



The Essential Guide to Studying Abroad

Undergraduate study options in Europe



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NEMZETI KUTATÁSI, FEJLESZTÉSI
ÉS INNOVÁCIÓS HIVATAL

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The Essential Guide to Studying Abroad

More and more students are choosing to study in a foreign country. There are many good reasons for this: studying abroad gives you the opportunity to travel, expand your worldview, learn languages and even boost your CV. Nevertheless, if you are interested in going to university abroad, you need to carefully research the options available and prepare your application to make the most of this opportunity. In this guide, we have compiled information that can help you with choosing and applying for a bachelor's degree outside of Hungary.





Practical considerations

Finances

If you're thinking about studying in another country, you have probably heard the question "But how much will that cost?" from your family or friends. Financial cost is an important consideration and your chance to go abroad may depend on it. The most important costs to consider are listed below.

Tuition fee

Tuition cost can be one of the biggest expenses. For example, in the UK, earning a bachelor's degree (in 3 years) can cost up to £27,750 in total. There is a big variation in tuition fees from country to country so it is worth checking several countries you may be interested in. Be careful, because even if a university is free, there may still be some additional costs, such as a yearly registration fee. You can find more information on European countries' tuition costs in this guide.

Scholarships, grants and student loans

There are several types of financial support that can help you pay for your studies.

Scholarships are merit-based, which means that they are awarded to students who excel academically or in sports or the arts. These are usually given by the university, so if you are interested in what scholarship options are available at your chosen university, look on their website.

Grants are usually given based on the family's financial situation and because of the differences in the average pay between Hungary and other European countries, Hungarians are often eligible. These grants are usually offered by the country's government but may be advertised on universities' websites as well.

Another option is to apply for a **student loan**. These loans often cover the cost of tuition fees and may also provide some funds for cost of living. However, they differ from the two options above in that loans need to be repaid! Make sure you carefully research the conditions of repayment and the interest fee on the loan before you apply.

The European Union maintains a [useful database](#) for accessing information about fees and financial support opportunities in the member countries. Under the section "Financial help by country", you can select the country you are interested in, and it will redirect you to the relevant country sites, if available. For countries that do not appear here, there may not be such a centralised website, in which case you will have to look on the university's website or enquire at their admissions office.



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Besides doing your homework and researching these opportunities, be prepared for the serious paperwork needed to apply for any of these funding opportunities, usually involving proof of identity, proof of household income, etc., all of which may need to be officially translated.

Accommodation

The second biggest expense in studying abroad is accommodation. This cost can vary greatly depending on where you are studying. Naturally, the biggest factor influencing the cost of accommodation is the price of rent in the city of the university, so researching these prices is a good place to start to get an idea. Cities well-known for being expensive include: [London](#), [Zurich](#), [Paris](#), [Oslo](#), [Munich](#) and [Hamburg](#).

In some countries, universities provide accommodation, but in others, students have to find accommodation on their own from the start. If the university you want to go to offers accommodation, we recommend that you stay there at least in your first year as it offers a great opportunity to meet other new students and form long-lasting friendships. If you do not have this option, you can try to find other students to rent an apartment or house with or move into a privately-owned student accommodation (halls of residence). If you do not know any other students in the country of your choice, you can try to look for Facebook groups such as “Magyar diákok az Egyesült Királyságban” or “Magyarok Párizsban” to get in touch with the Hungarian community in that city. If you are a student of an organisation like Milestone Institute, you can also benefit from joining their alumni communities.

Cost of living

Similarly to accommodation, the cost of living varies a lot from country to country and even from city to city within a country. Cost of living usually refers to aspects like the price of bills, food, public transport and services. There are several useful websites that provide updated estimates of cost of living, such as [numbeo.com](#) or [expatistan.com](#). In this guide, the estimates of cost of living used include the cost of housing, except when explicitly stated that they do not.

Travel expenses and distance

If you are thinking about going to study at an exciting, far-away city, you should remember to consider the cost of travelling in your calculations. Although these days there are low cost flights to many destinations, prices can still rise considerably around holidays and at weekends. Make sure you also think through how you will transport your belongings abroad when you first move and always plan ahead as much as possible to book flights in time.

Recognition of foreign degrees in Hungary and abroad

There are no [European Union](#) laws about the recognition of foreign degrees, so it is usually up to the employer whether they accept a degree as being equivalent to what they are looking for. Information on individual countries’ regulations for equivalency can be found on the ENIC-NARIC’s (European Network of Information Centres and National Academic Recognition Information Centres) [website](#).



Within European Union member countries, there are also so-called ‘regulated professions’. For these jobs, the recognition of a foreign diploma needs to be requested (teaching is one such profession). To check whether a degree you receive abroad for one of these regulated professions is recognised in Hungary or any other EU state, you can visit the European Commission’s [website](#).

From the regulated professions, medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine, dentistry, midwifery, architecture, and pharmaceutical professions are exceptions to the above described rule and degrees therein are automatically recognised and accepted as equivalent within the EU member states, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

Academic considerations

Cultural differences in teaching style

If you are interested in studying abroad, you have to think about the teaching style in that country and whether this fits you. If you are attending high school in Hungary, you are probably used to the Hungarian teaching method which prepares students for attending Hungarian universities. However, approaches to teaching can be very different in Hungary compared to other countries and you may be surprised at the differences you will discover as you start looking at options abroad.

Of course, you will probably not know what different countries’ approach to teaching is. For this reason, make sure you **check the description of the university course** you are planning to apply to. Universities’ websites usually have a wealth of information available, ranging from overarching themes or goals of the degree programme to the exact modules you can take each semester. Check these details for all the courses you are interested in, even if you are applying to study the same subject in multiple universities, as the programmes may not be the same structure or cover the same topics even within the same country. Importantly, think about which course you personally find the most interesting or suited to your way of learning, rather than just picking programmes based on the university’s prestige.

Similarly, admissions requirements may be different not just from country to country but from university to university, so make sure you carefully **read all requirements** well ahead of the application deadline. In this guide, we have compiled the general application process for university courses in Europe. Nevertheless, you have to check the exact documents needed to be submitted and make sure you prepare all the necessary material before you start your application.



How to build a strong application

In many countries outside Hungary, admission to university does not simply depend on your grades. Universities may also be interested in what you have done outside the classroom that demonstrates your abilities and interest in the subject of your choice (especially in the United Kingdom). Try to think about different ways in which you can engage with your area of interest and learn more about it. It is never too early to start getting involved in these activities - and do not stop at only one! Although not all universities are looking for the same things, below you will find some general tips to strengthen your application and increase your chances of being admitted to the university of your dreams.

Participate in competitions

There are many great academic and non-academic competitions organised both in Hungary and abroad that you can participate in as a high school student. The OKTV is probably the most well-known in Hungary and it also puts your application at an advantage when applying abroad! Other competitions include essay competitions, photography and art competitions, coding competitions and any you can find related to the field you are interested in.

Get work experience

Relevant work experience is vital in demonstrating that you are passionate about what you want to study. These can be trickier to find than competitions, depending on the field you are interested in. It can take the form of some kind of an internship or volunteer work. Besides showing that you have experienced working in the field, this also helps you figure out if you really want to study that degree or if maybe something else is better suited to you.

Participate in societies

Being an active member of societies can show that you have many valuable skills, such as team work and time management. Do not be afraid to get involved in societies that pique your interest!

Read books

Reading books is an excellent way to gain more knowledge in your chosen field. These readings do not have to be journal articles, which may seem dry and difficult to understand; leading academics often publish their research in easily readable and entertaining book form for the general public. After you have read the book, take some time to think about how much you agree or disagree with the author and make your own interpretations.

A note on ranking tables

In this report, we have listed the best universities of each country based on the [QS World University Rankings](#). However, keep in mind that although rankings aim to assess universities objectively, they have a number of limitations. The QS ranking evaluates universities according to [six metrics](#): academic reputation, employer ratio, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty,



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international faculty ratio and international student ratio. In this way, for example, the research output of the university plays quite an important role in the score their ranking, even though this depends on a lot of factors that may not be related to teaching, such as the language the research was conducted in, the reputation of the university, the funding the university has to support research, etc. Other rankings may assign different weightings to the metrics or may also include other factors such as student ratings of the university. For these reasons, make sure to read about what metrics the ranking uses to assess the universities and keep in mind that these lists have their limitations. You can read more on this topic [here](#).



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United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) is one of the most popular university destinations for Hungarian students: according to [HESA](#), in the 2017/18 academic year there were 2,210 Hungarian students studying in the UK. While there are many reasons for this, UK universities probably stand out to students as they often top university ranking tables, providing teaching at the highest standard, coupled with cutting-edge research. More than 130 universities offer a wide range of courses among which everyone can find something they like.



Useful links:

- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- <https://milestone-institute.org/test-centre/>
- <https://www.britishcouncil.hu/en>



Teaching

Universities in the UK follow the [Bologna Process](#), and as such higher education is divided into 3 stages: bachelor's (undergraduate), master's (postgraduate) and doctoral (PhD). Undergraduate courses are usually three years long, except in Scotland, where they are 4 years long. Engineering degrees are also usually 4 years long, with the option of completing a master's in engineering with an extra year of study (5 years in total).

In general, there are two types of courses in the UK: single honours, where one main subject is studied throughout the three years, and joint honours, where two courses are studied in parallel, in equal weighting. There are also honours degrees with a major (e.g. English Literature with Creative Writing), where students spend most of their time studying one specialist subject alongside another minor subject.

A major difference between the British and Hungarian education systems is that rather than starting off broadly and gradually focusing, as in the Hungarian system, the courses are already focused from the first year in Britain. This is slightly different in Scotland, where study in the first two years is relatively flexible, allowing students to choose between two to three subjects; it then becomes more focused for the final two years. Furthermore, direct contact hours in the UK are also lower; it is not uncommon for students to only have a couple of hours of lectures per subject per week, and some additional tutorials. Nevertheless, you will be expected to do substantial independent studying, such as reading scientific papers and preparing essays or completing other assessed coursework. Based on these readings and preparation, you will also be encouraged to exercise critical thinking rather than just memorising the material.

The [grading system](#) in the UK is unique and can at first be confusing for Hungarian students. Grades are classified into "classes": First Class (1st), Second-Upper Class (2:1), Second-Lower Class (2:2), Third Class (3rd) and Fail. These grades do not correspond to percentages in equal weights (see table below), so you may be surprised to receive back an assignment with largely positive feedback and a 60% grade. Please keep in mind that First Class honours are awarded to outstanding students who have exceeded the expectations of their course. Nevertheless, if you are planning to continue to study at master's level, try to achieve a 2:1 overall, as this is the general requirement for entry to [postgraduate courses](#).

Another difference is that British universities are less tolerant of failing exams. Although the exact rules vary by university, in general, if a student fails an examination, they are required to re-sit that examination and their new grade cannot exceed 40%. However, if the student fails the examination during the resit as well, they are expelled from the study program.



