

BUDAPEST

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



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Getting to Budapest

- **By air** : Budapest airport is extremely modern and an important international hub to all major European and international airlines. From the airport the best way to come to the city is to take the Airport Minibus, which is well indicated. A ticket to the city costs HUF 3 000 (€ 12), and you and your luggage will be delivered anywhere you wish.



Airline companies travelling from major capitals in Europe to Budapest:

- ✚ Hungary national carrier is [MALEV](#)
- ✚ Low cost airline companies: [Easyjet](#), [Wizzair](#), other [cheap flights](#)

- **By train** : Budapest is linked with all major capitals in Europe. Most European cities are reachable within less than 24 hours by train.
- **By car** : Budapest can be reached on several excellent motorways from any neighbouring country. If you choose to come by car, always remember that there is zero alcohol tolerance while driving.
- **By coach** : "[Eurolines](#)" and "[Orangeways](#)" offer good value round trip fares between Budapest and all major European capitals.

Sport and cultures



Hungary is fond of water sports, and there are many indoor and outdoor **swimming pools** and beaches (called "Strand") in Budapest. Amongst the town's main attractions are the **thermal baths**, which are open all year round. Fancy swimming in an outdoor pool surrounded by snow and with people playing chess in comfortably hot water? Another attraction not to miss: "**vízimozi**" parties, a giant disco in a Turkish bath. Apart from this you will find wonderful places for horse riding, football, aerobic or bodybuilding, etc.

There is an **opera** and many **theaters** in Budapest. A ticket to the State Opera starts from € 5. Films are usually shown in their original language with their Hungarian subtitles. Over 40 films every night are shown in more than 20 **cinemas**, as well as theater plays in English. There are excellent places to listen to **jazz music** and several very good **discotheques**. Highly renowned **international**

cultural institutes (Institut Francais, Goethe-Institut, Istituto Italiano, Instituto Cervantes and Russian Institute) play an active part in the cultural life of Hungary's capital.

If you like skiing, although Hungary itself does not offer many exciting skiing resorts, the Austrian Alps, Carpathian mountains and Tatra mountains are less than a 3-hour-drive from Budapest and can be easily reached by train or bus at good prices.



Last but not least, even though in the heart of the European continent, Hungary has its own seaside: the famous **lake Balaton** (Central Europe's largest lake, 70 km long), situated at about 1 and a half hour from Budapest by car, train or bus.

Hungary also boasts very interesting cities and villages, national nature parks, and very good wine areas like the famous Tokaj, Eger, Sopron and Villány.

Administrative formalities

Hungary has become part of the Schengen at the end of 2007.

Visa and registration.

Visa legislation may vary depending on your nationality.

Non-EU Students

- Should you **come directly from your home country to Hungary or from a Schengen country**, you will need a Hungarian student visa. Please check with the nearest Hungarian consulate. Usually you will be asked to provide a valid passport, a letter of acceptance issued by ESSCA Hungary after application, as well as a proof of medical insurance. Fees for visa application depend on your home country (in France it is € 60). The Hungarian consulate will then deliver a temporary visa and a document, which is to be stamped by the immigration officer the first time you enter Hungary, in order to avoid complicated bureaucratic formalities. This stamped document will be needed for registration with the local authorities once you have settled in Budapest.



EU Students

You do not need a Hungarian visa but you should apply for a residence permit in Hungary since you will be staying more than 3 months in the country.

Residence Permit, Certificate of registration in Hungary

Office routine has to be done at the customer service of the Office of Immigration and Nationality, in Hungarian: **Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal**.

Address: Budapest, district XI, Budafoki út 60.

Website: www.bmbah.hu

Customer office's e-mail address: apf@bah.b-m.hu

Two typical cases of foreign students attending ESSCA Budapest:

EU citizen students

In order to obtain a residence permit in Hungary, you will need to apply for a **Certificate of registration**, in Hungarian **Regisztrációs igazolás** at the office of immigration and Nationality.

You will need to provide the following documents:

- Valid ID card or passport,
- HUF 1000 (€ 4)
- Certificate of ESSCA Budapest
- Proof of a valid health insurance in Hungary
- Documents about their accommodation in Hungary
 - Contract between student and the flat's owner
 - Official proof (not older than 30 days) of the flat owner's ownership.
 - If the other contractor is an agency (and not the owner) then the contracts owner-agency and agency-student are also needed
- Proof of the financial background during the stay in Hungary, with a bank account statement
- No need for a photo

The Certificate of registration is going to be valid for a non-determined period, being delivered together with an Address card.

