

2022



BME Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences

POCKETBOOK

Dear Student,



Welcome to the BME Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences (GTK)! We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us and we look forward to welcoming you soon. This pocketbook was created by the International Students' Office to help you prepare for your studies at BME and in Budapest. It contains practical information about the University, the Faculty and life in Budapest.

Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) is one of the oldest universities in Hungary and in Central Europe specialized and focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines. BME consists of 8 Faculties (Schools), including 7 engineering schools and a business school. This STEM environment offers excellent opportunities for students to collaborate with others studying in different fields of engineering, mathematics, economic and social sciences.

The GTK offers 3 master degrees fully in English and PhD studies in Business and Management. Our programmes – due to the STEM environment – have a special focus on the field of organisational studies, production and operations management, project management and engineering economy.

With more than 200 instructors, we at the GTK work to help our 3000 students achieve success in their academic and professional lives. We greatly value our international students and their contribution to the educational and social environment of the campus and we know that your presence will help us to grow and improve.



CONTENT

1	PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL	3
1.1	VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT	3
1.2	SCHOLARSHIPS	4
1.3	HEALTHCARE	5
1.4	INSURANCE	5
1.5	HUNGARIAN BANK ACCOUNT	6
1.6	ACCOMODATION	6
1.7	CAMPUS	7
2	CONTACT INFO	8
2.1	CENTRAL ACADEMIC OFFICE (CAO)	8
2.2	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICE (ISO)	8
2.3	E-MAIL ADDRESSES RELATED TO YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME	8
2.4	INTERNATIONAL MENTOR TEAM (IMT)	9
3	ACADEMIC INFO	10
3.1	INTERNET AT BME	10
3.2	NEPTUN	10
3.3	FINES WITHIN THE NEPTUN SYSTEM	11
3.4	STUDENT CARD	12
3.5	STUDENT CERTIFICATE OR TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS	12
3.6	MOODLE	13
3.7	GRADING SYSTEM	13
3.8	RULES AND REGULATIONS	13
4	STUDENT LIFE	14
4.1	SPORTS CENTER	14
4.2	LIBRARY	14
4.3	LANGUAGE CENTRE	15
4.4	STUDENT SERVICES	16
4.5	STUDENT ORGANISATIONS	16
4.6	STUDENT RESEARCH SOCIETIES	17
4.7	QSMS	17
4.8	STUDENT FESTIVALS	17
5	LIVING IN BUDAPEST	19
5.1	CURRENCY	19
5.2	COSTS OF LIVING	19
5.3	PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN BUDAPEST	20
5.4	CULTURE	22
6	IMPORTANT TO KNOW	24

1 PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

Address of BME: Műegyetem rakpart 3., H-1111 Budapest, Hungary

website: <http://www.bme.hu/?language=en>

Address of GTK: Magyar tudósok körútja 2., H-1117 Budapest, Hungary, Bld Q, wing „A”

website: <https://www.gtk.bme.hu/en/>

1.1 Visa and residence permit

The main factors which determine whether you need visa to Hungary or not are your nationality and the expected length of your stay.



Since Hungary is a member state of the European Union, citizens of EU and EEA (European Economic Area) countries are not required to have a visa in order to enter. The only documentation they are required to have is a passport or identity card.

Non-EU and non-EEA citizens must apply for a resident visa for study purposes at the nearest Hungarian Embassy or Consulate.

What to do:

1. Citizens of the EU and EEA:

Students from EU and EEA (European Economic Area) countries must report their address and apply for a registration certificate in Hungary after getting registered at school.

Citizens of the following countries must apply for a residence permit within 30 days after arrival:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Salvador, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela

For detailed information, please, contact your embassy or consulate or the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**.

2. For students with a VISA:

Resident visa for study purposes is to be obtained before departure from your country. Among others, you must present:

- ✓ Letter of Acceptance from BME
- ✓ proof of payment of the tuition fee
- ✓ proof of your accommodation in Budapest
- ✓ passport valid for minimum 30 days

The process takes minimum two weeks. The visa will be valid for 30 days only, and after your arrival in Budapest you will have another 30 days to apply for a residence permit (after registration at the university). Obtaining a visa may take months. Be prepared for it!

