- Andrássy Gyula University, Budapest: www.andrassyuni.eu
- Debrecen Reformed Theological University: www.drhe.hu
- Evangelical-Lutheran Theological University, Budapest: teol.lutheran.hu
- Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, Budapest: www.kre.hu
- Central European University, Budapest: www.ceu.hu

- Jewish Theological Seminary – University of Jewish Studies, Budapest: www.or-zse.hu
- Pázmány Péter Catholic University: www.ppke.hu

State colleges

- Budapest Business School: www.bgf.hu
- College of Dunaujváros: portal.duf.hu
- Eötvös József College, Baja: www.ejf.hu
- Eszterházy Károly College, Eger: www.ektf.hu
- Károly Róbert College, Gyöngyös: www.karolyrobert.hu
- College of Kecskemét: www.kefo.hu
- Hungarian Dance Academy, Budapest: www.mtf.hu
- College of Nyíregyháza: www.nyf.hu
- College of Szolnok: www.szolf.hu

Non-state colleges

- Dharma Gate Buddhist College, Budapest: www.tkbh.hu
- Adventist Theological College, Pécel: www.adventista.hu

- Budapest College of Management: www.avf.hu
- Apor Vilmos Catholic College, Vác: www.avkf.hu
- Baptist Theological Seminary, Budapest: www.bta.hu
- Bhaktivedanta College, Budapest: www.bhfh.hu
- Budapest Contemporary Dance Academy: www.tanc.org.hu
- Budapest College of Communication and Business: www.bkf.hu
- Edutus College: www.edutus.hu
- Theological College of Eger: www.eghf.hu
- Theological College of Esztergom: www.eszhf.hu
- Gábor Dénes College, Budapest: www.gdf.hu
- Gál Ferenc Theological College of Szeged: www.gfhf.hu
- Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe, Vajta: ccbce.com/hu
- Theological College of Győr: www.gyhf.hu
- International Business School, Budapest: www.ibs-b.hu
- Kodolányi János College, Székesfehérvár: www.kodolanyi.hu

- Kölcsey Ferenc Reformed Teacher Training College, Debrecen: www.kfrtkf.hu
- Pető András Institute of Conductive Education and College for Conductor Training, Budapest: www.peto.hu
- Theological College of the Reformed Church, Pápa: www.prt.hu
- Theological College of Pécs: www.pphf.hu
- Pentecostal Theological College, Budapest: www.ptf.hu
- Sapientia College of Theology, Budapest: www.sapientia.hu
- Sárospatak Theological Academy of the Reformed Church: www.srta.hu
- Sola Scriptura College of Theology, Budapest: www.sola.hu
- Szent Atanáz Greek Catholic Theological Institute, Nyíregyháza: www.atanaz.hu
- Szent Bernát Theological College, Zirc: www.ocist.hu
- Szent Pál Academy, Budapest: www.szpa.hu
- Tomori Pál College, Kalocsa: www.tpfk.hu
- Archbishop Theological College of Veszprém: www.vhf.hu
- Wekerle Sándor Business College, Budapest: www.wsuf.hu
- Wesley János Theological College, Budapest: www.wesley.hu
- King Sigismund College, Budapest: www.zskf.hu



Learning Hungarian

There are various options to study Hungarian in Hungary, depending on the available time you want to spend learning the language, your current level of Hungarian and general language skills. We have listed some of the most favourite state institutions offering Hungarian language courses.

University of Pécs, Medical School, International Studies Centre

The International Studies Centre (ISC) offers Hungarian language courses throughout the year. Twelve-week-long semester courses are organized in autumn and spring, with four- and two-week-long intensive courses offered in summer and winter.



Semester programme

ISC offers semester courses of Hungarian language both in the autumn and spring terms of each academic year. Hungarian language course during the twelve-week-long semester contains 48 contact hours. 9 ECTS credits may be earned after a successful written and oral exam.

Intensive programme

ISC offers an intensive Hungarian language course both in summer and in winter. The Hungarian Language Intensive courses are organized around the following guidelines:

- The training structure comprises **five levels from beginner to advanced levels**
- Groups are made up of 4– 10 students. Students with some knowledge of Hungarian will be assigned into groups according to their results at a **placement test** taken on the first day of the language course.

- Tuition involves **30 language lessons per week** given by professional, dynamic and experienced teachers. The activities **inside and outside the classroom** will ensure that you can take advantage of the manifold opportunities offered by a native-speaking environment.
- The curriculum **focuses on communication** and places the active use of the language into the foreground.
- At the end of the course, scholarship holders must take an **exam**. (The exam is optional for individual applicants.) Upon its successful completion, you will receive a certificate (transcript of records) and you will be awarded **ESTS credit points**. During your stay, you will also have the possibility to take the internationally recognized ECL Language Examination at the Foreign Language Center at the University of Pécs.

And the Extras...

- Exploring Language and Culture: the language courses of the *Hungarian Language and Culture Summer/Winter University* are completed by cultural seminars so that you will gain insight into recent history, everyday life as well as into the spiritual and material values and traditions of the Hungarian culture. Participation in the cultural seminars is optional. The seminars are held in English and Hungarian.
- Effective and pleasurable learning: our course book for beginners, *MagyarOK 1*, was awarded the European Language Label, a prize for innovative projects around language learning.
- Experience the language: learning outside the classroom
- Guided project works

A Few Highlights from the Extracurricular Program

- Explore Pécs, Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010
- Discover the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter, a beautiful World Heritage Site, and Kodály Center, the state-of-the-art concert hall of the city
- Enjoy Hungarian and international gastronomy

- Discover Hungarian folk music and folk dances
- Try out traditional handicrafts
- Explore villages, towns and natural reserves in the surrounding Mecsek mountains
- Practice your Hungarian with native speakers in various contexts

Cooking Classes

Why not learn a few traditional Hungarian recipes during your stay and enjoy the pleasure of preparing meals with an experienced cook and your friends from the language course? You can book your place for a cooking course taking place every Sunday afternoon. During the three classes you will learn how to prepare Hungarian meals – a main dish and a dessert each time. You will discover typical Hungarian recipes and culinary techniques. Participants will also get a small surprise.

- 7633 Pécs, Szántó Kovács János u. 1/B.
- +36 72 251 300
- pelcz.kata@pte.hu
- www.isc.pte.hu
- www.magyar-ok.hu

What you will take with you

- A much better understanding of the Hungarian language and culture
- Printed materials from your lessons and extracurricular activities
- Inspiring exchanges with Hungarians and fellow students from all over the world
- Broad intercultural knowledge that will enrich your life experience
- Products of your project works (photos, lists of useful expressions and other objects)
- A clear vision of what you will have to do next in order to make further progress
- The material support to achieve this goal
- And hopefully plenty of good memories

University of Szeged

Our English language programs have been designed to communicate Hungarian Studies and contextual subjects to interested foreigners. We teach Hungarian language in an intensive form, and offer various courses related to Hungary and East-Central Europe in English. We are aware of the special needs and interests of international students in our modern times: besides offering traditional cultural subjects such as history, literature, folklore and arts, we also extend our syllabus towards Eastern-European economics, sociology, current politics and other fields of the social sciences.

We have semester programs: from the beginning of September to the middle of December and from the beginning of February to the middle of May. During the semesters we have language classes on five different levels besides the culture classes.

Our Summer School was founded in 2001. We usually have 50-60 students from 15-20 different countries while running language groups on at least four different levels.



The four-week program in August includes language learning on various levels, cultural exposure in combination with academic classes, entertainment and recreational programs as well as regular contact with Hungarian language partners. There is also a possibility to choose a two- or three-week module. We start beginner courses only at the beginning of the program. The workload equals 12-9-6 ECTS credits for the 4-3-2-week courses respectively. The main components of the program are as follows:

We have Hungarian as a foreign language (HFL) courses at various levels (beginner, lower-, upper intermediate, and advanced – dependent upon a placement test). Language groups are always kept below 15. The language component includes 4 hours a day in the morning with professional HFL teachers plus 2 hours afternoon practice with Hungarian language partners.

- 6725 Szeged, Tisza Lajos krt. 103.
- +36 62 420 894
- hstud@hstud.u-szeged.hu
- www.arts.u-szeged.hu/hungarianstudies

Hungarian society, history and culture in an European Context (HS): these lectures and seminars cover Hungarian literature, art, film, history, linguistics, economics, geography and music (2 hours every day) and are offered both in English and Hungarian. The instructors are professional staff of our university; our guest lecturers are renowned experts in their field.

We have a lot of cultural programs as well, among them opening, closing and international banquets, folk dance evening, field trips to Budapest and Ópusztaszer.

Eötvös Loránd University

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) is Hungary's oldest university, where teaching has continued uninterrupted since its inception in 1635. The university has gradually expanded and today it consists of eight faculties with 28,200 students and nearly 1,800 professors. ELTE has international relations with 450 universities all over the world and has been developing and maintaining these relations for the benefit of both Hungarian and foreign students.

The teaching of Hungarian language and culture for non-Hungarian speakers dates back to the foundation of the Department for Hungarian Language in 1792. Today the Department of Hungarian as a Foreign Language builds upon this far-reaching tradition. Utilizing self-developed teaching materials and employing the best professionals of the field, the Department offers Hungarian language and culture courses covering all levels from complete beginner (A1) to proficiency levels (C2), based on by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).



Language courses

The Department offers full-semester General Hungarian language courses and Special courses on Hungarian language and culture. The 13-week courses start at the beginning of both spring and autumn semesters. The curriculum has been developed for one or two 90-minute classes per week for a period of one semester. Students get 3 ECTS credits after successfully completing the course.

The aim of the General Hungarian language courses is to improve the four basic language skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing) by

applying the communicative methodology, authentic learning materials and multimedia tools.

The Special courses on Hungarian language and culture focus on one specific text type (e.g. journalistic or argumentative texts), on developing one specific skill (reading, listening, speaking, or writing), or on the deeper understanding of Hungarian culture.

The General Hungarian language course and the Special course on Hungarian language and culture complement each other and thus it is possible

to attend both courses in the same semester.

The Department also offers Intensive Hungarian language courses for beginners to help newcomers easily integrate in Hungary.

