



**CORVINUS UNIVERSITY**  
OF BUDAPEST OF HUNGARY

2015 Fall

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# Monthly Activity Log



**September** - I arrived in Budapest on September 2<sup>nd</sup> from Hong Kong. My buddy Adrienn picked me up at the airport and accompanied me to the school dorm. She showed me how to buy tickets for metro and the bus. The official check in date was September 13<sup>th</sup> but I had made an arrangement thus I could stay from the second. Since it was not the official time yet, I had no roommate. However later, I met another student from Indonesia and we agreed to share the room for the semester. Orientation was the next day and it was not very useful as they just repeating the information that had been shared before, but on that day, they distributed a necessary form for residence permit application and they took attendance so it is better to attend. There are a lot of activities organized by ESN like campus tour, city tour, pub crawl and fresh camp. The tickets sold out quickly so it is better to purchase it earlier if you want to join. I need to settle a lot of administrative works like residence permit, course registration, etc. in this month thus I was only able to go around the city.



**October** - All administrative work were finally settled and I was able to explore around. The weather was colder and nicer since it is the peak of autumn, a lot of light rain towards the end of the month so better to travel early. I joined some festivals like the cooking festival, chimney cake festival and food festival in this month. The third week was the midterm period but it does not stop me from visiting the parliament and some museums on the National day, October 23<sup>rd</sup> where the entrance fees were waived. I also helped the Indonesian embassy to perform traditional dance in a couple occasions. Halloween closed the month perfectly, Budapest celebrated Halloween pretty seriously where you can find people dressed up all around the city.





**November** - There were time shift due to daylight saving and the weather started to get colder, like winter in Hong Kong. This month my intensive course commenced, it was a two weeks intensive class in the first week and the third week of the month and I need to stay from 10am to 9pm every day on campus. It was tiring but met a lot of new friends and had great in class discussion. Since I was rather busy, no travelling around this month.



**December** - It starts to feel like Christmas! Almost the end of the semester, many deadlines for projects and reports. Final exams were also scheduled in this month. I had 4 exams in 3 days which is great because I could have my long holiday after. I went to Eger, Pecs and Budaors (cities in Hungary) with a couple of friends and spent a day in each city. Travelling within Budapest is very convenient with either bus or train. I went to couple of Christmas markets and amazed by its liveliness! On the Christmas day, I and my friends went to the ceremony and celebration. It was a great day though it would have been perfect if it was snowing. I spent the last day of the year with my friends and watched fireworks together with thousands of other people around the world!



**January** - Since I finished all my exams in December, I had a month holiday and used it to travel around. I went to neighboring countries for day trips with a couple friends and spent my time buying souvenirs before coming back to Hong Kong. I did not go to farther places as the condition is not stable and my parents are quite worried about the safety (there were a number of bombing and assault cases throughout Europe by the ISIS).



# General Exchange Information

## a. Visa procedure

For Indonesian passport holders like me, it is necessary for me to apply for visa to enter Hungary. The process was simple and convenient. I sent an email to ask what necessary documents I should prepare and made prior appointment. However, to go directly to the embassy might also be welcomed. Some people were interviewed while applying but not me and the visa was issued a week after I submitted the application.

Address of the Consulate General of Hungary:

Unit A, 7/F, St. John's Building, 33 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 2878 7555

E-mail: [hunconshk@imail-hk.com](mailto:hunconshk@imail-hk.com)

## b. Orientation Activities

In Corvinus there were two orientations held for exchange students. First was the official compulsory orientation from university which gave general information about the university in form of two hours presentation. The second was an informal and optional campus tour held by ESN which followed by an after party in a bar.

## c. Accommodations

Generally a single room in Budapest accommodated with shared kitchen and bathroom is around 300 EUR/month. Of course there are some cheaper ones if you are lucky. It is very easy to find the deal in the Facebook groups where various offers were posted. As for me, I stayed in a double room in one of the school dormitory, Kinizsi in Kinizsi Street. There are also triple, four people and five people rooms which were allocated randomly. Each floor shared one bathroom with three showers (so you can have a shower party literally), three cubicles toilet and kitchen equipped with gas stoves, oven and microwaves. The best thing of this dorm is it is only 3min walk from the university building and it is very cheap but it is very old and could be very dirty. There are other dorms are the newest called Raday in Raday Street which take approx. 5min to university and the one for non-business students around 15min walk in Vaci Street.

The dormitory rooms are prioritized for non-exchange student thus the offer only came to me very close to the semester starting date due to the availability of some unoccupied spaces. Once you got the email, replied it ASAP because as I perceived it is on first come first serve basis. Bed, pillow, lamp, blankets, chair, desk, wardrobe and heater are provided, NO AC in Kinizsi though. If you are lucky, there will be mirror, curtain and rubbish bin inside but it is not guaranteed. For laundry, there is a washing machine on each floor but NO dryer function, so we have to rely on the nature to dry our clothes.



## d. Course registrations

Course registration system in Corvinus is done through a system called Neptun ([neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu](http://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu)). I spent a lot of time to choose the courses because I am considering the transferability of the credits. Corvinus does not clearly specifies all courses' level (bachelor or master) thus you might end up in a master class so be careful. Also there are classes that are not open for exchange student but if you are really interested try to approach the professor and see if they consent your application to join the class.

Unlike HKUST, Corvinus is rather lenient with add/drop timing, if you have a good reason in dropping or adding a course and got the professor's approval, just approach your program administrator and ask them for help even though it has passed to add/drop period.