For further information contact the **Office of Immigration and Nationality** or visit the following **website**.

Immigration Office matters: <https://www.imt.bme.hu/immigration/>

1.2 Scholarships



Covering tuition fees and living expenses for two or four years, Hungarian State Scholarships offer you access to an unparalleled experience in graduate education.

The **Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship** is a **programme** for foreign students, founded by the Hungarian Government in 2013. The programme aims to promote cultural understanding, economic and cultural relations between Hungary and other countries.

The **Scholarship for Christian Young People** is a **programme**, founded by the Government of Hungary in the spirit of its solidarity policy towards persecuted Christian minorities.

Both programmes offer

- no tuition fee
- monthly stipend
- dormitory access or additional contribution to accommodation costs
- health care services according to the relevant Hungarian legislation

For more detailed information about the allowances, click **HERE**.



[Sample of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship agreement](#)

[Sample of Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People agreement](#)

[Website of Tempus Public Foundation](#)

[Study in Hungary](#)

1.3 Healthcare



Medical care *for citizens of the European Economic Area* (EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) is provided on the basis of the European Health Insurance Card. The citizens of these countries are entitled to receive the same treatment under the same conditions as the residents of the above countries.

In case of *foreigners studying in Hungary*, entitlement to health care services in Hungary is restricted to those foreign nationals who pursue their studies full-time at an institution of secondary or higher education and whose student status is based on an international agreement or a fellowship granted by the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities.

First aid and emergency medical care are free for foreigners.

1.4 Insurance



Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme provides you with health insurance during your studies. You can sign a temporary health insurance policy for the first semester after registration at BME. During the first semester, you need to apply for your permanent health insurance, covered by the scholarship programme. For more info about this process, refer to the [TAJ card page](#) of the International Mentor Team.

For further information visit this [website](#) or the related [webpage](#) of BME Student Services.

Fee-paying students can apply for the Studium health insurance package of Generali Insurance Co. which covers the cost of care and the necessary medical treatment resulting from diseases or accidents. The company also covers 50% of the price of purchasable medicine prescribed by the doctor.

Except for emergency treatments, the insurance company covers the cost of only treatments which are carried out by **Szent Kristóf Szakrendelő Kft** (1117 Budapest, Fehérvári út 12.) or hospitalisation ordered by this health centre.

The Studium health insurance package does not cover:

- hospitalisation due to childbirth and any complications of illnesses or
- accidents that occurred prior to the starting date of the insurance period
- the costs of dental treatment (except those resulting from accidents), medical attendance of pregnancy, abortion (unless it is medically reasonable), cosmetic treatments, rehabilitation and psychiatric diseases, tapering-off treatments, diseases caused by HIV, alcohol or drug abuse and medical examinations required for a health certificate.



[Health insurance information for tuition fee paying students](#)

[Generali Studium health insurance payment sheet](#)

1.5 Hungarian Bank account



If you are a Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship holder, you are required to open a Hungarian bank account where your scholarship will be transferred to.

To open a bank account, you must present:

- your passport and another identification document (such as driver's license, tax card, etc.)
- student card, which is proof that you're a student at the BME
- valid residence permit and address card

Here are some Banks you can go to:

- [OTP](#)
- [ERSTE](#)
- [Raiffaisen](#)
- [Budapest Bank](#)
- [Gránit](#)

➡ Useful tips on the Mentor Team's [website](#)

Please note, that you also need a [tax ID](#) to start receiving your scholarship.



[Exchange rate and university bank account numbers](#)

[Prepaid SIM card](#)

[ATMs nearby](#)

1.6 Accommodation



- ❖ Dormitory – [University](#) / [Private](#)
- ❖ [Short-term Hostel](#)
- ❖ [Apartment or rental](#)

➡ Please contact the **Mentor Team** for help: imt.accommodation@bme.hu OR visit their [website](#).

1.7 Campus



The campus is located in the heart of Budapest – within easy reach of ample housing facilities, public services, historic sights and recreational facilities –, but it still provides a peaceful environment suitable for intense study and research.

The campus is made up of two neighbouring parts, both on the right bank of the River Danube. The historical campus boasts beautiful buildings and an elegant park, which can be an inspiring place to stroll around and engage in discussions.

The Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences is located in **Building Q** in the Info Park, a new building featuring modern, state of the art lecture halls and a perfect study environment with flawless internet access and other facilities. Most of the departments of GTK are also in the same building, making the interaction between students and professors very easy.

There are 2 *cafeterias* and several *vending machines* offering hot and cold beverages and various snacks in Building Q:

- A wing – ground floor, sandwiches, salads or pastries
- B wing – 4th Floor, offers hot meals too

2 CONTACT INFO

2.1 Central Academic Office (CAO)



Central Academic Office (CAO) is the main academic office **for all BME students**. The Office can be found at **building R, ground floor, room No. 1**. They are a group of international programme coordinators in charge of helping students with academic problems.

They can provide you assistance with the following: term registration, subject registration, exam registration, data modification in Neptun, requests in Neptun, certificates of your studies (e.g. student legal status certificate, credit certificate, etc.), documents receipt (e.g. temporary student ID, permanent student ID, TAJ card), etc.



[Contact Information](#)

2.2 International Students' Office (ISO)



The **Faculty's** International Students' Office (ISO) provides services for students, faculty and staff who wish to study or engage in international education. The Office also deals with the admission of international students and supports their student life throughout their studies.

Staff and Contact information

Head of International Students' Office: Ms. Noémi GIRST

International Coordinator: Ms. Hedvig FÜZESI

H-1117 Budapest, 2 Magyar Tudósok körútja, Building Q, A wing, Mezzanine floor 19.

Phone number: +36 1 463 1813 and +36 1 463 2152

E-mail: iso@gtk.bme.hu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmegtk/> (For English, always scroll down please)

Homepage: [BME GTK English website](#)

2.3 E-mail addresses related to your study programme

In case you have any professional questions, please do not email the University, contact the Departments. You can find more information [here](#).



Contact info:

- ➡ **Management & Leadership** (QA305) – Ms. Dóra MERKEI: merkei.dora@gtk.bme.hu
- ➡ **Finance** (QA332) – Mrs. Nikolett SZALLERNÉ SEREG: sereg.nikolett@gtk.bme.hu
- ➡ **Regional & Environmental Econ.** (QA231) - Dr. Attila BUZÁSI: buzasi.attila@gtk.bme.hu
- ➡ **PhD** (QA305) – Ms. Melinda KÖNYVES: konyves.melinda@gtk.bme.hu

(E.g.: QA407 = Building Q; Wing A; Floor 4; Room 7)

2.4 International Mentor Team (IMT)



The **IMT** (International Mentor Team) is a student organisation at BME. The aim of this group is to give you a helping hand with the official arrangements at the beginning of your stay. Furthermore, the IMT organises community activities such as game nights, movie nights, hiking trips and so on, to make the most of your stay. If you have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to contact them!

The official website of the IMT is where you can find the most important official topics, such as immigration office, tax ID and so on, as well as the visiting hours or any upcoming events. Another useful part of the website is the FAQ section, if you have any questions concerning the official matters, you may find your answer there.

Contact:

- ➡➡ **General questions:** imt@bme.hu
- Official matters** (TAJ, residence permit): imt.documents@bme.hu
- Medical help:** imt.medhelp@bme.hu
- Accommodation:** imt.accommodation@bme.hu

3 ACADEMIC INFO

3.1 Internet at BME



BME provides free wireless internet (WIFI) access for their students. This network can be reached in most of the buildings. Some community areas are also equipped with extra sockets, so you can charge your laptop.

To use the internet, you have to register the MAC address of your laptop or mobile phone. The registration can be done at this [link](#).

After registration you have to wait a couple of hours for the activation of your account.

Where is my **MAC address**?

You can also use the PCs to access the internet in the **BME Student Computer Centre**.

For useful information about internet access, please click [here](#).

To set the BME Wi-Fi from home, please [click here](#).



BME is also a member of the Eduroam federation. Thanks to this service, you are free to connect to the wireless internet service of providers participating the eduroam network. Please visit this [BME website](#) for more information.

3.2 Neptun



The Neptun Education System is the electronic system at BME which makes the administration of your studies easier and faster. You can register for lectures and exams, follow the results of your courses and financial matters, and communicate with your peers and professors via Neptun.