Hungarian Business Language Courses are also available at the Department. These courses are tailor-made courses for individuals, small groups, and companies. The start date, length, intensity, and focus of courses are all adjusted to individual needs.

www.elte.hu/en/language_courses/hungarian

- 1056 Budapest, Szerb u. 21-23.
- +36 1 411 6500
- eilc@elte.hu
- www.elte.hu/en/summer_university_hungarian

Summer University of Hungarian Language and Culture

In the summer, Eötvös Loránd University organizes a summer university on Hungarian language and culture. The summer university program is built up of three main modules: intensive Hungarian language classes from beginner to proficiency levels (60–90–120 classes), lectures on Hungarian culture, arts, and history (8–10–12–16 classes), and cultural programs, including

museum visits, dance house visits, sightseeing in and around Budapest, and an excursion to Lake Balaton.

A discount at the summer university is offered to ELTE alumni, i.e. former ELTE students and former incoming exchange students at ELTE.

The students are awarded with 6 ECTS credits after successfully completing the summer university.

www.elte.hu/en/summer_university_hungarian

Univeristy of Debrecen

Summer School - Hungarian language for foreigners since 1927

Debrecen Summer School (DSS) is an education institution specializing in teaching Hungarian as a foreign language and Hungarian culture. As an independent institution, DSS is connected to the University of Debrecen through numerous links. Its mission is to provide students with a thorough knowledge of both Hungarian language and culture.



Debrecen Summer School

Unique among Hungary's similar language-teaching institutions, this summer school draws upon well-founded and long-standing traditions. Established in 1927, the Summer School has grown to become the biggest Hungarian summer school. Every year, more than 1,400 students from 30–40 countries are taught by the experienced Debrecen Summer School staff of about 50 teachers, who are all recognised as experts in teaching Hungarian as well as foreign languages. Our language courses cover the whole spectrum of language teaching, from beginner to advanced levels. Intermediary languages are used when necessary in lower-level courses. Our courses use DSS's own language-teaching material, the Hungarolingua series. During the summer courses, lectures are offered on Hungarian history and culture in addition to regular language classes.

- 4032 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 2.
- +36 52 532 594
- debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu
- www.nyariegyetem.hu

Extracurricular activities include concerts, discos, folk-dance parties, sessions of singing folk songs, gastronomic events and film screenings. Weekend excursions are offered to familiarize students with the most important natural, cultural, and historical features of eastern Hungary. On-campus accommodation and three meals a day are provided for course participants. Thematic courses of Hungarian are recommended for those speaking

Hungarian at advanced or near-native levels, while courses in English are offered to students who do not speak Hungarian but are keenly interested in some aspect of Hungarian culture.

As the country's most prestigious Hungarian language school, DSS has long been involved in activities designed to bring together people from communities across the globe.



Balassi Institute

Hungarian language courses

The Balassi Institute teaches Hungarian as a foreign language for more than 55 years. The Institute offers, besides many other educational activities, Hungarian language courses for foreign students at all levels, from basic to advanced (A1-C1). It offers 15 week-long courses, and shorter, 10 week-long courses, with three types of basic courses of each (6, 12 or 20 lessons/week).

The Balassi Summer University is one of the popular study opportunities for students above 18, because during the 4 weeks of the course they can study the language, have lectures in English about Hungarian culture, go for excursions and have various options for free-time activities in the capital of Hungary. There are scholarship possibilities for summer university offered by the Hungarian Scholarship Board and Balassi Institute as well.

The students study in small groups of 4-12, they can attend free phonetics lessons, can access the internet, use the language laboratory and can avail themselves of the materials in the library of the Balassi Institute for free.

The Institute also provides courses on Hungarian studies for non-Hungarians. For those planning to study at Hungarian universities, it provides one-year intensive preparatory courses in Hungarian. Here you can also take state-accredited and international ECL exams in Hungarian as a foreign language. The Balassi Institute also operates a scholarship and assistance system in Hungarian studies and runs a reference library on Hungarian studies for teachers, researchers and students.

More information: www.balassi-intezet.hu.

Participation in Mobility Programmes



Erasmus+

After the Lifelong Learning Programme had ended in 2013, a new programme called Erasmus+ started in the next year proposed by the European Commission. The programme brings together all the current EU and international schemes for education, training, youth and sports, and replaces seven existing programmes with one.

Erasmus+ between 2014-2020 contributes to reaching certain goals of the EU. Among others, the programme helps to facilitate the EU 2020 strategy as higher education and training are instrumental in increasing employability and achieving development. Through the new initiative, the EU will significantly increase the funds allocated for the development of knowledge and skills. More grants will be offered for students, trainees, teachers and other participants. The benefits individuals can take advantage of will also bring benefits for the economy of the EU as a whole.

The European job market is changing. The number of high-skilled jobs is growing while the number of low-skilled jobs is decreasing. It is estimated that by 2020 nearly 35% of all jobs will require high skills, innovation capacity and the ability to adapt. One of the headline targets in the Europe 2020 strategy is to raise higher education attainment to 40%. The other education headline target in the Europe 2020 strategy is to reduce the share of early school leavers from 14% to less than 10%.

One of the aims of the Erasmus+ programme is to help people gain more and better skills through opportunities to study and train abroad. Modernising education and training systems is also an important part of the initiative, just like offering more opportunities for education and training institutions as well as youth organisations to engage in partnerships and to exchange good practice with businesses for the promotion of innovation and employability.

The name

“Erasmus is a name which is widely recognised by the public and strongly associated with learning abroad and European cooperation. In setting up an integrated single programme, it makes sense to avoid multiple names and to capitalise on the popularity and awareness of the Erasmus brand.” – the European Commission argues.

The programme supports three main types of actions:

- Learning opportunities for individuals, both within the EU and beyond, including: study and training, traineeships, teaching and professional development and non-formal youth activities such as volunteering.
- Institutional cooperation between education institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs.
- Support for policy reform in Member States and cooperation with non-EU countries.

Erasmus+ is open for all learners and trainers. in all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, EU candidate countries, which can benefit from a pre-accession strategy, and other countries in the Western Balkans.

In addition, non-EU neighbouring countries are able to benefit from actions aimed at promoting youth activities as well as study and training opportunities abroad.



The loan guarantee scheme is a completely new element of the programme giving support for Master's degree students to finance their studies abroad and to acquire the skills they need for knowledge intensive jobs.

Students of higher education institutions have to apply in their home higher education institution.

- Overall budget is €19 billion (includes €1.8 billion for international co-operation)
- Overall mobility opportunities: 5 million people
- Higher education: 2.2 million students
- Staff mobility: 1 million teachers, trainers, youth workers and other staff
- Vocational education and training: 735,000 students
- Volunteer and youth exchange schemes: 540,000 young persons
- Master's degree loan guarantee scheme: 330,000 students
- International students: 135,000 students
- Joint degree grants: 34,000 students

Source on the website of the European Commission:

[c.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all](http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all).



Central European Exchange Program for University Studies

CEEPUS Programme aims at promoting teacher and student mobility. Students can spend a study period abroad and teachers can undertake a teaching period at a partner university. These opportunities are designed to strengthen professional and personal relationships among Central European scholars. In Hungary the programme is managed by Tempus Public Foundation.

Member countries

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Kosovo.

Funding

The funding of the programme is provided by the CEEPUS partner countries. Students receive their CEEPUS grant from the host country; therefore, the amount is tailored to local living standards. In general, the financial support includes a monthly grant and in some CEEPUS countries accommodation and social security provision. In addition, CEEPUS students are exempt from tuition fees. Travel costs, however, are not covered.

Note: The home institution has the right to stipulate any further requirements for selecting the students to study at a partner institution.

Networks

Mobility takes place in the framework of networks. At least three partner universities/faculties/institutes are eligible to set up a network, out of which a minimum two must be from different CEEPUS countries. The network, as a project consortium,

applies for funds designed to cover the studies and teaching activities of students, graduates and university teachers, respectively.

You are eligible for a network mobility if you

- are a full-time student or a full-time teacher/professor at a higher education institution in your country
- have completed at least two semesters of your studies
- are a citizen of a CEEPUS country or a citizen of a non-CEEPUS country but you are a full-time student in a CEEPUS country with an Equal Status document
- have the support of the network coordinator at your institution.

Application deadlines for network mobility:

For the autumn semester: 15 June

For the spring semester:

31 October

Before you hand in a grant application, please

- find an appropriate CEEPUS network at the home university
- check out the application procedures and requirements.



Freemover mobility

If you study at a university that does not participate in a CEEPUS network, you may join the programme as a freemover.

In addition to the application form, the following documents are required of freemovers (both documents are downloadable directly from the central CEEPUS website at www.ceepus.info):

- Freemover Letter of Acceptance from the host institution
- Freemover Letter of Recommendation from the home institution signed by two teachers

Application deadlines for freemovers (only for the spring semester):
30 November

Before you submit a freemover application, please

- check out whether your home institution and/or national office supports freemovers;
- find an institution at which you wish to study
- get the required documents signed by the home and host units from the respective universities you are attending / you wish to attend.

Other basic conditions for CEEPUS grants:

- applicants may not receive a grant to study in their home country
- the duration of the study period is between 3 and 10 months for undergraduates
- PhD students or students working on their theses may apply for a period of one or two months
- the study period may be extended once but may not exceed a total of 10 months
- all CEEPUS applications are to be submitted on-line via www.ceepus.info.



The Campus Hungary programme

The Campus Hungary programme aims to enhance international student mobility in higher education, both in terms of having more incoming foreign students to Hungary and

also having more Hungarian students studying abroad. The Balassi Institute supports students of Hungarian higher education institutions with different kinds of scholarships for partial studies to study abroad and gain experience. Since 2012 the Institute awarded scholarships to 7000 individuals. The main goal of the program is to support and facilitate the internationalisation of Hungarian higher education by initiating and deepening cooperation with foreign higher education institutions and achieving knowledge exchange by means of student mobility.

The Campus Hungary programme is supported by the European Union and implemented by the Balassi Institute and the Tempus Public Foundation.

More information: campushungary.hu

Stipendium Hungaricum

The Hungarian Government launched a new scholarship programme to attract foreign students to study in Hungary. The programme offers through the Hungarian Scholarship Board Office of the Balassi Institute over 2000 scholarships every year to students from every corner of the world, with a special emphasis on the Latin American and Eastern region. The students can apply for undergraduate studies (BA or BSc), graduate programmes (MA/MSc) or PhD courses in Hungarian Higher Education institutions. They have the opportunity to study in Hungarian or in other foreign languages. The scholarships can be offered to citizens of those countries which have a valid bilateral education working plan with the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary. The preselection is made by the partner country's Ministry responsible for education and the Scholarship Board Office. The

best foreign students who meet the entry requirements set forth by the Hungarian higher education institution would receive free tuition, a monthly stipend, accommodation and medical insurance.

