



Jiwon PARK
HKUST BUSINESS SCHOOL
Fall 2017
BBA in Marketing

EXCHANGE REPORT

Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Table of Contents

PART 1
Monthly Activity Log

PART 2
General Exchange Information

PART 3
Items to Bring

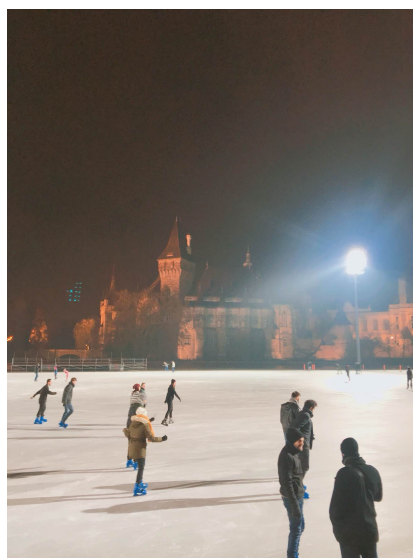
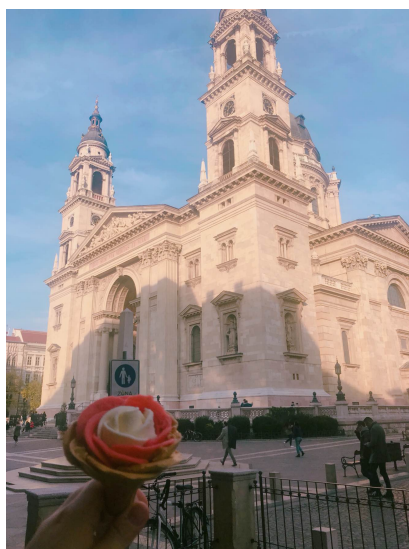
PART 4
Useful Links and Contacts

PART 1 Monthly Activity Log

August

The orientation for all exchange students began on the 27th of August. On that day, the exchange coordinators give you information about how to apply for residence permit and how to contact your faculty for help. They also hand out the student IDs (Corvinus's student ID is just a piece of paper so you must not lose it!) and you need your ID to get the monthly student pass for transportation and residence permit, so make sure you attend the orientation session on that day. More detailed information is usually posted on Facebook page for prospective exchange students or e-mail.

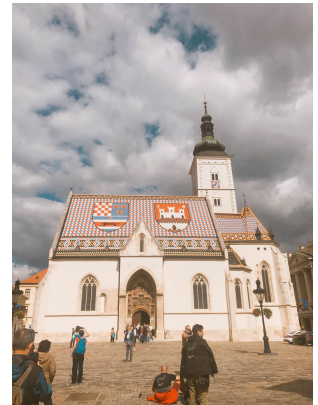
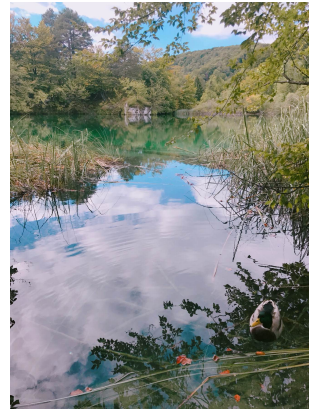
During the orientation day, ESN Corvinus sells ESN Erasmus membership card which is about 4000 HUF (100 HKD). Make sure you get it because you get 15% discounts and free 15kg bag for Ryan Air flights and 10% off of hostels. I arrived on the 26th of August, and I had to find an Airbnb until 1st of Sep, which is the date you are usually allowed to check in to your dorm/flat/apartment. I just looked around the city to get used to Budapest.