If you have problems with Neptun, contact us at neptun@bme.hu

➡ How to use - [Neptun User Guide for Students](#)

➡ Log in - [Neptun](#)

3.3 Fines within the Neptun system

(Based on the [Regulations on student fees and benefits](#))

Instances	Fees
late enrolment in Neptun	5.500 HUF
late activation of a term	5.500 HUF
late registration/dropping of a subject	5.500 HUF
repeated registration for a failed subject	4.500 HUF/course
re-registering for a subject to improve the mark paid in advance	4.500 HUF
late submission of home assignment	2.500 HUF/assignment
overdue submission of the work plan	5.500 HUF/work plan
repeated resitting of a test	4.500 HUF/resitting
unverified absence from an examination	5.500 HUF/absence
3 rd and subsequent exam in the same subject	4.500 HUF/exam
overdue provision of any required data	500 HUF/data
late payment of a fee	1.400 HUF
replacement of lost student card	3.500 HUF
credits exceeding the limit (110%)	5.500 HUF/credit
copy of a Diploma	500 HUF (+2000 HUF in fee stamp)
copy of a Diploma Supplement	2000 HUF
duplicate of a Diploma	6000 HUF (+2000 HUF in fee stamp)
duplicate of a Diploma Supplement	5000 HUF
decorative Diploma	15.000 HUF

→ How to manage your [Neptun finances](#)

If you think a fee has been unrightfully imposed, please submit the „**007 Opposition to payment obligation**” request through Neptun.

Submit the **E111 Request to examine money transfer to Neptun account** request if you transferred money to the Neptun account, but you still can't see it after 3 working days.

3.4 Student Card



1. Go to the Government **Customer Service Office** ('Kormányablak' in Hungarian) in *Budapest, 11th district, Bocskai Street 39-41*. (office hours: M:7-17, Tu:8-16, W:12-20, Th:8-16, F:814)

Before you go:

- check your personal data in Neptun (first name, family name, mother's name, city of birth, date of birth)! You have to give the same data as in Neptun.
- you must have a permanent (home) address in Neptun!
- take your passport to identify yourself

At the Reception:

- press the button 'Diákigazolvány/NEK adatlap'
- a photo will be taken of you, and your data will be recorded
- **you will be given a form (NEK Adatlap)**, keep it for later use in Neptun

2. Applying via **Neptun**

- under "Administration" choose "Student Card request"
- click "Add new"
- In the opening window enter the barcode (called NEK-azonosító) in capital letters – it is in the upper right corner on your data sheet you received in the Customer Service Office
- select the equivalent "Demand type" and your permanent address at home for "Street address"
- close the window by clicking the "Save" button

3. you can request a '**Temporary Student Certificate**' (valid for 60 days) until you get your permanent Student Card

- enter your temporary address (in Hungary) into Neptun under My data/Contact information/Addresses/Add new
- submit an „**E066 Request for temporary student certificate**” at Administration/Requests/Available request forms and click **Submit request** at the bottom.
- As a cause of the Covid-19 pandemic, these certificates are now issued digitally, with a digital signature. You can **download them** from the Attachment of your E066 request.
- the certificate is valid for 60 days and you have to submit a new request for a new one!



detailed description of application procedure for permanent student card [HERE](#)

3.5 Student certificate or transcript of records

If you need certificates of your studies (e.g. student legal status certificate, credit certificate, etc.), please submit the **E027 Request for a certificate**. The digital documents can be downloaded from the request supplement. Please see the [Neptun guide](#).

3.6 Moodle



It is a widespread and well-known e-learning system that is available for you at BME – GTK. After logging-in you will get access to the study material related to your study programme.



Log in - [Moodle](#)

On this opening page, on the left, you will find a short guide on how to log in. After first login you get enrolled to courses based on the Neptun system and take part actively in the course life and communication.

If you have any problem with your login, please write an e-mail to moodle@gtk.bme.hu

3.7 Grading System

Based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS):

A (excellent) equals grade 5 (excellent)
B (very good) equals grade 5 (excellent)
C (good) equals grade 4 (good)
D (satisfactory) grade 3 (satisfactory)
E (pass) equals grade 2 (pass)
F (fail) equals grade 1 (fail)

According to the governmental decree on the introduction of the credit system 1 ECTS credit corresponds to student workload of 30 hours.