About the Balassi Institute

The Balassi Institute is responsible for presenting Hungarian culture all over the world and in Hungary alike. The institute operates on a centralized budget and acts as the background organization for international Hungarian cultural contacts, much in the same way as the German Goethe Institut or the British Council.

Balassi Institute has a key role in cultural diplomacy by operating 23 Hungarian Institutes located in 20 countries. The institute offers a wide range of Hungarian language courses and programs for foreign students in Hungary. The Hungarian Scholarship Board Office, which belongs to the Balassi Institute, offers different kinds of scholarships for foreign students to study in Hungary and for Hungarian students to study abroad.

More information: www.balassi-intezet.hu



Balassi Institute



EEA Grants Scholarship programme

The EEA Grants Scholarship programme operates within the framework of EEA Grants that was established in order to reduce economic and social disparities and strengthen bilateral cooperation between Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein (donor countries) and beneficiary countries, such as Hungary.

Scholarships are one of the several programme areas funded by donor countries giving the possibility to students, teachers and staff to acquire new skills and gain international experience. It offers 4 types of possible activities:

- Preparatory visits: short term staff visits aiming to develop cooperation between institutions.
- Mobility projects in higher education: student mobility up to 12 months, staff and teacher mobility for teaching assignments, seminars, conferences or job shadowing.
- Mobility projects in education related institutions: staff and teacher mobility for teaching assignments, seminars, conferences or job shadowing for non higher educational, educational/vocational institutions.
- Inter-institutional cooperation projects between higher education institutions may include: intensive programmes, development of common modules, new teaching tools, cooperation project between enterprises and higher education institutions.

The overall objective of the programme is to enhance the quality of education in beneficiary countries through international partnerships. The calls for proposals are open to public or private entities, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations and available at www.norvegalap.hu and nora.norvegalap.hu. Applications are submitted online, deadlines are indicated in the published calls for proposals.



Europass – Opening doors to learning and working in Europe

What is Europass?

Europass is a new way of helping people make their qualifications and competences clearly and easily understood in EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries and candidate countries. Europass brings together six documents that have been developed at European level to improve the transparency of qualifications. The aim of the Europass is to facilitate the mobility of both learners and workers throughout Europe.

Europass can be used by people who wish to communicate their qualifications and competences in an effective way. People might use Europass when they are seeking jobs or wish to enter education and training programmes.

How does Europass work?

Europass offers six documents in an easy to-use format:

- Europass CV enables people to make their qualifications and competences visible in a quick and easy way: by entering the Europass portal and completing the Europass CV online.
- Europass Language Passport allows people to present their language competences and intercultural experiences, which are vital for both learning and working throughout Europe.
- Europass Mobility is a record of any organised period of time that a person spends abroad for the purpose of learning or training. This can include a work placement in a company, an Erasmus semester in a university degree programme or other education and training experiences.
- Europass Diploma Supplement is issued to graduates of higher education institutions along with their degree or diploma.



- Europass Certificate Supplement can be issued to people who hold a vocational certificate, in order to make this certificate more easily understood, especially by foreign employers or institutions.
- European Skills Passport is a user-friendly electronic portfolio to help students, workers or job-seekers build up personal, modular inventory of personal skills and qualifications acquired throughout life. It could reinforce the CV by bringing evidence of skills and qualifications listed.

Where can I get more information about Europass? (available in 27 languages)

Europass is supported by a network of National Europass Centres. To find your own National Europass Centre click here: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/about/national-europass-centres>

To learn more about Europass in Hungary, contact the Hungarian National Europass Centre: www.europass.hu, email: europass@tpf.hu

Student Networks



Alumni for Europe - interactive student network

The Alumni for Europe Network (AfE), established by the Tempus Public Foundation (TPF), is an interactive network of students who have participated in European education or training programmes co-ordinated by the TPF.

The Alumni for Europe Network aims at

- giving assistance to Erasmus, CEEPUS, Erasmus Mundus, Comenius, Leonardo or World-Language grant-holders in building an interactive network,
- helping foreign grant-holders in Hungary get used to this country and enjoy their scholarship by organizing programmes and events,
- letting foreign student and Hungarian students to get to know each others' cultures and provide an opportunity to learn foreign languages from one another,
- contributing to the employment of graduate students by advising and by establishing contact with employers,
- helping future scholars with orientation and training in their preparation for their studies,
- giving information about educational and training programmes coordinated by TPF, and about further potential scholarships.

Join us now and become an active member of our network:

english.tpf.hu/pages/content/index.php?page_id=5

Don't forget that Alumni for Europe membership is free of charge.

For further information: alumni@tpf.hu, +36 1 237 1300.

Erasmus Students Network

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe, founded in 1989 with the aim of supporting and developing student exchange. ESN is present in 361 higher education institutions from 34 countries. The network is constantly developing and expanding.

Hungarian educational establishments that are members of the network: Széchenyi István University, University of Szeged, University of Pannonia, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, University of Pécs, Corvinus University of Budapest, Semmelweis University, Szent István University and University of Miskolc.

www.esn.org, www.esn.hu

Student Councils (Hallgatói önkormányzat)

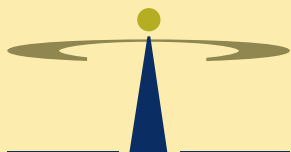
Student councils are organizations representing the interests of students in higher education through student representatives elected by the students. Every institution has a student council and its main task is to represent the interests of students within the councils of the institution, to harmonize expectations between students and teachers, to organize cultural and community events, to help students in finding accommodation and jobs, and to provide legal advice.

www.hook.hu

National Federation of PhD. Students (DOSZ)

PhD students have student status but their organization is an independent national federation financed via membership fees. Its goal is to become a professional platform for all PhD. students. Since 1997 they have had regular conferences, organised annually, at which young scientists and researchers have been able to present their latest research and findings.

www.phd.hu



TEMPUS PUBLIC FOUNDATION

About Tempus Public Foundation

Tempus Public Foundation (TPF) is a non-profit organization established in 1996 by the Hungarian Government. Its tasks include the management of international cooperation programmes and special projects in the field of education, training and EU-related issues. TPF aims at encouraging international cooperation and mobility; the modernization and quality improvement of education, training and human resources development, and the strengthening of European dimensions in these fields.

TPF acts as the National Agency of Erasmus+ programme (including Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo and Grundtvig, Erasmus Mundus and Tempus) and also coordinates CEEPUS, Pestalozzi and ACES programmes. It hosts the Europe for Citizens programmes and runs the National Europass Centre.

As a knowledge centre, TPF is involved in international cooperation, provides information on education and training policies in a structured form, and offers project management and skills development training tailored to learners' specific needs.



Tempus Public Foundation

International Databases

International Student Placement Database

The International Student Placement Database (studentplacement.tpf.hu) is a place where students can search for companies who would like to offer a placement for foreign students with certain skills and knowledge. Students can search in the database along the following categories: interests, countries, required languages and level of studies.



International Relations of Hungarian Higher Education Institutions

The web pages mymobility.tpf.hu and mobilitasom.tpf.hu present both in a searchable format and on a map the international connections and scholarship possibilities of Hungarian higher education institutions. In addition it also serves as teaser for the cities, universities.

After choosing an institution you have the possibility to search and comment to others' shares and posts. As a registered user you also have the possibility to upload images or documents related to your experiences abroad.



EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA



The EU Contribution to the European Higher Education Area

Source: The EU Contribution to the European Higher Education Area, European Commission, Publications Office of the European Union Luxembourg, 2010

In 1999, the Ministers in charge of higher education from 29 European countries agreed to introduce a set of reforms in their national higher education systems with a view to setting up a European Higher Education Area by 2010. This is called the Bologna Declaration. The Declaration set in motion a series of actions to make European higher education more compatible and comparable, more competitive and more attractive for Europe's citizens and for students and scholars from other continents.

For many years, the European Commission has been supporting the Bologna Process. Its objectives are fully in line with the EU's modernisation agenda for universities. The Bologna vision of a European Higher Education Area without borders owes a great deal to the Erasmus mobility programme, launched in 1987, and to related EU initiatives and tools such as the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. In turn, the Bologna Process has inspired many EU initiatives in the area of higher education.

In 2010, we can look back at a decade of intensive reforms all across Europe. It is true that in some areas not all objectives have yet been fully realized but the European Higher Education Area has become a reality. This was possible because European governments have committed themselves to taking a European approach to the modernisation of their national higher education systems.

A lot has been achieved during the first decade of Bologna, but for the European Higher Education Area to become fully operational, further substantial efforts from governments, institutions, students and staff are needed. Good progress has been made so far, as can be seen in several EU surveys,



such as the Bologna Stocktaking Reports, the Eurydice reports on Bologna, EUA (Trends Reports) and ESU (Bologna with Student Eyes).

There is strong commitment at national, regional and institutional levels to maintain this momentum. The EU has played an important role in supporting this process until now and will continue its support in those areas where synergies can be expected between the EU's policy objectives and those of the European Higher Education Area.

Higher education reforms in a wider context: the need for Lifelong Learning

Changes in society and their impact on higher education are evolving ever faster; globalisation, demographic change and rapid technological developments combine to present new challenges and opportunities for tertiary institutions. Future jobs are likely to require higher levels and a different mix of skills, competences and qualifications as compared to earlier situations. Higher education institutions have a pivotal role to play in the success of our

society and economy and their capacity to adapt to these changes and seize new opportunities is crucial.

Forecasts indicate that most new jobs will be created at the highest qualification levels, but, compared to other developed economies in North America and Asia, Europe does not have enough young people entering higher education and not enough adults have taken part in university education. If we want to maintain and improve our standard of living, we need to find ways to widen access to initial studies and to learning at all ages.

The Commission shares the ambition of the Bologna Ministers that the student body within higher education should reflect the diversity of Europe's populations and welcomes the request, formulated in 2009 in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve, that each country should set measurable targets for increasing overall student numbers in higher education and for widening participation amongst underrepresented groups. EU Member States have adopted the benchmark that by 2020 at least 40% of 30-34 year olds should have attained higher education. In 2007 it was only 30%.

Governments should establish strategies for lifelong learning and should encourage their universities to open their doors to non-traditional and part-time learners and offer more courses for continuous professional development. Catering for new types of learners requires a fundamental rethinking of how courses are designed and delivered. New learners may not possess all formal requirements for entry into higher education, but they may have acquired the necessary knowledge, skills and competences through self-study or work. More should be done to integrate these potential students into higher education.

