

# **EXCHANGE REPORT**

## **CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST**

**1-2-2018 TO 31-5-2018**

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**CHEUNG WING SZE**  
**SPRING 2018**

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## **PART 1 MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG**



### **JANUARY**

As the orientation day is on 29<sup>th</sup> January, I arrived at Budapest on 28<sup>th</sup> August. I spent a few nights in a hostel since my apartment was available only from 1<sup>st</sup> February. Budapest is well known of its night life and drinking. There were several drinking events held by the university to let exchange student like me to have a taste of this culture. People there are very friendly and I have met people from different nationalities in these events.

### **FEBRUARY**

The semester started on 1<sup>st</sup> February. I tried to attend all classes and found that my classmates are mainly exchange students. But it did not make the course workload lighter. Some courses required a lot of time and efforts for completion. Selecting courses that best suit

myself is very important. The orientation events continued even the semester started. There were fresh camp and different activities organized and they are all good to join.

### **MARCH**

This is the time for mid-terms, presentations and assignments to be due. As I have picked courses of very heavy workloads, I have spent a lot of time working on the school work. The workload is heavier than UST and it is a challenging time for me.

### **APRIL**

After submitting all assignments, April is a more relaxing period. I have travelled to France and Italy. As there are many public holidays in this month, I spend a long time in these two countries and had a good time there.

### **MAY**

The second round of presentations, case study assignments and examinations came in this month and a farewell dinner was also arranged by the ESN students. I went there and chatted with the exchange friends and make this dinner be a fruitful end of this semester.

### **JUNE**

I finished all examinations at the end of May and spent a month in Europe. I went to western Europe for a month and returned to Budapest on 19<sup>th</sup> June. On the next day, I caught the flight back to Hong Kong.

## **PART 2 GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION**

### **VISA PROCEDURES**

Visa is not required for Hong Kong passport holder. However, obtaining a residence permit is a must. Information will be sent by school for what is needed for visa application. The residence permit card will be got in Budapest after applying for the visa in Hong Kong. Since I did a transfer flight in Zurich, the immigration staff will ask whether you have the visa or not. Don't be scared of them asking you extra questions. All you have to do is to tell them you have already applied for the visa and the proof will be obtained in Budapest. Here is the list of items needed for visa application.

- Consular fee 60 Euro (Payable in EUR cash only)
- Filled in and signed application form
- 1 colour passport size photo
- Letter of acceptance from the host university
- Proof of paid intuitions
- Confirmation of dormitory placement/ apartment rental contract + recent land deed of the apartment (minimum requirement is the 1<sup>st</sup> week of accommodation is booked
- Medical and accident insurance for the duration of stay in Hungary
- Evidence of sufficient financial means during your stay in Hungary (present the bank statements of the past 6 months, not just the most recent one)
- Flight reservation
- Hong Kong ID card
- Valid passport (excessing your stay in Hungary by at least 6 months)
- Interview with the Consul (By appointment, can be made by email)

Please noted that you must make the appointment to meet the ambassador first for visa application and the application takes 30 days. A birth certificate is required to show the lineage if the applicant's financial source is supported by his/her parents. The address is in Suites 1208-09, ICBC Tower.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

The international office will send an email asking whether you want to apply for dorm. However, the time is very rush to receive the email. Thus, I have used the agent recommended by the host university to rent for an apartment. I lived in Rókkzilárd which is 15 minutes away from school and there is a plaza nearby. The apartment is quite good with two bedrooms sharing one bathroom with washing machine and kitchen. But the water storage system for showering was a bit inconvenient especially in winter, which limited hot water is available and needed to wait for some time for the tank to restore hot water.

### **ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES**

The local ESN organization held many events to welcome exchange students. The activities are very diverse. They included drinking events, short trips, beer yoga and walking tour, to name but a few. Students not only have the chance to know more about this lovely city, but also the entire Europe.

### **COURSE REGISTRATION**

The university sent a lot of information concerning course registration in the orientation day on 29<sup>th</sup> January and the add-drop period was in the first week of the semester.

## TEACHING & ASSESSMENT METHODS

I studied four courses in total and the workload has a very diverge difference. Thus, it is very important to pick what is suitable to you.