[Academic Calendar](#)



[Bulletin](#)

[System of assessment at BME / Grading system](#)

3.8 Rules and regulations



[Code of Studies \(CoS/TVSZ\)](#)

[Regulations on student fees and benefits](#)

[Extra fees - Summary](#)

[Stipendium Hungaricum Programme Operational Regulations](#)

[Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People Rules and Regulations](#)

4 STUDENT LIFE

4.1 Sports Center



Venue: BME Sports Complex (*1117 Budapest, Bogdánfy u. 12.*), close to building Q.

In line with BME's mission and tradition, physical education and sports are a priority and our goal is to make physical activity part of university life.

The organisational unit responsible for the coordination of Physical Education at the University is the BME Fitness and Sports Center. It also provides the professional background for organising traditional university and faculty championships and cup competitions.

Students can use BME's sports facilities outside their Physical Education classes (for a fee) and they can inquire about the possibilities at BME Fitness and Sport Center (*Budapest XI., 4-6 Bertalan Lajos Street; Room 113*).

Information on Physical Education and competitions can be found on the [website](#) and on the Facebook page of the [BME Fitness and Sports Center](#). We encourage everyone to visit the facility to make it easier to choose a sport. During the physical education classes, the practice material of the given sport is applied in the form of trainings. We offer a choice of nearly 30 different sports (courses).

Free sports opportunities: athletics, football, basketball, volleyball.

Sports for a fee of 6000 HUF/semester: tennis, squash, ricochet, badminton, table tennis, body building, spinning, indoor climbing, ice-skating, Krav Maga, aikido, boxing, Iaido-jodo, women's self-defence, dancing, aerobic, TRX, functional circuit training, yoga.

For more information about sports at BME contact the Sports Centre or visit the [following website](#)

4.2 Library

BME operates the largest technical library in the country, known as [OMIKK](#).



It supports high-quality education, scientific training, research, development and innovation in the fields of engineering, technology, natural sciences, business and social sciences. Besides supporting knowledge management, it also serves as a community space, fostering efficient learning and research. As a public national reference library of technology its mission is to provide access to information in all the above-mentioned fields. BME OMIKK undertakes to collect, preserve and disseminate documents and objects representing the traditions, the past and the present of the University. Furthermore, it wishes to promote Hungarian and global culture by using the widest possible variety of library tools.

It can be found behind the K-building. In order to use the library, you have to register in the library building. The registration is easy and it does not take long. You have to show your

residence permit and your student card. Exchange students can use the library but cannot borrow books.

Other services:

Printing: Black-and-white printing is *available for all visitors*



Service fee: HUF 10-12 (using printers of the library, A4 size, single/double-sided)

Location: ground floor Research Room 1, Reference Room 12. - [MAP](#)

Opening hours: Monday - Friday (closed during weekends): 9 am - 8 pm

Scanning: free self-service scanning option is *available to registered users* in the:

- ground floor Research Room 1 (size: A/4; A/3),
- ground floor Reference Room 12 (size: A/4),
- Technology and Natural Sciences Reading Room (size: A/4),
- Community Room (size: A/4).



Self-Service Copying and Printing nearby BME:



[Copyguru](#)

[Copy General](#)

[Minicopy](#)

[Thesis binding](#)

4.3 Language Centre



The Centre of Modern Languages offers credit courses in different languages. The list of subjects for foreign students is available on the webpage of the [Centre](#).

The Centre also provides Hungarian language courses to students with little or no command of the Hungarian language.

BME Language School offers fee-paying language courses in English, German, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

4.4 Student Services



The **Directorate of Student Services** (HSZI) can help students in their personal growth and in achieving their individual goals, from the start of the university to the entrance to labour market. Counselling, trainings and other programmes are available free of charge.

