

# **Exchange Report**

## **Corvinus University of Budapest Hungary**



**2016-17 Fall**

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## Part 1. Monthly activity log



### August

I arrived Budapest on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Because the university dormitory was only available since 28<sup>th</sup> August, I stayed in an apartment for two nights before moving in. There were loads of drinking parties before the semester starts. I joined a few of those in August. In the parties, most of the participants were exchange students like me. I met a lot of friends in the events. Supposedly there was a local exchanging buddy to help me settle in Budapest, however, she didn't contact me. At the end, I had to organize all things by myself.

### September

The semester officially started from 5<sup>th</sup> September. I attended class as many as possible to find out which course is suitable for me. As the class size was small, it was common to introduce myself to the class in the first class. In the beginning of September, my two Chinese roommates arrived my room. Then we could cook and share food together. On 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, I joined the fresh camp organized the ESN. We went to Lake Balaton in Hungary and stayed there for one night. In the camp, we tried wine tasting and the famous Hungarian thermal bath. After that, I travelled to Vienna and Salzburg.

### October

Most of the mid-term exams took place in October. Compared to UST standards, the tests were relatively less complicated. Since Monday and Friday were my day-offs and some classes were cancelled, I could manage to travel to Munich, Paris, Athens, London and Zagreb in October.

### November

November was the month of presentations in Corvinus. There was a fine dining week in November. The event allowed my roommates and I to eat in a high-ended restaurant with very low price. Christmas market in Budapest took place in late December. But the market was mostly for tourists when I look at the price. In this month, I went to Berlin and Venice.

## **December & January**

I finished all my exams and essays in mid-December. Then I was free to leave Budapest. I started my journey in Europe since mid-December and returned Budapest on 25<sup>th</sup> January. One day after that day, I took the flight back to Hong Kong.

## **Part 2. General Exchange Information**



### **Visa procedures**

Visa is not required for people holding a HK passport to stay in Budapest, but obtaining a residence permit within 30 days of arrival is required. The school will send you an email informing you on what you need to do.

Below is the list for required documentaries: - Two passport photos

- Corvinus Student ID card
- Passport and its copy
- School Attendance form
- Form for non-EU/EEA citizens (it will be attached in the email)
- Accommodation reporting form (you will get it on the orientation day / in the International Office)
- Original proprietorship register and its copy (in case you are not living in the dorm)
- Lease contract
- Bank account statement (official certification from your bank about the sum on your account that covers all your expense during your stay in Budapest; it can be your own bank account or one of your parents') and its copy
- Health insurance and its copy
- Charge of the process is 18.000 HUF that must be paid off in fee stamps (available at any post offices)

### **1. Accommodations**

The international office sent me an email asking if I want to apply for dorm. There were two options, one in Raday utca and one in Kinizsi utca. Both are near to the campus. I was assigned to the dorm in Raday utca. The room condition was not bad, but a little bit small for three people. Two rooms shared one bathroom. There were one kitchen,

one laundry room and study rooms on each floor. On the ground floor, there was a small gym room.

## 2. Orientation activities

The ESN organized orientation activities for incoming exchange students. There were loads of activities before and after the semester start. For example, they set up uncountable drinking parties, barbeque events and a fresh camp for the students to get known with each other. A day trip in Budapest was organized to allow students have a better understanding with Budapest.

## 3. Course registration

The Corvinus International Office sent me the course registration details in May. The course registration took place in June. Add-drop period was the first week when the semester starts. You can talk to professor if there is insufficient seat.

## 4. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Teaching method	Assessment method
4MI25NAK33B - Introduction to Game Theory	There were one tutorial and one lecture each week. In tutorial class, students and lecturers would solve questions related to the topic together. The lecturer was funny and humorous.	There were three exams during the semester. Each exam counted one third of the course grade.
4MI25NAK38B - Industrial Organization	This course was taught by the same lecturer in Game Theory. The teaching method was mostly the same.	Same as Game Theory
KOZNXOPKU03 - Market Design	Basically, the lecturer was the only person who speaks for both the tutorial and lecture classes. Quite a boring course.	50% for Final exam 30% for a 10-page essay 20% for Presentation
KOZNXV4MU01 - Introduction to Empirical Labour Market Analysis	The class was conducted in computer lab as we were required to use Stata. After the lecturer presentation, we need to do the exercise in class. The lecturer was always willing to help.	Three exams during the semester. Only the best two counted for grading.
293POLV377B - International Relations 1945 to Present	Apart from presentation, the lecturer sometimes used movie to introduce international affairs. We were encouraged to speak out in class as there was discussion section.	10% for Class attendance 10% for Class participation 20% for Two assignments 20% for Presentation 40% for Final exam

## 5. Sports & Recreation Facilities

There was nearly no sports facility in the campus, despite a very small gym room in dormitory. I sometimes played street football in Nehru Part nearby the campus.

## 6. Finance & Banking

You can easily withdraw local currency in local ATM because most of them got UnionPay logo. The price level in Budapest is much lower than Hong Kong.

Here is my expense figure in Budapest, excluding all travelling expenses.

Item	Amount (HKD)
Flight ticket	~5,200
Accommodation	~2,300 (~450 per month)
Transportation	~530 (~105 per month)
Living expenses	~15,000
Total	~23,000

## 7. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Since social clubs in the university were held in Hungarian. ESN probably would be the only clubs that exchange student can join. They organized lots of pub parties where you can make friends over world.

## 8. Health & Safety

Pharmacies scattered around Budapest. It was very easy to buy medicine. Budapest is overall safe, compared to other European cities. But be careful of pickpockets whenever you are in Budapest or other European cities.

## 9. Food

Good cafés and restaurants are readily available in Budapest. You can have nice food in an affordable price. If you want to cook by yourself, the cost is much lower. Meat, dairy products and vegetables are only half of the price in Hong Kong, I can say if you miss Asian food, there are a lot of Chinese restaurant scattering around the cities. You can even visit the China Town in Budapest. You can find Japanese and Korean food in the city centre, though the price is higher.

## 10. Transportation

Transportation in Budapest is cheap, efficient and extensive. Basically, it covers the city. Metro is closed at night but there are night buses available. The monthly pass allows you to take metro, tram and bus within 30 days.

## 11. Climate

When I arrive Budapest in late-August, the temperature was about 18 degree Celsius. The daily temperature difference is quite large. Do put on a jacket at night. Winter comes in November. The temperature drops to 1-5 degree Celsius. In December, the temperature goes below zero and snow falls sometimes.

## 12. Communication

The official language of Hungary is Hungarian. The older generation usually cannot speak English, but the younger generation can usually understand and speak English. In university, everyone can speak fluent English, so you don't need to worry about it.

I bought a Telenor prepaid SIM card. Each month, I paid 2,000 HUF so that I could have 1 GB data and unlimited usage of Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp. If I want to have a phone call, I need to add value to the SIM card in advance.

### **Part 3. Items to bring**

- Passport
- Passport photos
- ATM and credit card
- Cash
- Medicine
- Universal adaptor
- Etc.

Save more space for your suitcase, you can get anything in a cheaper price in Budapest.

If you have any question, feel free to ask for my contact by emailing [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk)