Course	Teaching method	Assessment method
19 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> century Hungarian art	It is about 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century Hungarian painting and architecture. The course has a very traditional way of teaching. PowerPoints are used for every lessons. There were two professors teaching this course, one for painting and one for architecture. Both of them encouraged students to think outside the box and to use own knowledge to combine what's newly learnt.	<p>There are two 10-min individual presentations, two research papers and two examinations through out the semester. Despite of the heavy workload, the professors focused on the unique views towards art pieces and architectures. The weightings are as follows.</p> <p>30% for mid term examinations</p> <p>30% for final examinations</p> <p>20% for participation and presentation</p> <p>20% for research paper</p>
Foundations of Psychology	There is one lecture per week but it lasts for 3 hours. The professor will not give any notes or PowerPoint for the lecture. Notes will be written on the black board and students have to attend lessons to jot down the notes by themselves. Also, online readings are required to make and answer online quiz.	<p>The online quiz is a mandatory part for the course. Those who did not do the online quiz will fail the course. But the score obtained from the online quiz is the additional score and it is optional to take.</p> <p>There are two quizzes throughout the semester and both composed 50% of the course grade.</p>



New Product Management	Other than standard PowerPoint to teach the course, first half an hour will be used to discuss current issues. This course has a very comprehensive scope to let people understand how a businessman should be like. The schedule is similar with the course "Foundation of Psychology" which there is one lecture per week and it lasts for three hours. As it is a small class, the professor required much interaction during class.	<p>There are two case study report, a project and two examinations throughout the semester.</p> <p>10% for midterm examinations</p> <p>20% for case study</p> <p>10% for class participation</p> <p>20% for written project</p> <p>20% for oral project</p> <p>20% for final examinations</p>
Environmental Management	The teaching style for this course is exactly the same as HKUST. There is one lecture and one tutorial per week.	<p>There are two examinations and one project throughout the semester.</p> <p>20% for the written and oral project</p> <p>30% for mid term examination</p> <p>30% for final examination</p> <p>20% for class participation</p>

### **SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES**

There is a gym room in the campus and you can also join different sports team s. But many practices are conducted in Hungarian and needed to be chosen carefully.



## **FINANCE AND BANKING**

I did not open up any accounts during my exchange. Rather, I used the function of overseas money withdrawal. Here is the expense for the reference.

Item	Amount (HKD)
Flight ticket	~7,000
Accommodation	~4500 (per month)
Transportation	~100 ( per month)
Living expenses	~4000 (per month)
Total (whole semester)	~4,1400

## **SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

As many organizations in the university are using Hungarian, ESN is the most popular one among all organizations. You participated in many events organized by ESN and made friends around the world.

## **HEALTHY & SAFETY**

Pharmacies are everywhere like Hong Kong and you can buy medicines easily for any sickness. Although the light is dim at night and many beggars are on street, the city is quite disciplined and safe. The local people are very helpful and friendly.

## **FOOD**

Budapest is very famous of its goose liver and tourists love coming for this. But you missed Hong Kong and Chinese food, Chinese restaurants and hotpot is also available there. I usually eat home at night which can save up much money as the raw food there is very cheap.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The host university will give a temporary student proof for you. You can buy a monthly transportation pass which includes all transportation. It is a very convenient pass to let you travel around Budapest with ease.

## **CLIMATE**

The winter time is very cold and can be as low as -2 degree. Although the summer is not as hot as Hong Kong, air conditioning is not common in Europe.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The local usually speak Hungarian but there are more and more people speaking English and there are not much difficulties in living there. If you are interested in Hungarian, there is also a foundation course available in the university. I bought a prepaid card in Telecom for my phone and can be popped up when all money has been used up. 1 Gb data and unlimited data usage for Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp and Twitter. This card can also be used for the entire Europe and it is very convenient for me living there.

### **PART 3 ITEMS TO BRING**

- Passport
- Passport photos
- ATM and credit cards
- Medicine
- Universal adaptor
- Other necessities can be bought conveniently in Budapest  
It would be better to bring one big luggage and a small luggage for storing everything

### **PART 4 USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT**

If you have any problems concerning the academic aspect, you can reach to the host university email via [intoffice@uni-corvinus.hu](mailto:intoffice@uni-corvinus.hu)

The agent for accommodation I used is [management@srs-budapest.hu](mailto:management@srs-budapest.hu).