Counselling & Trainings: <https://hszi.bme.hu/en/Counselling/>

Services provided by BME:

- [Career Services](#)
- [Psychological Counselling](#)
- [Peer Support Programme](#)
- [Equal Opportunities Counselling Service](#)

Psychoeducational [BLOG](#)



Public Spaces for Students (indoor)

Building E: ground floor and 1st floor

Building R: 3rd floor

Building K

Library (behind Building K)



4.5 Student Organisations



The **Students' Union** consists of 15 representatives. It aims to guide students and support them throughout their university journey. Every representative has a different field of expertise (education, scholarships, events, sports facilities etc.) in which they can help Hungarian and foreign students as well.

To contact the Students' Union at GTK, please, send an e-mail to: info@gtkhk.hu

BME Model United Nations Society is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically role-play delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. [BME MUN](#) is organised by an enthusiastic group of international students of BME.

[ESTIEM](#) is an organisation for engineering management students, which combines technological understanding with management skills.

Join [AIESEC](#) and develop yourself and your leadership qualities through practical experiences, internships, volunteerships in more than 120 countries. AIESEC collaborates with NGOs, schools and the corporate sector.

[IAESTE](#) is an international organisation for the exchange of students for technical work experience abroad. They serve 4,000 students, 3,000 employers and 1,000 academic institutions through career-focused professional internships abroad, social and intercultural reception programmes, international networking and other career and employer branding activities.

4.6 Student Research Societies



Students of GTK can participate in an independent research opportunity in the framework of the [Student Research Societies](#) (TDK).

The basis of the activities is the student - professor relationship which offers possibilities for students to pursue independent research work during their undergraduate studies. They can become acquainted with research methods and tools in detail and acquire additional knowledge beyond their obligatory curriculum.

Today, Student Research Societies represent the most significant structure for the management of emerging talent in the Hungarian higher-education system.

4.7 QSMS



The Quantitative Social and Management Sciences Research Group ([QSMS](#)) is committed to addressing challenges in social and management sciences through the use of precise, quantitative methods. The Research Group strives beyond academic excellence to disseminate its results and expertise to the broader academic community, students, professionals and the society via joint projects and public events.

4.8 Student Festivals



Faculty Days

Have fun at the annual BME GTK Faculty Days in Spring! After a long tiring academic semester, before an even more intense exam period, join team competitions for an afternoon and enjoy the various concerts in the evenings.

International Students Festival

During this annual event international students can showcase their home countries through performances of songs, dances and stories. You can also try traditional food and enjoy a great atmosphere.

BME University Days

Budapest's largest student festival awaits everyone in autumn. BME organises a 3 day-long excellent music festival each September.

Job Fair

The BME Job Fair is a free event held every semester where students, fresh graduates and even employees have an opportunity to find thousands of job offers and internships by various companies from all fields. If you are not sure about your future plans, they also offer you free trainings and guidance to help you find suitable job offers.

International Fair

The International Fair is a co-event of the Job Fair. The programme is designed to collect and introduce foreign research and study scholarships, internships, summer job opportunities and language courses. You can put your questions to the representatives of international student organisations such as Erasmus+, DAAD, CCUSA, BEST, IAESTE, Fulbright Education USA or ESTIEM.



Extracurricular activities

- [BME Symphony Orchestra](#)
- [BME Cosmos Society](#)
- [BME Formula Racing Team](#)
- [BME Solar Boat Team](#)

5 LIVING IN BUDAPEST

5.1 Currency



Forint (HUF) has been the local currency in Hungary since August 1946. It was named after the city of Florence, where golden coins had been minted since 1252.

Banknotes come in denominations of 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000 and 20,000. All of them are watermarked, contain an embedded vertical security strip of thin metal and are designed to be suitable for visually impaired individuals. Six different coins are in use: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 forint coins.

You can also open a bank account, as the non-residential account service is designed especially for foreign nationals. All you need is your passport. You can open a HUF or any other currency account.

Exchange rates

Please visit the [Hungarian National Bank's website](#) for the current exchange rates.

