

Li Yuen Yi University of Budapest, Hungary FINANCE AND MARKETING 2016 FALL

Monthly Activity Log

August

I arrived on 26/08 at night in the airport. I stayed in the hostel for 2 nights since the earliest day I can move into the dormitory is 28/08. The orientation day is held on 29/08 which do not provide much useful information but you have to attend it since it is the day for registration and getting student card (actually it is only a piece of paper, not a card). You can buy the student transportation card only after you get the student card. These days I usually spent my time on getting to know the city, buying telecommunication services, buying groceries and attending the orientation activities.

September

The school starts on 05/09 and before that I have been joining orientation activities like pub crawls and picnic. Since I have already quite settled down in this city, I started going to a Chinese Christian Church there and also joining a local football team there as I am a football lover. For travelling, I went for a day trip with my friend to Vienna, Austria, which is very close to Hungary. And with some holidays and since I only have lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, I went to Athens, Santorini (Greece), Rome(Italy) and Vatican. The air ticket to Athens is a bit expensive at that period because it is the peak season to visit Greece but if you went later the most of shops in Santorini will be temporarily close for non-peak season. But it is totally worth it since Santorini is the most beautiful place that I have ever visited. We went to Rome just because it is cheaper than flying directly back from Athens to Budapest. For the next weekend, my friend who know how to drive took us to the lake Balaton which is the largest lake in central Europe and it is a place where Hungarian like to travel and relax during summer vacation. It was also a breathtakingly beautiful place.

October

The weather is getting colder and it is the autumn in Hungary but the weather is even much much colder than the winter in Hong Kong. Therefore, I suggest not to bring too much summer clothes as you can only wear it for 1 month. I went to Berlin and Prague by myself. The trip to Berlin is more like a culture trip because it is very educational. Some of the people may find it boring, but I really like to learn more about the history of WW2. The Berlin Jewish Museum impresses me a lot and I appreciate that German respect the history and admit their fault during the WW2. Prague is a beautiful city and there are many tourists there. I found Prague and Budapest similar but I like Budapest more. During the mid of the month, I have been busy preparing for the mid term exam. To cheer myself up after the exam, I went to the Tokaj town with my friend. Tokaj is famous for the wine tokaj and it is the place where the grapes grow. We visited some cellar and tasted the wine there. And in the end of the month, I went to Spain to visit my friend and watched a La Liga match of Real Madrid vs Alaves. In spain, I visited Vitoria, Bilbao and Madrid.

November

The workload for November is not heavy as there is no exam but just some presentations. Since this month is not very busy, therefore I went to many places for travel. I visited Brussel (Belgium), Amsterdam (Netherland), Stockholm (Sweden) and Copenhagen (Denmark) with my friend. The flight ticket to Brussel is very cheap but the airport is located very far from city centre. What is interesting is that the bus ticket to city centre is even more expensive than the flight ticket. We spent a few days in Brussel then we took a bus to Amsterdam since the 2 places are very near. Amsterdam is far more fun and exciting than Brussels but the price level is also higher. But in Brussel, all the food were really tasty. I liked the French fries, chocolate and waffles a lot. Copenhagen was also beautiful with it famous new havens. And in Stockholm, I saw a heavy snow there! There was seldom snow in Budapest even for a sprinkle of it until January.

December

I had 4 final exams this month and I have been busy preparing for it. After the final exam, I went to UK (London, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh) for a long Christmas vacation. There were many museums in London and most of them are free. There are also many tasty Asian foods in Chinese town! But for Manchester and Glasgow, they don't have much tourist attractions although the football teams are famous in Manchester. Edinburgh is a beautiful place and I joined a free walking tour with my friends to explore the beauty and history there. The countdown event is also very famous and crowded with tourist every year!

January

This whole month is reserved for travelling. I went to Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia, by myself, after the UK trip. Bratislava doesn't have many tourist attractions but I like the blue church a lot! The price level is among the lowest in Euro Zone. It is among the few Eastern Europe countries that adopt Euro. After a few days in Slovakia, I went to Sofia (Bulgaria) and Basel and Luzern in Switzerland. Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria. Like most of the Eastern Europe countries, it was a communist country. And it has the lowest price level in Europe but the infrastructures are not developed very well if you have ever visited its airport. However, the Orthodox church there is the most beautiful church that I have ever visited in my life. After visiting Bulgaria(the country with cheapest price level in Europe), I went to Switzerland(the country with highest price level in the world). I first flied to Basel. The airport there is very interesting because it is an airport shared by 3 countries (France, Germany, Switzerland). The most impressive tourist attraction in Lucerne is the Pilatus Mountain but I suggest to go there before December because some of the transportation like the tram will be closed during winter. During the mid of January, one of my best friends came to visit me from Hong Kong. I showed her around in Budapest, then we went to Krakow (Poland), Venice (Italy), Paris (France) and also Porto in Portugal. Finally, I came back to Hong Kong on 26 Jan.