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Grade	Percentage	Grade definition	Hungarian equivalent
First Class (1st)	70+%	Excellent	5
Second-Upper Class (2:1)	60-69%	Good to Very Good	4
Second-Lower Class (2:2)	50-59%	Satisfying	3
Third Class (3rd)	40-49%	Sufficient	2
Fail	Below 40%	Unsatisfactory	1

Universities in the UK often hold open days throughout the year. These offer a great opportunity to visit the university campus, meet current students, hear about student life there and ask questions. Make sure to check the university's website for more information related to these events.



Top Universities in the UK

The rankings of universities tend to change from year to year, so rather than reporting the exact ranking for this year, we have chosen 22 universities that have been consistently high-ranking in the UK in the last 5 years. We also reported their World University ranking.

University	<u>World ranking</u>	<u>UK Ranking</u>
University of Oxford	4.	2.
University of Cambridge	7.	1.
University College London (UCL)	8.	10.
Imperial College London	9.	5.
The University of Edinburgh	20.	16.
The University of Manchester	21.	15.
King's College London	33.	25.
London School of Economics (LSE)	44.	4.
University of Bristol	49.	16.
University of Warwick	62.	12.
University of Glasgow	67.	18.
Durham University	78.	6.
University of Birmingham	81.	13.
University of Leeds	93.	14.
University of Nottingham	96.	19.
University of Southampton	97.	20.
University of St Andrew's	100.	3.
Queen Mary University of London	126.	41.
Lancaster University	128.	7.
University of Exeter	163.	11.
University of Bath	172.	9.
Loughborough University	222.	8.



Practical information

Academic Year

In the UK, the academic year is typically divided into three terms. These usually last from September to December, from January to March and from April to June, although the exact dates vary between the universities.

Finances

Tuition fee

University tuition fees depend on the university and the course, but the maximum limit is set by the [UK Government](#). English universities can charge up to £9,250 (around HUF 3 493 000) per year for an undergraduate degree for EU students; universities in Wales may charge up to £9,000 (around HUF 3 399 000) per year, in Northern Ireland up to £4,160 (around HUF 1 571 000) per year. In Scotland, universities are currently free for EU students. Of course, all of this may change with Brexit (see the section 'Brexit', page 12).

Cost of living

Money is a major concern for most Hungarian students when thinking about studying in the UK as it is widely known that life in Britain is much more expensive than in Hungary. The average cost of living is estimated at around £12,000 (around HUF 4 532 000) per year, but there are considerable variations between regions, notably London being the most expensive city to live in. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to consider the cost of travelling to the UK, accommodation, food, health and travel insurance, day-to-day living and travelling or sightseeing within the UK. There are many useful tools available online (e.g. budget calculator) to help estimate such costs, often accessible from universities' websites.

Accommodation

Accommodation costs vary greatly between universities depending on the city's size, the availability of university-owned accommodation, etc., so it is worth researching the details on university websites. In general, at most universities, university-owned accommodation is provided for first year students, while in the second and third years students rent from private landlords (notable exceptions are the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, see page 16).

Student Support and student loans

[Government Student Support](#) is available to all Hungarian students. Universities may also offer a range of bursaries and scholarships, please check their website for more information.

Hungarian students are currently eligible to apply for student loans to cover [100%](#) of their tuition fees. This loan has to be [repaid](#) once you finish your course and your income is over £2,143 (around HUF 810 000) per month, by the automatic deduction of 9% from your income



every month. The same principle applies for repayment if you leave the UK, but the income threshold may be lowered to match the difference in living costs.

Living in the UK

Pros:

- Some of the world's best universities are in the UK
- There is an international community and everyone speaks English
- Excellent career prospects after graduation

Cons:

- Expenses: tuition fees and cost of living is high
- London is a very big and overcrowded city, catering to professionals rather than students

Brexit

The United Kingdom is formally leaving the European Union on 31 January 2020. This starts a transition period and the current understanding is that the UK and the EU will have to agree on all important matters by 31 December 2020. How the fee status of EU students will change after Brexit depends on the outcome of these negotiations.

In 2019, the British government [announced](#) that EU students planning to start their studies in September / October 2020 will still be eligible to pay 'home' fees of up to £9,250, take the tuition fee loan, and can still study for free in Scotland as before. Nevertheless, in the event of a no-deal, it is likely that tuition fees for EU students will be increased from 2021 onwards, so this is something to keep in mind. At the time of writing, neither the British government nor Universities UK (the body of university vice-chancellors) has taken a stand on this matter. Furthermore, competition to Scottish universities is increasing year-by-year as more and more EU students choose to apply there instead of the rest of the UK.

Applying

In the United Kingdom, an organisation called the [Universities and Colleges Admissions Service \(UCAS\)](#) operates the application process to all British universities. If you are planning to apply to any British university, you will need to register at UCAS Progress, UCAS' application portal and fill out their student profile with details such as personal information, qualifications, work history, personal statement and contact details. You can then use UCAS Progress to browse through universities and the courses they offer and save courses to your 'Favourites' page.

Applications open in September of each year, at which time you can select specific courses. For most current applications, the cost per student is £18 (around HUF 6800) to apply for a single course, or £24 (around HUF 9000) for two or more courses. The maximum number of courses you can apply for is 5 per year.



Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th October:** for those applying to **Oxford or Cambridge** and for **Medicine, Dentistry** and **Veterinary Science**.
- **15th January:** for most other applications.
- **24th March:** for some art and design students.

Personal statement

The personal statement is probably the most important part of your application. This piece of writing gives you an opportunity to showcase your personal and professional achievements and reasons why you should be accepted by your chosen university. This statement can be up to 4,000 characters long and should aim to be original and unique to you, and as such it is recommended to start preparing it well before the application deadline and ask for help from a teacher. Universities in the UK are especially looking for evidence that you are interested in the subject you are applying for, for example by describing relevant previous internships, academic competitions or volunteer work you may have done (see more in “*How to build a strong application*”, page 5).

One thing to keep in mind is that you can only submit one personal statement per application, meaning that you will send the same statement to the 5 different courses you apply to. This limits which courses you can apply to in one year, as they have to be similar enough to match your personal statement.

Interviews and admission tests

Some universities may additionally require an interview or an admission test. The interview process is described in more detail in the University of Cambridge and Oxford sections (page 18). There are three types of [admissions tests](#) currently used at British universities (Oxford and Cambridge are an exception again, see page 18); make sure you check whether you need to take one and practise sufficiently before test day as these can be quite challenging and unusual compared to Hungarian high school tests. You can take these admissions tests in Hungary at a registered test centre, for example at the [Milestone Institute](#) or at the [British Council](#). Be prepared to pay for the cost of the examination and administration cost as well. The following is a list of some admissions tests and universities that use them:



Admission Test	University	Subject
Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP)	University of Cambridge University of Warwick	Mathematics
Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)	University of Cambridge University of Oxford University College London (UCL) Imperial College London Lancaster University University of Manchester University of Leeds Brighton and Sussex Medical School	Medicine Biomedical Sciences Dentistry
University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)	Universities requiring this test are listed here .	Medicine Dentistry

Language exams

British universities will almost always ask for proof of English proficiency and this is often specified as a score on an official English language exam in the offer they give. The most commonly accepted exam is the International English Language Testing System ([IELTS](#)) - Academic version. This test is made up of four sections: Listening, Academic Reading, Academic Writing and Speaking, and it takes overall 2 hours and 45 minutes to complete. In Hungary, you can register for this test at the British Council, with test centres in Budapest (1075 Budapest, Madách Imre út 13.) or in Szeged (6722 Szeged, Honvéd tér 6.); as of January 2020, the test fee is HUF 64 800. There are usually two tests per month, and registration for a test closes two to three weeks before the test takes place, so make sure you plan in advance. You can find more information on the British Council's [website](#).

Some universities may also accept other English language exams such as C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency of the Cambridge English Qualifications (formerly known as CPE) and possibly the higher-level English 'érettségi'. Regarding language exams, it is a good idea to check the exact details with your university of choice by looking on their website and contacting their admissions team.

Students who are successfully accepted to a course will receive an offer from the university around March, but this will vary depending on the specific institution and course. The offer can be a **conditional offer**, meaning that certain conditions (usually grade specifications and a language exam score) need to be met to be accepted, or an **unconditional offer**, meaning that no conditions need to be met to be accepted. From the offers you have received, you must choose a firm choice, which is your preferred university, and an insurance choice, which is your second preferred university in case you do not meet the conditions of your firm choice's offer.



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Clearing

In case you do not receive any offers, fail to meet the conditions of your offers or apply after 30th June, your UCAS application will be entered into Clearing. In Clearing, students have to contact universities directly on the phone to apply. The list of courses available through Clearing can be checked via the UCAS Search tool and availability changes daily, so it is worth checking back often.



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Cambridge and Oxford

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, collectively known as 'Oxbridge', are among the best in the world, and for that they are quite famous. Nevertheless, attention from the [media and films](#) has created some misconceptions about what kind of students study there. In reality, both universities seek the brightest and most talented applicants regardless of their background and take very rigorous steps to ensure a fair assessment for everyone. In 2018, [53](#) Hungarian students were admitted to Cambridge and [30](#) to Oxford for undergraduate courses, so if you are interested in knowing more about studying at Oxford or Cambridge, read on!



Useful links:

- <http://www.ox.ac.uk/>
- <https://www.cam.ac.uk/>



What makes Oxbridge special

Teaching

What sets apart Oxbridge from most other UK universities is their teaching style. Besides attending lectures, seminars and laboratory work, depending on your course, you will also benefit from personal tuition (these are called ‘supervisions’ in Cambridge and ‘tutorials’ in Oxford). You will be required to submit an essay or other piece of work in advance of these sessions, which is related to the lectures but examines the topic in more detail. In the sessions, you and a couple of other students from your course meet with an expert in the field (often a PhD student or a lecturer) where you receive feedback on your work and can discuss the material from lectures and any questions you may have. In this way, these supervisions or tutorials provide the perfect environment for developing your critical thinking skills.

Collegiate system

Both universities are made up of individual colleges as well as academic departments. While academic departments are responsible for centralised teaching and assessment, students belong to colleges which provide accommodation, academic and pastoral support and form the central part of students’ social life. Students live in college accommodation during their entire undergraduate course and can access facilities such as catering, library, IT facilities, etc. When applying to either university, you must choose a college and apply there directly. This can cause a lot of headache for students as many are unsure about which college to choose: there are 31 colleges accepting undergraduates in [Oxford](#) and 25 such colleges in [Cambridge](#). Try to think about what is important to you and do a lot of research to narrow down your options. Some useful criteria are: the size of the college, the architectural style (many older colleges are not able to accommodate all their students in the historical buildings and place them in newly built ones!), percentage of international students and location. If you really cannot decide on a college, you can make an open application, although this is not advised.

