

Personal Report

Budapest Business School, Winter Term 2018/19, 1 Semester Global Logistics, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

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

English

I tried to learn Hungarian, what was more or less successful since the language is not easy at all.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

No, unfortunately not.

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

200€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Bad.

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

The location of my apartment was perfect within the city center. Since the Business campus of the BGE is outside of the city, I needed btw. 45-60 minutes to reach the university.

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

Facebook Erasmus Budapest pages
SRS (but more expensive)

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)

I lived in district 8 in Szentkiralyi Utca. I would say it was a perfect location since I lived very close by the Jewish Quarter (5 min) and two supermarkets that were reachable within 2 minutes. Also public transport (Kalvin Ter, Astoria, Blaha) were reachable in less than 10 minutes walking. And the area was quiet during the night.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

A couple of days before university start in order to settle down a bit before the classes start.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? 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? How were the services for exchange students?

Flights/ trains/ busses are cheap and frequently going to Budapest. Finding a flat was pretty easy but most of the time Erasmus students pay more than Hungarian students, so finding a cheap flat which is in a good condition without paying too much is almost impossible if one doesn't know any Hungarians.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Lower, about 50%

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the Mensa's/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I could travel a lot during my semester abroad. Since Budapest has a central position within Europa I was able to visit Bratislava, Krakow, Vienna and Ljubljana. Moreover I was able to visit other places in Hungary such as Eger, Szentendre, Lake Balaton and Visegrad. The trains in Hungary are really cheap and students get a certain discount. The monthly card for public transport is really cheap as well and costs about 10 Euros.

The cafeterias were not good in my eyes. They were cheap but not a lot of variety. The library of my university was not recommendable but there were others in Budapest (center) which everyone could use. Wi-Fi was available and worked. There were no real rooms for studying or meeting, just benches in the hallways.

Studying at the Host University

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

Much 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? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

The teachers were really rude sometimes. I felt like back in school at some points. Sometimes they spoke still only Hungarian although they knew that Exchange students were in their classes.

Choosing courses and making the schedule for the semester was really difficult. We didn't get proper instructions and it was totally chaotic in the beginning.

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, linguistically for your future career?

I am sure that I gained a lot of experience during my semester abroad. I learned how to deal and live with people from different nationalities. How different teaching /university can be in different countries. I also learned how to manage working in groups of different nationalities what will be helpful in my future career for sure.