

Erfahrungsbericht Auslandssemester

ALLGEMEINE DATEN ZUM AUSLANDSSEMESTER

Wie war es?

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Neue Outgoing-Studierende fragen manchmal nach einer Kontaktmöglichkeit zu ehemaligen Outgoings. Dürfen wir Ihre Kontaktdaten bei Anfragen weitergeben? Ja

Akademisches Jahr 2023/2024

Semester Herbst/Fall 2023/24

Dauer in Semestern 1

Studiengang an der EUF B.A. European Cultures and Society

Fach 1 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Fach 2 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Fach 3 (nur Lehramt-Studierende)

Gastland Ungarn

Gasthochschule Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem

IHRE PERSÖNLICHEN ERFAHRUNGEN

**Wie haben Sie sich auf das Auslandssemester vorbereitet?
Was sollte bereits im Voraus organisiert werden?**

After I have handed in my application in Flensburg and have received the offer to go to Budapest, I waited for the ELTE International Center to contact me. On the homepage of my partner university, you could then choose your courses for the Learning Agreement. The partner uni also wanted a preliminary selection to be sent to them. Most of the courses were offered when the semester actually started, but not all of them, so I would recommend to choose some alternative courses as well, that you would also want to do, in case some of your chosen courses are not available. In June, the uni sent the Letter of Acceptance via e-Mail with instructions and tips as well as links on the orientation week, how to get to the campus, links for the application portal for the student dorms and more. In August, they sent a few more detailed e-Mails with your Student ID and password for the uni's intranet where you register for courses and exams etc, and I just tried to set up my account from early on and follow the administrative instructions. But the International Office explained various details very well in a number of mails so I don't think you need to worry or stress about that. However, what I would recommend to do as early as possible is to look for accommodation. I did that rather late which led to a quite some stress for me. I also booked a plane ticket from Billund (DK) to Budapest, which was a direct flight. You can fly from either Billund or Hamburg if you are in Schleswig-Holstein. Both airports are approximately the same distance away by car from Flensburg, but RyanAir departs from Billund, which was a little more affordable in my case and also, the airport in Billund is smaller and more relaxed than Hamburg, so I would recommend Billund. Otherwise, I read and informed myself about Budapest and Hungary in general and sights and activities in Budapest. :) and I read a lot of experience reports on the EUF outgoing website. I did not do much more for preparation though. It is also important that you have foreign health insurance before you go and I would also recommend to get a credit card.

**Welche Tipps haben Sie zur umweltfreundlichen An-
/Abreise (falls zutreffend)?**

Since I took the plane from Billund, that was less environmentally friendly than for example the train, but it was the easiest way for me, also with luggage. The airport in Budapest is approximately 25 minutes outside of the city, but there is a shuttle bus that goes from the airport to the city centre. The line is 100E and you need to buy a ticket beforehand at one of the ticket machines outside. I recommend the app BudapestGO, that shows you all kinds of connections via Bus, Metro, Tram etc. But Google Maps is accurate as well usually.

Wie haben Sie gewohnt und wie sind Sie an Ihre Unterkunft gekommen (selbst gesucht/von Gasthochschule organisiert, Wohnheim/privat etc.)?

I found a room in a shared apartment in the seventh district near the Keleti train station and lived there with three other people, not all of them students though and it was about 20-30 minutes from campus. The university has some links on their homepage for organizations that let apartments to students if you want to look for an apartment yourself instead of applying to the dorms, but you can try to apply to the student dorms as well, because the rent is much lower. I found my room via one of these agencies that were advertised on the uni's housing office page(SRS). Because I was really late with that, I just quickly tried to take what was available but I would not recommend doing that. All in all, the apartment was fine, but really expensive considering the size of the room and also the cleanliness was not that great. The management of that agency is also a bit hard to contact and I have also read some bad reviews online on said agency especially when it came to claiming back the deposit from the landlord or agency, but I did not have any issues with that luckily. However, I would still recommend to start looking for accommodation early so that you can sort this out without any pressure or stress. You could potentially also look for accommodation on Facebook because I heard that Erasmus-students often search for new tenants for the apartments or wg-gesucht. There are also other websites for Erasmus students looking for apartments, but I don't have any experiences with that. You can also find accommodation via said links on the website of the housing office on the university's website, where you can definitely find rooms in shared apartments, and my accommodation ended up being alright. As for the location I would 100 percent recommend to live on the Pest side. The pest side is said to be more touristic, and the Buda side to be more calm, which is true. The Buda side is nice but for a semester abroad I think the Pest side is much better. You are well connected to public transport here, it is more lively and vibrant and most clubs and bars and event locations as well as free time activities are located here. I also recommend to live as centrally as possible. I lived more on the outskirts of the seventh district. The transport connection here was alright(ca 10-15 minutes by foot to the metro station) but especially at night or in the evening, there was no one in the street as the area was more residential, and felt more secluded and if you walk home later at night, that was not so pleasurable. In general, everything was really well connected via busses, trams and the subway and also night busses but if you are walking home alone, especially later at night, I could imagine that it would be a little nicer if the area was more lively.

