

# USER'S GUIDE to Hungary



## User's Guide to Hungary

# USER'S GUIDE TO HUNGARY

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## Dear Friend,

Welcome to our lovely country. Here you can study for one or two semesters or take a full-time degree with one of our scholarships. Whatever you choose, you can be sure you will fall in love with the Hungarian spirit. Whether you study medicine, economics, agriculture, art or something else, here in the centre of Europe you are in the right place to achieve your goals. Invest in your dreams in Hungary!

This is not only the land of talent and quality education, but is also a special place to live. Budapest, Balaton, Hortobágy, the spas, the festivals, the vivid cultural life – get the most out of everything Hungary has to offer!

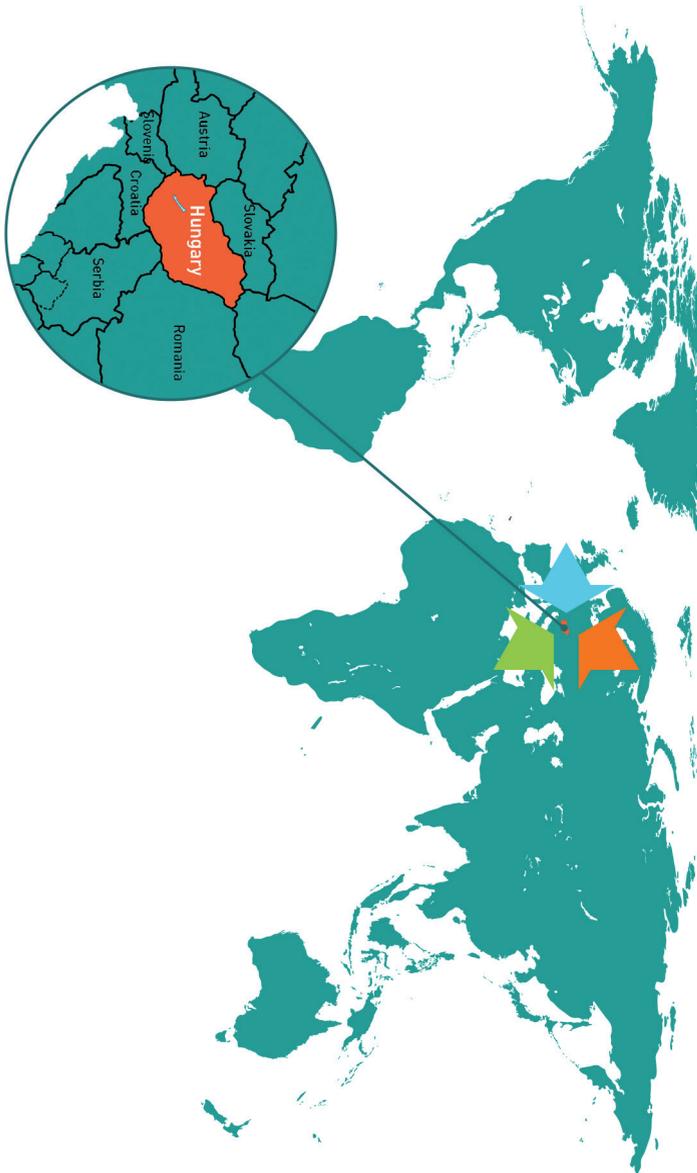
Let Hungary be the place where you step out of your comfort zone. Let us give you the chance to change your life and move forwards.

See you soon!

Best regards,  
The Editorial Team



**THINGS TO KNOW  
ABOUT HUNGARY**



## Basic Information

**Official name:** Hungary

**Area:** 93,030 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 9,830,485

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

**Official language:** Hungarian

**Form of state:** 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 25 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](http://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 Dunabe 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 km<sup>2</sup>, 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 the 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 of them are located in the north: in the almost completely wooded Bükk Hills and in the Aggtelek region with its extensive system of karst caves. Duna-Ipoly National Park 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. Őrség and the smallest national 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: Banks of the Danube View, Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue**

This quarter encompasses the area on the Budaside, 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 unique 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 locked 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](http://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](http://anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu)

### **Millenary Benedictine Abbey 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](http://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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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](http://www.hnp.hu)



The Nine-holed Bridge

### Early Christian Necropolis of Pécs

In the centre of the town of Pécs, beneath Cathedral Square (Dómtér) and St Stephen's Square (Szent István tér), there is a Christian cemetery dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup>– 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pecsorokseg.hu)

