

Corvinus University of Budapest
Budapest, Hungary
Spring 2017



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Monthly Activity Log

January

As I flew with Aeroflot, I've got the chance to explore Moscow for one night during the flight transit period. I then arrived at Budapest on the 19th. However, the school dormitory was only available from the 30th, I had to stay in somewhere else for 10 days. But this give me the chance to get familiar with different areas of the city and get to know some other travelers. I attended some of the orientation activities and enjoyed the nightlife of Budapest before the school started.

February

School started and I adapted quickly with the longer lesson time. The class sizes were much smaller than in HKUST, so more participation was required. I had already planned for my first trip before coming here, which was going to the Netherlands and Iceland on the second week of the semester. Unfortunately, the weather was bad almost every day during the trip. I also joined the fresh camp organized by ESN to Eger, a medieval city famous for its wine. I enjoyed the time with other exchange students from all over the world and bought some wine home as I am a wine lover. At the end of the month, I started a trip to Northern Italy, including Aosta, Milan, Lake Como, Bergamo, Verona, Venice and Bologna. I had to skip the first quiz of a course which would count 3 out of 4. So I'd better attend all of the future quizzes (which I did).

March

Coming back from Italy, I picked up my studies and life in Budapest. I went on a weekend trip to Copenhagen with my friends before the midterm period. I had 4 midterms in the same week so I didn't travel the weekend before to save time for revision. Some professors even told us what question he would ask in the paper, that made our study more focused and easy. I

went to Slovenia for its capital Ljubljana and Lake Bled right after the last midterm exam.

April

Right at the beginning of the month, I went to the East Balkan for Romania, Bulgaria and Macedonia. These countries are less travelled and much cheaper than other European counterparts. Ohrid is truly beautiful and amazing. It was also my first time taking 8-hour bus in this trip. Easter holiday was in the middle of this month, while it was also near the end of the semester. We tried to finish the project report of one course before the holiday, so we could enjoy Easter carefree and without worries. I went to London, Bath, Bristol and Barcelona during Easter and tried flying a plane for the first time. Afterwards, I took a break from travelling and started preparing for some presentation at the end of semester.

May

Some presentations took place at the beginning of this month. After that, I started to prepare for the final exam. I attended the Hungarian Open tennis competition. This was the first time I watched live tennis match. I also went to some gourmet, beer and wine festivals. After taking the 4 exams in the same week, I went to southern Italy for Catania and Palermo in Sicily, Naples, Pompeii and Amalfi in Campania, then to Prague and Cesky Krumlov in Czech. The weather started to get hot and the day became longer.

June

I planned to explore more of the Balkans in this month. I went to Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro and Croatia. Mostar, Bay of Kotor and Dubrovnik were unique like nowhere else, especially if you watch Game of Thrones. At the end of the month, I went back to Budapest and bided farewell to the people and the city, and left Europe via Moscow again.

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)

Orientation activities

ESN organized night out event to different ruin bars and clubs every night before the semester. It was a great chance to get know your fellow exchange mates. There were also some city tour guides and hiking or bathing trips organized.

Accommodation

The office sent me an email about applying for the school dormitory in January. I was not offered the one at Raday utca, which was new and close to the school, and I've learnt that most

HKUST exchange students lived in Raday before. I was offered Kinizsi utca and another one which was very far from the school. Therefore I chose Kinizsi utca, which was closest to the school, less than 5-minute walk to any classrooms. Kinizsi was old and the condition was not good. Nevertheless, living in dormitory was much cheaper than living in an apartment outside, so I could not complain. The school gym was just at the basement of the dorm, so that was an advantage for me. I was assigned to a 5-person room, while there were only 3 people living in there including me, we all had quite good amount of personal space. It is good to know that the check in time of dormitory is usually the day before the semester starts, if you are going to the city earlier, you'll have to find somewhere else to live first, which I did.

Course Registration

I took 4 courses which I think are with suitable workload. You will have an add drop period on the first week of semester. So remember to drop any course you do not think you could handle before that.

Econometrics 4ST14NAK30B	A moderate difficulty course with 4 quizzes and a final exam. Logical thinking and practise are required.
Business Ethics 293NBUSV498B	An interactive class with discussion on different business ethics cases and theories. A group project is included.
Introduction to Legal Studies 293NLAWK462B	An interesting course that HKUST does not offered. Basic legal concepts are learnt. Could apply to daily life matters.
Economics and the EU 293NECOV395B	A course to know more about the EU on its formation, maintenance and future. Good

	way to learn more about Europe as a whole.
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Teaching & Assessment Methods

Most courses had interactive teaching to let us integrate what we learn in the lesson. The class size was smaller and the professors had good English. The first half of the lesson was taught by the professor, and the second half was time for us to do research on some topics and present.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There were some sports courses for students to join, some with a fee. There was also a gym under the Kinizsi dormitory, in which I often visit. The gym was not as good as that in HKUST, but you could still get what you need.

Finance & Banking

There is no way to exchange for Forint in Hong Kong, so I chose to get Forint from ATM in Budapest directly. Banks are easily spotted in the city and most of them accept any cards you'll own.

Food

Hungarian food is quite special and different among other European food. They have unique tastes and strong flavor, while some may think they are too salty. There are a lot of different restaurants in Budapest in which you can choose from. I usually cook for myself one time a day, either lunch or dinner, the other time I would dine out. I tried to have the food which are rarer and more expensive in Hong Kong, like various European cuisines, pizza, kebab, pasta, burger etc. I rarely have Chinese food there as I did not miss them very much during this 5 months. When I cook for myself, I'd make pasta with some meat and vegetables bought from the Central Market, which is just next to my school and dormitory.

Transportation

Paying for transportation in Budapest is different than in Hong Kong, they do not have something like Octopus. You either buy a ticket onboard or in advance, or get a pass which could be weekly, monthly, quarterly etc. We student could buy the pass at a low rate for unlimited number of rides in that period. There would be some inspector onboard to check your ticket occasionally. I was fined for not having one on the first week in Budapest. Escaping is also a choice if you are alert during the ride, so take your own risk!

Climate

It was coldest between January and February, it got warmer in March and April but it's still kind of cold, while there was not much snow this year. More layers could keep you alive from below negative 10 degrees. Then it got hot and shiny starting from May. I did not bring any shorts as I thought pants and jeans are more all-rounded and are fine with warmer weather. But then it got too hot and I had to buy a pair of shorts there, it's not expensive though.

Items to bring

Adaptors

More winter clothes, some summer clothes

LAN Cable and LAN adaptor (if you need to dormitory internet)

ATM and credit cards

Cooking utensils (they are not provided by the dormitory)

Pillow, blanket and bed sheets (not provided by the dormitory)

Medicine

International driving permit (if you are to drive)

Souvenirs for your friends