

Personal Report

Budapest Business School, winter semester 2021/22, Business and Law, FB 3, Frankfurt

Language

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

I used English most of the time. Unfortunately, the uni didn't offer any Hungarian language courses and it was too difficult to learn it by myself.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

No

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

380 euro

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

good

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

My room was in the city center of Budapest but it was almost one hour away from the university since it was more located on the countryside.

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

I would recommend Facebook groups like "Erasmus Live Budapest", "Erasmus Budapest" - there are several groups where you can get to know other students.

I booked my room via an organization called "Erasmus Life Budapest - Housing" but I would definitely not recommend it. Our flat was very dirty and used when we arrived and some things like 2 of our 3 showers and one chair were broken and they never fixed it although we called and texted them several times. Our washing machine got broken after a month and they also didn't fix it. Almost everyone I met who booked their rooms/flat via this organization had issues, some had bed bugs and they didn't do anything and the flats are definitely more expensive compared to others who rented it from Hungarian residents.

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.?)

My room was in district 7, close to one of the main stations "Keleti pályaudvar" which next to the metro stations 2 and 4 and to many busses (they drive during the whole night, which was really convenient when we went out). It took me most of the times around 10 minutes to get to restaurants, bars or clubs so I can recommend this area.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

I arrived 1 1/2 weeks prior to the semester and I think it's the perfect time since most of the students arrive a bit earlier. You can settle a bit and get a first impression from the city. I also met lots of new people in this time since everybody went out to get to know each other.

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?

I took the plane which was really convenient but you can also take the train which is much cheaper but the ride takes almost 11 hours.

The organization from the university was really bad and we needed to find out almost everything by ourself since our coordinator wasn't answering us or it took a long time until we got a response. We didn't have an email address in the first two weeks and no one could help us which was really annoying since we needed it to attend the online lectures. Everyone got a mentor after one month but it would have been more helpful if we'd had them earlier. Mine wasn't really interested - I never saw him and he only texted me once.

Living Abroad

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

Lesser about 75%

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 didn't spend a lot of time at the campus since some of my classes were held online. I never ate in the cafeteria neither used I one of the sport programs but I think they were free of charge. The library was alright, just a bit small - I've only been there twice but I wasn't looking for any books. Wi-Fi was

available on the campus but it didn't work in some rooms which was a bit annoying, especially when we had lectures.

Studying at the Host University

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

A little easier.

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?

There are theoretical and practical lessons for almost every module which helps in my opinion very a lot since you can practice the theory by doing exercises in the practical lesson. The fact that I was an exchange student wasn't really considered by the teachers but that was no problem since they spoke English most of the time.

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 developed my self-organization and my ability to react to new, unknown situations. I improved my English skills and I became more open to unknown situations and to new people. I would recommend you to be open and do not worry too much about it in the beginning. I was also a bit afraid but everything went quite well and my expectations have been exceeded. I also learned a lot and I am very proud of myself. I had the best time in my life in the last months and I made friends from all over the world for a lifetime. Budapest is the perfect place for a semester abroad and I already miss it a lot.