5.2 Costs of Living

Accommodation	Dormitory	< 35 000 HUF	< 110 €
	Private flat	< 124 500 HUF	< 390 €
	Shared flat	< 55 500 HUF	< 174 €
Food	Basic food	< 40 000 HUF	< 125 €
Recreation	Movie, theatre, concert	< 2 500 HUF/occasion	< 8 €/occasion
	Party	< 5 000 HUF/occasion	< 16 €/occasion
	Sport activity	< 2 000 HUF/occasion	< 6 €/occasion
	Cycling (with own bike)	FREE	FREE
Transportation	Public bike-sharing system (Only available in Budapest; 8000 HUF/semester)	< 1 333 HUF/occasion	< 4 €/occasion
	Urban public transport (Monthly pass with Hungarian Student ID)	3 450 HUF	~11 €

Please note that the prices listed are guidelines, not actual prices. The actual costs of living depend on your personal preference and financial means.

5.3 Public transport in Budapest



Budapest has an efficient network of public transport, including bus, trolley bus, tram, metro services plus suburban railway lines called HÉV lines and boat services. Passes are available for various lengths of time (eg. monthly) and are valid for each form of transport – metro, bus, tram, trolleybus, boat – within the boundaries of Budapest. Single tickets that can be used on any form of transport are also available at metro stations or street kiosks. They are valid for a single journey without transfer on the whole length of a line (within the boundaries of Budapest), which means multiple tickets are needed when your journey involves changes. Bus drivers on specific routes do sell tickets but passengers need to prepare exact amounts as no change will be given back. If one regularly uses public transport, it is economically more viable to buy a monthly or yearly pass. Students are entitled to reduced rates. For current ticket types and prices, visit [BKK](#). Holders of a valid student card are entitled to discount fares.

Tickets:

- Single ticket: 350 HUF
- Block of 10 tickets: 3000 HUF

Passes:

- Monthly Budapest-pass for students: 3450 HUF
- Quarterly Budapest-pass for students: 10350 HUF
- Semester pass for students: 16200 HUF
- Discounted annual Budapest-pass for students: 37800 HUF

➡ **Tickets and passes** – types and process, mobile tickets, TVM, penalty, discounts

Additionally, single tickets are available from the bus driver onboard at the price of 450 HUF.

Public transportation in Budapest virtually ends after 11pm, when the metro, trams and trolley buses stop operating. There are some night buses running (marked with “É”), but not as frequently. Tram lines 4 and 6 runs all night.

➡ **BKK Futár** - journey planner application

Trains

Most train lines in Hungary use Budapest as a central point, which is the most common place for transfers. Although the train network has lines connecting cities and towns, to reach your final destination quickly, it is sometimes faster to travel through Budapest. Budapest has **three major train stations**: the Eastern Railway Station (Keleti pályaudvar) and the Southern Railway Station (Déli pályaudvar), both of which are situated at stops along metro line M2 (Red Line), and the Western Railway Station (Nyugati pályaudvar), which is situated on metro line M3 (Blue Line). **Related website:** [MÁV-Group](#)

Interurban and international bus services

If you travel outside Budapest, you can also take a coach. Coach drivers sell tickets on the coach, but to secure seat reservations, the tickets should be purchased in advance. **Related website:** [Volan Bus](#) or [Flixbus](#)

By car

Visitors don't need a Hungarian driving license to drive in Hungary but they need to keep all car documents, their driving license and passport with them. If they are stopped by a traffic warden or a police officer, some form of identification including these documents will have to be presented and driving without any documents is an offence. Speed limits in Hungary vary according to road types. In urban areas the speed limit is 50 km per hour, on highways it is 90 km per hour. If you drive on a motorway, the speed limit is 130 km per hour and you have to buy a motorway vignette. You can get it mainly at petrol stations. It costs HUF 2,975 per week for passenger cars. Renting a car is also possible if you are 21 years old or older and have had your driving license for at least a year. Most car suppliers require an international driving license as well. **Hungary has a zero tolerance policy towards drink-driving.**

Taxi

When taking a taxi, tourists should avoid hailing unmarked taxi cabs. Even if they have a taxi sign on the roof and are seen standing at taxi ranks, do not get in the car unless they have a company name on the outside of the car. You can always hail a taxi in the streets but it is cheaper to book one over the phone. From September 2013 every taxi is uniformly yellow in Budapest.