Institutions are encouraged to publish their policy and practices for the recognition of non-formal or informal learning, prominently on their website. These policies should include elements such as feedback to learners on the results of assessments or the possibility for learners to appeal. Institutions are also encouraged to create 'assessment facilities' for counselling on and the recognition of non-formal and informal learning and to

offer more tailor-made programmes to non-traditional learners, e.g. through working-learning or distance learning arrangements.

The Commission welcomes the European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning, developed by the European University Association (EUA). The Charter reminds universities of the actions they should take to open their doors and invites governments to do their part. The Commission supports the idea of partnerships between all stakeholders: universities, public authorities, students, employers and employees. Innovative ideas in the field of lifelong learning can be supported through Erasmus Networks and Erasmus Multilateral Projects in the Lifelong Learning Programme: Curriculum Development, Virtual Campuses, Modernising Universities, and cooperation between universities and enterprises.

Student-centred learning

The Bologna Process calls for the introduction of a three-cycle system (often called bachelor, master, doctorate). This means more than cutting traditional study programmes in two or three parts. It is an invitation to re-think the content of learning, to make pedagogy more student-centred and to consider whether a given programme of study adequately addresses the needs of graduates; as well as to consider whether graduates will acquire the knowledge, skills and competences they need to succeed in an ever-changing labour market.

Universities have begun to describe their modules and study programmes not only in terms of inputs, such as teaching hours or text books, but also in terms of outputs, i.e. learning outcomes: what students know, understand and can do after a process of learning. For this, universities find references in National Qualifications Frameworks, which describe the learning outcomes expected at each level. National Qualifications Frameworks are in turn linked to the overarching European frameworks: the Framework for Qualifications in the European Higher Education Area of Bologna (three cycles) and the EU European Qualifications Framework

for lifelong learning (EQF), which encompasses eight levels, ranging from basic skills to advanced research competences.

The new language of learning outcomes is gradually being introduced across the entire life cycle of learning, from curriculum development to teaching, learning, assessment, recognition and quality assurance.

At the subject area level, universities may draw inspiration from the Erasmus project ‘Tuning Educational Structures in Europe’, a university initiative which defines learning outcomes and competences at different levels for a series of disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields, such as history, mathematics or European studies. The Tuning descriptors may help to define Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks in the years ahead.

So far, hundreds of universities across Europe have set up partnerships to carry out Erasmus Curriculum Development projects, often resulting in joint or double degree programmes, for example the European Joint Master Programme in Human Rights and Genocide studies.

Dozens of Erasmus Networks function as ‘think tanks’ for a given discipline or theme, defining quality standards and translating societal needs into recommendations for curricular innovation. These aim in particular to ensure that teaching standards reflect cutting edge research.



The University-Business Forum, established by the Commission in 2008, provides a platform for dialogue on curriculum reform, continuing education, mobility, entrepreneurship, knowledge and governance. The most innovative ideas in these fields may be supported as Erasmus University-Enterprise Cooperation Projects.

The Commission supports university action to modernise doctoral programmes, involving stakeholders from the industry. Growing numbers of mobile researchers, and in particular doctoral candidates, receive support under the Marie Curie Actions, Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).



Better quality in teaching and learning

Continuous improvement of the quality of teaching and learning is a core task of universities. Institutions can help each other to improve through mutual assistance and benchmarking. The Commission supports such cooperation activities via university networks and associations.

Quality assurance also has an external component as institutions are evaluated regularly by an external quality assurance agency. The reports

of these evaluations are published and increasingly put on the Erasmus-supported database 'Grossroads'. Most Agencies are or have already applied to become members of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), which the Commission helped to create in 2000 and supports with Erasmus project grants.

Both universities and agencies must comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance for the Higher Education Area, adopted by Bologna Ministers in Bergen in May 2005. Agencies that comply with the standards and guidelines may apply to be listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). The Register is open to agencies operating in Europe, be they national or international, public or private, general or subject-specific. The Commission is supporting the development of a series of subject-specific European quality labels, which could / may lend their standards to existing agencies or become agencies in their own right. Examples include the EUR-ACE label in engineering and the Eurobachelor, Euromaster and Eurodoctorate labels in chemistry.

The impressive progress made in European quality assurance over the last decade is the result of a fruitful interaction between Bologna Ministerial decisions, EU Council and Parliament Recommendations (1998 and 2006) and sector initiatives, assisted by Erasmus grant support. Thanks to these joint efforts, institutions are better informed about their strengths and weaknesses and students can more easily find detailed information on the quality of individual institutions or programmes.

Notwithstanding this overall positive development, the European dimension of quality assurance is still limited. There are only a few examples of institutions seeking evaluation or accreditation from foreign agencies and there exist only a few examples of governments opening up quality assurance in their country to other registered agencies. As a result, there is little comparative information, which hinders mobility and further quality improvement.

In its Report on progress in quality assurance in higher education (2009), the European Commission invited all stakeholders concerned to:

- make the quality assurance infrastructure more efficient and transparent for users;
- make clearer reference in the European Standards and Guidelines (ESGs) to Bologna priorities and tools such as mobility, employability, EQF, ECTS and the Diploma supplement;
- stimulate institutions to go cross-border, for example by developing European Quality Seals and quality principles for cross-border higher education, joint and double degrees, thus avoiding the need for multiple accreditations.

Transparency of university missions and performances

Quality assurance reports contain a wealth of information, but they do not provide comparisons. The European Commission supports a series of pilot projects to explore ways to enhance the transparency and comparability of the missions and performance of higher education institutions. The outcomes of these pilot projects will help students, parents, employers and policy makers to make informed choices between different institutions and their programmes. This will also help institutions to better position themselves, improve their development strategies and find the most suitable partner institutions.

One important project in this context, which the Commission is supporting, is the classification project 'U-map'. In this project, the diversity of higher education institutions has been mapped against five missions: education, research, innovation, regional involvement and internationalisation. It builds, in part, on the US Carnegie Classification. A specifically developed Internet tool allows for comparison of institutions with similar missions. For further information, please, visit: www.u-map.eu.

This classification project forms the basis for the feasibility study on the 'design and testing of a multi-dimensional global university ranking'

(available at: www.u-multirank.eu), which began in May 2009 and delivered its final results in May 2011. The Commission has launched this study in response to growing frustration over the simplistic and mono-dimensional character of existing rankings, which focus on research alone and on entire institutions and their reputation rather than ranking at programme and discipline level. The aim of this pilot study, which will focus on the engineering and business studies sectors, is to develop a multi-dimensional ranking framework, which covers the different missions and performances of institutions and their programmes, and which is independent, global and user friendly. In the ranking model to be developed, users will be able to select their own priorities and construct a 'tailor-made' personal ranking.

As regards education performance, it is worth noting that OECD is carrying out a pilot project on the Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHE LO). The Erasmus-supported project 'Tuning Educational Structures in Europe' is involved in this project. This type of assessment could, in due course, contribute to the ranking of education performances of higher education institutions.

As regards the 'third mission' of universities, i.e. knowledge diffusion and interaction with society, the Commission is supporting a project that develops indicators for benchmarking excellence practices and ranking in three fields: lifelong learning, science parks and international cooperation. A project report was compiled in 2011.

And finally the European Commission has launched a feasibility study for the creation of a 'European University Data Collection' to provide the foundation for a coherent and integrated European statistical information system on all activities conducted by universities, including education and research.

Mobility of students and staff

Study abroad helps students to acquire new competences and can contribute to their success in the labour market. It also contributes to intercultural



dialogue and informed citizenship. Mobility, therefore, is a central objective of both the Bologna Process and the EU. It is explicitly mentioned in the Treaty as one of the areas where the Union has a role to play, thereby supporting and supplementing the activities of the Member States.

The Erasmus programme has brought mobility to a wide range of countries and students from different backgrounds. The Programme has grown from 3,000 students in 1987 to over 182,000 in 2007. Thanks to Erasmus, over 2 million students have studied abroad since 1987 and the objective is to achieve a cumulative total of 3 million by 2012.

These figures are impressive, but they only reach some 4% of the graduate population. The European Commission welcomes the ambitious and at the same time achievable objective decided in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve that by 2020 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad.

The introduction of bachelor/master degrees, which is new to most countries, is leading to a new kind of mobility, whereby students do their bachelor's in one country and their master's in another.

Up to now Erasmus Mundus has supported 133 joint masters courses and 13 joint doctoral programmes, involving some 700 universities from all countries worldwide, and the establishment of 63 broad academic partnerships as a basis for student and academic exchanges. Scholarships have been provided to more than 20,000 students and several thousands of academic staff, mainly from third countries to the EU. Moreover, Erasmus Mundus has supported 54 projects to promote European Higher Education, including studies, surveys, conferences, etc.

Mobile researchers may benefit from the Marie Curie Actions and the services provided by the EURAXESS portal on jobs, services and rights. Universities are signing the Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, but work is still needed to ensure access to social security and portable pension rights for mobile staff. Career structures should be adapted to facilitate staff mobility, including open international recruitment.

Some universities seem to have overloaded their bachelor programmes as a result of the Bologna reforms, thereby hampering mobility. These institutions should be encouraged to rethink their course design and introduce a ‘mobility window’ in each programme, which would allow students to study or to do work placement abroad. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) tools such as the Course Catalogue and the Learning Agreement help institutions to find the right partners and agree on course content.

Erasmus-supported staff mobility has grown from about 7,800 in 1997 to over 32,000 in 2007. These brief stays abroad of one or two weeks allow academics and other university staff to do short-term teaching assignments and maintain personal contact with colleagues at partner institutions.

Learning mobility helps young people in all learning contexts, not just in higher education, to strengthen their future employability as well as further their personal development, but it is also good for institutions and societies: it can make education and training systems as well as institutions more European and international, and it can help combat the risks of isolationism,

protectionism and xenophobia. This is why President Barroso in September 2009 proposed the initiative 'Youth on the Move', which should, by 2020, give all young people in Europe the possibility to spend a part of their education pathway in other Member States. In elaborating this initiative, the Commission builds on the substantial feedback it has received to its consultation on the 2009 Green Paper 'Promoting the learning mobility of young people'.

On the future of European mobility programmes please check the information on Erasmus+ programme.

