

2026

GOOD TO KNOW

Information booklet for students
arriving to Hungary



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Weather

The weather in Hungary is very different in summer and winter, so please bring (or buy) warm clothing. In the winter it can even be -15 degrees Celsius, so you are going to need warm clothing. If you find clothing expensive, you can also visit second-hand stores. There are a lot of them in Budapest, and they are pretty good.

Social norms

Hungarians are extremely punctual, for context, they will get worried if you are 5 minutes late and did not inform them.

Haggling with prices at shops is generally unaccepted.

Rules of the road

As pedestrians, you'll have to follow certain laws in Hungary, such as only crossing at crosswalks when the light turns green.

Even though you have the right of way at crosswalks, pay extra attention because some drivers might be distracted and not realize you're crossing.

You always have to give the right of way to any vehicle, which is traveling with an operating siren!

get to know Hungary

1.



OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS



RESIDENCE PERMIT

Apply as soon as possible! This document is crucial for your stay in Hungary!



TAX ID

This document is only necessary if you plan to work in Hungary.



STUDENT CARD

As soon as you receive your student card, you can access cheaper services.



TAJ CARD

Having a TAJ card means a wider variety of available medical treatments. Make sure to apply, so you can use the Hungarian Healthcare system for free!



PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Apply as soon as possible! Having an insurance is crucial for receiving medical care in Hungary!

Residence permit

You'll need a residence permit to stay and study in Hungary, that's why it's important to start applying for one as soon as possible. You can read more about it here:

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/immigration/application/>

Please read through this carefully since it's crucial for your stay in Hungary.

Private health insurance and TAJ card

Without a valid TAJ card or private health insurance contract, you are not entitled to free medical care!

The university offers a good private health insurance option that is available from the beginning of the semester. Make sure to sign the contract, so you can use healthcare services!

<https://hszi.bme.hu/en/sh/insurance/>

The TAJ card entitles you to use the Hungarian healthcare system, which offers a wider variety of medical treatments than private insurances. As mentioned above, please visit our website for more relevant information:

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/taj/>

Student card

Anyone with an active student status can apply for it and it's free.

With a student ID, you can access services and buy certain products with a discount. For example, you can buy a cheaper BKK pass.

Since you won't get your Student ID immediately, please apply for a temporary student ID as well!

<https://www.kth.bme.hu/en/for-students/faq/student-id-card/>

Tax ID

If you're planning on working in Hungary, you'll have to get a Tax ID since you will be required to pay income taxes.

During the semester you can work a maximum of 30 hours a week, outside of termtime you can work a total of 90 days or 66 workdays in a full-time job.

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/tax/>

ACCOMMODATION



UNIVERSITY DORMITORY

BME offers free dormitory placement to a limited number of students, you can apply for before each semester via KEFIR system.
The university's dormitory is only available for SH, Diaspora and SCYP students, while fee-paying students can't apply.
The selection process for first year students depends on their admission points.

PRIVATE DORMITORIES

Private dormitories offer a contract for 6 or 12 months for a certain fee.

You have to pay a deposit, which is a few months' rental fee in advance that will be reimbursed after you move out if you conformed to your contract.

Private dormitories have their own rules, which you must follow that may differ from university dormitory rules.

For more information about private dormitories visit:
<https://www.imt.bme.hu/accommodation/private-dormitories/>

PRIVATE RENTALS

Private rooms start at 90.000 HUF while private flats start at 130.000 HUF and can reach 200.000 HUF depending on the district it is located in.

We recommend moving in with others, 3-4 people, to cover the cost of the rental.

Most rentals require you to pay a deposit as security for any damage that you may cause to the property. As long as the property is in the same condition as when you received, your deposit is reimbursed.

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/accommodation/rentals/>



UNIVERSITY

Students Union

The HK (Hallgatói képviselő) is the Students Union. Every faculty has a HK of its own, also there's a HK for the whole University (called EHK).

If you have some kind of problem or misunderstanding with professors, you can get help from them by emailing them:

international@bmeek.hu

Central Academic Office (CAO)

If you have any questions related to your studies, they will most likely be able to answer.