September

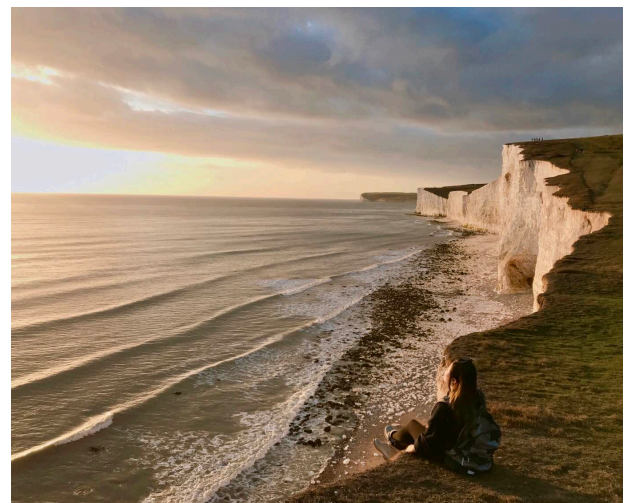
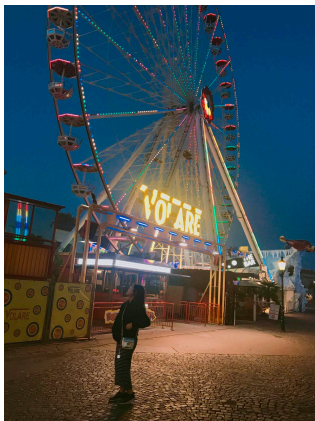
I began to travel. I only had classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, so it was easy for me to travel. I went to Prague, Czech Republic and Zagreb, Croatia. I took a train to Prague (took about 6~7 hrs) and a bus to Zagreb (took about 5 hours). Book your tickets as early as possible to get them for reasonable prices.

Classes barely have any workload for this semester, so I tried to travel to different cities in Hungary like Lake Balaton and Viségrad. When you travel within Hungary using trains, make sure you bring your student ID because you will get a 50% discount on all train tickets.



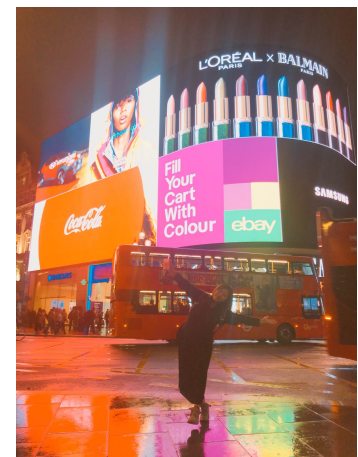
October

Most midterms are on the 2nd~3rd week of October. The exams are similar to those of HKUST. You get some multiple choice questions and essay questions; some classes replace midterms with group



projects. After midterms, we get a week long fall break from late October to early November. The exams should not be overly stressful as long as you attend the classes.

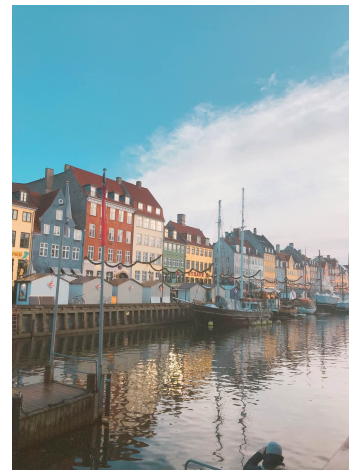
For fall break, I went to Vienna Austria, London, England and St. Andrews, Scotland for about 10 days.



November

It starts getting really cold in November in Budapest, so I had to contact my flat owner to turn on the radiator. As all the midterms are done, November is rather relaxing, but you should keep in touch with your groups for the group projects. Most of my classes, especially, were filled with exchange students and it was really hard for us to arrange meeting times as people were travelling almost every week. Make sure you plan ahead.

In November, I went to Stockholm, Sweden and Copenhagen, Denmark as well as Esztergom, a city in Hungary with a beautiful basilica.



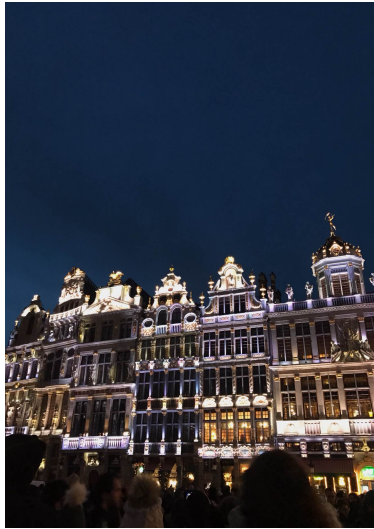
December

In Corvinus University, you HAVE to enroll for your own final exams. There is a school website called Neptune (just like Canvas for HKUST), in which you can register for your final exams. It is actually really nice because you can decide when you will take the exam. Usually, the time slots are distributed throughout the whole month from mid-December to early-January. Exchange students usually register all their finals on the very first week of exam period, but it is totally up to you. (I was done with my finals on Dec 13th.)