It is important to know that the choice of college you apply to does not influence your chance of being admitted. Both universities try to ensure that the best students are successful in their application independent of which college they apply to. This means that it is possible that you are interviewed by your college of choice and then selected by a different college.

Oxford or Cambridge?

You cannot apply to both universities in the same year, so you will have to choose one or the other. The most important criterion in guiding your university choice should be the degree you wish to study; Cambridge and Oxford do not offer the same courses as their focus is often slightly different. A good way to start is to browse through the universities’ course listings to find more details about the course specifications. Some of the degrees may seem unusual compared to Hungarian university courses, so keep an open mind! Crucially, make sure you



choose something that really interests you as it will be important to show this during your application process.

Another difference between the two universities is the city they are located in. Oxford is bigger than Cambridge and has more of a “city-feel”, while Cambridge is quite small and easily navigated on foot. Depending on your preferences, this may be a guiding factor as well. You can visit the universities on any of their open days to gain first-hand experience of their atmosphere.

Applying

The application process to Cambridge and Oxford is different from other British universities.

The three main differences are:

- 1) **Earlier deadline** - UCAS application deadline is **15th October** for both universities.
- 2) **Admission tests** - both universities require admission tests for most of their courses.
- 3) **Interview** - most students will be invited for interviews in December. More details about the interview process are described below.

Admission tests

Both Oxford and Cambridge require written admission tests for most of their courses that are to be taken before the interview or at the interview, if invited. These test results help universities choose between the excellent candidates who apply to the university. You can check whether your course requires a test before or at the interview on the respective university’s website ([Cambridge](#) and [Oxford](#)). To make your application as competitive as possible, try to practice these assessments in exam conditions using past papers that are available online.

To take these tests in Hungary, you will need to register at an official test centre, for example at the [Milestone Institute](#) or the [British Council](#). Be prepared to pay for administration charges on top of the test fee.

Interviews

Oxford interviews around [half of the applicants](#), while Cambridge interviews around [75%](#). The overarching goals are the same for both universities: to see how students think, learn and respond to the Oxbridge learning environment (tutorials/supervisions). Interviewers are usually tutors/supervisors who work at the college in the field that you have applied to. They may start the interview with a few simple questions about why you want to study the subject or ask you to elaborate on parts of your personal statement. Then, they will ask more subject-specific questions. Depending on the course, you may be given a text, graph or an object, before or during the interview, and asked to answer questions on it, resulting in a discussion between you and your interviewers. Most of the time, interviewers are not looking to assess your knowledge or whether your answer is right or wrong but would like to see your thinking process and how you respond to feedback. For this reason, try to walk them through your reasoning and do not be afraid to ask questions if something is not clear or there is a term you do not understand. More information can be found on both universities’ websites. A list of sample interview questions is also available on the University of Oxford’s [website](#).



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Ireland

The Republic of Ireland offers high quality education by native English speakers at a cheaper cost than the neighbouring United Kingdom. At the moment, this opportunity is still a little unrecognised by Hungarian students as only [51](#) of them studied here in 2017. Nevertheless, this country full of natural and cultural treasures has a lot to offer.



Useful links:

- <https://www.educationinireland.com/en/>
- www.cao.ie



Teaching

There are [33](#) higher education institutions in Ireland, offering over 5000 courses that are internationally recognised and respected. These institutions include seven public universities, colleges that specialise in a single subject area, and institutes in technology that offer a wide range of vocational programmes. There are also seven private colleges, such as the Dublin Business School.

At Irish universities, undergraduate courses last between [3 to 4 years](#), but for some degrees, it can last for up to 5 years, e.g. some Engineering courses. [Courses](#) can be studied as either a single honours subject, a single-honours with a major in one subject and a minor in another subject, or as a joint-honours with a combination of two subjects.

[Grading systems](#) differ slightly depending on the institution and even the degree programme, but in general, grades are given as a percentage (0-100%) along with its description (First Class Honours, Upper Second Class Honours, Lower Second Class Honours, Third Class Honours, Fail), similarly to the UK system (see page 9).

Top Universities in Ireland

Two Irish universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed these here.

Top universities	World-ranking
Trinity College Dublin	108.
University College Dublin	185.

Practical information

Academic Year

In Ireland, the academic year is typically divided into three terms. These usually last from September to December, from January to March and from April to June, although the exact dates vary between the universities.



Finances

Tuition fees

Hungarian students can benefit from the [Higher Education Free Fees Scheme](#), which means that you do not have to pay tuition fees. However, you still have to pay a student contribution charge of €3000 (around HUF 1 133 000) per year.

Cost of living

The cost of living in Ireland is estimated at around €7000 - €12000 (around HUF 2 643 400 – 4 531 500) per year, but this will depend on the city you live in. Dublin is more expensive than other cities in Ireland. For more information, see [here](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Ireland, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Irish universities usually offer [on-campus accommodation](#) for first year students, but places are popular and rent can be expensive. If you do not succeed in securing a room in university accommodation, you will have to look for accommodation privately to share with other students. Your university will likely have an Accommodation Advisory Service that can assist you in this process. Another great source of help can be the university's Students' Union.

Scholarships/loans

Few scholarships are available to Hungarian students, but you can browse through a comprehensive list that can be found [here](#). Please contact the institution directly to obtain more detailed information.

Fee grants towards a student's living costs (maintenance grant) or to cover all or part of the student contribution charge and the cost of field trips (fee grants) are available under the Student Grant Scheme (SUSI). The grant is awarded based on your family's gross income. You can find more information about the Student Grant Scheme [here](#).

Living in Ireland

Pros:

- Everyone speaks English
- Friendly locals
- Beautiful countryside

Cons:

- Weather: cold, rainy, windy, little sunshine
- Cost of living can be high in the bigger cities



Applying

Hungarian students should apply through the Central Applications Office ([CAO](#)), which processes applications to undergraduate courses in Ireland.

You can apply to a maximum of 10 courses through CAO's website. Make sure you apply well before the deadline to ensure your application is processed before the deadline passes. There are three application deadlines, and the only difference between them is their cost. An early application costs €30 (around HUF 11 300) and has to be submitted by 20th January, a normal application costs €45 (around HUF 17 000) and has to be submitted by 1st February, and a late application costs €60 (around HUF 22 700) and has to be submitted by 1st May.

If you are applying to study Medicine, you will have to pass the HPAT assessment test. You must apply independently via the following [website](#).

Some other courses also require additional assessments such as oral interviews or admission tests. These courses are called 'restricted courses' and you must apply to these by 1st February the latest. For a full list of which courses are restricted, see [CAO's Handbook](#) and your chosen university's website.

Order of preference

When making your application, you have to list your course choices based on your order of preference. This is very important, and you should carefully think about your honest preference, as at the offer stage, you will receive an offer from the course highest on your list. For example, if you receive an offer from your first choice, you will not receive an offer from courses lower on your list in later rounds. However, if you receive an offer from your third choice, you may still receive an offer from your second or first choice at a later round.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **20th January:** for early applications
- **1st February:** for normal applications and restricted courses
- **1st May:** for late applications

Language exams

Proof of English proficiency is required to study in Ireland. Universities generally accept IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge English C2 Proficiency or C1 Advanced Certificate, etc., but please check the exact details with your institution of choice.



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Germany

Studying in Germany offers the opportunity to enjoy high quality education in over 380 institutions, coupled with above average standard of living, which has already attracted over [2000](#) Hungarian students in recent years. At the same time, living in Germany provides the perfect environment for practising the German language, which is a great asset as it is one of the world's most influential languages.



Useful links:

- <https://www.studying-in-germany.org/>
- <https://www.uni-assist.de/en/>



Teaching

Germany is known for its academic excellence worldwide and has been the centre for advances in science and research as well as a hub for leading thinkers and writers for centuries. Although most bachelor's degrees are taught in German, [124](#) degrees are held entirely in English - and this number will certainly increase further in the future.

Germany also follows the Bologna process, meaning that an undergraduate course's duration is 3 years. [Grades range](#) from 1-5 (except for Law schools), where 1 is the best and 5 is the worst grade in the following way:

Grade	Description	Approx. percentage
1 - 1.5	Outstanding	91 - 100%
1.6 - 2.5	Good	81 - 90%
2.6 - 3.5	Satisfactory	66 - 80%
3.6 - 4	Sufficient	50 - 65%
5	Fail	0 - 49%

There are several types of higher education institutions in Germany. [95%](#) of students study in public institutions, as private institutions are more expensive than public ones- although the quality of both is equally excellent. Among [public institutions](#), you can study at a university, a college of art and music, a university of applied sciences or at a professional academy offering cooperative education.

Universities

General universities offer a wide range of courses, with a focus on research. The usual length of study is 6 semesters or 3 years. International bachelor's programmes available include: Languages and Humanities, Law, Economics, Social Sciences and Engineering Sciences. For a full list of English-taught degrees, see [here](#).

Colleges of Art and Music

Universities of art and music educate future artists and musicians, offering either all art subjects or specialising in a certain area of study. Courses include visual, design and performing arts, fine arts, art history, film, television and media, history and teaching of music, etc. The usual length of studies is 8 semesters or 4 years.



University of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen)

Universities of applied sciences provide labour market needs-driven courses and research programmes that are practically-oriented. A paid practical training (Praxissemester) at a private business or public institution is a compulsory part of all programmes. These institutions are independent and usually not publicly funded, although there are some exceptions. They specialise in the following areas of study:

- Agricultural economy
- Business
- Design
- Technology
- Social work

International bachelor's programmes available include: Law, Economics, Social Sciences and Engineering Sciences. For a full list of English-taught degrees, see [here](#).

Top Universities in Germany

German universities are academically strong and twelve of them can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed the six best universities in Germany and the fields they excel in.

Top 6 Universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
Technical University of Munich	Science and Technology	55.
Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (LMU) München	Natural Sciences	63.
Heidelberg University	Research	66.
Humboldt University of Berlin	Arts and Humanities	120.
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)	STEM	124
Freie Universitaet Berlin	Social Sciences and Humanities	130.



Practical information

Academic Year

At German universities, the [academic year](#) is divided into 2 semesters: “Wintersemester” and “Sommersemester”. The winter semester officially begins on 1st October and lasts until 31st March and the summer semester begins on 1st April and lasts until 30th September. However, teaching only takes place between mid-October and mid-February and mid-April to mid/late-July; the remaining time is intended for writing papers, preparing for examinations, completing internships, etc.

Finances

Tuition fees

Tuition fee in German public universities is free, but a semester contribution has to be paid each semester (maximum [around €300 / HUF 113 300](#), to be checked with the chosen university), covering administrative costs, student union membership and public transportation ticket.

Private universities charge tuition fees independently, but usually the maximum does not exceed €30,000 (around HUF 11 330 000) per year and reduction of fees may be available based on financial standing.