Fares:

- Base fare: ~ 450 HUF
- Kilometer-based fare: ~ 280 HUF/km
- Time-based fare: ~ 70 HUF/minute

Main taxi companies:

- 6×6 Taxi: [+36 1 666 6666](#)
- City Taxi: [+36 1 211 1111](#)
- Főtaxi: [+36 1 222 2222](#)

MOL Bubi



The MOL Bubi public bike-sharing scheme is an environmentally friendly, quick and convenient alternative in urban transport in Budapest, which consists of 156 docking stations and 2,071 bicycles. Different types of tickets and passes as well as redeemable coupons provide access [to the system](#).

You can use MOL Bubi:

- with a quarterly, annual or a semi-annual pass
- using a 24-hour, 72-hour or 7-day ticket
- every day around the clock

You can become a MOL Bubi user if you pay the **access fee** to the public bike-sharing system: buy a **24-hour, 72-hour or weekly ticket** or a **monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual pass**. Pick up a bike from any docking station with the help of the terminal or the sensor on the rear-side of the bike or by using the MOL Bubi mobile app. Click [here](#) for details.

You can find other vehicle-sharing systems, here are some examples:

- [Lime](#) (Electric roller)
- [Blinkee](#) (Electric Moped)
- [MOL Limo](#) , [Green Go](#) or [Drive/Share Now](#) (electric and gas-powered, automatic or manual transmission cars)

5.4 Culture

Cultural Life

If you want to enjoy Hungarian culture, a rich cultural scene awaits you in every town, especially in the capital. Here you can read all basic information about culture, events and what to see in Hungary: <http://gotohungary.com/>

Eating out (around Building Q)



[A38](#)

[Budapart](#)

[Infopark](#)

[Batók Béla Avenue](#)

[Kocka](#)

Tipping

Hungarians normally give tips when eating out, having a drink at a bar or when using a taxi. The tipping etiquette is 10% in case of a proper service. However, many restaurants an extra service fee to your bill, therefore check it prior to paying. In that case you don't have to leave any extra tip. Taxi service is also up to 10% if the service was satisfying.

National Holidays

There is no school on National Holidays, but be aware, because most of the shops are closed as well.

1 January	New Year's Day
15 March	1848 Revolution Memorial Day
	Good Friday
	Easter Monday
1 May	Labour Day
	Whit Monday
20 August	Saint Stephen's Day (founder of the Hungarian state)
23 October	1956 Revolution Memorial Day
1 November	All Saints' Day
25-26 December	Christmas

6 IMPORTANT TO KNOW

NO DRUGS!

All recreational drugs are illegal in Hungary, moreover, the purchase, consumption, and possession of illegal drugs are all criminal offences. Even if the use of a particular drug is not a criminal offence in your country, you are still obliged to comply with Hungarian law, and will be held accountable to the same standards as a local person. You can learn more from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction ([EMCDDA](#)).

SPEED LIMITS

The speed limit for cars and motorcycles on the motorway is 130 km per hour (approximately 80 mph) on highways, the limit is 110 km per hour (approximately 65 mph) and in town and village areas the speed limit is 50 km per hour (approximately 30 mph)

IMPORTANT RULES

Hungary has a zero tolerance policy for driving under the influence. It is against the law to use a hand-held cell phone while driving anywhere in Hungary and seat belts are mandatory for everyone in the car.

ELECTRICITY

Before travelling to Hungary, you should bear in mind that mains sockets may be different from those in your home country. This problem can be easily solved with a universal adapter. The voltage is 220V AC, 50 Hz, sockets are two forked.

EMERGENCY

Important telephone numbers in case of emergency:

General emergency service phone number	112
Police	107
Ambulance	104
Fire service	105

112 is the European emergency number in all 28 EU member states, as well as other countries in Europe and elsewhere.

Calls to these numbers are free of charge.

24-hour English language crime hotline	+36 1 438 8080
English language telephone directory service	191
International operator	199

We are looking forward to meeting you at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences!

International Students' Office

Disclaimer

The information was current at the time of publication, however it may be amended or withdrawn without prior notice. No rights may therefore be derived from this brochure. For the latest and updated information, please visit gtk.bme.hu/en/

Published by BME Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences,
International Students' Office

Content and design: Ms. Hedvig Füzesi, Ms. Noémi Girst
2022, Budapest, Hungary