Recognition of qualifications and periods of study

Students generally seek recognition for what they have learned at home, abroad, in formal education, through self-study or through work experience. Recognition decisions are taken by competent authorities (universities, ministries, employers). Their judgements can be informed by transparency tools developed under the Erasmus programme and further promoted through the Bologna Process, principally ECTS and the Diploma Supplement (DS).

ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes. It aims to facilitate planning, delivery, evaluation, recognition and validation of qualifications and units of learning as well as student mobility. ECTS is widely used in formal higher education and can also be applied to other life-long learning activities.

ECTS credits are based on the workload students need in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Learning outcomes describe what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to do after the successful completion of a process of learning. They relate to level descriptors in national and European qualifications frameworks.

ECTS started out as a pilot scheme for mobile students under the Erasmus programme and is now available to students in the 46 Bologna countries. The Commission supports the use of ECTS through an ECTS Users' Guide, through the advice of ECTS/DS Counsellors (working in



National Teams of EU-supported Bologna Experts) and through the award of an ECTS Label for the institutions with the best course catalogues and the best recognition practices.

In 2009, the EU presented a new ECTS Users' Guide, which had been prepared with the help of ECTS experts from higher education institutions. The Guide takes into account the development of ECTS from a tool for transfer of credits to one for transfer and accumulation and also the increased importance of learning outcomes.

The Diploma Supplement provides a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which the supplement is appended. The format of the Diploma Supplement has been developed jointly by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO-CEPES. The Commission supports the use of the Diploma Supplement through the advice of ECTS/DS Counsellors and through the award of a DS Label for best practice. The Commission also promotes the Diploma Supplement as part of the Europass initiative.

In complicated recognition cases, the competent authorities can rely on the advice of their national ENIC/ NARIC centre, which is closely connected with the centres in other countries.

There is no automatic recognition, except in the case of certain regulated professions falling within the scope of EU Directive 2005/36/EC. Recognition can, however, be made easier through the use of individual and collective learning agreements. Individual learning agreements are widely used in the context of Erasmus and ECTS. Collective learning agreements are a new feature. They may be concluded within groups of like-minded higher education institutions, between learning providers and competent authorities within certain regions or within certain sectors. The conclusion of collective learning agreements will become easier thanks to the emerging national and sectoral qualifications frameworks and the close cooperation between quality assurance agencies.

International openness

Universities have a regional and national function, but most are also engaged in transnational activities at European or even at global levels. Universities enrol students from other continents, exchange students and staff, and engage in projects in education or research with partner institutions from other regions of the world.

Bologna reforms contribute to putting European higher education on the global map. The division of long academic programmes into two cycles



(bachelor/master) makes these programmes more accessible and more attractive to local and foreign students. Institutions and programmes are regularly evaluated and the reviews are published on the Internet. Many courses, particularly at master and doctoral levels, are now taught in English. All these factors help European universities to become global players.

Bologna Ministers have agreed upon an external dimension strategy, focusing on information, promotion, cooperation, recognition and policy dialogue. The European Commission supports the external dimension strategy through its policies and programmes. The EU external policy aims at establishing close cooperation with all world regions and in particular with neighbouring countries through the European Neighbourhood Policy, which includes almost all Bologna signatory states. EU programmes cover a broad range of capacity building measures in higher education through the external assistance instruments for pre-accession countries, neighbourhood countries and developing countries and more particularly through the Tempus programme, which has an annual budget of approximately € 55 million.

Relations with other continents are supported through a series of bilateral cooperation programmes: EU-USA/Canada, EDULINK, and ALFA for Latin America and the new Nyerere Programme for Africa. A new multilateral framework for supporting cooperation with industrialised countries has been launched by the Commission in 2007.

Of special importance in this context is the EU's flagship programme for worldwide academic cooperation, Erasmus Mundus. Highly integrated European masters and doctoral courses, consolidated international academic partnerships, and competitive scholarships are making a powerful contribution to improving the attractiveness of 'destination Europe'.

The Marie Curie Actions offer opportunities to individual researchers to participate in a research team in another country. Funding is available for researchers to move both within Europe and internationally.

Within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus programme, the



Commission launched the ‘Global Promotion Project’, which aims to strengthen the image of European higher education worldwide. Outputs included: a user-friendly website ‘Study in Europe’, a pilot network of European education advisers, competence-building workshops for those involved in higher education marketing at institutional and national levels and a ‘Study in Europe’ presence at international education fairs.

Third countries show an active interest in European higher education reform and policy dialogue. The EU is having regular policy dialogues with countries around the world and sees the Bologna Policy Forum as a useful opportunity for exchange on higher education issues on a global scale.



EVERYDAY LIFE



Public Transport

Budapest has an efficient network of public transport, including bus, trolley bus, tram, metro services plus suburban railway lines called HÉV lines and boat services.

Tickets are available at metro stations or street kiosks. Passengers can use the same type of ticket for all forms of public transport but they need to validate a new ticket when making transfers. Bus drivers on specific routes do sell tickets but passengers need to prepare exact amounts as no change will be given back.

If one regularly uses public transport, it is economically more viable to buy a monthly or yearly pass. Students are entitled to reduced rates.

For current ticket types and prices, visit: www.bkv.hu.

Ticket validation procedure

Tickets must be validated using a hand-operated punch machine or an electronic device when boarding a public transport vehicle. If you travel by metro, you have to validate your ticket at the station entry points. Electronic ticket validation devices (they look like orange boxes) are installed at metro station entrances.

Buses

Budapest has more than 200 bus routes covering most inner city and suburban areas. Some routes offer an express service, indicated with an E following the bus number. Express and



regular services cover the same routes but express services have a reduced number of stops.

Passengers wishing to get off, need to press the stop button before the bus pulls in to the actual station. On the main routes, service are available even during the night hours.

Metro

Budapest metro has three lines intersecting at Deák tér:

- **M1: the Yellow Line** between Vörösmarty tér and Mexikói út. In fact, this was the first subway line in Mainland Europe, and was opened in 1896 for the Hungarian Millennium.
- **M2: the Red Line** between Déli pályaudvar and Örs vezér tere.
- **M3: the Blue Line** between Újpest Központ and Kőbánya-Kispest.
- **M4: the Green Line** between Kelenföld vasútállomás and Keleti pályaudvar.

Each metro station is marked with a letter M enclosed in a circle.

Although navigating in the Budapest metro poses no difficulty for tourists, metro maps are available at any of the station entries.

Metro services run from 4:30 until 23:30.



Public transport fare reductions for students

Holders of a valid student card are entitled to fare reductions. The reductions currently available for students are as follows:

- 63% discount on monthly pass for public transport in Budapest.
- 50% discount on travelling by train.
- 50% discount on HÉV and boat fares.

HÉV

The suburban train service of Budapest called HÉV connects Budapest with its suburban areas. HÉV lines are also numbered: H5, H6, H7, H8, H9. A popular journey for tourists is from Batthyány tér to Szentendre by the line H5.

If you leave the administrative border of Budapest, you need to purchase a special ticket to your destination.

Trains

Most train lines in Hungary use Budapest as a central point, which is the most common place for transfers. Although the train network has lines connecting cities and towns, to reach your final destination quickly, it is sometimes faster to travel through Budapest.

The best way to travel by train is to use Intercity services, which provide a reliable and comfortable way of travel. You need to pay a supplement fare, though, which entails a mere HUF 150–1,035 extra as compared to regular train ticket prices.

Budapest has three major train stations: the Eastern Railway Station (Keleti pályaudvar) and the Southern Railway Station (Déli pályaudvar), both of which are situated at stops along metro line M2 (Red Line), and the Western Railway Station (Nyugati pályaudvar), which is situated on metro line M3 (Blue Line).



Coaches

If you travel outside Budapest, you can also take a coach. Coach drivers sell tickets on the coach, but to secure seat reservations, the tickets should be purchased in advance.

Boat services

Budapest has 3 public boat lines:

- D-11: Kopaszi-gát (Rákóczi híd)–Újpest, Árpád út
- D-12 and D-13: Kopaszi-gát (Rákóczi híd)–Rómaifürdő

The services operate from 6.30 till 20.30, but lines D-11 and D-12 are in operation only on weekdays.

By car

Visitors don't need a Hungarian driving license to drive in Hungary but they need to keep all car documents, their driving license and passport with them. If they are stopped by a traffic warden or a police officer, some form of identification including these documents will have to be presented and driving without any documents is an offence. Speed limits in Hungary vary according to road types. In urban areas the speed limit is 50 km per hour, on highways it is 90 km per hour. If you drive on a motorway, the speed limit is 130 km per hour and you have to buy a motorway vignette. You can get it mainly at petrol stations. It costs HUF 2,975 per week for passenger cars.

Petrol is not particularly cheap or expensive in Hungary, the price being approximately what you would expect to pay in any other European country. Petrol stations are easy to find in Hungary and most cities will have at least one open 24 hours a day.

Renting a car is also possible if you are 21 years old or older and have had your driving license for at least a year. Most car suppliers require an international driving license as well.

Hungary has a zero tolerance policy towards a drink-driving offence.



Coach stations in Budapest:

- Stadionok | Budapest District 14, Hungária körút 48-52. (on metro line M2) | Coach departures to eastern Hungary.
- Árpád-híd | Budapest District 13, Árbóc u. 1-3. (on metro line M3) | Coach departures to Pilisvörösvár and Szentendre.
- Népliget | Budapest District 9, Üllői út 131. (on metro line M3) | Coach services to Transdanubia and international coach services.
- Etele tér | Budapest District 11, (take Bus 7E to get here) | Departures to Bátorbágy, Érd, and Százhalombatta.
- Széna tér | Budapest District 1, (take Tram 4 or 6 to get here) | Departures to Zsámbék and the Zsámbék area.

Taxi

When taking a taxi, tourists should avoid hailing unmarked taxi cabs. Even if they have a taxi sign on the roof and are seen standing at taxi ranks, do not get in the car unless they have a company name on the outside of the car. You can always hail a taxi in the streets but it is cheaper to book one over the phone.

From September 2013 every taxi is uniformly yellow in Budapest.

Currency

Forint (HUF) has been the local currency in Hungary since August 1946. The name “forint” comes from the name of the city of Florence, where golden coins had been minted since 1252.

Banknotes come in denominations of 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000 and 20,000. All of them are watermarked, contain an embedded vertical security strip of thin metal and are designed to be suitable for visually impaired individuals.

Six different coins are in use: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 forint coins.