### Fertő Cultural Landscape

Lake Fertő is the second largest lake in Central Europe, and it is located at the Austrian–Hungarian border. The lake covers 315 km<sup>2</sup>: 240 km<sup>2</sup> is on the Austrian side, while 75 km<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.fertopart.hu)



Lake Fertő

### 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 7000 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](http://www.tokaj.hu)

## BRIEF HISTORY

### Hungarian conquest

Hungarian people coming from the Urals arrived in the Carpathian Basin in 895-896, then conquered the territory and settled down. One hundred years later our first king, Stephen I, founded the Hungarian state and integrated the country into the European Christian nations.

### Matthias Corvinus and the Hunyadi era

One of Hungary's most glorious eras was the time of Hunyadi, in which Matthias Corvinus the Righteous reigned as the greatest Hungarian king ever, leading Hungary to become one of the most important Central European countries.

### Turkish occupation

In 1526 after the calamity of the Battle of Mohács the Ottomans divided the country into three parts: the Habsburgs in the western and northern parts; Turks in the central area; and the Principality of Transylvania in the south-east as the stronghold of Hungarian culture and independence.

### Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49

Following other rebellions in the period of the Spring of Nations in Europe, the Hungarians revolted against the Austrian emperor. The revolution was suppressed by the Habsburgs with the help of the Russian Czar and in 1867 a compromise with the Habsburgs was concluded, establishing the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

### World War I

As part of the Empire, Hungary lost against the Allied Powers in 1918 and the monarchy fell apart. Following the Treaty of Versailles Hungary lost two thirds of its territory and 3.3 million Hungarians suddenly became citizens of Hungary's neighbouring countries.

### World War II

After entering the war in 1941, Hungary suffered enormous damages again, including a death toll of approximately one million citizens. The Soviets drove the Germans out of the country in 1945 and stayed here for the next four and a half decades, incorporating the country into the Soviet bloc.

### The revolution and freedom fight of 1956

Along with many others in the Eastern bloc, the revolution of '56 is one of the symbols of resistance against the Soviets during the cold war. Although the revolution was suppressed (with approximately 3,000 casualties), it was a clear message to the Soviets that their plans were not sustainable.

### Democratic transformation after the fall of the Soviet bloc

The rapid changes in the Soviet bloc and other international developments led to the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, leading to political changes in the entire eastern part of Europe. The countries became free from Soviet rule and Hungary became a republic for the third time. The first democratic, multi-party elections were held in 1990.

### Joining the EU

After joining NATO in 1999, Hungary became a member of the European Union in 2004 along with 9 other countries. In the first half of 2011, it held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time.

## Hungaricums

*Hungaricums are high value products of Hungary, which show Hungarian uniqueness, speciality 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](http://www.tanchaz.hu)

### Busó Festivities

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](http://www.mohacsibusojaras.hu)



### Pálinka

Pálinka is a generic name for the fiery fruit brandy often distilled by farmers from homegrown 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.



### 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.



### 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, Ukraine, Israel, the U.S., and Australia. Smaller pockets of Hungarian speakers also live in Canada, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria.

## 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

## FAMOUS HUNGARIANS AND PEOPLE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

DECEASED

**Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893-1986)**

The discoverer of Vitamin C and a Nobel Prize winner for Physiology or Medicine for his description of the oxidation of nutrients by the cell.



**Imre Kertész (1929-2016)**

The first Hungarian ever to win a Nobel Prize in Literature, for his novel 'Fateless'.



**Ignác Semmelweis (1818-1965)**

The physician who discovered that the principal reason behind childbed fever was insufficient hand washing, leading to him being known as the 'saviour of mothers'.



**László Bíró (1899-1985)**

Inventor of the ballpoint pen, which is still widely referred to as a biro in many English-speaking countries.



**Ferenc Puskás (1927-2006)**

Legendary football icon who played in Hungary and then Spain for Real Madrid, winning a combined total of ten league championships. The FIFA Puskás Award for 'the most beautiful goal' of the past year was named after him.

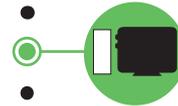


## FAMOUS HUNGARIANS AND PEOPLE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

DECEASED

**John von Neumann (1903-1957)**

Mathematician, 'the Father of the Computer'.