Cost of living

It is estimated that you will need on average [€853](#) (around HUF 322 100) per month to cover your living expenses in Germany, which is cheaper than in many other European countries. Nevertheless, the actual cost greatly differs, depending on which part of the country you live in. In general, the south and west of Germany is more expensive than the north and east. Stuttgart, Munich and Hamburg are some of the most expensive big cities, Berlin is slightly less expensive in comparison, and cities in the east of Germany are probably the most affordable, such as Leipzig. A detailed breakdown of price differences can be found [here](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Germany, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

German universities do not allocate students to accommodation automatically and universities are usually spread out around a city without a specific campus. It [can be difficult to find accommodation](#), especially in big cities in Western Germany or in traditional university towns. Nevertheless, [halls of residence](#) are available: these are cost-effective and provide a great environment to meet other students and socialise. Competition for a room in student halls is also high, with long waiting-lists, so make sure to apply as soon as possible if you would like to live there. You can contact the local Studentenwerk (German Student Association) to find out



about [how to apply](#). Alternatively, you can join other students and rent private accommodation together, which is called Wohngemeinschaft (WG) in German.

Scholarships/loans

Scholarships for Hungarian students in undergraduate education are limited, but the German Academic Exchange Service has compiled a useful list accessible [here](#).

Additionally, student loans are also available. [BAföG](#) (Federal Education and Training Assistance Act) are grants accessible to students with low parental income. Although non-Germans are also entitled, legal regulations are very complex, so please contact your chosen university's admission office for more information.

Living in Germany

Pros:

- Low cost of living
- Strong economy - unemployment is low
- Good public transport and railway system

Cons:

- Knowledge of German is essential
- There is a lot of competition for accommodation

Applying

[Three institutions](#) are responsible for handling applications: the Foundation for Admission to Higher Education (Stiftung für Hochschulzulassung), the University Application Service for International Students (uni-assist) and the university itself. Which one you need to apply to depends on the course you would like to take.

Numerus clausus (NC)

Since there are many more applicants than places for certain courses, admissions may be restricted to a maximum number of students by the university or nation-wide. This restriction is called 'numerus clausus', and it specifies a minimum 'érettségi' grade in order to be accepted. Courses which have a nation-wide NC include medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, dentistry and geoinformation management. Courses that have NC set by the university may require you to pass a test or attend an interview. You can check whether your chosen subject has NC on the [Higher Education Compass's website](#).

For courses with NC, you have to apply to the Foundation for Admission to Higher Education. For courses without NC, you can apply through uni-assist or contact the university directly.



Uni-assist

Uni-assist is a non-profit association that assesses international student applications to German universities. However, not all universities use uni-assist, so check [this list](#) to see if your chosen university does so. If not, you can apply to the university directly.

The cost of uni-assist depends on how many courses you apply for. The first course cost [€75](#) (around HUF 28 300), after which each additional course application costs €30 (around HUF 11 330).

It is advised to start an application via uni-assist at least 8 weeks before the university course's deadline, but the earlier the better. Besides applying online through uni-assist and submitting electronic copies of your documents, you will also have to send hard copies of all certified documents to Germany by post. The steps are outlined on [uni-assist's website](#).

After your application and payment is received, uni-assist evaluates it in about 4 to 6 weeks and updates your online portal accordingly. If some documents are missing, you have to submit them ASAP before the deadline. Once your application is complete, uni-assist will send it to the universities electronically.

Foundation for Admission to Higher Education (Stiftung für Hochschulzulassung)

To apply to a course with NC, you have to register on the [Foundation's](#) website and you will use this account to submit your applications, track your progress and adjust your course preferences. Application through the Foundation is free of charge.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th July:** for degrees starting in the winter semester
- **15th January:** for degrees starting in the summer semester

Some universities have different deadlines so please check with your chosen university as early as possible. The results are announced around August or September.

Language exams

For the majority of courses, German is the language of instruction. Even if this is not the case, the university may still require proof of German proficiency.

Universities accept the following [certificates](#):

- DSH (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang)
- TestDaF
- Certificates issued by Goethe-Institut
- The DSD German language diploma



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Usually, an officially certified copy of your certificate needs to be sent by post to the university. For more information on how to have copies certified, see [here](#).

For English-taught courses, universities may accept IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge English language certificates. For more information, you can check [uni-assist's website](#) or contact your university's admissions office.



Austria

Austria is a popular choice for Hungarian students due to its proximity, with [over 2000](#) Hungarian students studying there in 2017. Additionally, quality of life is high, there is great social security and economic stability and the country has a varied landscape shaped by the Alps, forests and lakes. The Austrian educational system also offers a wide variety of educational opportunities, making it an ideal place to study and live in.



Useful links:

- <http://www.studienwahl.at/en>
- <https://studyinaustria.at/>
- www.oeh.at



Teaching

Although nearly all bachelor's courses require fluency in German, currently, [25%](#) of students in Austria are international students and the country is increasingly supporting and promoting the internationalisation of their higher education system. Universities can be divided into two types: public universities and private ones.

There are fourteen private universities which offer degrees in various disciplines. Keep in mind that private universities are not free. A list of private universities can be found [here](#).

Public universities are categorised into universities of arts and universities of applied sciences (UAS). The main difference between these two types of institutions is that the university of arts offer programmes in music, performing, applied and fine arts, whereas UAS offer professionally-oriented higher education including mandatory career-oriented practical training. In both of these universities, a bachelor's programme lasts for three years.

University of arts

There are six universities of arts in Austria. The common language of instruction is German, which means that all applicants have to be proficient in German when applying. At the same time, there is an increasing number of programmes in English, which you can find [here](#).

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

UAS offer full-time and extra-occupational study programmes; the latter are designed for working students. Most of the programmes have an entrance examination because the number of students admitted each year is limited. Twenty-one UAS offer over six hundred degree programmes such as Business, Engineering, IT and Social Sciences (see the full list [here](#)). Around 80 of these are taught completely in English. As mentioned before, a compulsory internship or training is part of the degree. Be aware that UAS are not free.

Top Universities in Austria

Two Austrian universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed these here.

Top Universities	World-ranking
University of Vienna	154.
Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)	192.



Practical information

Academic Year

At Austrian universities, the [academic year](#) is divided into 2 semesters: the winter semester and the summer semester. The winter semester officially begins on 1st October and lasts until the end of February and the summer semester begins on 1st March and lasts until 30th September. However, there may be exceptions to this depending on the university, please check their websites for details.

Finances

Tuition fees

Universities of arts are free for Hungarian students, with only a compulsory €19.20 (around HUF 7300) per semester fee to cover the student accident insurance and student union membership fees. UAS can independently decide whether they charge tuition fee, so please contact the institution directly. If there is a tuition cost, it is usually around [€363](#) (around HUF 137 000) per semester for Hungarian students. Finally, private institutions may charge anywhere between €1,000 to €40,000 (HUF 377 630 to 15 105 000) per year.

Cost of living

The cost of living in Austria is around [€950](#) (around HUF 359 000) per month and Vienna is more expensive than other cities. For more information, see [here](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Austria, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Austria does not have a tradition of on-campus accommodation and universities do not allocate a room for you. Most students choose to live in halls of residence or in private housing. The Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD) and the Austrian Student Union (Österreichische Hochschülerschaft - ÖH) offer student accommodation at reasonable prices. For more information, visit: www.housing.oead.at or www.oeh.at. Your university's International Offices may also be able to assist you in finding accommodation.

Scholarships/loans

In Austria, there are hardly any financial support programmes for international students in bachelor's programmes: you can find more information [here](#). Additionally, you may contact the institution you are applying to check whether they offer any scholarships.



Living in Austria

Pros:

- Safety and good public transport
- Culture: wide variety of cultural events, reduced prices for students.
- Student community: every student automatically becomes a member of the Austrian Student Union of their university and there are international student associations that bring students together.

Cons:

- German knowledge is essential
- Vienna is expensive

Applying

There is [no centralised application](#) process in Austria, you have to apply to the university directly. Please contact your chosen institution's Admissions Office for more details.

In general, students are required to submit a completed application form (downloaded from the university's website), a secondary school leaving certificate (e.g. érettségi) and a document confirming German language proficiency. If any of these documents are not in German, you need to get them officially translated and legalised, which may take some time!

In some study programmes, e.g. architecture, biology, psychology, medicine, the university may limit admissions either by introducing an entrance examination or by carrying out a selection procedure two semesters after admission. More information is available from the universities concerned.

For UAS, all applicants have to undergo an entrance procedure. The details differ from one degree to another, but in general, you have to submit written documents, pass a written or oral test and attend an interview as well.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **5th September:** for degrees starting in winter semester
- **5th February:** for degrees starting in summer semester

Please note that the closing date for entrance examinations may be up to 6 months before the beginning of the semester. Make sure you enquire about the deadlines relevant to you ahead of time.



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Language exams

As the official language of instruction for universities of arts is German, all applicants have to provide a German language proficiency document. This may be required by some UAS as well. The generally accepted documents are:

- Secondary school leaving certificate confirming German lessons of at least 4 years
- ÖSD (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch)
- Goethe-Zertifikat C1 or
- DSH2 (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang) or
- DSD2 (Deutsche Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz)

For English-taught courses, universities may accept IELTS, TOEFL iBT or Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate.



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Switzerland

If you are looking to study in one of the best education systems in the world, Switzerland is your ideal destination. Two Swiss universities rank among the world's twenty best universities, and institutions are particularly strong in academic research. Switzerland also offers a unique, multicultural environment with four national languages spoken throughout the country (German, French, Italian and Romansh).



Useful links:

- <https://www.studyinswitzerland.plus/>
- <https://www.studyprogrammes.ch>



Teaching

Switzerland's [higher education system](#) caters to a wide range of interests, from research to practice orientation. There are three types of universities in Switzerland: Traditional Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts, and Universities of Teacher Education. These university types differ from each other in terms of what courses they offer and how they teach.

Universities

There are [ten](#) cantonal universities and two federal institutes of technology, located across the German-, French- and Italian-speaking regions. The core mission of these universities is a focus on research and research-based teaching. Expect to be taught by leading researchers in the field in courses that closely follow cutting-edge research. In a bachelor's degree, you will be expected to take the first steps in developing your own research projects and show enthusiasm and commitment.

Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

In contrast to traditional universities, [universities](#) of applied sciences and arts are closely tied to companies and institutions, and professors come directly from the field. They combine practice-oriented teaching and application-oriented research, connecting theoretical content with concrete practical work experience. Additionally, universities of applied sciences and arts continuously update their curricula to align with the current and future needs of the employment market. There are seven public and one private such institutions spread out over Switzerland.

All universities require a good knowledge of the [language of instruction](#), which can be German, French, Italian or English, depending on the university. Most English-taught programmes are at master's and PhD level and at bachelor's it is more likely that the course will be a mixture of English and a national language. A bachelor's degree lasts for 3 years in accordance with the Bologna Process. The [grading system](#) is on a 6-point scale where 6 is the best (100%) and 1 is the worst (0%) grade; half grades are also awarded.

