

HONGRIE – Eötvös Loránd University

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I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My experience abroad was overall great. What I found the most challenging though is the overload of administrative steps in the beginning and also the fact that I had to navigate through a new country while also having to deal with the applications for Masters. I would definitely choose this university again if I had to go back in time. I liked most of the lectures and the variety of subjects they had to choose from. Overall, I would give my experience a 3.5 out of 5.

GRADE : [a grade between 0 and 5]

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) – 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

Normally, if you have an EU passport you should not require one. In case you come from a country outside of the EU and/or you have a "titre de séjour" then I advise you to check that information on the governmental website of your country or the Prefecture.

2. The flight

I took my flight from Sofia to Budapest with Ryanair, and I booked it one month before I had to travel and the one-way ticket with a checked-in luggage cost me around 150€. If you are travelling from the South of France, then there are direct flights from Toulouse and Marseille that are reasonably priced with Ryanair and Wizz Air. If you live a bit more North, there are also good cheap flights from Lyon with Wizz Air.

3. My luggage

I am an international student, so actually France is the first place where I went to study abroad. Throughout the years I have gathered some experience about packing and I would say that if you want not to forget something that you use on a daily basis, then start creating a list at least 2 weeks before you have to leave. Depending on your destination country you also might not be able to find some of the products that you usually use such as skincare so I would advise you to buy one back-up of those just in case. Also do not forget to check the validity of your ID or Passport depending on what you are travelling with at least a month in advance.

However, do not stress if you have forgotten something, even if you think it is essential, you can get it shipped from your country or just buy a substitute it is not that big of a deal.

4. Bank account

In Hungary they use Hungarian Forints and not euros, but I did not have to change bank accounts or create a new one. I personally use BNP Paribas and Revolut in France and both work well here. However, with BNP if you have a university student account there is a "Travel" option in the app that you can activate to minimize the charges of currency transformation. If you are using Revolut, though, you can change your money from euros to forints for free during weekdays and for a small fee during the weekend. I would personally recommend transferring money from your French bank account to Revolut, which should be, and using Revolut as your main method of payment. I would advise you also to have some money in cash, if you would like to travel to some smaller cities or go to small store since they would not always accept card. I think converting 50 to 100€ should be more than enough.

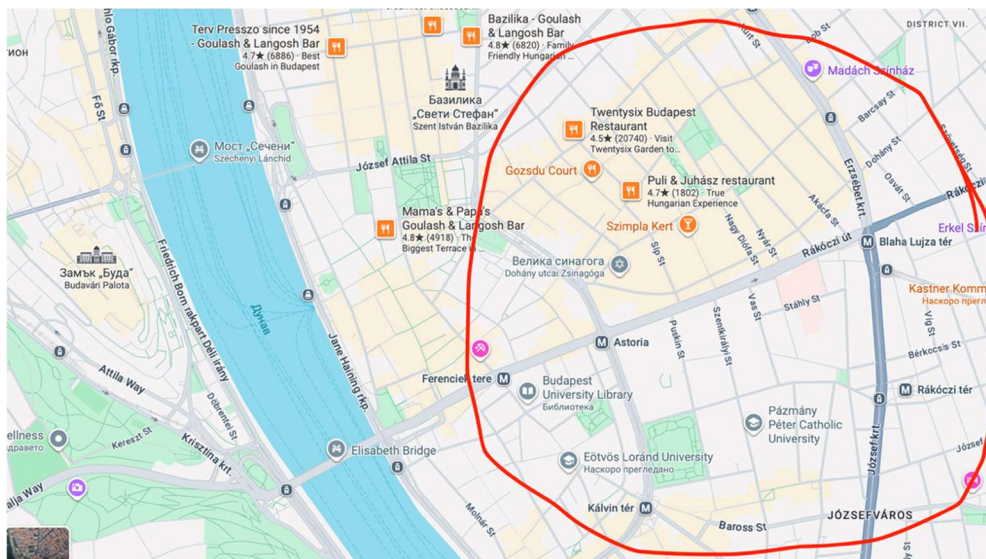
5. Insurance

I had the EU health insurance card which is obligatory and free to get from your personal Amelie's account. I am a person who rarely gets sick though, so if you aren't then do your research and get a private insurance, because doctor's visits in private clinics here can be expensive (50/60 euros per visit).