Until 1 March, 2008, coins of 1 and 2 forints were also in use but they were eventually withdrawn from circulation because their production cost was higher than their actual value. (It is important to be aware of this when you pay cash because rules of rounding are used, i.e. the bill will be rounded up or down so that the last digit will always be five or zero.)

Since January 1997, HUF has been fully convertible, making life easier for everyone visiting Hungary. Changing currencies is offered by banks or ATMs but the best way to change currencies is to find ‘no commission’ currency exchange shops near inner city shopping facilities. Most banks do not charge any commission so your money in HUF will be provided to you according to the effective daily exchange rate.

Credit cards are accepted at many more places than before. If in doubt, ask the shop assistant or look for symbols and tags on shop windows. The most popular credit cards are Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

You can also open a bank account as the non-residential account service is designed especially for foreign nationals. All you need is your passport. You can open a HUF account or any other currency account.

Printed faces on banknotes

Deák Ferenc (HUF 20,000 banknote) was the “Sage of the Country”: a Hungarian statesman whose negotiations led to the establishment of the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary in 1867. He was a dedicated fighter for reforms wanting to improve the living conditions of the Hungarian peasantry, which he spearheaded using his own estates as an example.

Depicted on the reverse of this banknote of the highest denomination is the building of the temporary House of Representatives. This building, where the National Assembly used to meet, was the predecessor of today’s Parliament.

Saint István (or Stephen, HUF 10,000 banknote): the first king of Hungary (1000–1038). During his reign, Christianity became the state religion in Hungary. This was a significant decision in the sense that Hungary could thus become part of the Christian Europe.

The reverse of the banknote features a view of the historical city of Esztergom, which functioned as the capital city of Hungary between the 10th and the mid-13th centuries, and was also the Royal Seat at that time.

Count Széchenyi István (HUF 5,000 bank-note): he was a politician, a theorist and a writer, one of the greatest statesmen in Hungarian history. Famous for his outstanding political activity, he is known as “the Greatest Hungarian”. A great reformer, Széchenyi founded the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, introduced horse racing and also financed the construction of the first permanent bridge on the Danube, the Chain Bridge.



The reverse of the banknote features Széchenyi's castle in Nagycenk (North-Western Hungary), where he spent his childhood.

Bethlen Gábor (HUF 2,000 banknote): he was a prince of Transylvania in the first half of the 17th century, and the leader of an anti-Habsburg insurrection in the Habsburg-ruled Hungary. The principality in Transylvania reached its peak during his reign. He was one of the most striking and original figures of his century. He supported various religions, which could be freely practiced in Transylvania, and thus created a unique situation in Europe at the time.

The reverse of the banknote features Gábor Bethlen surrounded by his scientists. During his reign, culture flourished in Transylvania, and many scientists visited different parts of Transylvania while the rest of Hungary was under Turkish or Austrian rule.

King Matthias (or Mátyás, HUF 1,000 banknote) was King of Hungary and Croatia, and ruled between 1458 and 1490. He is a very popular figure in Hungarian history. He was known for being understanding to the poor and was an advocate of justice – a fact that accounts for his nickname “Matthias the Righteous”. His palace in Visegrád was a centre of Hungarian renaissance.

On the reverse of the banknote is a picture of the Hercules Fountain in Visegrád. During celebrations, wine instead of water is said to flow from the fountain.



Rákóczi Ferenc II (HUF 500 banknote) was also a prince of Transylvania, and the leader the Hungarian nationwide uprising against the Habsburg Empire, eventually crushed in 1711. After the failed uprising, Rákóczi was forced to leave the country. He spent the rest of his life in Turkey in exile.

The reverse of the banknote shows the

castle of Sárospatak, which was the centre of the Rákóczi family's property and the venue for secret negotiations before the uprising.

Accommodation

There are several kinds of accommodation alternatives in Hungary but the cheapest one should be a dormitory belonging to the students' homes section of the university you attend. One advantage is that it is cheap, it is an easy way of making friends and it provides you with the facility of regular partying.

On the other hand, renting an apartment is a more feasible option if you prefer privacy. You can rent a room at about HUF 25,000 a month. But renting a whole flat is also an option to follow. It is more expensive but a flat share will reduce your costs. We are talking about HUF 60,000–HUF 80,000 a month plus overhead. Renting a flat outside the capital is always cheaper, depending on the location of the university you attend.



Cost of Living

The minimum wage in Hungary is HUF 98,000 (EUR 330), which allows for a very modest living. To be able to pay your rent, buy proper food and afford an occasional evening out, you need more money than this: a minimum of HUF 120,000 (EUR 400) is necessary.

Here is a list of essential items to give you an idea of prices in Hungary:

- one litre of milk: HUF 280 \approx EUR 0.9
- one small bottle of beer: HUF 130–200 \approx EUR 0.5–1
- one bottle of red table wine: HUF 600–1,500 \approx EUR 2–5
- one litre of petrol: HUF 400–430 \approx EUR 1.5
- one litre of bottled water: HUF 100–150 \approx EUR 0.3–0.5
- one loaf of bread: HUF 200 \approx EUR 0.7

Budapest

- accommodation: HUF 25,000–80,000 \approx EUR 85–270 / month
- one single ticket (bus, tram): HUF 350 \approx EUR 1.2
- one monthly pass: HUF 10,500 \approx EUR 35 (for students: HUF 3,850 \approx EUR 13)
- one cinema ticket: HUF 900–1,500 \approx EUR 3–5

Debrecen

- accommodation: HUF 40,000–120,000 \approx EUR 135–400 / month
- a meal in the university canteen: HUF 600–1,100 \approx EUR 2–4
- a meal in a restaurant: HUF 1,200–4,000 \approx EUR 4–14
- a monthly pass for students (valid for buses and trams): HUF 3,600 \approx EUR 12
- a single ticket (bus, tram): HUF 300 \approx EUR 1.2 (or HUF 400 \approx EUR 1.3 from the driver)



- a cinema ticket: HUF 790–1,100 ≈ EUR 2.6–3.6
- a one-way train ticket to Budapest with a student discount: HUF 2,635 ≈ EUR 8.8
- library card: HUF 2,000 ≈ EUR 6.7 / academic year

Miskolc

- accomodation: HUF 25,000–50,000 ≈ EUR 85–170 / month
- a daily menu in the university canteen: HUF 890 ≈ EUR 3
- a monthly pass for students (bus, tram): HUF 3,900 ≈ EUR 13
- a single ticket: HUF 300 ≈ EUR 1 (or HUF 400 ≈ EUR 1.3 from the driver)
- a cinema, theatre, concert ticket: HUF 1100– 2200 ≈ EUR 3.7–7.4
- a swimming pool ticket: HUF 950 ≈ EUR 3.2
- a one-way train ticket to Budapest with a student discount: HUF 3,690 ≈ EUR 12.3
- library card: HUF 300 ≈ EUR 1

Szeged

- accommodation: HUF 40,000–60,000 ≈ EUR 135–200 / month
- a daily menu: HUF 800 ≈ EUR 2.7
- a monthly pass for students (bus, tram): HUF 3,585 ≈ EUR 11.9
- a single ticket (valid for buses and trams): HUF 310 ≈ EUR 1 (or HUF 400 ≈ EUR 1.3 from the driver)
- a theatre ticket: HUF 1,000–3,500 ≈ EUR 3–12
- swimming pool entry: HUF 750–1,600 ≈ EUR 2.5
- a one-way train ticket to Budapest with a student discount: HUF 2,350 ≈ EUR 7.8
- library card: free for students

Pécs

- accommodation: HUF 30,000–80,000 ≈ EUR 100–270 / month
- a meal in the university canteen: HUF 600–1,000 ≈ EUR 2–3
- a meal in a restaurant: HUF 1,200–4,000 ≈ EUR 4–14
- a monthly pass for students (bus): HUF 3,300 ≈ EUR 11



- a single ticket (bus): HUF 280 \approx EUR 1 (or HUF 360 \approx EUR 1.2 from the bus driver)
- a cinema ticket: HUF 700–1,400 \approx EUR 2.5–4.7
- a theatre ticket: HUF 1000–2500 \approx EUR 3.5–8.5
- a one-way train ticket to Budapest with a student discount: HUF 2,635 \approx EUR 8.8
- library card: free for students

Győr

- accommodation: HUF 25,000–80,000 \approx EUR 85–270/ month
- a daily menu: HUF 650–850 \approx EUR 2–3
- a monthly pass for students (valid for buses and trams): HUF 2,200 \approx EUR 7.5
- a single ticket (bus, tram): HUF 250 \approx EUR 0.8 (or HUF 440 \approx EUR 1.5 from the bus driver)
- a cinema ticket: HUF 1,500–2,000 \approx EUR 5–6.7
- a theatre ticket: HUF 2,200–4,100 \approx EUR 7.5–14
- a one-way train ticket to Budapest with a student discount: HUF 1,765 \approx EUR 6
- library card: HUF 800 \approx EUR 2.7/ year

Shopping

Most stores are open from Monday till Friday between 10:00–18:00 or 19:00 and on Saturday between 10:00–14:00. Shopping centres have longer opening hours, from Monday till Sunday between 10.00–20.00.

Stores of the following chains can be found in most cities in Hungary: Tesco, Spar, Lidl, Aldi.

Food shops are open Monday–Saturday 7.00–18.00. There are many markets in Budapest and in other towns. These are the best places to buy

fresh vegetables and fruit. The renovated Nagycsarnok (Central Market Hall) on Fővám tér is Budapest's finest one. In Nagycsarnok, there are some quite good food stalls on the upper floor serving everything from Chinese spring rolls to enormous German sausages.

There are summer and winter sales periods, when you can buy high-quality clothes at a reasonable price.

Communication

Phones

Hungary's country code is 36. To make a long distance call within Hungary, you have to dial 06 followed by the area code, then the actual number. 'Green numbers' starting with 06 80 are free of charge, while calling 'blue numbers' (starting with 06 40) entails a local call charge.

If you plan to live in Hungary for a while, look out for discounts by using phone cards such as Barangoló (roaming) or NeoPhone.



In Hungary, mobile phones are very popular, almost everyone has one for personal use these days. There are three service providers: Telekom, Telenor and Vodafone, whose networks can be accessed all over the country. They all offer prepaid cards, which you can buy at newsstands, post offices and petrol stations.

Postal services

There are numerous post offices throughout the country. Opening hours vary, depending on office locations. In Budapest, the Central Post Office is situated near the Western Railway Station and is open weekdays from 7.00 to 20.00, and from 8.00 to 18.00 on Saturdays. Mail boxes are red and bear the word: 'Posta'.