## e. Teaching and assessment method

Most of my courses are in a small class thus attendance is compulsory. I think the teaching materials are similar to HKUST but the classes are more interactive, expecting more participation and less stressed on the exams. It is interesting that students are not afraid to answer, give opinions and ask questions, even a simple one. This experience cannot be found in HKUST where most students feel stupid to ask the professor simple questions. All classes' materials could be found in an LMES like portal called moodle or canvas like portal called coospace. Classes that I took:

Course name	Description	Assessments
Business Intelligence	Interesting class that teach not only theoretical but also gave a lot of stresses to practical examples. Required us to be able to utilize two main BI tools. Professors are nice and friendly, gave a lot of attention to one on one consultation.	Absolute grading 25% midterm 25% final 15% x 2 projects 20% participation in class assessment
Game Theory	Best class I took this semester, highly recommended! The basic game theory was introduced initially then the course evolve and covered more advance games that occurred in the real live. The professor is a very casual person, very easy to talk with and very understanding. He also always try to explain things in simple terms and gave a lot of examples. Equivalent to ECON 4000 level.	Absolute grading 33% x 3 quizzes [or] 100% oral exam
International Business Strategy	Intensive course; 1 week online discussion and 1 week in class meeting. The professor came from Oxford University and taught interactively. Since it lasted for only a week, not much impression on him personally. An efficient course but did not touch very deeply to the topic.	Absolute grading 30% reflection 30% presentation 40% report
International Financial Management	Majority of the class time is used for discussion with your own group thus having good team members are essential, else it will be very	Absolute grading for exams Curve grading for participation

	boring. The professor is nice and talk good and slow English therefore the class progressed slowly and ultimately did not cover much. If you like to have deep discussion about finance, try to talk to the professor. Equivalent to FINA 3000 level	20% classwork (individual, group work) 30% midterm test 20% case study 30% final Exam
Mathematics II	This class is not offered for exchange student but we could request to join as it is conducted in English. The difficulty level is rather low especially in the first half of the class. Nice professors who are very open to questions. Equivalent to MATH 2421	Absolute grading 10% x 3 quizzes 35% midterm exam 35% final exam
Physical education	Conducted in Hungarian, non-credit bearing course.	Compulsory attendance

## f. Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are Hungarian sport classes we can register offered by the university, some are free like basketball, aerobic, etc. while others like yoga, salsa are charged. There is only a dance studio in the university but gym facilities could easily be found in the city. Other activities like hiking could be done in the nearby mountains. There are also sites for fishing, hunting and skating in winter. Budapest thermal bath is also very popular, they are scattered all over the city from some more affordable to the higher priced one.

## g. Cost and expenses

Item	HKD	
Airline ticket	5000	Roundtrip
Dormitory	1700	HKD 310/month + utilities
Transportation	460	HKD 92/30days
Living expenses	15000	Approx. for 5 months
Travelling cost	7000	Differ on individuals
<b>Total</b>	~30000	

## h. Social club and networking activities

I think for exchange students, we can only join ESN on campus since other clubs are most likely held in Hungarian. But actually I joined a welcome gathering of a club by mistake and the people are very nice and tried to talk to me in English. There are always events going on here in Budapest, so networking could be done in any form you like, for example, party in the pub, just meeting in hotel events or join various festivals and try to make connections.

## i. Health & safety

Tap water is drinkable in Hungary and there are a lot of drug stores scattered around the city. Last couple months were rather hectic as the result of the migrant issues and ISIS move in Europe but generally I heard that Budapest was overall safe, except in the rural areas. Going home late at night is not very dangerous but better safe than sorry, always keep an eye on your surroundings.

## j. Food

There are numerous good cafes and restaurants that are rather affordable, similar pricing as Hong Kong I should say. Dairy products are more affordable, a lot of cheese and cheap milk here. Chinese restaurants are common and could be found easily as “Kinai Bufe”. I love the street food here like the langos, kurtoskalacs, etc. I recommend to try everything even though it looks weird because everything taste great!



## k. Transportation

Tram, bus, metro, taxi and bicycle are available. For tram, bus and metro you must have a ticket or you can purchase a pass. As for bicycle you need to purchase a different pass. Information can be found online <http://www.bkk.hu/en/>.

## l. Climate

It was hot when I first arrived but soon the temperature went down to around 17-22 degree Celsius. Then the weather stays comfortable until the end of November before it gets colder as the winter is approaching. The winter here is rather cold and snow fall sometimes. Though the weather changes a lot, it is not as extreme as in HKUST so checking the weather forecast everyday would be sufficient.

## m. Communication

Official language in Hungary is Hungarian. Some people speak English especially younger people, scholars, business people and sellers in tourist spots. Hungarian is one of the hardest language in the world and if you are interested, there is a class offered by the university.

There are 3 provider choices, Telenor, Vodafone and T-Mobile. They offered different packages, as for me, initially I bought Vodafone prepaid mobile data plan for 4000 HUF in the first month (1GB + free call to other Vodafone number + some call minutes and sms). Later, I found a better deal and change to Telenor, but other than the pricing, I would say that the 3 did not differ much.

## Items to bring

- Passport,
- Passport photo,
- Cooking utensils; pan, chopsticks,
- Cash, credit card,
- Personal medicine,
- Enough clothing, swimsuit,
- Travel kit,
- Etc.

If you have any questions feel free to ask my email address to [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk) .