**Robert Capa (1913-1954)**

Hungarian war photographer and photo journalist, best known for the photo of 'The Death of a Loyalist Soldier' during the Spanish Civil War.



**Victor Vasarely (1906-1997)**

Painter, famous for his geometrical style of painting.



**Franz Liszt (1811-1886)**

Composer and pianist, a revolutionary figure in romantic music and the greatest pianist of his time.



**Béla Bartók (1881-1945)**

One of the most significant musicians and composers of the 20th century, whose music is invigorated by the themes, modes and rhythmic patterns of Hungarian and other folk music traditions.



## FAMOUS HUNGARIANS AND PEOPLE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

DECEASED

**Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)**

Composer and ethnomusicologist, the creator of a special music-teaching technique known as the Kodály method.



**Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911)**

Journalist and publisher, best known for the Pulitzer Prizes which were established in his name posthumously.



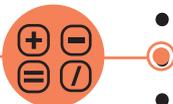
**Harry Houdini (1874-1926)**

Magician and illusionist born in Budapest, famous for his astonishing escape acts.



**Paul Erdős (1913-1996)**

Mathematician, best known for his work in number theory, combinatorics and probability theory.



## FAMOUS HUNGARIANS AND PEOPLE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

LIVING

**Ernő Rubik (1944-)**

The inventor of the Rubik's Cube, an influential designer and founder of many initiatives concerning science in education with a main focus on problem solving.



**Iván Fischer (1951-)**

Conductor and composer, founder of one of the world's finest orchestras (the Budapest Festival Orchestra) and director of the Berlin Konzerthaus.



**László Nemes Jeles (1977-)**

Film director and screenwriter, the second Hungarian to win the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for his movie Son of Saul (2016).



**István Szabó (1938-)**

Film and opera director, screen writer, the first ever Hungarian to win the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film with Mephisto (1981).



**Charles Simonyi (1948-)**

Computer programmer and businessman, the architect of Microsoft's most successful products Word and Excel.



## FAMOUS HUNGARIANS AND PEOPLE OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

LIVING

**Dániel Rátai**

(1985-)

Founder of the entirely three-dimensional virtual reality environment Leonar3Do.



**Mihály Csíkszentmihályi** (1934-)

Psychologist, father of the flow concept, and the world's leading researcher on positive psychology.



**Judit Polgár** (1976-)

Chess grandmaster, considered the greatest female chess player of all time.



**Zoltán Kocsis** (1952-)

Globally acclaimed pianist, conductor and composer, co-founder of the Budapest Festival Orchestra and musical director of the Hungarian National Philharmonic.



**Katinka Hosszú** (1989-)

Competitive swimmer, three-time Olympic champion and five-time long-course world champion.



**Áron Losonczi** (1977-)

Inventor of light-transmitting concrete Litracon.



## Important University Towns

### Budapest

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary and the country's principal political, cultural, commercial, industrial and transportation centre. With 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, while the proportion of researchers working in Budapest is even higher.

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

[www.budapestinfo.hu](http://www.budapestinfo.hu), [www.budpocketguide.com](http://www.budpocketguide.com), [english.budapest.hu](http://english.budapest.hu)



The Parliament in Budapest

## 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<sup>th</sup> August.

Debrecen is home to the University of Debrecen, whose main building is a widely-praised piece of architecture.

The university has many departments and is a major research centre in Europe.

[www.debrecen.hu](http://www.debrecen.hu)

## 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 in Hungary. It is also the seat of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county and the regional centre of the Northern Hungary region.



Miskolc is not a very historic city, but by the 19th century it had become 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 nearby. The University of Miskolc is a

relatively young higher education institution, founded in 1949. Built in the style of the American campus model, it is surrounded by a large park and various sports facilities.

[www.miskolc.hu](http://www.miskolc.hu)

## Szeged

Szeged is the fourth largest town in 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 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, with the highest amount of annual sunshine. The charming warm weather is great for 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 1872. At present it consists of 12 faculties, where you can study almost everything, ranging from humanities to business studies or health sciences.

[www.szegedportal.hu](http://www.szegedportal.hu)

## Pécs

Pécs is located in the south-west of the country. It is the administrative and economic centre of Baranya county. 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 here.