<https://kth.bme.hu/en/>

Make sure to check the opening hours if you want to talk with them in person here:

<https://kth.bme.hu/en/opening-hours/>

Scholarships

To receive a scholarship, you must have a Hungarian bank account and a valid Residence Permit!

You can check the payment dates here:

<https://hszi.bme.hu/en/sh/allowances/>

Please be certain that you've completed everything to receive the scholarship!

Neptun

Neptun is the online system for all universities in Hungary. You see your courses here, your stipends and your timetable.

BME application

Helps you a lot with navigating in-between buildings

[Google Play download](#)
[Appstore download](#)



HEALTHCARE

General medications and healthcare are not free in Hungary! Scholarship holders (SH, SCYP, Diaspora) must apply for the two below mentioned healthcare services paid by the university. Fee-paying students can consider these options only for a fee.

TAJ card

In order to get free healthcare from the state, you need a TAJ card (health insurance card). For scholarship students the application is free, while fee-paying students have to issue monthly payments. The number on the TAJ card is also known as the social security number.

You can find all relevant information on our website through this link:

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/taj/>

Private health insurance

As it takes a long time for the TAJ card to arrive, it's highly recommended to sign a contract with the Groupama insurance company to get healthcare in the meantime. This private health insurance can save lives until the TAJ card arrives! However, it has a more limited coverage than the TAJ card, so applying for the TAJ card is also recommended!

Consulting Groupama is highly advised because they can direct you to English speaking doctors. This is a free contract, which you can sign at the university:

<https://hszi.bme.hu/en/sh/insurance/>

If you don't have any of these, you cannot get free healthcare! Apply for a TAJ card and do sign Groupama as soon as possible!

If you have medical problems and you don't know what to do or where to go, visit the medical help page!

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/medical-help/>

If something is not clear to you, contact us at: imt.medhelp@bme.hu

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL SICK?

MEDICINE

You can find medications in pharmacies (there's a big one for example in Allee mall), and in some supermarkets as well. Whenever you feel ill it's suggested you visit a pharmacy before going to the doctor's office, because qualified pharmacists can often help you. However, there are medications that are only accessible if a doctor has given you a prescription.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP)

Most of your medical issues require a visit to the GP first, because they can give you a referral to the hospital if needed, and they can also give you prescriptions for certain medication. You can check out this website if you need help finding the GP assigned to your district:

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/medical-help/>

DOCTORS ON DUTY

The GP is only available at specific times of the day. When the GP is not available, and you're seeking urgent medical help that can't wait, you can go to the doctor on duty.

Note that the doctor on duty won't be able to do some of the things your GP could, for example they may not be able to give you a sick leave paper.

EMERGENCY ROOM

The emergency room deals with the most urgent problems. You don't need any insurance, nor referral (although the hospital will bill you the cost of service if you don't have an insurance)
List of Non-stop Emergency Rooms:

<https://www.imt.bme.hu/medical-help/tajemergency/>

AMBULANCE

In case of an emergency, when you can't go to the hospital by yourself, you can call an ambulance by dialing **112** on the phone. Please only call the ambulance when it really is an emergency (for example, a little fever or a sore wrist is NOT an emergency, and you can even get fined for calling an ambulance in these cases).