Besides mailing your letters at a post office, this is also a place where you can pay your bills, transfer money, send faxes, buy phone cards, order a newspaper or open a PO box if you do not have a permanent address.

www.posta.hu



Internet

There are plenty of possibilities to access the Internet in Hungary. In order to check your e-mail or surf the net, an Internet café is the best place to go to. Wifi is an access option offered in several cafés, hotels, bookstores and public buildings. Higher education institutions provide free Internet access for their students.

Hungarian Cuisine

Hungarian cooking is actually quite difficult to define. It frequently uses paprika, black pepper and onion. Potatoes are also commonly used in many types of meal. There are two remarkable elements of Hungarian cuisine that locals take no or little notice of but which seem quite unusual to foreigners. One is known as “főzelék” (various vegetables prepared in a special way, served cooked and bearing some similarity to a very thick soup) and the other one is soup itself prepared in different kinds of ways. Hungarian cuisine offers a bunch of soups from vegetables or meats or both. These soups come in creamy types, as fresh fruit soups and also as heavy meat soups.

In Hungary, a typical breakfast may consist of fresh bread, cold sausage type minced meat products (such as kolbász or szalámi), some vegetables or jam. Lunch is the major meal of the day, usually consisting of three courses: soup is followed by a main dish and a dessert. What is locally referred to as ‘salad’ is absolutely different from your notion of salad in that it usually

Typical dishes you should try while in Hungary:

gulyásleves (goulash soup), **húsleves** (meat soup), **halászlé** (fish soup), **hidegmeggyleves** (cold sour cherry soup), **Jókai bableves** (bean soup Jókai style), **Hortobágyi palacsinta** (pancake filled with meat), **túrós csusza** (pasta with cottage cheese), **töltött káposzta** (stuffed cabbage), **pörkölt** (stew made of different kinds of meat), **lecsó** (stewed onions, tomatoes and peppers), **paprikás krump-li** (potatoes with paprika), **mákos guba** (dumplings with poppy seed), **szilvás gombóc** (dumplings filled with plum), **Dobos torta** (chocolate cake with a special caramel top on it), **rétes** (strudel), **szaloncukor** (special Christmas sweet), **beigli** (Christmas cake filled with walnut or poppy seed filling), **túró rudi** (sweet curd bar coated with chocolate), **lángos** (Hungarian fried bread), **pogácsa** (small savoury biscuits) and the list is endless in fact.

means pickled vegetables eaten along with the main course (in Hungarian these are called “savanyúság”). Green salad is not part of the traditional Hungarian cuisine. Normally, dinner is far less significant a meal than lunch. It is a bit like breakfast, consisting mainly of a cold meal.

And if you feel like having a drink after a good meal, taste one of the fine Hungarian wines. Hungary has 22 wine regions, and the most well-known among foreigners are the Tokaj, Villány, Balaton Highland and Eger regions, but it is also worth visiting other regions for their local special wines. Typical wine types of the country are **kékfrankos** (Blafränkisch), **olaszrizling** (Welsh Riesling), **zöldvelteleni**, **cabernet franc** and **cabernet sauvignon**. Hungarians like drinking **fröccs** especially in summer, which is white or rosé wine mixed with fresh soda water, also known as wine spitzer.

If you like short drinks, you should not miss the famous **Unicum** and **pálinka**, either.

Mákos guba (dumplings with poppy seed)

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4 PEOPLE):

6-8 dry crescent rolls or croissants	1 tablespoon butter
half litre of milk	50-70 poppy seed (without sugar)
2 egg yolks	app. 10 tablespoon of honey
2 oz sugar	1 lemon peels
1 vanilla stick	

Slice up the crescent rolls or croissants, and leave them to dry. Boil the milk. Mix the egg yolks with the 2 oz sugar, and pour the mixture to the boiling milk. Add some of the seeds inside the vanilla stick. If the milk is boiling, finish boiling and let it cool. Grease a tin with butter, and pre-heat the oven (180 °C). Dip the pieces of the croissants in the milk, but just for a short while, and then place them on the bottom of the tin. Sprinkle with poppy seeds, and pour 2 or 3 tablespoons of honey on it. Repeat the whole procedure at least two times, and cover the cake with poppy seeds and honey. Put it in the oven and bake it for 20 minutes at 180 °C. Now you can enjoy your mákos guba.



"Gulyásleves"



"Töltött káposzta"



"Beigli"

Health Care

First aid and emergency medical care are free for foreigners, in other cases you have to pay for the treatment. On the basis of specific agreements, parties to such agreements provide for entitlement to a range of health care services on a mutual basis for their nationals during their stay in these countries.

In the case of foreigners studying in Hungary, entitlement to health care services in Hungary is restricted to those foreign nationals who pursue their studies full-time at an institution of secondary or higher education and whose student status is based on an international agreement or a fellowship granted by the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources.

Non-Hungarian students who fail to meet these requirements may be entitled to health care services only if they sign an Agreement with the Hungarian Health Insurance Fund.

As of 1st November 2005, medical care for citizens of the European Economic Area (EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) is provided on the basis of the European Health Insurance Card. The citizens of these countries are entitled to the same treatment under the same conditions as the residents of the above countries.

For further information please contact:

National Health Insurance Fund

1139 Budapest, Váci út 73./a
www.oep.hu

Emergency

General emergency service phone number: 112	24-hour English-language crime hotline:
Police: 107	+36 1 438 8080
Ambulance: 104	English language telephone directory service: 191
Fire service: 105	International operator: 199
Calling these numbers is free of charge.	

Culture

If you want to enjoy Hungarian culture, rich cultural life awaits for you in every town, especially in the capital.

Cinema

Besides Hollywood movies, Hungary offers a wide selection of art films from all over the world. You can choose from various films, dubbed or subtitled, depending on your knowledge of foreign languages.

Theatre

There is a very rich and active theatre life throughout the country. The season starts in September and ends in May. To be on the safe side, you should book your tickets well in advance for the play of your choice.

Plays in foreign languages are regularly staged at the following theatres:

- Átrium Film & Theatre: www.atriumfilmszinhaz.hu
- Deutsches Theater Budapest: www.deutschestheater.hu
- Pécsi Horvát Színház – Croatian Theatre in Pécs: www.horvatszinhaz.hu

Classical ballet and contemporary dance are both widely appreciated in Hungary. If you like dance, you should not miss the performances of *Győri Balett* (Győr Ballet) or *Pécsi Balett* (Pécs Ballet), or those performed by the ensemble led by Pál Frenák or Yvette Bozsik.

Going to the *Opera House* (www.opera.hu) at least once is a must. Not just because of the imposing building itself, but also for the high quality performances.

Museums and Art Galleries

The best places to learn about Hungarian culture, art and history are exhibitions. Museums are open from 10 am to 6 pm, and are usually closed on

Mondays. If you use your student ID, you will be entitled to a discount from the ticket price.

Here is a list of some of the most famous museums in Budapest:

- Museum of Fine Arts: www.szepmuveszeti.hu
Sculptures, paintings and drawings from ancient Egypt to Modern Arts
- Hungarian National Gallery : www.mng.hu/en
Largest public collection of fine arts in Hungary
- Museum of Ethnography: www.neprajz.hu
Exhibitions on folk traditions
- Hungarian National Museum: www.hnm.hu
Archaeological, historical, ethnic relics on the history of the people of the Carpathian Basin
- Museum of Applied Arts : www.imm.hu
Beautiful collection of Hungarian works of applied art from the 19th century to the present
- Kunsthalle: www.mucsarnok.hu
Hungary's largest exhibition place of contemporary art



Museum of Fine Art

- Palace of Arts: www.mupa.hu/en
Concerts, exhibitions, performances: you name it, they have it! It hosts the National Concert Hall, the Ludwig Museum and the Festival Theatre.



Palace of Arts

Dance Houses, Community and Cultural Centres

The dance house movement started in the 1970s with the aim of preserving traditional folk music and dance. Given that this is a shortcut to understanding other nations without even speaking the language, dance houses are quite popular among foreigners. Community and cultural centres offer various kinds of programmes to please everyone: clubs, workshops, concerts, sports, etc.

Here is a list of the most popular places in Budapest:

- Millenáris Park: www.millenary.hu
- Fonó Music House: www.fono.hu
- Marczibányi Téri Művelődési Központ: www.marczi.hu
- Aranytíz Művelődési Központ: www.aranytiz.hu
- Nyitott Műhely (Open Atelier): www.nyitottmuhely.hu



Millenáris Park

International Cultural Institutes

If you miss your home country and start to feel homesick, here is a list of international cultural institutes in Hungary.

Armenian Cultural and Information
Centre, 1054 Budapest, Deák
Ferenc u. 17., +36 1 267 3181

Austrian Cultural Forum,
1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 16.,
+36 1 413 3590
budapest-kf@bmeia.gv.at
www.okfbudapest.hu

British Council, 1075 Budapest,
Madách Imre út 13-14.,
+36 1 483 2020
information@britishcouncil.hu
www.britishcouncil.hu

Bulgarian Cultural Institute,
1061 Budapest, Andrásy út 14.,
+36 1 269 4246,
bki_budapest@abv.bg
www.bolgarkultura.hu

Cervantes Institute, 1064 Budapest,
Vörösmarty u. 32., +36 1 354 3670
instituto@cervantes.hu
www.budapest.cervantes.es

Czech Centre, 1063 Budapest,
Szegfű u. 4., +36 1 462 5066
ccbudapest@czech.cz
budapest.czechcentres.cz

Danish Cultural Institute,
6000 Kecskemét, Zimay L. u. 4.,
+36 76 323 923
mail@dankultura.org
www.dankultura.org

Estonian Institute, 1055 Budapest,
Falk Miksa u. 22. fm. 2.,
+36 1 386 2462
budapest@estinst.ee
www.esztorszag.hu/einst/eszt_in-tezet.htm

Finnagora, 1118 Budapest,
Kelenhegyi út 16/A, +36 1 478 1010,
info@finnagora.hu
www.finnagora.hu

French Institute, 1011 Budapest,
Fő u. 17., +36 1 489 4200,
info@inst-france.hu
www.inst-france.hu

Goethe Institute, 1092 Budapest,
Ráday u. 58., +36 1 374 4070
info@budapest.goethe.org
www.goethe.de/ins/hu/bud/huindex.htm

Italian Cultural Institute,
1088 Budapest, Bródy S. u. 8.,
+36 1 483 2040
iicbudapest@esteri.it
<http://www.italcultbudapest.hu/>

Nordic House
1052 Budapest, Semmelweis u. 2.
+36 1 780 8123
e-mail: info@skandinavhaz.hu
www.skandinavhaz.hu

Polish Institute, 1065 Budapest,
Nagymező u. 15., +36 1 311 5856
budapest.info@instytutpolski.org
www.polinst.hu

Romanian Cultural Institute, 1146
Budapest, Izsó u. 5., +36 1 383 2693
romankulturalis.intezet@upc-mail.hu
www.icr.ro/budapest

Russian Cultural Centre, 1062
Budapest, Andrássy út 120.,
+36 1 332 2154
mail@ruscenter.hu
ruscenter.hu/beta/hu/

Cultural Institute of the Slovak
Republic,
1088 Budapest, Rákóczi út 15.,
+36 1 327 4000



Media

Newspapers and magazines

For non-Hungarians there are some local newspapers available in foreign languages such as the Budapest Business Journal and the Budapest Sun in English, Pester Lloyd and Neue Zeitung in German or Le Journal franco-phone de Budapest in French. And in case you can't go without them, the best-known international newspapers and magazines are also available at major newsstands and foreign language bookshops.

