

Personal Report

Eötvös Loránd University Hungary, SoSe 2021/22, 1 Semester

FB4 – Social Work: transnational - Bachelor

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

I only needed English at the university. All the courses I could choose from were held in English. I took a Hungarian Language course at the university, but the application was a bit difficult because I had to register earlier than for the normal classes.

With my fellow students, I communicated in English.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could follow the classes well. Language courses were offered during the semester.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

No, unfortunately, they did not offer dormitories.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in euros)?

250€

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

It was well situated. My flat was on the Buda side, directly at the green bridge and the Gellert Bath. It took me 15 minutes on foot to the University.

Which websites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

Wg-gesucht

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

I lived in a shared flat on the Buda side directly next to the green bridge and the Gellert bath, behind the BME (technical university). It is very central, although it is not in the bar district. But it only takes 10 minutes by tram to be at the bar and party district. It is quiet at night, so I could leave my window open. Lidl and Aldi are both 10 minutes by foot away. Directly around the corner, there are two smaller supermarkets and DM. On the parallel street, you can find lots of cafes and bars. No matter what time of the night, there were always connections back home.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

End of January or at the beginning of February.

How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?

I arrived by train.

The extent of the orientation program was sufficient.

If there was a question left, I could write an Email to the International Office or ask in one of the WhatsApp groups. Normally someone else always knew the answer.

I had a mentor and I got in contact directly at the beginning with her. She could also help me when I had some questions.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

The costs were less than 75% than in Frankfurt. In Hungary, you have the same supermarkets and drugstores like Aldi, Lidl, dm, and Rossmann and they are quite cheap.

Additional expenses: going out, day trips, museums.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

The Semester ticket was valid all over Budapest.

In Budapest are always many programs, parties, and trips organized for students, mostly by ELB.

Most of my courses were online, but there was wifi at the university and there was a mensa, which was not cheaper than eating somewhere else.

There is a sports program from the university, but it is not free of charge.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

Less challenging.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

I had most of my courses still online, so my experiences cannot really be used for normal offline studies.

I chose some courses from Master programs and the level of these courses was quite high I would say. With the other courses, it depended on choosing seminars or lectures. Lectures can be interactive but normally aren't. Seminars are normally interactive.

In the end, most of the exams were graded very well.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, and linguistically for your future career?

If you want a city that is always awake, where you can go partying all week, Budapest is the right choice. If you prefer a smaller city with more outdoor activities and Erasmus students who all know each other, you should choose a smaller city with a smaller university. In Budapest, it is still a bit cheaper than in Germany to go out for drinks or partying.

I am happy with my choice, but in the winter times, I would have preferred a smaller city with more outdoor activities.

I really enjoyed the possibility to take courses from different programs from the faculty of social sciences. It gave me a better understanding of the studies of social sciences. If that will help me in my future career, I don't know.

Budapest is a beautiful city, you cannot forget. I also met a lot of interesting people and especially after the covid times for me it was a new start to a normal, socially open life again.