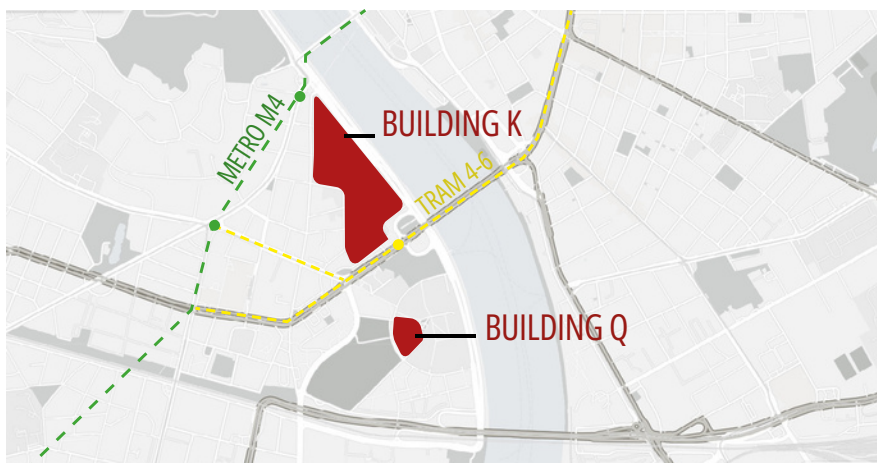
EMERGENCY NUMBER

General emergency service phone number: 112

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

For public transport in Budapest, you can use BKK. It's cheap and usually quite fast, especially in downtown areas. You can buy a country pass with your student ID in the vending machines for 1.890 HUF a month. With that, you can use trams, buses, trolleys and the underground railways, as well as trains.

Metro M4 has two stops near the university: Szent Gellért tér - Műgyetem, and Móricz Zsigmond körtér. While Tram 4 and 6 has a stop at Petőfi híd - Budai hídfő.



With your student pass, you can also travel on distance buses. You can also use the country pass on trains, however, on some trains (eg. InterCity trains between large cities) you are required to buy an additional ticket.

There is a very cheap pass for students with Hungarian student ID. It's called country pass (**országbérlet** in Hungarian), and costs 1890 HUF. With this, you can travel on every train, regional and long distance bus, although for some trains you need to buy an extra seat reservation. Important, that it is not valid for local transportation inside some cities. You can however use it for BKK transport inside Budapest!

You can only travel with a valid pass or ticket, otherwise, if caught by inspectors, **you'll have to pay 25 000 HUF**

TRAVEL



BUDA CASTLE

HILLS OF BUDA
only an hour of traveling



PILIS
hills and mountains within an
hour's journey from Budapest



JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP

Check out the amazing IMT events in our Facebook group. We have a couple every month and they are so much fun! It's the best way to make new friends and get to know the city!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BMEInternationalStudents>

EVERYDAY EXPENSES

FOOD

Buy seasonal vegetables and fruits. It's cheaper!
Always look at the unit price in stores, that is the quickest way to get the cheapest product.

RESTAURANTS AND CANTEENS

There are a lot of cheap fast-food restaurants near the university.

Chinese fast-food restaurants: 1500-2000 Ft for one meal

Karimi gyros: Kebab wraps and plates reasonably priced

Bartók street: on this street there are many restaurants both cheap and expensive offering lunch menus

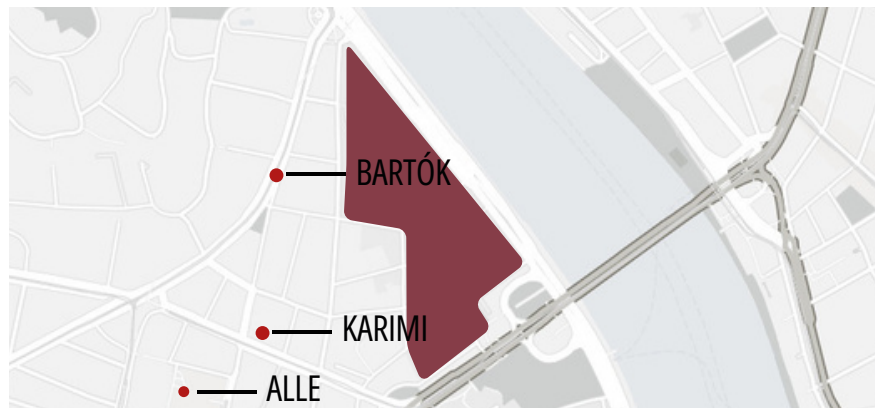
Allee: there are a lot of restaurants in the mall, both cheap and expensive

PUBS

There are a lot of pubs near the university.

Cheap ones:
ZéHá Pub
Sarki tanszék
Műhely
Libella
Pinyó
Csocsó
Kármán klub

More expensive ones:
Guri (craftbeer)
Black Dog (craftbeer)
KEG sörműház



WELCOME TO HUNGARY AND BME UNIVERSITY!

MEET THE MENTOR TEAM
<https://www.imt.bme.hu/info/mentor-team/>

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
<https://www.imt.bme.hu/>

CONTACT US
<https://www.imt.bme.hu/contacts/>