Pécs has a rich cultural life, hosts a wide variety of galleries and museums, and boasts numerous historical buildings such as the Basilica of Pécs,

constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Several Turkish buildings dating back to the age of the Ottoman Empire (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) give the city a multicultural atmosphere.

The town of Pécs was selected as one of the European Capitals of Culture for 2010.

The University of Pécs was founded in 1367, making it the oldest university in Hungary. It now ranks among the top European universities. It has 10 faculties and offers a wide range of courses, covering nearly every possible field of study.

[www.pecs.hu](http://www.pecs.hu)

### **Győr**

Győr is located in the north-western part of Hungary. The seat of Győr-Moson-Sopron county is located on one of the most important roads of Central Europe, halfway between Budapest and Vienna.

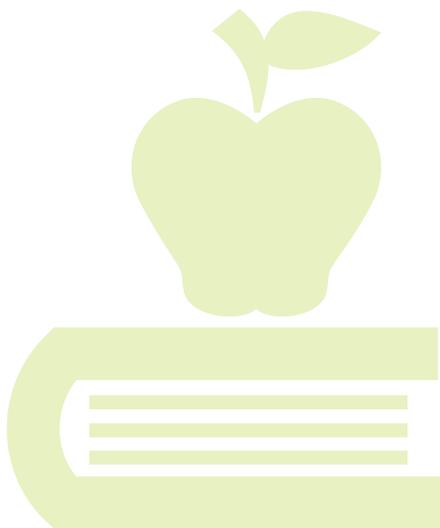


The area has been inhabited since ancient times. Győr has an enchanting town centre and is abundant in beautiful baroque buildings. The oldest part of the town is Káptalan Hill at the confluence of the Danube, Rába and Rábca

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.

[www.gyor.hu](http://www.gyor.hu)

# STUDYING IN HUNGARY



## Foreign Students about Hungary

*We interviewed some students studying in Hungary to find out what they think about Hungary and Hungarians. Here is what they said:*

### *Erká, Mongolia*

Studying in Hungary is a good choice considering its central location in Europe, thanks to which it is easy to travel around the continent.

### *Silvana, Ecuador:*

I chose ELTE because of its comprehensive study programme, which offers a lot of research opportunities.

### *Narihito, Japan:*

It feels like home here, everything is so natural. In Tokyo there is too much noise and information.



*Nayara, Brazil:*

I came here because of the Nobel Prize Winners of BME, and to get involved in research projects.

*Khulan, Mongolia:*

Mongolian research laboratories are not as well equipped as those in Hungary, and the quality of education is also very high here. I am a PhD student and I received a lot of help from my professor, who provided me with all the necessary courses that I can increase my knowledge with. There are also a lot of opportunities to publish in Europe or to attend conferences where I can test the results of my research.

*Cristina, Ecuador:*

There are many things. But the purest love for me is the architecture of Budapest and the Danube – so beautiful!

*Ambuj India:*

I have to mention the positive energy of Hungarian people. It surrounds me everywhere. It is the kind of positivity that makes you feel so motivated every day when you get up, look forward to the day and feel content when you go to bed at the end of the day.



## Higher Education

Hungarian higher education has been a home of academic excellence for more than 600 years. The first university in Hungary was founded in 1367 in Pécs, which is located in South-West Hungary. Today there are 66 higher education institutions in Hungary, ranging from small colleges to top research universities. These universities and colleges are maintained either by the state, private organizations or a church.



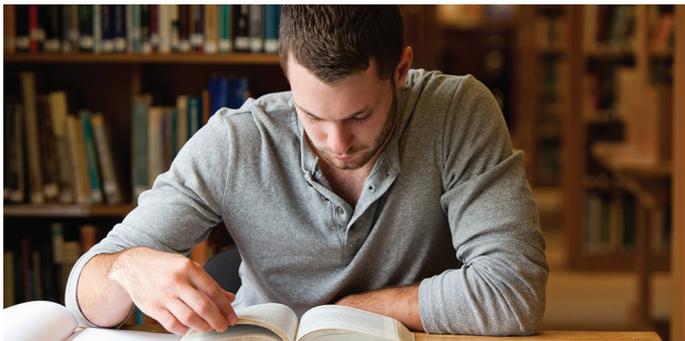
In accordance with the objectives of the Bologna process the degree structure of tertiary education is based on three cycles. Nearly all study fields lead first to a Bachelor's degree (usually 3 years), and after a further study period to a Master's degree (2 years). However, there are some exceptions: medicine, pharmacy, dental and veterinary studies, architecture, law, teacher training, and certain arts-, crafts- and design-related study programmes, which retain a long single-cycle structure of 5 or 6 years of study.