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Budapest is divided in two parts – the Buda side, which is mostly the Royal historical side, and the Pest side. Pest is the newer part of the city and is well equipped with all kinds of public transport such as metro, trams and buses, so I would advise you to look for an apartment there. I would recommend you live somewhere around the city center since that is where most of the universities and leisure activities are. The best region to live is around the subway stations Blaha Lujza tér, Rakoczi tér, Calvin tér and Astoria. Do not go far East from Blaha Lujza tér, since the region is considered to be a bit more dangerous at night.



2. Find a flat or a room

I used the platform HousingAnywhere, where you can find both shared flats or individual ones and where you can directly message the host in case you have any questions.

3. Cost

If you are looking to rent a room in a shared flat you should have a budget of 350 to 550 euros per month, some of those are without the bills so you should read quite carefully. If you want to be completely alone though the prices are higher, between 600 and 1000 euros per month. Quite frankly, anything above 800 is not worth it and landlords are probably trying to scam you because Budapest is not normally an expensive city.

Normally the landlord is also going to ask you for a deposit that equals once or twice the size of your actual rent. Contrary to France though you do not need a guarantee ("garant").

You have to take into consideration though that most buildings in the region discussed above are older, Parisian style, so do not be surprised if the common parts of the building – staircases, lift and such are not well upkeep. Most of the apartments, however, are renovated so this should not be a problem.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

When I arrived at the university before our classes started, there was a meeting for all exchange students where the ERASMUS coordinators explained what the necessary steps for our enrollment are. They also sent us presentations with precisions and the deadlines for each step.

One thing I remember is that this university does not do their own "Attestation de début de séjour", so you have to send them an e-mail to tell them that your university does so that they can sign it and you can transmit it to your home university's ERASMUS office.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

I took 7 classes while I was here.

- **Political Game Theory:** *the class is at the faculty of law and political sciences. It shows you how to deal and analyse conflict using Game Theory (simple mathematical methods). I personally really enjoyed this class, and I think it can be helpful to you no matter of the type of studies you want to pursue. One thing that I did not particularly enjoy, though, is that the teacher was speaking way too loudly at times for no reason. 4.5/5*
- **Persuasion:** *it is a really good class, especially if you want to do something related to Marketing or Sales since it presents the different techniques to influence a person to act. However, I think there were some lectures in there which were common knowledge and unnecessary for the understanding of this subject. 3.5/5*
- **Marketing Research:** *I think this class was quite repetitive at times and what really mattered to me were the last few lectures where it was explained how to conduct an in-depth interview and how to construct a questionnaire. I personally did not understand the teacher quite well, might have been a language barrier. Overall, I would give this class a 2.5/5*

- **Psychology of Sustainable Behaviour:** this class can be interesting to you if you are interested in the psychological concepts of behaviour. At times I felt lost because it was a new domain for me, but the teacher is really nice and since there are many students from different domains, she explains everything in easier concepts for us. There are a lot of practice exercises, to apply the concepts into practice, which I really liked and it can be helpful if you are doing Marketing and you want to learn more about how to influence people to act in an ecological way. Overall, I would give it a **3.5/5**.
- **Business Law I:** it is a good class if you want to know a bit of everything about each sector of Law and can be especially helpful for understanding current crisis concepts in countries such as a “failed state”. However, there might be some things repeating for the previous Law classes you have taken at MoMa. Overall, I would give it a **3.5/5**.
- **Online Marketing:** I think this was overall, a good course, the teacher presented well and there were at least two guest lecturers that presented different topics, but half of it was talking about basic marketing concepts. The most interesting and useful part for me was the use of AI in Online Marketing. If you are looking for a really introductory course, this is the one for you. However, I had already done a course in Social Media Marketing, so I do not think that it was helpful to me. So, I would give it a **2.5/5**.
- **Negotiation:** I really enjoyed this class. I would say it is based on the Persuasion class and can be a great possibility for you if you want to go into Sales. However, I did not take it during this semester, but during their Summer University and I feel like we had more time to practice real life situations and we also had a guest lecturer from the German branch of Porsche. Some students, that took it this year, have told me that they did not have the perks of having guest lecturers and that many practice sessions. I would personally give this course for my experience a **4/5**.

2. Organization of the Class

Classes here usually last 1.5 hours. There are normal lectures and seminars like in France, but here attendance in the Economics Faculty (GTK) for Bachelor courses is not obligatory. Teachers here upload all of the materials on Moodle as well as video lectures explaining on what material we should concentrate on for the exam. They also have a Video Lecture library where you can book a slot to watch one of the lectures you have missed if you do not understand the presentations by themselves.