Grade	Description	Percentage category
5 - 6	Good - Excellent	80 - 100%
4 - 4.5	Sufficient - Satisfactory	60 - 70%
3.5	Insufficient	Below 50%
1 - 3	Very poor	0 - 40%



Top Universities in Switzerland

Universities in Switzerland rank very high in world rankings and are especially strong in research. Seven of its universities rank among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed below the five best universities in Switzerland and the fields they particularly excel in.

Top 5 Universities	Area of specialisation	<u>World-ranking</u>
ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Science and Technology	6.
EPFL - École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	Natural Sciences and Engineering	18.
University of Zürich	Medicine and Dentistry	76.
University of Geneva	-	110
University of Bern	Space research	123.

Practical information

Academic Year

The [academic year](#) in Switzerland is split into 2 semesters: autumn and spring. The autumn semester generally runs from week 37/38 to week 50/51 (September to mid-December) and the spring semester usually runs from week 8/9 to week 22/24 (February to June).

Finances

Tuition fees

Most universities in Switzerland are public and subsidised by the government, therefore only [cost](#) between CHF 500 to CHF 800 (around HUF 154 000 to 247 000) per semester, although some universities may be more expensive, from CHF 1000 up to CHF 30000 (around HUF 308 340 to 925 000) per semester. Please check your institution of choice for the exact cost.

Cost of living

Quality of life in Switzerland is very high but unfortunately, this comes at a high cost. Three Swiss cities rank among the [15 most expensive cities](#) for foreigners (Zurich number 5, Bern number 12, Geneva number 13). Excluding rent, it is estimated that around [CHF 1400](#) (around HUF 432 000) per month is necessary to live in these cities. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Switzerland, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.



Accommodation

Most Swiss universities offer [on-campus](#) accommodation for students, with prices ranging from CHF 700 to 900 (around HUF 216 000 to 277 500) per month. Alternatively, you can rent privately, but competition for apartments is high and costs can be expensive depending on location.

Scholarships/loans

Some grants and student loans are available. Contact the education department of the canton where you will be studying for more [information](#).

Living in Switzerland

Pros:

- Most people can communicate in English and the environment is international
- Great quality healthcare
- Beautiful environment with many opportunities for hikes and winter sports in the Alps

Cons:

- High cost of living
- Renting privately can be difficult as a foreigner

Applying

There is no centralised [application process](#) in Switzerland, so you have to apply to your chosen university directly. You can find all study programmes [here](#). Once you have selected the course, check the university's admission requirements and make sure you prepare all the necessary documents for a successful application. The admission requirements for Hungarian students to different Swiss universities is summarised on [this website](#).

Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th February:** for Medicine and Chiropractic courses
- **30th April:** for most other bachelor's programmes starting in autumn
- **30th November:** for programmes that start in Spring Semester (only a few available)

Universities of applied sciences and arts have various deadlines. For a full list of all the deadlines, see [here](#).

Language exams

All Swiss universities require proof of proficiency in the main language of instruction, which can be English, German, French or Italian, but in general only the knowledge of English is not sufficient for bachelor's programmes. The exact language certifications accepted depend on the



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institution, so make sure you check your program specifications. Here, we have listed the certificates that are usually accepted.

For [German-taught programmes](#):

- DSH (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang)
- TestDaF
- Certificates issued by Goethe-Institut
- ÖSD (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch)

For French-taught programmes:

- DALF (Diplôme d'études en langue française)

For Italian-taught programmes:

- PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri)
- CELI (Certificato di Conoscenza della Lingua Italiana)
- CILS (Certificazione di Italiano come Lingua Straniera)

For English-taught programmes:

- IELTS
- TOEFL
- Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate



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Netherlands

The Netherlands is becoming an increasingly popular destination for international students as many of their best universities offer a wide range of degrees in English and tuition fees are cheaper than in most English-speaking countries. In [2016-2017](#), there were 730 Hungarian students studying there and this number keeps increasing.



Useful links:

- <https://www.studvinholland.nl/>
- <https://student.sl-cloud.nl/>



Teaching

There are two types of universities in the Netherlands: research universities and universities of applied sciences. In the former, a bachelor's degree is 3 years long, in the latter, it is 4 years long.

The Dutch [teaching style](#) focuses on problem-based learning, encouraging students to solve practical problems through independent study and self-discipline. At the same time, they also believe in providing appropriate, student-centred support and attention, and they value classroom participation. The [grading system](#) ranges from 1 (worst) to 10 (best) and a 6 is needed to pass a course. The most common grades fall between 6 and 8, the grades 1 - 3 and 9 - 10 are rarely given.

Dutch universities are some of the best in the world and their degrees are [internationally recognised and respected](#). The Netherlands was the first non-English speaking country to start offering higher education courses in English and currently has [one of the highest](#) number of English degree programmes in Europe. In 2017/18, 23% of all bachelor's programmes were offered in English and this rose by a further 5% by the end of 2018.

Top Dutch Universities

There are many strong Dutch universities: nine can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed the seven best universities in the Netherlands and the fields they excel in.

Top 7 universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
Delft University of Technology	Technology	50.
University of Amsterdam	Arts, humanities, social science	64.
Eindhoven University of Technology	Research-driven and design-oriented Technology	102.
University of Groningen	Energy, Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Society	114.
Leiden University	Social sciences	118.
Utrecht University	Veterinary Science	120.
Erasmus University Rotterdam	Business and Management	183.



Practical information

Academic Year

The academic year in the Netherlands is usually divided into two semesters. The first semester runs from the end of August or beginning of September to the end of January and the second semester runs from February to the end of June. However, the semesters' start and end dates are not officially centralised, therefore make sure to check the exact dates on the university's website.

Finances

Tuition fees

A bachelor's programme costs [€2060](#) (around HUF 688 765) per year for EU students in the Netherlands. This fee is fixed by the Dutch government and revised every year.

Cost of living

The cost of living is around [€960](#) (around HUF 321 000) per month. You can find more information [here](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to the Netherlands, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Most students in the Netherlands live in shared student housing. Some cities have a [shortage of houses](#) (e.g. Amsterdam and Utrecht), where it can be really difficult to find accommodation. Universities often help students with this, although this differs from university to university. The best way to ensure that you get a room that you'll love is to start looking well in advance: research information about what kind of accommodation is offered at your university and get in touch with the university's housing office by May of the year when you would like to start studying. If you choose to rent privately, be careful, as the high student demand can drive some estate agencies to offer rooms at unreasonably inflated prices.

Scholarships and loans

There are not many scholarships available for students from the European Union, but you can browse through the range of scholarships on this [website](#).

Hungarian students can also apply for Student Finance in the Netherlands. You can find more details on their [website](#).



Living in the Netherlands

Pros:

- Wide range of English programmes and easy communication with locals
- Some of the most liveable cities in the world
- Good career opportunities

Cons:

- Accommodation: expensive because of high demand, exploitative estate agencies
- Petty theft is common in bigger cities (bicycle theft, pickpockets, break-ins)

Applying

[Studielink](#) is the official registration and application portal for Dutch universities, but some institutions may use a different method to register international students, so you should check with your university of choice.

You can find more information about how to sign up and apply through studielink on their [website](#).

Numerus fixus programmes

Some study programmes are set at a maximum capacity by the university; these are called 'numerus fixus' programmes. The application process for these programmes is different from the one for regular ones.

First, you must contact your chosen university to check whether the programme you are interested in is a numerus fixus one. Overall, you can apply for two numerus fixus programmes per year (and universities can decide how many times you can select a specific programme at their institution). Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Physiotherapy are an exception: for these programmes, students are only allowed to apply once per programme per year. For example, you cannot apply for Dentistry at two different universities, but you can apply for Dentistry and Medicine in the same year. If more students apply than the maximum number specified, universities will select students based on their own criteria that they will communicate to the students.

Based on this selection process, each student will be assigned a ranking number by 15th April, which, compared to the number of places available, will indicate whether the student will be offered a place or not. If you are offered a place, you must accept it within 2 weeks via Studielink. If you are unsuccessful in securing a place on your preferred course, there is still a possibility that some students who were offered a place on the same course will decline, in which case the student closest in rank will be offered the place instead.



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Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th January:** for numerus fixus programmes
- **1st May:** for all other study programmes - but always check with the institution

Language exams

For English-taught programmes, universities will ask for proof of English ability as demonstrated by an IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate.

For programmes instructed in Dutch, a Dutch intermediate or advanced certificate from a university language centre or a NT2-II diploma is accepted.



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Denmark

Denmark is a popular destination for Hungarian students: more than 1200 were studying there in 2017. The reason for this is that the country is famous for its high quality and free education system, while the Danish lifestyle is innovation-driven, modern and safe, making Denmark an ideal place to live in.



Useful links:

- <https://studyindenmark.dk/>
- <https://www.optagelse.dk>



Teaching

The [teaching style](#) in Denmark is student-focused and builds on a close collaboration between students and teachers. Students are expected to play an active role in their learning process. Teaching takes various forms, ranging from traditional lectures to project work and open debate during class.

The Danish educational system openly welcomes international students. There are eight universities in Denmark that offer more than 600 programmes completely in English; 65 of these are bachelor's programmes. Even though English is not a national language, the quality of these courses is internationally recognised as [high](#).

A bachelor's degree lasts 3 years. There is a 7-point [grading scale](#) ranging from -3 to 12 but sometimes a simple "pass" or "fail" is awarded.

Grade	Description
12	Excellent performance
10	Very good performance
7	Good performance
4	Fair performance
02	Performance only meets the minimum requirements for acceptance
00	Performance does not meet minimum requirements for acceptance
-3	Unacceptable performance

Top Universities in Denmark

Three Danish universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed these here with the areas they specialise in, if applicable.

Top 3 Universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
University of Copenhagen	-	81.
Technical University of Denmark	Engineering and science	112.
Aarhus University	-	145.



Practical information

Academic Year

The academic year's structure differs in Denmark depending on the university. Some universities in Denmark divide the academic year into [two](#) semesters, autumn and spring, while others may divide it into four or [six](#) parts. Please check with your university of choice directly via their website.

Finances

Tuition fees

Universities in Denmark are [free](#) for Hungarian students.

Cost of living

Denmark is an expensive country; it is estimated that you need around [8000 Danich Krone \(DKK\)](#) (around HUF 354 000) per month to cover living expenses. However, you can save money by adopting local habits such as cycling or preparing meals at home. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Denmark, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Accommodation offered differs depending on the city the university is located in. For example, it can be quite difficult to find housing in Copenhagen, but there are several options you can explore: dormitories, private rooms through housing websites and shared housing/co-renting. If you are interested in living in Copenhagen, you can read more details about accommodation options in this [blog post](#).