The first-cycle programmes last 6–8 semesters (3–4 years, 180–240 credit points) and lead to a Bachelor's degree (in Hungarian: alapkoztat). The second cycle, leading to a Master's degree (in Hungarian: mesterfokozat), lasts 2–4 semesters (1–2 years, 60–120 credit points).

Due to the expansion of higher education in the last two decades, the number of enrolled students and the capacity of the institutions have increased considerably; from 1990 to 2015 the student population in higher education tripled, from 90,000 to around 300,000.

Most of the students chose economic sciences, followed by engineering, teacher training, IT, medical and health sciences. The trend among international students is rather similar; the most popular field was economics, prior to engineering, medicine and IT.

A four-year doctoral programme (doktori képzés) is a post-graduate course to follow any Master's or equivalent qualification.



### Credit System

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is the only existing credit system in Hungary, initially implemented in the academic year 2003-2004. It ensures transparency of the learning, teaching and assessment processes by facilitating recognition of learning achievements and qualifications in many countries throughout the European Higher Education Area.

### 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](http://www.felvi.hu)) for more information.

*There are a number of scholarship programmes available for foreign students wishing to study in Hungary (see p. 46).*

### 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:

- Study in Hungary:  
[www.studyinhungary.hu/](http://www.studyinhungary.hu/)
- Ministry of Human Capacities:  
[www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-re-sources](http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-re-sources)
- National Higher Education Information Centre:  
[www.felvi.hu/for\\_for-eigners](http://www.felvi.hu/for_for-eigners)
- Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre:  
[www.naric.hu](http://www.naric.hu)
- Hungarian Accreditation Committee:  
[www.mab.hu](http://www.mab.hu)



## Hungarian Institutions of Higher Education

Internationalisation is becoming an essential part of the development strategies of most Hungarian higher education institutions. As a result, they are becoming more and more active in international cooperation, offering a number of double and joint degree programmes, R&D projects, and academic partnerships within Europe and throughout the world.

Currently, more than 30 Hungarian higher education institutions offer academic programmes in foreign languages, making a combined total of 315 courses.



More information:

[www.studyinhungary.hu/study-in-hungary/menu/universities.html](http://www.studyinhungary.hu/study-in-hungary/menu/universities.html)



## 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. ([www.isc.pte.hu](http://www.isc.pte.hu))

If you attend at the language courses you will be awarded with ECTS credits, both for the Semester programme and for the Intensive programme. At the last one, there are even more opportunities to develop your communication skills:

- five levels from beginner to advanced,
- a placement test taken on the first day of the course,
- 30 language lessons per week,
- focusing on communication,
- after the exam, you will gain your well-deserved ECTS credit points.

#### *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, town sand natural reserves in the surrounding Mecsek mountains
- Practice your Hungarian with native speakers in various contexts

### University of Szeged

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. ([www.u-szeged.hu/english](http://www.u-szeged.hu/english))

## 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. 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.



### *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 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.

[www.elte.hu/en/content/language-courses.t.94?m=53](http://www.elte.hu/en/content/language-courses.t.94?m=53)

### *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.

[www.elte.hu/en/summer\\_university\\_hungarian](http://www.elte.hu/en/summer_university_hungarian)

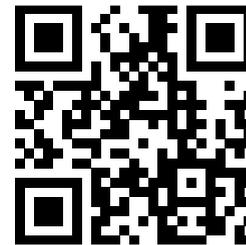
## University of Debrecen

### *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.

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 who are all recognised as experts in teaching Hungarian as well as foreign languages. During the summer courses, lectures are offered on Hungarian history and culture in addition to regular language classes.

[www.nyariegyetem.hu](http://www.nyariegyetem.hu)



## Scholarship Programmes

### STIPENDIUM HUNGARICUM PROGRAMME

The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme started in 2013 as a part of the Hungarian Government's "Global Opening Policy". As a result now 51 partners from all over the world are able to send their students to Hungarian higher education institutions.