Non-EU students coming from their home country or from a Schengen country, arriving with D-type student visa

This is a single entry 30-day visa which has to be "transformed" into a **Residence permit**, in Hungarian **Tartózkodási engedély** within 30 days after arrival.

You will need to go to the Office of Immigration and Nationality and to provide the following documents:

- Passport with the Hungarian visa
- 1 ID-size photo
- Certificate of ESSCA Budapest
- Documents about the accommodation in Hungary
 - Contract between student and the flat's owner
 - Official proof (not older than 30 days) of the flat owner's ownership
 - If the other contractor is an agency (and not the owner) then the contracts owner-agency and agency-student are also needed
- No need to pay

The Residence permit is going to be valid for a period according to the duration of the learning programme.

A valid visa is also necessary if you need to go to a doctor or deal with administrative formalities.

Health Insurance :

In general it is highly recommended to take out insurance before leaving your home country, in order to be covered as soon as you leave home. Insurance should cover sickness, hospital, accidents and civil responsibility. It is always useful to have a "repatriation" clause for emergencies.

- EU students and those non-EU students who are registered under the French Health system (Sécurité Sociale Française) should require their EU health insurance card before leaving their home country. This card will need to be shown when going to visit a doctor or hospital.

Doctors

Please ask ESSCA staff for a list of doctors speaking English.

International student card :

For the time being, student cards are not easily handed out in Hungary. We therefore strongly advise any international student to apply for an international student card before leaving his/her home country. Even then, it will not always be equivalent to a Hungarian student card, but you might enjoy discount prices at museums, theaters, and access to the library and computer rooms at the University.



ESSCA Hungary does not deliver student cards.

Accommodation

ESSCA Hungary does not run a students' residence in Hungary. We suggest our students to contact estate agencies in Budapest, which offer all sorts of accommodation. Some of these apartments or houses are often situated in well-off districts and are usually very beautiful, but more expensive.

Students wishing to rent a flat can contact: Mr. Gordon B. CROSS gordonbcross@hotmail.com , Mr. Szabolcs KISS flat4rent.budapest@gmail.com , or Mr. Patrick STEPHENS fovamflat@gmail.com . These contact persons are working in agencies dealing with flat rentals for students in the neighbourhood of ESSCA. (city centre).

Please check also SRS website www.srs-budapest.hu/flats, the contact name is Ms. Martina GORONDY-WILDE, martina@srs-budapest.hu.

First week – if you haven't found your accommodation yet, we recommend you to stay at a youth hostel for the first days in Budapest, kindly book the hostel in advance (for ex. www.marcopolohostel.com or choose a hostel from www.backpackers.hu

A monthly pass for public transport costs approximately €15 for EU citizen students and €35 for the non-EU students. The pass allows you to travel as often as you wish by tram/metro/bus in Budapest. National or international Student card is needed.



It usually takes no more than one week for a foreign student to find an appropriate place to stay, which is why we strongly recommend you to arrive one week before the semester starts in order to have sufficient time to find your accommodation and do the administrative paperwork.

Food

Well, this is always an important subject! Let's be clear right from the start, the only problem you may face is that there is usually too much food on your plate in Hungary! Hungarians tend to have a solid breakfast, a very quick lunch and a substantial dinner. You will find everything from vegetarian to Hungarian, Central European, Asian, American food etc. Budapest has a lot of colourful street markets where you can buy every type of food you want at very reasonable prices, as Hungary's agriculture is known for the outstanding quality of its products.



Money - Budget - Bank

- The **Hungarian currency** is called the Forint (HUF or Ft), which has been linked to the Euro (€) since January 1st, 2000

€ 1 = HUF 267 on 28th March 2011

- You are strongly advised to buy forints when you arrive in Hungary and not in your home country (most countries don't have a market for them and the rate will be lower).
- **Cash** : ATM machines are common in Budapest and the larger towns of the country. It is, however, preferable to check with your home bank prior to departure how much they charge you if you take cash from an ATM (probably approximately € 2-3 each time). If their rates seem to be too expensive, traveller's cheques might be an alternative.
- If you choose to open a **bank account** in Hungary - which is not absolutely necessary - you will need a residence permit or a valid passport, depending on the chosen bank.

Budget (approximative) :

For accommodation allow € 250 - 300 / month.

For food and other expenses allow € 10-20 / day.

Without travel expenses to and from Hungary and insurance, a reasonable total monthly budget will be about € 650 to 700