Useful links for finding student housing across Denmark: <https://studenterguiden.dk/en> and <http://www.ungdomsboliger.dk/>. To find other students to rent with: <https://www.findroommate.dk/>.

Scholarships/loans

Since there are no tuition fees, there are few scholarships available for EU students. However, you can check the [EU database](#) for any potential scholarship programmes.

Living in Denmark

Pros:

- High quality of life and great healthcare
- Great public transport
- Proximity to other countries (Sweden, Norway, Germany, etc.)

Cons:

- Housing is expensive and look out for scammers on housing websites



- The Danish are private people and it may be hard at first to get to know the locals

Applying

To study at any university in Denmark, you have to apply through the national admission website: optagelse.dk. Applications open on 1st of February, at which time you can register on the website. You can apply for up to [8 courses](#) in any year and you have to place these in a prioritised order. This is very important as you will only receive one offer and this will be from the course highest on your list. For example, if you place Mathematics at Aarhus University as your first choice and Mathematics at the University of Copenhagen as your second choice, and your grades satisfy both universities' admission criteria, you will receive an offer from Aarhus University only. For this reason, you should carefully think about your honest preference when applying. Nevertheless, do not worry if you change your mind after application because you can still change your order of preference until July 5th. Detailed step-by-step information about the use of optagelse.dk is available [here](#).

Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th March:** applications must be sent and approved by this time
- **5th July:** deadline for changing the order of priorities

Language exams

Most Danish universities require [proof of English](#) proficiency of at least a level equivalent to 'B' in the Danish upper secondary school system. They accept:

- IELTS
- TOEFL
- Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate

Please check the exact score required for your course on the university's website.

For Danish-taught programmes, the following certificates are accepted:

- Studieprøven i dansk som andetsprog (Danish as a Foreign Language)
- Danish Test 2 (Danskprøve 2) or Test 3



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Sweden

Sweden is well-known worldwide for being the [birthplace](#) of many successful creative inventions such as the seatbelt, Spotify or IKEA. Swedish society is non-hierarchical and informal, where students have the freedom to think independently and are encouraged to contribute their own ideas. It also has a long history of academic excellence (e.g. the Nobel prize) and Swedish universities rank high in world rankings. If you are interested in exploring the study options in Sweden, read on!



Useful links:

- <https://www.universityadmissions.se/intl/start>
- <https://studyinsweden.se/>



Teaching

The Swedish [teaching style](#) emphasises the importance of independence of mind and expects students to contribute, voice their opinions and take education in their own hands rather than just passively receive information. Students are expected to prepare for classes on their own by reading the required reading and completing tasks. There is a strong focus on rationality, reason and applying research knowledge so it makes a difference. Environmental issues are also a high priority in Sweden: the country has been named the world's most sustainable country.

In addition, [nearly 100](#) bachelor's programmes are taught entirely in English, as English proficiency levels in Sweden are very high. Bachelor's degrees typically require three years of full-time study and involve compulsory and elective courses, but you can also [apply to an individual](#) course directly, in which case you are only registered for that one specific course. In general, you will only take one course at a time and this will run for a couple of weeks, ending with an examination. So, for example, in a 20-week semester, you may take four courses in a row that last for 5 weeks each. However, in some programmes several courses may run in the same time period, ending with several examinations. There is [no one centralised](#) grading scale, so there may be differences depending on the university and the programme studied.

Top Swedish Universities

Swedish universities rank highly in universities rankings; five can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed the six best universities in Sweden and the fields they particularly excel in.

Top 6 universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
Lund University	Very popular among international students	92.
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Technology and Engineering	98.
Uppsala University	Research	116.
Chalmers University of Technology	Technology and Natural Science	125.
Stockholm University	-	191.
Karolinska Institutet	Medicine	-



Practical information

Academic Year

The academic year in Sweden is divided into [two semesters](#), each lasting 20 weeks. The autumn semester runs from September to January and the spring semester runs from the end of January to June. The exact duration of the semesters may vary slightly from university to university and department to department, so make sure to check the exact details on your chosen university's and department's website.

Finances

Tuition fees

University education is [free](#) for Hungarian students. Students usually join a local student union ("nation"), which gives access to activities and discounts. This costs around SEK [50 - 350](#) (around HUF 1566 to 11 000) per semester depending on the union.

Cost of living

Life in Sweden is more expensive than in Hungary: the total estimated cost of living for a student in Sweden is SEK 8370 (around HUF 260 000) per month, but this will depend on the city you live in and some other factors. You can find a detailed breakdown of the cost of living in Sweden and useful tips to save money [here](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Sweden, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Most universities [offer accommodation](#) services for international students, either as guaranteed housing or by giving advice on where to find a room on your own. Make sure to contact this office to find out more about the options available at your university of choice, as the availability of housing differs greatly depending on the city. It can be difficult to get student accommodation in bigger cities (e.g. Stockholm, Gothenburg) and traditional university cities such as Lund. More information on all the housing options can be found [here](#).

Scholarships/loans

Hungarian students can apply for a [student loan](#) (awarded based on family income) from the Swedish Board of Student Finance. A comprehensive list of scholarships has been compiled [here](#), including scholarships from universities and other types.



Living in Sweden

Pros:

- Everyone speaks English
- International and multicultural environment
- Gender equality and progressive LGBTQ+ rights

Cons:

- Expensive: high cost of living
- Weather: it is cold and dark for most of the academic year

Applying

Applications in Sweden are processed through the central application portal universityadmissions.se. You can apply for up to 8 bachelor's programmes with one application and application is free for Hungarian students. There are [two admission rounds](#) for both autumn and spring semesters, but you are strongly encouraged to apply in the first round to have enough time to submit supporting documents, arrange accommodation, etc. After submitting your online application, you will have to submit supporting documents of your English proficiency and secondary school qualifications (original and an officially translated copy if not in English). You can upload these electronically to universityadmissions.se or send it by post. For more information on the application process for Hungarian students, see universityadmissions.se's [website](#). You will be notified of your selection results in April.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th January:** for [first round](#) application for autumn semester
- **16th April:** for second round application for autumn semester
- **15th August:** for first round application for spring semester
- **15th October:** for second round application for spring semester

Language exams

Swedish universities [accept](#) 'emelt angol érettségi' as proof of English proficiency from Hungarian students. Alternatively you can [take a language exam](#) such as IELTS, TOEFL iBT or Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate.

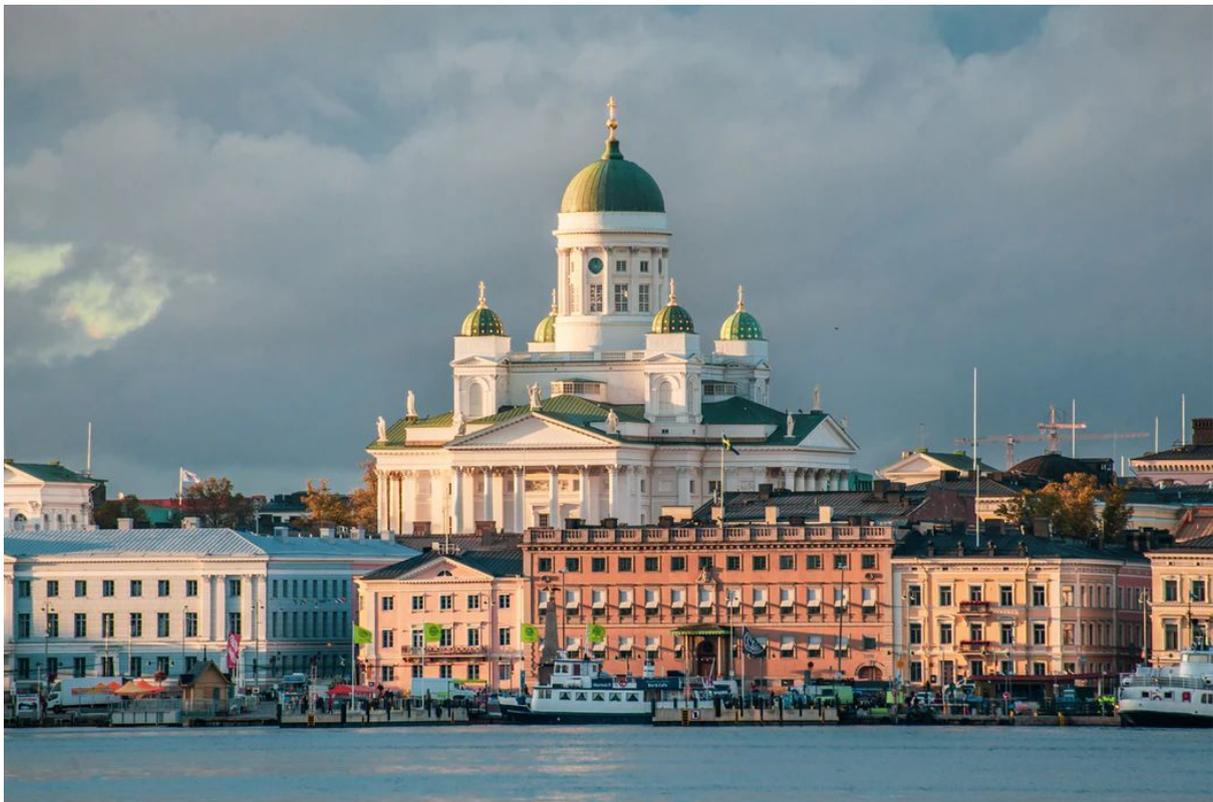
For courses taught in Swedish, the [following](#) certificates are accepted:

- TISUS Swedish proficiency test
- Svenska 3 or Svenska som andraspråk 3



Finland

The Finnish education system is famous for being one of the best in the world as it is progressive and places the focus on students rather than on grades. This excellence carries on into its higher education: Finnish universities are listed among the top [3%](#) globally. Besides the high academic standards, [Finland](#) is a beautiful country with breath-taking forests and seaside, diverse wildlife and the opportunity to see the Northern Lights. If you are interested in studying in a Nordic country with special connections with Hungary, read on!



Useful links:

- <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/>
- <https://finnips.fi/en/home/>



Teaching

Finnish universities are [continuously developing](#) their teaching methods to encourage independent thinking and study from students. Besides lectures, institutions are increasingly using other methods such as seminars, tutorials, group work, essays and projects.

There are [two types](#) of higher education institutions in Finland: traditional universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS).

Universities

There are thirteen universities in Finland and their [mission](#) is to conduct scientific research and provide education based on it. Bachelor's programmes take around 3 years to finish (180 ECTS credits). Unfortunately, most of these universities do not offer undergraduate degrees in English, but there are close to 200 English-taught master's degree programmes. The University of Helsinki [launched](#) its first English-taught bachelor's programme, a Bachelor of Science course, in the autumn of 2019.