The Programme is based on effective bilateral educational cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary and the partner's Ministry responsible for higher education. Applications are considered eligible if the applicant is nominated by the responsible authorities of the sending partner. The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is managed by Tempus Public Foundation.



Thousands of students apply for higher educational studies in Hungary each year. In the academic year 2016/2017 approximately 3000 students can begin their studies in Hungary within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme.

#### *Study fields supported by the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme:*

- Agriculture, Natural Resources
- Arts (visual and performing)
- Business, Management and Public Administration
- Medicine and Health Sciences
- Humanities, Education, Behavioural Sciences
- IT, Computer Sciences, Mathematics
- Law, Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Technology, Engineering, Architecture
- Tourism, Recreation

#### *Full time studies:*

- BA/BSc (undergraduate, 3-3.5 years)
- MA/MSc (graduate, 1--2 years)
- PhD studies (doctoral, 3 years)
- One-tier programme (5 years)
- Part-time studies
- Non degree programmes (professional and language preparatory courses, specialisation courses)

#### *How the SH programme contributes to your professional development?*

- no tuition fee
- monthly stipend:
  - for Bachelor or Master: EUR 130
  - for Doctoral: EUR 325
- free dormitory places or contribution to private accommodation: EUR 100
- medical insurance

*Some of the expanding network of sending partners:*

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kurdistan Regional Government/Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yemen

Hungary's network of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme's sending partners is expanding every year.

Please keep yourself updated about the newly joined partners on the programme's website: [www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu](http://www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu).

**Contacts:**

The official website of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme  
[www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu](http://www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu)



Official multilingual portal about available Hungarian scholarships, study programmes, description of the Hungarian higher education system and practical information about living in Hungary:

[www.studyinhungary.hu](http://www.studyinhungary.hu)



Official Study in Hungary Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/studyinhungaryofficial](https://www.facebook.com/studyinhungaryofficial)



Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport. It aims to equip European citizens with the education, skills and creativity that they need in a knowledge-based society. Erasmus+ provides opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad.

Erasmus+ helps organise student and doctoral candidate exchanges within Erasmus+ Programme countries and to and from Partner countries. You can also combine your period spent studying abroad in a Programme country with a traineeship to gain work experience.

Opportunities to study abroad are available to students at Bachelor's and Master's levels, as well as Doctoral candidates.

Students with physical, mental or health-related conditions may apply for additional funding after they have been selected to study abroad.

Your study period abroad can last from a minimum of 3 months (or 1 academic term or trimester) to a maximum of 12 months.



You can benefit from an exchange abroad with Erasmus+ multiple times, either as a student or as a trainee, but your total time abroad (study abroad periods included) may not exceed 12 months within one cycle of study.

Erasmus+ is open to all learners and trainees in all EU Member States, as well as in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, EU candidate countries that have a pre-accession strategy, and other countries in the Western Balkans. In addition, non-EU neighbouring countries are able to benefit from initiatives aimed at promoting youth activities as well as study and training opportunities abroad.

“During the first year Erasmus+ has proved a true success. The impressive number of participants is proof that the programme is making a difference in improving young people’s employment prospects, helping them acquire new skills and experiences and supporting the modernisation of Europe’s education, training and youth systems. We will continue to build on this popularity to reach out to more people with different interests, profiles and social backgrounds.” - *Tibor Navracsics, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.*

Source on the website of the European Commission:

[www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus](http://www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus)



## Central European Exchange Program for University Studies

CEEPUS Programme aims at promoting teacher and student mobility in Central and South-East Europe. 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 about the scholarship*

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

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

### Application deadlines for network mobility:

For the autumn semester:

15 June

For the spring semester:

31 October

### Application deadlines for freemovers (only for the spring semester):

30 November



### 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
- Mobility projects in higher education
- Mobility projects in education related institutions
- Inter-institutional cooperation projects between higher education institutions

Applications are submitted online, deadlines are indicated in the published calls for proposals.

[www.norvegalap.hu](http://www.norvegalap.hu)

[www.nora.norvegalap.hu](http://www.nora.norvegalap.hu)





### Student Networks

Almost every Hungarian university has its own network to help foreign students and scholarship holders. If you are interested, get in touch with them or with international organizations (such as Erasmus Student Network Hungary or AEGEE) via the links below.