Haben Sie Angebote für Incomings genutzt? Wie haben Sie sich anderweitig sozial vernetzt?

The ESN network at the university offers a buddy/mentor system for incoming internationals which I would definitely recommend to use and apply to before you arrive. The mentor can help you with settling in, provide tips for activities, help with question on all kinds of matters like for example course registration and so on. I had a really nice mentor as well but I only applied for one a couple of weeks after the start of the semester and I think it would have been better to have done that beforehand. I also entered the WhatsApp group of the Erasmus organization ESN where you can connect with other international students and I sometimes took part in trips or parties by another Erasmus organization ELB (erasmuslifebudapest). The trip offers are usually really interesting and nice if you want to get around the country a bit, but the organization is often not the greatest and I think it's more relaxed to plan your own trips if you can.

Waren Sie zufrieden mit der Gastuniversität (Räumlichkeiten, Ansprechpartner*innen, etc.) und dem Kursangebot (Workload etc.)?

Yes, everything was really great. The campus for the Faculty of Social Sciences, where I studied, has two big buildings on the Buda Side near the Gellert hill. You can get there by bus or tram and the bus crossed one of the bridges across the Danube, which was a really beautiful sight on the way to campus every day, especially on a sunny day. The International Office was friendly and helpful in case of questions or uncertainties and easy to contact in person or via mail. The course offer was interesting as well. I had mostly lectures, however most of the lectures and courses in general had only 3 ECTS, so I ended up doing 9 courses in total, which was definitely a lot, but then there were some lectures I was really interested in and that I wanted to do and so I did not want to choose other courses that had more ECTS. It was definitely a lot during the semester and many readings, but on the other hand, since I had mostly lectures and not so much seminar work, it was really manageable. Also, the final exams were completely doable, even if you have not read every single text in detail. Some exams were even conducted online and some on paper in person and had different elements like short essays, or multiple choice questions and so on. You can find the course requirements and examination methods in the course catalogue and I wanted to do exams more than papers so I tried to choose courses that had exams. I also think that a lot of the lectures and courses offered for internationals were first semester lectures or introductory lectures, but that could also be because it was the winter semester. All in all, it was quite a lot of courses and material, but the exams worked out fine for me without too much stress, so if you would like to go to Budapest, don't be discouraged by the amount of courses and just try to choose courses you are interested in or that sound good to you.

Haben Sie die Landessprache gelernt bzw. wie wichtig war diese Ihrer Ansicht nach für Ihren Aufenthalt?

Yes, I took a Hungarian level A1.1 course, because I was so interested in the language but of course, we only learned the very basics here. There was quite a lot of demand for the courses so you had to be quick to register for them. Overall, you do not need to take the course, because you can get by with English very easily and you will definitely pick up a few basic words like Hello or Thank you anyway. However, with the course you can really learn how the language works and say a few more things or sentences in it than just a couple of words and I thought that this was a very nice thing to do. But I did not think that it was very important for the stay to be honest, as the environment was really international.

Welche interkulturellen Begegnungen/Kompetenzen haben Ihren Aufenthalt geprägt?