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

In contrast to traditional universities, universities of applied sciences are closely tied to companies and institutions and emphasise labour market needs. They combine practice-oriented teaching and application-oriented research, connecting theoretical content with concrete practical work experience. UAS in Finland provide around [100](#) bachelor's programmes completely in English, and the average length of study is around [3.5 to 4.5](#) years. There are 23 UAS in Finland. For a full list of institutions, see [here](#).

The [grading system](#) in Finland is typically on a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 is a fail, 1 is a pass and 5 is outstanding. Students with an average above 4 are rare and it is not uncommon for an examination to be failed or passed with a 1 by most students.

Top Finnish Universities

Two Finnish universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have these here and the fields they excel in.

Top universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
University of Helsinki	Research	107.
Aalto University	Cross-disciplinary projects	134.



Practical information

Academic Year

In Finland, the [academic year](#) is divided into four teaching periods each of which lasts seven weeks. There are two periods in both the autumn and spring terms. All except the degree programmes in Medicine and Dentistry follow this schedule. The autumn term typically runs from the end of August until the end of December and the spring term runs from the beginning of January until the end of May.

Finances

Tuition fees

Hungarian students are **not** required to pay tuition fees. If you apply to a traditional university, you will have to pay an annual student union membership fee of approximately €80 - €100 (around HUF 27 000 to 33 500) in exchange for receiving student discounts.

Cost of living

Life in Finland is more expensive than in Hungary: the total estimated cost of living for a student in Finland is [€700 to €900](#) (around HUF 235 000 to 301 000) per month. The actual cost will highly depend on the city you live in: larger cities are usually more expensive than smaller ones. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Finland, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Universities do not automatically allocate you in student accommodation; you have to apply to the student housing provider directly. A full list of student apartment providers can be accessed on SOA's (Finnish Student Housing Ltd.) [website](#). Alternatively, you can also rent privately, although this tends to be more expensive than student housing. You can also contact your university or UAS for more information and assistance.

Scholarships/loans

As there are no tuition fees for Hungarian students, scholarships are [reserved](#) for non-EU students who have to pay fees. Various student loans are available from Kela. For more information, see their [website](#).

Living in Finland

Pros:

- Safe country
- Well-designed and eco-friendly campuses
- Student unions that organise events and help adjustment to Finland



Cons:

- Weather: it is cold and dark for most of the academic year
- Expensive: high cost of living

Applying

You can apply through studyinfo.fi for English-taught programmes. There are [two types](#) of applications: joint applications and separate applications. In general, applying for bachelor's degrees is through a joint application, and applying for master's degrees is through separate applications. In a joint application, you can apply to both universities and UAS in one application. You can apply to up to 6 study programmes with the same joint application form. You will have to set the chosen study programmes in an order of preference; this is very important as you will only receive one offer, and this will be from the course highest on your list. For this reason, you should carefully think about your honest preference when applying. Selection results are released at the end of November.

Entrance examinations

[Entrance examinations](#) are often used by both universities and UAS as part of student admission. You may be invited to one or several entrance examinations depending on which universities you apply to. The type of test to take differs based on the degree programme but typically involves an essay or written examination. A full list of the types of entrance examinations for UAS can be found [here](#). For information about exams specific to certain university courses, please check their respective websites. Entrance examinations may be organised in Finland, but many are conducted abroad, including [in Hungary](#) too. They usually take place in March. Please check the exact application details with the university of your choice.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **18th September:** for autumn semester
- **22nd January:** for spring semester

Language exams

Universities may either assess English proficiency at the entrance examination or require an official language test. Tests accepted include IELTS and TOEFL iBT, but please check the admissions criteria directly for the programme of your choice.



Norway

[Norway](#) does not only offer high quality education, but also believes that education should be open to everyone, regardless of their background; this is why education is free for everyone. At the same time, Norway is also a modern and safe country with [amazing outdoor](#) opportunities including the chance to see the Northern Lights, the midnight sun, the fjords or to just enjoy the clean air and vast space.



Useful links:

- <https://www.studyinnorway.no/>
- <https://eeagrants.org/>



Teaching

One of the priorities of the [Norwegian government](#) is to achieve high quality education for both Norwegian and international students. There are only 9 universities, 8 university colleges and 5 scientific colleges that are state-owned, but they all keep to a world class standard. That said, you may be surprised by the informal atmosphere on campus. Teachers are easily approachable, tuition often takes place in small groups, and as a student you are encouraged to develop a critical mind.

Norway follows the [Bologna process](#), meaning that a bachelor's degree lasts for 3 years. They also use the [ECTS](#) grading scale, which ranges from A to F, where A is excellent and F is a fail. There are many courses offered in English since Norwegians in general speak good English, although there are fewer at bachelor's level than at master's level. A full list of English-taught courses offered at higher education institutions can be found [here](#).

Top Norwegian Universities

Although there are few universities in Norway, two can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed these here.

Top universities	World-ranking
University of Oslo	119.
University of Bergen	163.

Practical information

Academic Year

The [academic year](#) in Norway is typically divided into two semesters: autumn and spring semesters. Autumn semester usually runs from the middle of August until the middle of December and the spring semester usually runs from early January to the middle of June. Please check the exact details with on your chosen university's website.

Finances

Tuition fees

Studying at a public higher education institution is [free](#) for Hungarian students. Private institutions will charge for their degree programmes, but these fees are generally lower than tuition fees in other EU countries. Every university has a [student welfare organisation](#), which



you can join by paying a compulsory semester fee. In exchange, they offer campus health services, sports activities and student accommodation.

Cost of living

Norway is a very expensive country and you have to plan for this before going to study there. A monthly budget of around [NOK 12 122](#) (around HUF 407 000) is estimated to be necessary as a student. Some ideas about how to save money as a student in Norway can be found on universities' websites, e.g. the [University of Bergen's](#). When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Norway, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Bachelor's degree students are usually not guaranteed housing by the university. Nevertheless, there are several student accommodation providers that offer rooms for cheaper than the private market. For example, students studying in Oslo and Akershus can apply through [SiO Housing](#). You can check your university's website or contact the student welfare organisation for more details.

Scholarships/loans

The EEA/Norway Grant is [open](#) to Hungarian students, which is intended to cover housing and living expenses. Whenever funding becomes available, it is announced on [EEA Grants](#) official website, so keep an eye out.

Living in Norway

Pros:

- You can always be in contact with nature
- Safe country
- Open to international students

Cons:

- Very high cost of living
- Weather: cold and dark for most of the academic year

Applying

There is [no centralised application](#) system in Norway, each institution handles applications separately. Therefore, you have to check the details of the admission process at your chosen higher education institution, paying special attention to the deadlines and the required documents.



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Language exams

Norwegian higher education institutions [accept](#) the 'emelt szintű érettségi' in English language. Otherwise, the TOEFL iBT, IELTS and Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate is also accepted.

For Norwegian-taught programmes:

- Bergenstesten
- The completion of a language course at university



France

In France, there are more than [3500](#) public and private higher education institutions offering a wide range of internationally acknowledged degree programmes for students. Studying in France also gives you the opportunity to learn French, one of the most important and arguably most beautiful languages in the world. Furthermore, you can experience living in a culturally rich and diverse country with great cuisine and beautiful landscape alongside [537](#) other Hungarian students.



Useful links:

- <https://www.campusfrance.org/en>
- <https://parcoursup.fr>



Teaching

There are [four types](#) of higher education institutions in France: universities, *Grandes Écoles*, Schools of Arts and Applied Arts and the National Schools of Architecture. The education style varies depending on the type of institution you attend.

There are more than [1400](#) programmes taught in English in France but 80% of these are taught at Master's level and some courses are only partially taught in English. You can find a complete list of bachelor's programmes taught in France [here](#).

Universities

[70%](#) of foreign students in France study at one of its universities. All of the universities are public and confer degrees recognised by the State. Everyone who has a high school diploma can enroll in first year. [Teaching](#) takes place in large lecture halls with class sizes ranging from 100 to over 1000 students and there are also smaller group classes. A bachelor's degree, called *Licence* in French, is awarded once you complete 180 credits (which usually takes 3 years).

Grandes Écoles

[Grandes Écoles](#) are public and private institutions recognised by the State. They include *Écoles Normales Supérieures* (ENS - Institutes of Advanced Education), engineering schools, business schools, veterinary schools, etc. Admission to *Grandes Écoles* is extremely competitive. The [main difference](#) between universities and *Grandes Écoles* is that *Grandes Écoles* have extensive connections with companies and businesses and focus on work experience.

To enroll, all students have to take two years of preparatory classes (either as part of high school or after finishing high school) and pass a competitive entrance examination. Education usually lasts 5 years, for which some award bachelor's degrees, some award master's degrees. Much of the teaching is in English and around 20% of foreign students study in these *Grandes Écoles*.

Schools of Arts and Applied Arts

There are nearly [50 public](#) schools of art and design which are directly overseen by the Ministry of Culture. Training is offered in two steps of three or five years; some institutions confer national degrees, while others award their own degrees. Admission to these schools is highly selective and is based on the analysis of the applicant's file, a competitive entrance exam and/or interview.



National Schools of Architecture (ENSA)

ENSA form a network of 20 public schools and are specialised in architecture.

Top French Universities

There are many good French universities: five can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed the five best universities in France and the fields they excel in below.

Top 5 universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
Université PSL (Paris Sciences & Lettres)	-	53.
École Polytechnique (L'X)	Science and Technology	60.
Sorbonne University	Research	77.
CentraleSupélec (CS)	Engineering and Science	139.
École Normale Supérieure de Lyon	Educational Sciences	160.

Practical information

Academic Year

Universities in France typically divide the [academic year](#) into two semesters: autumn and spring semester. Autumn semester usually runs from the beginning of September until the end of December and the spring semester usually runs from the beginning of January until the beginning of June. The exact dates may differ depending on the university and the course, so please check the details on your chosen university's website.

Finances

Tuition fees

The French government heavily subsidises degree programmes in public institutions, resulting in low [tuition fee](#) costs. Hungarian students need to pay €170 (around HUF 57 000) per year at bachelor's level, except for engineering programmes, where the cost is €601 (around HUF 203 400) per year. The schools of engineering operated by the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Agriculture have different tuition charges; please check your chosen institute's website for the exact tuition fees. You may also need to pay examination fees when applying for engineering.



Tuition in private institutions is much higher, ranging from €3000 to €10 000 (around HUF 1 000 000 to 3 347 000) per year. Please check the website of your chosen institution to find out about the exact cost.

Cost of living

The cost of living is estimated to be around [€600 to €700](#) (around HUF 200 000 to 233 700) per month, but this varies greatly between cities. Please note that Paris is very expensive: it ranked as the [most expensive city](#) in the world in 2019 (tied with Singapore and Hong Kong)! When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to France, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

[University residence](#) is the most affordable form of housing for students as it is subsidised by the government. They are managed by regional student service agencies, known as [Crous](#), and students who receive scholarships are prioritised. Grandes écoles and private institutions may have their own [on-campus student residences](#) and they try to reserve places in these for the international students they admit. Alternatively, you can rent privately either on your own or shared with other students; Crous recommends [Lokaviz](#), a website that collects and verifies these private listings.