Erasmus+ Students Network:

[www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org)



Erasmus+ Students Network  
in Hungary:

[www.esn.hu](http://www.esn.hu)



AEGEE

[www.aegee.org](http://www.aegee.org)



AIESEC

[www.aiesec.org](http://www.aiesec.org)



**PRACTICAL  
INFORMATION**

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. It is worth to check, if your country has a bilateral agreement with Hungary, because in this case there is no need of getting a visa, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 nationals 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 nationals 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 nationals 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.

If you arrive from a third country we recommend taking out health insurance.



## 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.

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. 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

[www.en.nav.gov.hu](http://www.en.nav.gov.hu)



**Office of Immigration and Nationality**

1117 Budapest, Budafoki u. 60.

Phone: +36 1 463 9100

[www.bmbah.hu](http://www.bmbah.hu)



**A list of the European Embassies in Hungary:**

[www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/formalities/embassies.html](http://www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/formalities/embassies.html)



**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.

Passes are available for various lengths of time (eg. monthly) and are valid for each form of transport – metro, bus, tram, trolleybus, boat – within the boundaries of Budapest. Single tickets that can be used on any form of transport are also available at metro stations or street kiosks. They are valid for a single journey without transfer on the whole length of a line (within the boundaries of Budapest), which means multiple tickets are needed when your journey involves changes.



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.bkk.hu](http://www.bkk.hu).

### 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.





### 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.

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

### 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.

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

### 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.

### 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.

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).



Stadler FLIRT motor train

### 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. 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.**

### 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.



### 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 Biatorbágy, Érd, and Százhalombatta.
- Széna tér | Budapest District 1, (take Tram 4 or 6 to get here) | Departures to Zsámbék and the Zsámbék area.

## Currency

Forint (HUF) has been the local currency in Hungary since August 1946. It was named after the city of Florence, where golden coins had been minted since 1252.

### Change<sup>1</sup>

- 1.0 USD = 274 HUF
- 1.0 EUR = 310 HUF
- 1.0 GBP = 358 HUF
- 1.0 CNY = 41 HUF
- 1.0 JPY = 2,7 HUF
- 1.0 RUB = 4 HUF



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.

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.

1: The exact datas were valid in 2016 August

## 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.



## Shopping and Cost of Living

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.

The minimum wage in Hungary is HUF 105,000 (EUR 350), 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:**

- lone litre of milk: HUF 220 ≈EUR 0.7
- lone small bottle of beer: HUF 300 ≈ 1
- lone bottle of red table wine: HUF 600–1,500 ≈EUR 2–5
- lone litre of petrol: HUF 350 ≈EUR 1.13
- lone litre of bottled water: HUF 75–150 ≈EUR 0.24–0.5
- lone loaf of bread: HUF 270 ≈EUR 0.87

It's worth to visit [www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/your-costs-of-living.html](http://www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/your-costs-of-living.html) page, to easily calculate your costs, in the biggest Hungarian cities.

## 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.

There are three service mobile 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](http://www.posta.hu)

### Internet

There are plenty of possibilities to access the Internet in Hungary. To help you check your e-mail or surf the net wifi access is offered in many cafés, hotels, bookstores and public buildings. Almost every university campus has its own wifi hotspots.

## 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 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 (Blaufränkisch), olaszrizling (Welsh Riesling), zöldveltelini, cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon. Hungarians like drinking fröccs especially in summer, which is white or rosé wine mixed with fresh sodawater, also known as wine spitzer. If you like short drinks, you should not miss the famous Unicum and pálinka, either.



### Typical dishes you should try while in Hungary:

**gulyásleves** (goulash soup), **húsleves** (meat soup), **halászlé** (fish soup), **hideg meggyleves** (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 krumpli** (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), **rétés** (strudel), **szaloncukor** (special Christmas sweet), **bejgli** (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.



szilvás gombóc



lángos

### 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.

## 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](http://www.atriumfilmszinhaz.hu)
- Deutsches Theater Budapest: [www.deutschetheater.hu](http://www.deutschetheater.hu)
- Pécsi Horvát Színház – Croatian Theatre in Pécs: [www.horvatszinhaz.hu](http://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](http://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](http://www.szepmuveszeti.hu)  
Sculptures, paintings and drawings from ancient Egypt to Modern Arts
- Hungarian National Gallery : [www.mng.hu/en](http://www.mng.hu/en)  
Largest public collection of fine arts in Hungary
- Museum of Ethnography: [www.neprajz.hu](http://www.neprajz.hu)  
Exhibitions on folk traditions
- Hungarian National Museum: [www.hnm.hu](http://www.hnm.hu)  
Archaeological, historical, ethnic relics on the history of the people of the Carpathian Basin
- Museum of Applied Arts : [www.imm.hu](http://www.imm.hu)  
Beautiful collection of Hungarian works of applied art from the 19th century to the present
- Kunsthalle: [www.mucsarnok.hu](http://www.mucsarnok.hu)  
Hungary's largest exhibition place of contemporary art



Museum of Fine Art

- Palace of Arts: [www.mupa.hu/en](http://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.