The most intercultural event was probably the international Erasmus student body and to come together with people from so many different nationalities, also outside of the EU. I did not meet so many locals unfortunately, which I do regret a little. Definitely try to be as open as you can and to connect with people once you arrive. Using a little of the language in everyday life was also nice and a good experience. Other than that, the ESN network but also other organizations like ELB (erasmuslifebudapest) organize weekly trips to different locations in the city or Hungary and to local festivals for example.. However, the trips can be pricy and I heard from others that they might sometimes not be super well organized, and I found the trips especially with ELB to be a bit stressful following a strict schedule, so looking back, in the end I think I would have liked to try to plan more trips on my own or with friends. Nonetheless, especially in the beginning I would say these trips and events or parties are a good way to get to know people and see many different spots or towns in the country outside of Budapest so I would recommend to also do that.

Welche Perspektiven auf Ihr Gastland/Herkunftsland haben sich verändert - und warum?

I did not have so many perspectives or views on Hungary or Budapest before, but I looked at pictures from the city and read up some stuff about the country and Budapest and I was very excited to go. I would say that I did fall in love with the city. Everything looked really beautiful, especially the river in the sunshine, with the hills in the background and all the impressive buildings alongside.

Wie sah Ihr Alltag vor Ort aus? (Freizeit, Einkaufen, Fortbewegung, Inklusion, ...)

I had classes everyday that started at 10 am the earliest and went until 4 pm the latest. Before or after I would often meet up with a friend for coffee or take walks around the city, along the Danube, in the Castle District or in the city park as well as Margaret Island for example. Here you can also go for a run. Sometimes, I also did things like going to a museum or a thermal bath or I just visited nice or famous spots in the city or went to a movie theater, or markets on the weekend. I went grocery shopping probably once a week. There is Aldi, Lidl but also Penny and Spar in the city as well as Rossmann, DM or even Müller all across the city. On the weekends, I went to the library or went out with a friend in the evenings and a couple of times, I went on day trips to other spots or villages in the country. or on weekend trips to Vienna and Bratislava (Slovakia) because both cities are really nearby by train or FlixBus.

Welche Tipps haben Sie für einen umweltfreundlichen/nachhaltigen Aufenthalt (Projekte, Initiativen, Alltagsleben)?

There is really good public transportation in the city and you can also get around the city by foot quite well. You can buy a monthly student ticket for public transportation. Apart from that you can also rent bicycles for getting around the city via an App called Mol Bubi.

Wie sind Sie finanziell ausgekommen? Wie hoch waren Ihre Ausgaben für Visum (falls zutreffend), Reise, Unterkunft (pro Monat), Lebenshaltung, Freizeit, weitere Kosten (z.B. Bücher)?

Financially, I made do well although the Erasmus funding was definitely a good support and I think saving up a little besides the Erasmus funding is helpful. The cost of living is relatively similar to Germany, especially groceries. There are café, museums, clubs, bars and restaurants that are a little cheaper if you do not choose the most touristic ones. As for rent, I paid 330 euros plus 90 euros extra costs and I had to pay a monthly cleaning fee as well, which was really expensive all in all and overly expensive compared to other international students.

Was war Ihre beste, was Ihre schlechteste Erfahrung? Gibt es sonst noch etwas, das Sie gern mitteilen möchten?

I think the best experience was finding new friends and taking in the really beautiful views of the river Danube and the city as well as the Buda hills and to meet so many international students and see and try new things. The experience itself was very positive. I did not have any negative experiences but I would recommend not to take a taxi off the street, as it is often a scam. The apartment was also not super clean upon moving in and I also ended up paying a lot of rent every month and was probably overpaying. It was definitely not extremely bad or anything, it was fine; but I should have looked for accommodation earlier. Something I also did not do so much was travel to some more places in Hungary, as I was mostly in the city itself, and I think this is one thing I would do differently now.

Fazit: Würden Sie ein Auslandssemester an Ihrer Gastuniversität empfehlen? Aus welchen Gründen?

I would definitely recommend to study at ELTE. The uni life was fun and exciting, and the whole environment was very international and vibrant and I thought that exam season was manageable and everything was really organized well and welcoming for international students. The city is very rich in history, there is beautiful architecture and there are so many things to see and do. There is also a lot of nature outside the city like in the Buda hills where you can hike. Moreover, I think Budapest is great for students; there are so many cafes and restaurants, great nightlife, museums and historical sites. Also, if you go abroad during the fall semester, you will probably experience summer, fall and winter as it was still really warm until the end of October. :)

IHRE FOTOS

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