December was little busy since all the projects and finals were due on this month. I often booked a room in the library (<http://www.lib.uni-corvinus.hu/eng/content/group-study-room>) and studied there. (You have to pay 1000 HUF = 30 HKD to get a library card in the beginning of the semester.)

Once I was done with my exams, I travelled to a small town in Hungary called Szentendre, Brussels Belgium, Amsterdam Netherlands, and Athens & Santorini in Greece. Christmas is a big deal in Europe so you will see amazing decorations and Christmas markets wherever you go during this season.

After those trips, I came back to move out of my flat.



January

I stayed in Europe for about 3 more weeks in January to travel to Italy, Spain, and Germany. Rome, Florence, Venice, Barcelona, Madrid, and Frankfurt were amazing.

I highly recommend you stay couple weeks after your semester to travel as it is so cheap and easy to travel within Europe. (Flight tickets are sometimes 50 euros round trip, which is about 300 HKD)

PART 2 General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I do not know about other countries, but as a Korean, I could enter the country without a VISA. But, you need to apply for a residence permit within 60 days of your arrival. For the residence permit, you need lots of documents such as rental contract, a certified copy of the register (túljadoni lap in Hungarian), a certificate of deposit balance of at least 3000 eur, a proof of health insurance, student ID, colored copy of your passport, a proof of registration of HKUST, and so on. So make sure you check all the documents required as listed online.

(http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=70&lang=en)

Orientation Activities

The orientation for all exchange students began on the 27th of August. On that day, the exchange coordinators give you information about how to apply for residence permit and how to contact your faculty for help. They also hand out the student IDs (Corvinus's student ID is just a piece of paper so you must not lose it!) and you need your ID to get the monthly student pass for transportation and residence permit, so make sure you attend the orientation session on that day. More detailed information is usually posted on Facebook page for prospective exchange students or e-mail.

International Students & Activities

During the orientation day, ESN Corvinus sells ESN Erasmus membership card which is about 4000 HUF (100 HKD). Make sure you get it because you get 15% discounts and free 15kg bag for Ryan Air flights and 10% off of hostels. ESN stands for Erasmus Student Network. Erasmus is a network of EU universities that partnered up for exchange program.

Accommodations

International students are not provided school dorms. The school may email you toward mid-August if there are extra spaces in dorms, but it is hard to get in and it will be more convenient for you to find a flat to share with others/live by yourself as soon as possible.

I used the website <http://www.erasmusu.com> to find my flat in April, 5 months before my arrival. This website is convenient because you can easily book a flat by paying the first month's rent online with your credit card as a deposit. I had a flat by myself which was in the very center of the city, 10 minute walk to campus, and only 400 eur per month for rent.

Course Registration

You begin enrolling for classes rather early in Corvinus. For my semester which starts in September, my course registration was in early June. You can have two weeks of add&drop period in the beginning of September, but some famous courses get filled up really quickly so I recommend you to look for courses you want to take. And register for those classes as soon as the website opens!

Courses	Course Equivalence	Pros	Cons	Other Notes
Decision Technique	ISOM 1500 Insightful Decision	Classes are fun and prof gives you nice feedback on your project	Class contents can be little bit challenging but exams are okay	
Human Resources Management	3 credit from 3000-level MGMT	Exams are easy Prof with a lot of real-life experiences	Prof sometimes rude and uptight, but bearable	You do not need to buy a textbook, they have it in the library
Tourism Management and Marketing	3 credit from 3000-level MARK	Prof really flexible and nice.	Class is 90% about hotels, not mostly tourism itself	Optional 2 site visits to hotels
Cross Cultural Communication and Marketing	3 credit from 3000-level MARK	Prof prepares many in-class activities	Class overly easy and repetitive, but the exams are crazy hard	

