

Erasmus+ participant report

Timisoara, UMFT – Budapest, Semmelweis University



Sebastian Schittenhelm
Semmelweis University, Budapest
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University: UMFT, Timisoara
Home country: Germany

Dear reader ,
in my following Erasmus report I want to give you a clear and structured view of how things are going and what you have to do if you decide for doing Erasmus in Budapest.
Furthermore, I will share my experiences with you and hope to give you the most realistic view of being an exchange student in Budapest .

1.The application process

The application for the Erasmus program starts one year before the mobility. For this reason you should know the criteria for application in advance. One of the most important criteria in my enrolment period was the average from the previous year. This was important because lots of students were interested in doing Erasmus. At first you should read on the Erasmus homepage of UMFT, everything is explained on the homepage for Erasmus students . For example you have to write a curriculum vitae or a letter of intent in english. Moreover you will find possible courses on this homepage, from which you can choose for your Learning Agreement.

If you have any further questions you can go to the Erasmus office during the opening hours, where a lovely lady is gently answering your questions .

All in all i recommend to start early, because also when it seemed to be easy, there are always possible problems, which could appear because of the correspondance with the partner university for example .

2. Accommodation

What I have heard, there are many possible ways of house-hunting in Budapest. Myself, I found my room by Facebook. There are a lot of public groups, for example: “Erasmus Budapest”, “Erasmus In-Hungary” or “Erasmus students in Hungary”. In these groups a lot of people write down, when a room or a flat is free. I shared my flat with a German girl and was really happy with my decision. She was a student at Semmelweis University in the 4th year and it was really helpful for me to have someone around knowing the city and everything you want to know if you arrive in a new city. It is important to start early with the search for a room because I met some other students that lived in a hostel for one semester because they missed the period of finding a flat. But from my Erasmus group I think, I was the only one, which found a room by Facebook. Some found a flat by special organisation, which are specializing in foreign people. Others took some offers of the University. Before the semester starts, the international office sends some flat offers to the international students. This can be very helpful, because it is very trustful. Another option is to come to Budapest without having any flat or room and search for a room. This option seems to be very risky, but it is really good if you have enough time because if you see a room just on some pictures it will never be the same if you arrive there. And maybe you get to know other Erasmus people, which are also still looking for some place. A last option could be to search also on the internet page: www.wg-gesucht.de, because of the large amount of German students in Budapest. Probably the question will arise, which district should I choose for living. All together Budapest is separated in 23 districts. The centre is concentrated in the districts V, VI and VII on the Pest side. From there you can get very fast to places during the night and during the day. I guess the most students are living on the Pest-side, but I met also some friends living on the Buda-side and they were really happy with the decision as well. So everybody has to decide on his or her own, where the best place is to live. But for every place it is important, that a tram-, metro- or bus-station is within spitting distance. My flat was close to the metro station “Klinikak” and it was perfect for me, because most of the hospitals were located around there.

3. Studying at Semmelweis University

The Semmelweis University is separated in different faculties. It is possible to study general medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. The different faculties are situated in different places around Budapest. For general medicine, and as a student in the 5th year you have always to go hospitals.

As already mentioned, a lot of hospitals are situated close to “Klinikak” but there are other hospitals for example the oncology hospital which is situated on the Buda side and it takes you 40 minutes to get there. Anyway, it is respected in your schedule, so you have enough time to get from one hospital to the other.

Like I wrote before you can choose your courses from the internet page. If you will arrive there, probably the courses are changed. But there are other possibilities. The first two weeks it is allowed to visit all the courses and then to decide and change the Learning Agreement. It is even possible to take further courses into your learning agreement from the next year. I liked it a lot, that you can choose courses across the years.

In my case it was even possible to choose courses from the english section and from the german section as well. This was really important to build a fitting schedule in the end .

In some courses they just put Erasmus students in one group . This was not the best idea in order to meet new people from this country. Other courses were mixed up with people from all around the world, which was really interesting for me and all the other students .

The language in which the teachers talk to the students is perfect. Me as a german, visiting lots of german courses , was really impressed by the perfect german they spoke. In mostly every course it is obligatory to be present and you are allowed to miss the course two times.

The support of the Semmelweis university in Budapest is really great. If there are any problems, you can go to the Erasmus office and the lady there will fix your problems as fast as possible. For example they are helping in house- hunting or help you with all the paper stuff (Learning Agreement and so on)

4.Life as an Erasmus Student in Budapest

For me it was the first time visiting Budapest or Hungary. But i was immediately in love with city. It is really amazing walking through the streets, everywhere are old buildings and everywhere is something to see. Among other things the Donau, the castle district, the nine beautiful bridges and the Gellert hill give Budapest the special charm. You can recognize that if you walk along the river, be at the castle or Gellert Hill during the evening/night.

Of course there are also some negative aspects, which you can recognize during the time, like the oppositions between rich and poor. The average salary amount to 750 Euro per month. But this fact doesn't call for cheap prices. For me the food prices were quiet the same as in Germany and also the rent was the same or sometimes a little bit more expensive. All over Budapest are plenty of shops. The biggest supermarkets are called Tesco or Interspar, smaller ones are CBA or also the normal Spar. At every corner are also 24-hours shops, where you can buy necessary stuff for the worst case (these are a little bit more expensive). For shopping, there are many shopping malls ("WestendCityCenter", "Arena Plaza" or "Mammut Center") or the " Vaci utca" the perfect place.

The nightlife is cheaper than in Germany and this is a very important fact, because if u are Erasmus student you will go out a lot. In Budapest are so many options to go out. There are plenty of bars, for example the ruin pubs, like "Szimpla Kert". On this page, <http://ruinpubs.com/>, are described a lot of good bars or pubs. Also for dancing Budapest has many places. On the one hand you can visit big clubs on the Bud-aside or on the party island .On the other hand you can find many places on the Pest-side, which are smaller but not worser. For sure every Erasmus student will go ones to the Morrison's 1or 2 or 3. The Buddies organized also a lot of stuff for the international students, for example "the Welcome Day", "Sightseeing tour", "Market Day", "Pub tour" or the "Farewell party". These events made the Erasmus life much more nicer and you got to know the other Erasmus students better. But even if there were no event, the buddies made a lot of stuff with us.

5.Personal Conclusion

One year Erasmus was an experience I will never forget . Now I can say that Budapest was the best choice I could have made. Budapest has not too big and not too small for one year . But not just the city, also the people of my Erasmus group were amazing. It is a very big chance to get to know people from a lot of different countries from all over the world and make friends for a life.

