

Exchange report

Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

2017 Fall



Wong Yan Ting

BBA in Marketing and Management

Monthly activity log

August

I arrived Budapest on the 27th August, as there is an orientation talk held on the 28th August, I decided to arrive one day earlier to settle down things first. After I arrived Budapest, I immediately meet with my local exchange buddy, and she invited me to her house and greet me with some food and movies, which was very nice. Because my flat was only available from the 1st September, after saying goodbye with my exchange buddy, I went to friend's place to which she kindly allows me to share the place with her. I bought the sim card as well as the transportation monthly pass on the next after I attend the orientation talk. And I started to get myself ready for the start of the semester.

September

I didn't go to travel for the whole September, September was mainly for me explore around Budapest, handle some administration stuff, and to adapt to the new school life. There is also an add drop period at the start of the semester, so I have managed to switch few of the classes to some classes which I am more interested in.

October

My life of travelling starts in October. Since I have some day off from school, I manage to go to Vienna, Austria for three days by myself. After I went back from Vienna, I have to start preparing for my mid-term exam. Luckily, not all the courses I took required mid-term exam, so the workload was not really that heavy for me. After the exam, I join the 3 days Slovenia trip organized by the ESN with my friends, which is very fun! And in the last weekends, we have a long holiday, so I also went to Italy (Milan, Venice, Pisa, Florence, Rome) with my friends.

November

Most of the project deadlines come in November, so I have to hold a lot of group meetings with my classmate. And I also go to some field trip that organized by my professor to visit some famous hotel, which is very inspiring. In mid of November, I went to London, UK to visit my friends whose studies there. And at the end of November, I went to Krakow, Poland with my friends.

December & January

I finished all my exam on December, after saying goodbye to my friends, classmates, teacher and flat mates, I started my trip to the Northern Europe. I went to Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Norway, it was so fun, I even managed to see the northern lights In Norway! I back to Budapest on the 24th January, and went back to Hong Kong on 26th January.

Visa Procedures

Although Visa is not required for people holding a Hong Kong passport to enter Hungary up to 90 days, obtaining a residence permit within 30 days of arrival is required. However, it is very much recommended that people can apply for Visa before arriving Hungary, such that when you arrived in Budapest, you just have to go to immigration office to pick up the residence permit, which save a lot of time and effort. It is suggested to visit the immigration office on Wednesday as it is a day reserved for students only. The school will send you an email informing you on what you need to do. The school will send you an email informing you on what you need to do. Remember to check the spam email if you do not receive any email from the school.

Below is the list for required documentaries:

- 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)
- Health insurance and its copy
- Lease contract
- Bank account statement (yours/ your parents')
- Charge of the process is 18,000 HUF that must be paid off in fee stamps (available at any post offices)

Accommodation

The international office only sent me email asking if I want to apply for dorm at the very last minute, and I was not offered the one at Raday utca, which was new and close to the school. So, I choose to rent the share-flat outside through the agency in Budapest. I have rent the flat through the Downtown Apartments agency that the school has recommend it to us through email. Although renting outside is much more expensive than living in the school dorm, the location and room condition is very good, and I can also have much more privacy. I got a single bedroom and shared the flat with three other flat mates with one kitchen and two toilets.

Course registration

I took 5 courses which I think are with suitable workload. You will have an add drop on the first week of semester. So remember to drop any course you do not think you could handle before that.

Human Resources Management	The workload is not heavy in this course, but it requires you to have 100% concentration during class. As the teacher will not provide any notes or e-materials to us, we have to jot down everything he mentioned in class, which is quite challenging.
Tourism Management and Marketing	There are two professors and both of them are very nice. The class is interesting and with lots of class activities which makes the class very interactive. There is also two field trips that bring us to visit some famous hotels in Budapest, which is very inspiring.
Services Marketing	The course also has some field trips that provided us chance to visit some

	famous hotels and restaurants in Budapest, and we also have chances to talk to the hotel manager and restaurant owner, which is very inspiring.
Film and History	The professors is very nice and the course is very interesting, the professors will play us a film every two class, and teach us history base on the film background, which makes the historical events become more lively to us.
Cross cultural communication and marketing	The workload is not heavy and there are many thought-provoking in-class activities. As our class is full of exchange students, it is very interesting to see how they describe their own country and get some first-hand information on their countries' culture.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching style in the school is very interactive, teachers encourage us to ask them or answer their questions all the time. The classes also involve lots of group discussion or role-playing activities, which motivate us to participate a lot into the class. Most of the courses required mid-term and final exam to assess us, for some of the courses, they even required us to give 2-3 presentations within the semester, which can be very demanding.

Communication

Communication will not be a problem when you are at school, however, communicating with Hungarians in other places is another story, especially for the older generation.

Orientation Activities

The orientation activities are usually related to drinking, and the school has also organized some short trips to other countries or some Hungary one day trip for us to join which we can make friends with our schoolmates. I didn't join any pup crawls or drinking activities, but I have joined a 3 days trip to Slovenia, which was very fun!

Health & Safety

There are a lot of pharmacies scattered around Budapest, and it was very to buy medicine in the store. And it is quite safe in Budapest comparing to other European cities. However, you still have to be careful when you enter several districts (i.e district 8), as some of the districts have a lot of homeless, especially at night.

Food

There are many café and restaurants in Budapest, and the price of most of the food is relatively cheap compare to Hong Kong or other European cities. You do not have to worry that there is only Hungarian food in Budapest, there are different kind of restaurants, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Italian restaurants etc. If you miss eating Chinese food, there are lots of Chinese restaurants around our school, or you can also choose to go to the China town which is a bit far away from the city area. You can also choose to cook by yourself, which there are lots of supermarket scattering around the cities which you can purchase different kind of ingredients to cook, or there is a Chinese market in the China town which you can purchase more kinds of traditional Chinese ingredients.

Transportation

Transportation in Budapest is very cheap for students, and the route is not complicated at all. The transportation is also very convenient as it covers most of the city, although the metro will be closed at night, there are still night buses available. With your student card given by the school, you can purchase a monthly pass which allows you to take unlimited times of metro, tram and bus within 30 days.

Climate

In late August, the weather in Budapest is around 18 to 20 Degree Celsius, the daily temperature difference is quite large, and at night the wind is quite strong too, so remember to put on a jacket at night. When it comes to Winter in mid-November, the temperature drops to 3-9 Degree Celsius, so remember to wear more warm clothes. There are seldom snow falls in the city area of Budapest, but if you travel a bit far away from the city area or even travel to other cities in Hungary, the snow falls can be quite heavy.

International Services & Activities

There are some cultural events and quiz night organize by the ESN club, it allows exchange students from all around the world to learn each other culture. These kinds of activities usually take place in the start of semester which provide us to make friends with people from all around the world.

Finance & Banking

Although there is no way to exchange for Forint in Hong Kong, you can withdraw Forint in Hungary ATM easily. You can also choose to bring some euro cash to Hungary and exchange into Forint in Hungary, but it will require some transactional fee, so this method is not highly recommended. The price level in Hungary is generally quite low, such that the living expense could be greatly reduce.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

The ESN are the only clubs that exchange student in the university could join, they will organize some pub crawls, short trips or parties to welcome the exchange student. You may also join some activities organize by the Erasmus, which you can also meet other exchange student in other school to make more friends.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Unfortunately, there are no gym room or sports facilities in the campus, but there were still some sport skill class for students to join, some of the class required fee to join.

Items to bring

- Passport
- Passport photos (At least two)
- ATM and Credit card
- Cash
- Medicine
- Adaptor (At least two)