To be up-to-date about where the action is in Hungary, pick up a copy of Funzine, an English language programme magazine. It is free and available at hotels, restaurants, clubs, cafés, universities, etc.

Papers available online

Budapest Business Journal: www.bbj.hu

Budapest Sun: www.budapestsun.com

Budapester Zeitung: www.budapester.hu

Pester Lloyd: www.pesterloyd.net

TV channels

With a cable or a satellite tuner you can receive most European channels. But a good way to learn the Hungarian language is through watching the national channels:

- **m1** and **m2**: the two major national television channels
- **m3**: a retro channel for old Hungarian shows and films
- **Duna TV**: a national channel for Hungarians inside and outside the country, sometimes with famous European art films as part of its timetable
- **RTL Klub**, **TV2**, **Viasat3**: commercial stations mainly offering various shows and light entertainment
- **TV Paprika**: everything about cooking and gastronomy



USEFUL PAGES



Useful Links

www.studyinhungary.hu

About Hungary and Budapest

gotohungary.com

visit-hungary.com

filolog.com

funzine.hu

budapestlife.hu

hungarotips.com

caboodle.hu

budapestinfo.hu

budapestpocketguide.com

imaginehungary.com

Foreigners' tips to Hungary

budacast.com

studyinbudapest.blogspot.com

Accommodation

Hostels in Budapest:

www.budapesthostel.com

Budapest Hotel Guide:

www.budapest-hotel-guide.hu

Colors Budapest Hostel:

www.colorsbudapesthostel.hu

Student rent solutions in Budapest:

www.srs-budapest.hu

Budapest rent:

www.budapestrent.com

Find a flatmate:

hu.easyroommate.com

hostelz.com

backpackbudapest.hu

hostelworld.com

www.mellowmood.hu

www.couchsurfing.org

Culture and leisure

Museums in Hungary:

www.museum.hu

Parliament: www.parlament.hu

Opera House: www.opera.hu

Hungarian National Theatre:

www.nemzetiszinhasz.hu

Fine Arts in Hungary:

www.hung-art.hu

Palace of Arts: mupa.hu

Budapest Card: budapest-card.com

Hungaroring : www.hungaroring.hu

Sziget Festival in August:

www.sziget.hu

Aquaréna aquapark:

www.aquarena.hu

Tobogganing: www.bobozas.hu

Budapest spas:

www.spasbudapest.com

Sightseeing in Budapest:

sightseeing.budapest.travel

Hungarian Cultural Institutes worldwide: www.magyarintezet.hu
International cultural institutes in Hungary: See chapter 5.

Embassies

See chapter 2.

For students

www.aboutistc.org

International Student Identity

Card: www.isic.org

Study in Europe:

ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/

Erasmus Students Network:

www.esn.org

National Higher Education

Information Centre:

www.felvi.hu/for_foreigners

Philox – Connecting European students: www.philox.eu

Higher education institutions: see chapter 3.

iHipo - International jobs and internships: www.ihipo.com

Just Landed: www.justlanded.com

Students Hungary:
studentshungary.com

Erasmus International forum:
www.erasmus-exchange.info

Health

National Health Insurance Fund:
www.oep.hu

Hungarian language

Online Hungarian lessons:

magyarora.com

hungarotips.com/hungarian

HungarianReference - a reference guide to the Hungarian language:

www.hungarianreference.com

Hungarian - English dictionary:

szotar.sztaki.hu/english-hungarian

Hungarian Literature Online:

www.hlo.hu

Summer University in Debrecen:

www.summerschool.hu

Balassi Institute: www.bbi.hu

Phone, cellphone

Telenor: www.telenor.hu

Telekom: www.t-mobile.hu

Vodafone: www.vodafone.hu

Traveling

Budapest Airport: www.bud.hu

Debrecen International Airport:
www.airportdebrecen.hu

Hungary's first regional Airport, Sármellék, Lake Balaton:
info@flybalaton.com

Street-finder: www.utcakereso.hu

Hungarian Railways: www.mav.hu

Railway timetables:

www.mav-start.hu/english/index.php

Budapest public transports:

www.bkv.hu

European Higher Education

Area

Policy, programmes and tools:

ec.europa.eu

ENIC (European Network of Information centres in the European Region) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres) networks:

www.enic-naric.net

PLOTEUS (Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space): ec.europa.eu/ploteus

GROSSROADS (Finding your way in higher education):

www.grossroads.eu

Study in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/>

ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education): www.enqa.eu

EUA (European University Association): www.eua.be

EURASHE (European Association of Institutions of Higher Education): www.eurashe.eu

ESU (European Students' Union): www.esu-online.org

Council of Europe: www.coe.int

UNESCO-CEPES (UNESCO-European Centre for Higher education): www.cepes.ro



Mini Dictionary

ENGLISH

HUNGARIAN

PRONUNCIATION

For everyday use

Hello

How are you?

I'm fine, thanks.

What's your name?

My name is...

Pleased to meet you

Good morning!

Good afternoon!

Good evening!

Good night!

Goodbye!

Have a nice day!

I don't understand.

Please say that again

Do you speak English /

German/ French?

How much is this?

Sorry

Thank you

Would you like to
dance with me?

Yes

No

Please

I love you

Szervusz, Szia

Hogy vagy? / Hogy van?

Köszönöm, jól.

Mi a neve(d)?

A nevem...

Örülök, hogy megis-
mertelek/megismer-
tem

Jó reggelt!

Jó napot!

Jó estét!

Jó éjszakát!

Viszontlátásra!

Szép napot!

Nem értem.

Megismételné(d)?

Beszél(s) angolul /
németül / franciául?

Mennyibe kerül ez?

Bocsánat

Köszönöm

Szeretnél/Szeretne
táncolni velem?

Igen

Nem

Kérem

Szeretlek

ser-wus, see-ya

hodj vadj

koes-oe-noem jol

mi a neve(d)

a nevem

oerueloek hodj mcish-
merteleck/mcismer-
tem

you reggelt

you naapot

you ashtate

you eighsackaat

weesontlatashra

seiyp nahpot

nem eir-tem

megishmateelnai(d)

besail(s) angohlool

nametewl/frantsioul?

Manyeebe kerewl

bo-tsha-nat

koesoenoem

seretnail / seret-neh
towntsoleni velem

eegen

nem

kayrem

seretlek

Transport, traveling

car	autó	auto
bus	busz	boos
tram	villamos	villamosh
train	vonat	vonaat
underground	földalatti, metró	metro
When does it leave?	Mikor indul?	meekor indool
Can I get a ticket to...?	Kérek egy jegyet...	ceireck edj yedjet
railway station	pályaudvar	paayaoodvar
bus stop	buszmegálló	boosmeg-ilow
airport	repülőtér	repewloetare
ticket office	jegypénztár	yedjpainztaar
ticket	jegy	yedj
Where can I buy ticket?	Hol lehet jegyet venni?	hole lehet yedjet venni
east	kelet	kelet
west	nyugat	njoogat
north	észak	az-suck
south	dél	dale
street	utca	ootsa
square	tér	tare

Restaurant

café	kávéház	kaavay-haas
menu	étlap	atelap
Can I get the bill please?	Kérhetném a számlát?	ceirhatname a somelight
appetizer	előétel	eloe-ateel
soup	leves	levesh
salad	saláta	shalighta
pastry, cake	sütemény	shuete-meign
juice	gyümölcsle	djuemoeltslae
water	víz	veez
beer	sör	shoer

wine
coffee
tea

bor
kávé
tea

bor
kae-weigh
tea-a

Post office

letter
recorded mail
parcel
postcard
stamp

levél
ajánlott levél
csomag
képeslap
bélyeg

leveil
ayaanlotte leveil
tshomaag
cape-ashlaap
beigh-yeg

Entertainmnet

theatre
cinema
museum
ticket
entrance fee

színház
mozi
múzeum
jegy
belépődíj

seenhaas
mozy
moozheum
yedj
belape-oedeey

Emergency

doctor
pharmacy
hospital
ambulance
fire department
police
Help!

orvos
gyógyszertár
kórház
mentő
tűzoltóság
rendőrség
Segítség!

orvosh
djodj-sertaar
corehaas
mentoe
tewzalltoe-shaag
rendoersheig
sheigeetsheig

Days of the week

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday

hétfő
kedd
szerda

hate-foe
kedd
serdah

Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

csütörtök
péntek
szombat
vasárnap

tsuetoertoek
paintek
sombaak
vashare-naap

Numbers

One 1
Two 2
Three 3
Four 4
Five 5
Six 6
Seven 7
Eight 8
Nine 9
Ten 10
Twelve 20
Thirty 30
Forty 40
Fifty 50
Sixty 60
Seventy 70
Eighty 80
Ninty 90
Hundred 100
Thousand 1000

egy
kettő
három
négy
öt
hat
hét
nyolc
kilenc
tíz
húsz
harminc
negyven
ötven
hatvan
hetven
nyolcvan
kilencven
száz
ezer

edj
ket-toe
haaram
nedj
oet
haat
hate
njolts
keelents
tease
hoos
harmeans
nedjven
oetven
haatvaan
hetvan
njoltsvaan
kewl-antsvan
saaz
ezer



HUNGARY'S RENEWAL



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