Scholarships/loans

There are many scholarship opportunities (called “*bourses*” in French) open to Hungarian students studying at bachelor’s level. You can browse through them [here](#).

Living in France

Pros:

- You can learn and/or practise French
- Delicious food and excellent wine
- Slower pace of life

Cons:

- There may be a language barrier if you do not speak French
- French bureaucracy can be frustrating and slow

Applying

The application process is different depending on which institution you are applying to.

Hungarian students [must apply](#) for the first year of their bachelor’s studies at a university in France through [Parcoursup](#), just like French students (except for Architecture, see below). After creating an account (a “*dossier*”), you can choose the programmes you wish to apply to and access more information about them, including their admission criteria and details about



entrance examinations through [this website](#). You do not need to place the programmes you have applied for in an order of preference.

If you are applying to study [Architecture](#), you have to apply through *Demande d'Admission Préalable* (DAP - Preliminary Request for Admission). You must file a request at the French embassy's Department and Cultural Cooperation, so try to start the application as early as possible, ideally the November before the academic year you are applying for.

If you would like to apply for art programmes, you must apply through [CampusArt](#)'s online portal.

[Grandes Écoles](#) have their own rigorous application process, including two years of preparatory classes which finish with competitive entrance examinations. You can read more about this process on the respective institution's website.

Application deadlines to remember:

- **15th February:** registrations close for DAP
- **28th February:** registrations close for CampusArt
- **14th March:** deadline to enter academic choices for Parcoursup
- **3rd April:** deadline to complete your file and validate your choices for Parcoursup

Language exams

The [language of instruction](#) at bachelor's level in France is usually French, therefore you are required to show a level of command of French corresponding to B1 or B2. Tests accepted are:

- TCF (Test de connaissance du français)
- Le TEF (Test d'évaluation du français)

For English-taught courses, universities may accept IELTS or TOEFL certificates, but check the exact requirements with your institution of choice.



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Spain

A country with many sides, Spain is really full of treasures. Every region has something different to offer, from beaches to mountains, salsa classes to museums and even several national languages. The atmosphere is especially suited to young people, with friendly locals and a thriving nightlife that is deeply engraved in Spanish culture. On the other hand, higher education has been part of Spain's cultural [history](#) since as early as the 11th century, with the oldest Spanish university still in existence being the University of Salamanca, founded in 1218.



Useful links:

- <http://www.studyinspain.info/en/index.html>
- <https://www.uned.es/universidad/>



Teaching

There are [76](#) universities in Spain, 24 of which are private and 7 are affiliated with the Catholic Church. The main [teaching method](#) is through lectures, but seminars and group work are becoming more commonly used as well as laboratory work. Similarly to other European countries, Spain [uses](#) the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) to measure the working hours of every course. The completion of 180 credits is equivalent to a bachelor's degree (*Estudios de Grado* in Spanish), usually completed in 3 years. The [grading system](#) uses a 10-point scale, where 1 is the worst, 10 is the best and below 5 is a fail.

The [language of instruction](#) in nearly all Spanish universities is Spanish (or Catalan in Barcelona) and there are only few universities offering completely English-taught programmes. For this reason, it is safe to say that you have to be comfortable with the Spanish language if you would like to study in Spain. You can find some information about the availability of English-taught programmes through [topuniversities.com](#)'s university-specific pages, e.g. [for Universitat de Barcelona](#).

Top Spanish Universities

Three Spanish universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world; we have listed these below.

Top universities	World-ranking
Universitat de Barcelona	165.
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	188.
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	192.

Practical information

Academic Year

In Spain, the [academic year](#) is typically divided into two semesters lasting approximately 18 weeks from the beginning of September to the end of December (autumn semester) and from the beginning of January to the end of May (spring semester). However, the dates will vary according to university and department, so please make sure to check the details on your chosen university's website.



Finances

Tuition fees

Public university [tuition fee](#) at bachelor's level may cost between €680 and €1 280 (around HUF 226 000 to 425 000) per year, please check the exact cost with your chosen institution. Private universities are much more expensive, with [tuition fees](#) between €5 500 and €18 000 (around HUF 1 830 000 to 60 000 000) per year.

Cost of living

The cost of living in Spain is estimated to be around [€900 to €1000](#) (around HUF 300 000) per month, but this depends greatly on the city you live in. Madrid and Barcelona are more expensive than other cities, especially accommodation-wise. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Spain, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Student residences and 'colegios mayores' (colleges) are the recommended forms of [housing](#) when studying in Spain. These are usually the most affordable, are located near the university campus and offer several amenities such as dining, laundry facilities, etc. Colegio mayores also offer the opportunity to practise sports and other hobbies. You can contact your chosen university's International Office for more information or browse these websites: <http://www.consejocolegiosmayores.es/>, <http://aecmru.com/>. Alternatively, you can also rent privately and share a flat with other students.

Scholarships/loans

There are several government [grants](#) ("*becas*") available for Hungarian students and these are open periodically on the Ministry of Education's [website](#). Please note that most of the information is in Spanish. You can find numerous other scholarships listed [here](#).

Living in Spain

Pros:

- Learn and practise Spanish, the world's [fourth most spoken](#) language
- Enjoy a more carefree and slow-paced lifestyle
- Great food and social life

Cons:

- Language barrier if you do not speak Spanish
- Unemployment is high



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Applying

The [application process](#) to universities is not centralised. As an EU student, you [do not have](#) to sit university entrance examinations (PAEU). Instead, you have to submit your qualifications or diploma to be accredited to the [National Distance Learning University](#) (UNED), which costs €105 (around HUF 35 130). After this, you have to apply to your chosen university directly to be admitted to a course. Admission is partly dependent on how early you apply, with priority given to students who submit a pre-enrolment during the first phase of applications, which usually closes around **mid-July**. Please check the admissions requirements and deadlines for application with your university of choice.

Language exams

For Spanish-taught programmes, DELE (Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera) is accepted.

For English-taught programmes universities may accept IELTS and TOEFL, please check with your institution of choice.



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Italy

You may have fallen in love with Italy while seeing it in films or when you visited there on a family holiday: from the beautiful architecture and countryside, delicious food and lively culture, Italy's charms are endless. On top of this, since the foundation of Europe's first modern university of Bologna in [1088](#), Italy has been the birthplace of many innovations both in the sciences and humanities. Why not join the over [500](#) Hungarian students who are already studying in Italy?



Useful links:

- <https://studyinitaly.esteri.it>
- <https://www.universitaly.it/index.php/>



Teaching

The Italian higher education system is not as centralised as in other countries and can therefore be [bureaucratic](#) and appear disorganised. It is made up of [three](#) types of institutions: universities, Higher Education for Fine Arts, Music and Dance Sector (AFAM) and Higher Technical Institutes (ITS). These are either public or private institutions and although both are of comparable academic standard, private institutions may charge [5 to 10](#) times higher tuition fees.

Universities

Universities offer academically-oriented degrees that provide a strong theoretical basis in a broad range of disciplines. Universities use a credit system ([Crediti Formativi Universitari](#)) to measure the working hours of every course, including class attendance, classwork, individual study, etc. One credit corresponds to about 25 hours of study and in order to receive a bachelor's degree, called *Laurea* in Italy, you must obtain 180 credits. Exams are graded using a grading scale of 30, where 18 is the minimum passing grade and 30 is the highest grade.

Higher Technical Institutes (ITS)

[Higher Technical Institutes](#) are more practice-oriented than universities and aim to provide the theoretical background to prepare students for real-world requirements of professional life. Students are required to work at a private company for at least 30% of their course or apply for an internship abroad, creating a strong link between companies and students. The duration of such courses is between 2 to 3 years.

In the last decade, many Italian universities have increased the number of [English-taught](#) courses to meet the growing interest from international students. You can browse the full list of available programmes [here](#).

Top Italian Universities

Three Italian universities can be found among the top 200 universities in the world. We have listed the five best universities in Italy and the fields they excel in below.

Top 5 universities	Area of specialisation	World-ranking
Politecnico di Milano	Technology	149.
Sant'Anna - Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pisa	Research	177.
University of Bologna	-	177.
Sapienza University of Rome	-	203.
Bocconi University	Economics, Management	-



Practical information

Academic Year

The [academic year](#) in Italy starts on the 1st October and ends on the 30th September the following year. The year may be divided into two semesters or three terms depending on the course and the university. Please check the details on your chosen university's website.

Finances

Tuition fees

Italian university tuition fees range from [€900 to €4 000](#) (around HUF 301 170 – 1 338 600) per year for public universities, while private universities may cost anywhere between €6 000 to €20 000 (around HUF 2 000 000 to 6 700 000). The [average fee](#) for undergraduate studies is usually at the lower end, around €1 000 (around HUF 335 000) per year.

Cost of living

The cost of living is estimated to be around [€700 to €800](#) (around HUF 233 700 to 267 000) per month, excluding rent, but this will depend on which city you live in. Please note that bigger cities are more expensive than smaller ones, and Milan is more expensive than Rome. When thinking about finances, it is important for you to also consider the cost of travelling to Italy, health and travel insurance, and travelling within the country.

Accommodation

Each university has a [student service](#) and/or housing office that coordinates housing arrangements for students. Common types of accommodation are university dorms and university colleges or residences. Admission to these residences is usually based on the student's family income and merit. For more information, visit [here](#). Another option is to rent privately, but this may be more expensive than university accommodation.

Scholarships/loans

The Italian government offers scholarships to international students. Applications for these are announced on the [studyinitali.esteri.it](#) website. Further scholarships may be offered by the higher education institution, please check with your university of choice.

Living in Italy

Pros:

- The social and cultural life is very lively
- Great opportunities for trips within Italy

Cons:

- Unemployment is high
- There may be a language barrier if you do not speak Italian



Applying

There is [no centralised application](#) system in Italy, each institution handles applications separately. Therefore, you have to check the details of the admission process at your chosen higher education institution, paying special attention to the deadlines and the required documents.

Admissions tests

Some undergraduate degree programmes require an admissions test; you can verify this on the university's website. The calendar with the date of such examinations can also be found on the website. The registration procedure for admissions exams can be found [here](#).

A national entry test is required for the following degree programmes:

- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Dentistry
- Health Care Professions
- Educational Sciences
- Architecture

Higher education institutions may require admissions tests for any other degree programmes as well.

Language exams

For [English-taught](#) courses, Italian proficiency is not required. Universities usually accept the IELTS, TOEFL iBT, Cambridge English C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency Certificate.

For [Italian-taught](#) courses, a B2 certificate from the following institutions are accepted:

- Università per stranieri di Perugia
- Università per stranieri di Siena
- Università Roma Tre and Società "Dante Alighieri"
- Or may take an Italian language test at your chosen university