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Local Grades		ECTS Grades	
5	Jeles	A	Excellent
4	Jó	B	Good
3	Közepes	C	Satisfactory
2	Elégséges	D / E	Pass / Sufficient
1	Elégtelen	F	Fail*
-	Nem jelent meg	DNA	Did not attend*
-	Nem vizsgázott	I	Incomplete*
-	Aláírva	S	Signed*
-	Megtagadva	R	Refused*

The photo above shows some grading criteria of Corvinus. They do not have A pluses or minuses, but only words like Excellent, Good, and so on. The assessment methods are similar to those of HKUST, especially if you take mostly marketing courses. Most classes have participation around 10%, midterm around 25%, group project around 30%, and final exam around 35%. Your final grades come out about 10 days after your final exams. Also attendance is really important in Corvinus. You cannot miss more than 25% of all classes, so schedule your classes smartly considering how much you want to travel and so on.

Sports & Recreational Facilities

Corvinus does not have a gym or sports facilities on campus. If you need to work out daily, you might as well look for a private gym which offers you cheap membership if you are a student. I remember ESN doing a partnership with a local gym with special discounts for ESN members.

Finance & Banking

I just had a Citibank check card with me and it worked everywhere in Europe. Make sure you do not use an atm with EURONET sign on it, because it charges you a lot of agency fee. Use OTP atm. Or you can try to open a bank account in Budapest, but it will require some complicated steps and documents.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

ESN Budapest and ESN Corvinus will constantly organize fun events and notify you through their Facebook pages. If you are interested in those events such as trips to Vienna, Hot Springs trip, trip to Hungarian cities, and pub crawls, make sure you follow their pages to be kept updated.

Corvinus also organizes a career fair in early November. You will get to meet a lot of recruiters and talk to them about your career.

Health and Safety

You can see quite a lot of pharmacies in Budapest, including one right next to the campus. I have not been to a clinic in Budapest, but I bet that it is reasonably priced. Budapest's safety depends on which districts you are. Try to stay away from district 8 after midnight, but inner city like district 5 is considered safe.

Food

Eating out in Budapest is pretty cheap, but you will reach a certain point where you think the food quality is not worth it. I started cooking home for most of my meals as groceries are super cheap in Budapest. It will help you save a lot of money as well.

Some restaurants in Budapest offer student discounts so make sure you ask!

Transportation

If you have your student ID, you can buy a monthly pass for 3450 HUF (about 100 HKD). With the pass, you can use bus, tram, metro, and even a boat on River Danube for free for a month. Make sure you renew your student ID every two months and you bring your student ID with you all the time. There are many night buses and buses to airport. (100 E airport bus costs 900 HUF, which is only 25 HKD)

Climate

It was just a normal autumn weather until mid October, then it started to get really cold starting in November. Make sure you contact your flat owner at least before November to turn on your radiator. When you pack for fall semester in Budapest, make sure you pack smart with enough winter clothes and jackets.

Communication

People here DO NOT speak English well. You have to be prepared for some challenging moments. I often had google translate app open on my phone just in case. You can also take Hungarian class offered by Corvinus, but

Hungarian is considered as one of the most difficult languages in the world, so just get the help of a translator.

Cautionary Measures

As in every other European country, you have to be aware of pickpockets. I have not seen anyone who had her/his stuff stolen in Budapest and Budapest is rather considered as one of the safest cities in Eastern Europe. But still, be aware of them!

Other Notes

There are many chain second-hand clothing stores called Cream in Budapest. They sell cute clothes from 50~100 HKD so if you do not want to pack too many clothes, just buy some cheap sets of winter clothes from Cream and throw them away when you go back.

PART 3 Items to Bring

International adapter
Fall & Winter clothes
Documents needed for residence permit
Several passport photos
Passport, ID, all travel documents
Neck pillow
Towels
Winter shoes (Snow boots)

PART 4 Useful Links and Contacts

Feel free to contact me at iparkal@connect.ust.hk at any time!

- i. https://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu/hallgatoi_1/login.aspx
(Course registration, like CANVAS)
- ii. <http://corvinus.mobilitymanager.hu/student/> (General school info just like my.student.ust.hk)
- iii. <http://erasmusu.com> (accommodation)
- iv. <https://www.skyscanner.net/> (for flights)
- v. <https://www.hihostels.com/> (10% discount with ESN card)