I would say that level here is not as difficult as in France, but that also depends of course on the courses that you take.

What I did not like is that at Seminars there were barely any people, because classes overall are not obligatory, so we could not really do the practical exercises as they should have been done.

For other faculties it is different. For example, at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences and at the Institute of Psychology teachers take attendance.

3. List of courses and recommendation

See section 1.

4. Exam

Here they have a different system of evaluation than in France. For the courses at the Economics Faculty (GTK) they have a continuous assessment system during the semester which is computer-based at an Exam center that is strictly supervised. For the 3 ECTS you will have 2 midterms and for the 6 ECTS courses 3. They last approximately 30 minutes and are composed of MCQs, True/False, Connecting and Open questions for the most part. You usually get the results within a week.

You need to score overall 60% from those midterms to pass the class. If you don't or if you want to better your grade, you have to sit for the final exam which is at the end of the year usually around June and you need to score 50% to pass.

For other faculties it is different. For example, for my Political Game Theory class I just needed to submit an short 3 to 10 page essay at the end of the class and for the Psychology of Sustainable Behaviour I had a group presentation to do during the semester and a short MCQ test at the end.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

I would say that Budapest is an overall safe city, but I would avoid as in most towns the international bus and train station region as well as the far East region of Blaha Lujza ter at night.

B. Phone and Internet

I personally used my Mobile data from my phone provider from France – Free and I had no issues. At university there is a good internet connection and at most caffes and libraries as well.

C. Events

Follow the Erasmus Life Budapest account as well as the ESN network. In the beginning of the year there are constantly events and I would strongly advise you to go even if you feel intimidated because this is the best way to meet people. There are picnics, cultural nights, trips, parties, cruises on the Danube, museum visits, dog walks and more to choose from and for the most part they are not that expensive.

D. Sports

There is a Sports program like SUAPS, but you have to pay additionally for it per each sport you take which is around 70 euros, but there is no gym option. There are private gyms which cost around 40/50 euros per month for the membership. You can also do kayaking here on the Danube river if you'd like.

E. Eating

Eating out in Budapest is not that expensive and at times it can be cheaper to order than to cook depending on the dish. If you like cooking though, I would recommend you go to Lidl for the produce and meat since it's fresh and cheap. For more specific ingredients go to Spar or Costco.

If you want to try a typical Hungarian restaurant, try Mama Goulash. They have the traditional Goulash soup, Chicken Paprikash and the Dobos cake as well as some traditional drinks like palinka.

You can also try Langos and Chimney Cake which are traditional Hungarian street food. There is also a canteen at the GTK campus it is called Műhely Egyetem Cafe where you can have breakfast or lunch. They have a new lunch menu every day and the food is really diverse and delicious. A meal costs around 6 to 7 euros and it's a good big portion. They also have vegetarian options.

If you like good coffee, there is a specialty coffee place at campus called Arch and Beans and another one that is close to the faculty called Fekete. They are both internet cafes so you can go and study there, but you can also go to simply enjoy a nice cup of coffee.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

I personally walked around 10 minutes, since I lived in the area, but the university is accessible by both metro, tram or bus.

G. Travels

From here there are pretty cheap flights to a lot of places like Austria, Romania, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and many more. There are also cheap buses to Slovenia, Slovakia and all other neighboring countries.

I would advise you to go to Gödöllő which is just 30 minutes away from Budapest and where you can see one of the Empress Sisi's residencies. Also, you can visit the Eger wine festival which is in April since it is one of the biggest events here.

For travelling inside Hungary, I would advise you to purchase the Hungary Pass, which is a monthly pass that costs ruffly 5 euros per month, and it includes all transportation inside Budapest except for the airport shuttle and some specific busses plus all trains inside the country. You just need to have your Student ID and you can also purchase it online through BudapestGo.

I personally did not like the trips organized by the ERASMUS organizations since they sometimes lacked organization.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Your student ID is going to be a sheet of paper that you have to renew every two months at the Questura office (basically the administration office) and you should always have it with you because the inspectors at the public transportation can always ask for it and they do not accept photos. You can get fined for not having it with you which is not the nicest thing. Also, do not forget to fully enjoy your time here because the time passes really fast. I wish you a wonderful time in Budapest.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

Next year I am planning om either doing a gap year to gain more experience in the business sphere or pusrue my studies in M1 Contrôle de gestion et système d'information décisionnels.

B. Did you apply for master?
Yes, and I was accepted in the above mentioned.