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Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

Preparation:

Budapest is one of the more efficient cities in Europe in terms of bureaucracy, with most administrative tasks handled online. There's no need to wait in queues or book appointments for most processes. Regarding visas, Eötvös Lorand University (ELTE) provides excellent guidance, which made the process smoother for me as a non-EU student. You can start the visa process through [Enter Hungary](#), and the university will assist with the necessary paperwork.

For traveling to Budapest, I opted for a night train. The 13-hour journey was not only economical, costing just 33 euros, but it also allowed me to transport three large bags without hassle. I recommend this option if you're traveling with lots of luggage.

The application process for ELTE is straightforward. All necessary information is clearly outlined on the university's website, which I'll link below for your reference. ELTE also organizes an orientation program for incoming students, but it's more informative than social. The sessions are led by professors who provide essential information on topics such as visas, course structures, exams, and university events. Although attendance isn't mandatory, I highly recommend being there for the first week to get a feel for the university and start meeting new people. If you'd like a buddy to support you throughout the exchange, the university offers a buddy program that you can apply for.

For useful links:

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [IT Support](#)
- [Student ID Information](#)

Accommodation:

I found private accommodation in a shared apartment (WG), and I paid 420 euros per month, including utilities. This is a typical price for a decently sized apartment in Budapest. There are multiple links to housing options on the university website, which can be useful when searching for accommodation. If you're considering student dormitories, be prepared for long waiting lists.

Personally, I preferred a quieter neighborhood and chose to live in Oktogon, which is centrally located but away from the busier streets. If you're looking for something similar, I recommend avoiding areas like Astoria, which tend to be noisier. I would also advise against living on the Buda side of the city (across the Danube), as it can feel somewhat isolated from the vibrant city life in Pest.

For accommodation assistance, check the [Housing Office](#).

Studying at the Host University:

During my exchange semester, I took six courses (24 ECTS), which kept me fairly busy with lectures and midterms. Attendance wasn't mandatory, but attending classes could earn you 10 extra points. The courses I enrolled in included:

- Human Resource Management
- Negotiation
- Persuasion
- Business Law I
- Business and Human Rights
- Marketing Research

All the courses were manageable, and you can also select courses from different faculties. The Faculty of Economics follows a different exam structure: instead of having a final exam, they offer 2-3 short midterms (20-30 minutes each) throughout the semester. If you don't perform well in the midterms, you can still take the final exam, provided you earn enough points from the midterms to qualify. Additionally, ELTE offers language courses, and the professors and administrative staff are very supportive, making the experience smoother for exchange students.

Everyday Life and Leisure:

Living expenses in Budapest can vary depending on your rent. In my case, with a monthly rent of 420 euros, I spent around 900 euros in total, including groceries, health insurance, and phone bills. Public transport is very affordable. During my time, there was a promotion for students, and I was able to pay only 4 euros per month for unlimited travel with my student ID. I would also recommend joining BEAC, the university's sports club, which offers a wide range of activities and training sessions.

Conclusion:

One of my favorite aspects of Budapest was the opportunity to explore the city's diverse culinary scene. Whether it was Hungarian delicacies or international cuisine, the options were endless. The weather improved significantly after April, making it a perfect time to explore the city and enjoy outdoor activities like hiking. Below, I've listed some recommended restaurants.

On the downside, I found that making friends at the university was somewhat challenging, as many students tend to keep to themselves. However, this didn't stop me from enjoying the overall experience.

Recommendations:

Restaurants:

- **Thai Food:** [Padthai Wokbar](#)
- **Langos (Hungarian Street Food):** [Langos Stand](#)
- **Hungarian Delicacies:** [Hungarian Restaurant](#)
- **Pakistani Cuisine:** [Pakistani Restaurant](#)

- **Middle Eastern:** Hummus Bar
- **Italian:** [Pasta & Pizza](#)

Activities:

- **Flipper Museum:** [Pinball Museum](#)

Land: Ungarn
Ausländische Universität: Eötvös Lorand University
Studiengang an der Viadrina: Master International Business Administration



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