General Information

Visa Application

You can apply for Visa after or before arriving Hungary but you have to obtain the residence permit within 30 days of arrival. I obtained the Visa before I went to Hungary. I think it is better to do it in Hong Kong. When I arrived in Budapest, I only need to go to immigration office to pick up my residence permit. I think it is better to go on Wednesday as it is a day reserved only for students so there will be less people. I don't even have to queue on that day but my friends who go on other weekdays need to wait for hours.

Below is the list for required documentaries (will be sent by Corvinus):

- Two passport photos
- Corvinus Student ID card
- Passport and its copy
- School Attendance form

- Accommodation reporting form (you will get it on the orientation day / in the International Office)

- Original proprietorship register and its copy (if you are not living in the dorm)
- Lease contract
- Bank account statement (yours/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)



Accommodation

Corvinus have many different dormitories but there are usually 2 dormitories available for exchange students. One is Kinizsi and the other one is Raday, the former as I have heard is very dirty and old but luckily I lived in Raday which is the new one and also very close to the university with about 5 to 10-minute walking distance. My room is a triple room but there are 4-person room as well. The monthly fee is around 450 HKD per month (no need to pay utility) which is much cheaper than renting outside (250-300 euro). 2 rooms shared a toilet and there is 1 kitchen and 1 laundry room each floor. You do not need to pay when using the washing machine and there is also a tumbo dryer provided in your room. The dormitory even provides pillow and blanket. Everything is good though the wifi signal is not very good especially at night.

Transportation

The transportation in Budapest is actually quite cheap especially if you are a student. After getting the student card, you can buy the student monthly pass which allow you to take almost all forms of transportation within Budapest. I bought a 100-day pass which only cost me 10350 for it (300 HKD). Therefore, transportation fee is merely 100 HKD per month. But you must also remember to

bring the student card along with you when taking transportation or you may be fined if being caught.

Food

Since the price level in Hungary is very low (much lower than other European countries), the food is also not expensive. The Hungarian food would be more expensive but the Chinese food, Vietnam food and Turkish food are only around 20-40 HKD. The cheapest way to eat outside is to eat in Pizza King which is a fast food chain that only cost you around 5 HKD for a piece of pizza. In fact, Chinese restaurants are seen everywhere in Budapest and their food are quite tasty as well. The rice noodle in the Vietnam restaurant near the raday dormitory is also very yummy. Besides, the ice-cream shops in Budapest are very delicious, my favorite one is called Mamo which is near the raday dormitory. And I also like to cook with my roommates. I usually bought vegetables in the Central market near the Corvinus university and bought other groceries in CBA or Spar.

International Financial Institutions and nation states	It is a bit boring though not much workload. It is a class with only 10 students. But the professor was kind and his teaching is also inspiring.
SMEMarketing	The workload is acceptable but the instruction from the professor is very vague.
Tourism management and marketing	There are 2 professors and both of them are very nice .The class is interesting with many interesting cases about tourism and do not have much workload.
Cross cultural communication and marketing	The workload is not heavy and there are many thought-provoking in-class

Courses I have taken

	activities. The professor is also very friendly.
Project Management	Heavy workload and it is inflexible that you have to meet the coordinator before you can start to do your group assignments each time. Besides, You can only miss one seminar and if you miss more than one you will fail the course.

Orientation Activities

The orientation activities are usually pub crawls or related to drinking. I joined some pub crawls during the first few days but since I am not keen on drinking, I skipped many others pub crawls activities. There are also orientation camp and the most popular one is the trip to Balaton Lake.

Finance and Banking

It is very easy to find ATM with Union pay logo on it. However, there would be service charge per transaction of HKD 20. But if you are living in dormitory, you need to have a local Hungarian account to pay the dormitory fee. The most dominant bank there is OTP bank.

International Services and Activities

There are some cultural activities organized like international food night which allows students from all around the world can gather and share the food of their own culture.

Sports and Recreation Activities

As I have observed, there are not much sports and recreation activities organized for the international student. Therefore, I joined a soccer team outside the university.

Teaching and Assessment Method

The professors there are very educated and some of them have even more than an academic background. As I remember one of my professors is actually a former Hungarian politician. The teaching style in Corvinus is very interactive and encourage thinking by incorporating many group discussions and activities into lessons.

Communication

Not much Hungarian except young people can speak English. At least many of the people I met outside university are not able to speak English.

Climate

The weather will be hot in September but the day temperature is very different from the night temperature. Also the weather will get quite cold since the starts of October with around 10 degree only. January is the most freezing period with sometimes the temperature of minus 10 or below. There is also snow in that period.

Items to bring

Clothes and swimming suit (mainly winter clothes but it is relatively cheaper for buying clothes in Hungary than in Hong Kong)

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Adaptors (at least 2)
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Notebook

Other electronic devices (buying electronic devices is a bit expensive in Hungary)

Medicine

ATM Card

Snacks that you will miss if you can't eat them for almost half a year

Actually you can buy many things in Budapest, therefore I don't suggest bring too many things.