National Theatre and Palace of Arts (MÚPA)

### 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.

## International Cultural Institutes

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



[www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/culture.html](http://www.studyinhungary.hu/living-in-hungary/menu/culture.html)

### News, culture and social media

You can browse any news portal, while Youtube and social media websites are also freely accessible in Hungary, including international profiles. For non-Hungarians there are also some local newspapers available in foreign languages, such as the Budapest Times in English, Budapester Zeitung in German or Le Journal Francophone 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 keep up-to-date with what there is to do and see in Hungary, pick up a copy of Funzine, an English-language programmes and events magazine, or read it online. It is free and available at many hotels, restaurants, clubs, cafés and universities.

# MINI DICTIONARY

## Mini Dictionary

### ENGLISH

#### 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

### HUNGARIAN

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(sz) angolul /  
németül / franciául?  
Mennyibe kerül ez?  
Bocsánat  
Köszönöm  
Szeretnél/Szeretne  
táncolni velem?  
Igen  
Nem  
Kérem  
Szeretlek

### PRONOUNCIATION

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  
megishmateelni(d)  
besail(s) angohlool  
nametewl/frantsioul?  
Manyeebe kerewl  
bo-tsha-nat  
koesoenoem  
seretnail / seret-neh  
towntsoleni velem  
eegen  
nem  
kayrem  
seretlek



**Transport, travelling**

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	gyümölcslé	djuemoeltslae
water	víz	veez
beer	sör	shoer

wine	bor
coffee	kávé
tea	tea

**Post office**

letter	levél
recorded mail	ajánlott levél
parcel	csomag
postcard	képeslap
stamp	bélyeg

**Entertainment**

theatre	színház	seenhaas
cinema	mozi	mozy
museum	múzeum	moozheum
ticket	jegy	yedj
entrance fee	belépődíj	belape-oedeey

**Emergency**

doctor	orvos	orvosh
pharmacy	gyógyszertár	djodj-sertaar
hospital	kórház	corehaas
ambulance	mentő	mentoe
fire department	tűzoltóság	tewzalltoe-shaag
police	rendőrség	rendoersheig
Help!	Segítség!	sheigeetsheig

**Days of the week**

Monday	hétfő	hate-foe
Tuesday	kedd	kedd
Wednesday	szerda	serdah

bor	kae-weigh
kávé	tea-a

levél	leveil
ajánlott levél	ayaanlotte leveil
csomag	tshomaag
képeslap	cape-ashlaap
bélyeg	beigh-yeg

színház	seenhaas
mozi	mozy
múzeum	moozheum
jegy	yedj
belépődíj	belape-oedeey

orvos	orvosh
gyógyszertár	djodj-sertaar
kórház	corehaas
mentő	mentoe
tűzoltóság	tewzalltoe-shaag
rendőrség	rendoersheig
Segítség!	sheigeetsheig

hétfő	hate-foe
kedd	kedd
szerda	serdah

Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday  
Sunday

csütörtök  
péntek  
szombat  
vasárnap

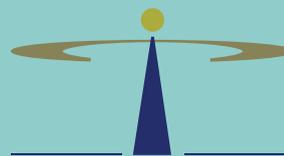
### Numbers

One 1  
Two 2  
Three 3  
Four 4  
Five 5  
Six 6  
Seven 7  
Eight 8  
Nine 9  
Ten 10  
Twelve 20  
Thirty 30  
Fourty 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

tsuetoertoek  
paintek  
sombaat  
vashare-naap

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



### 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 and also coordinates CEEPUS, EEA, Campus Mundi, 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.

# SZÉCHENYI



HUNGARIAN  
GOVERNMENT

**European Union**  
European Structural  
and Investment Funds



**INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE**