

**School of Business, Economics and Society Nuremberg
FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg**

Experience Report on Studies Abroad

The reports are written by students and do not reflect the opinion of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. Every report is checked before publication*. The university reserves the right to make reductions.

Information about the stay abroad	
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1. Application and selection process at the FAU

The application process will require students more thoughtful consideration of the desired destination rather than a bureaucratic application. **I advise students to start preparations for the semester abroad half a year before the application deadline.** E.g: If one applies in the winter semester, then they should start considering different options beginning in March. For me, the deadline for application in the winter semester was on December 5th, 2022. The general application process information can be found on the following platform - International Office at FAU (ib.wiso.fau.de/en/outgo/application/). The form that we should have filled in was the following: Bewerbungsformular-Outgoing für 2024/25 - Büro für internationale Beziehungen (fau.de).

Concerning the required documents, I submitted the certificate of enrollment, letter of motivation, CV, grades transcript, language proficiency certificate acquired at FAU (StudOn: Einstufungstest in Nürnberg), and optional documents such as internships and voluntary experience.

Then, on the application date, I selected five universities and listed them in the priority order. This is a crucial part in determining the location of the upcoming semester as if you're admitted to the first university on your priority list, the admission process to the rest of the universities will stop.

Ultimately, on December 20th, 2022, two weeks after the submission, I received a confirmation E-Mail from Mobility Service that I had been admitted to Corvinus University of Budapest. Furthermore, the communication about required documents and updates was through mobility@fau.de and concerning the specific information about my university with corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu.

2. Application and enrollment at the host university

Corvinus University was not among the first universities that contacted my fellow students at FAU. Most of them received welcome E-Mails at the beginning of March, while I received mine in the second half of March. However, this was not a problem at all. In case students consider that they should have already received any welcome E-Mails from the university, feel free to reach out to the Hungarian International Office at corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu

Returning to my experience, in March, I received an E-Mail from Corvinus University with instructions on how to **register on their internal platform**. To proceed with the registration, I followed this link: <https://corvinus.mobilitymanager.hu/student/index.php>. To log in I also need a username and password, so I requested it from the host university Erasmus Coordinator Eszter Szabados via corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu. **The registration itself was pretty straightforward:** I was asked to fill in my contact data, citizenship, emergency contacts, and level of proficiency in different languages.

Also, at approximately the end of March, I had to contact Eszter Szabados via corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu to ask for the contact person who will sign the Learning Agreements at their end. The information was required by FAU Mobility.

3. Preparation for studying abroad

The most important aspect of the preparation aspect was preliminary course registration, as systems vary in Germany and Hungary. In Hungary, students have to register for courses and exams, both having limited capacity. Therefore, if students want to get places in courses they are interested in, they must not miss the preliminary registration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The preliminary registration lasts only for two days, so the chances of missing it are very high. In May 2023, it lasted from May 29th to May 31st.

However, to my regret, I missed the preliminary registration period. Thus, I was supposed to wait until the regular registration period, lasting from August 28th to September 6th, 2023. It led to the fact that the choice of available courses was much narrower.

Other than course registration, there were no compulsory parts that I had to perform to study at Corvinus University.

4. Arrival / visa

Hungary is part of the European Union, meaning that **European Students do not have to apply for visas** and bear any responsibilities concerning their documents. As I am also a citizen of the EU, I have not applied for a visa, thus, I cannot share any relevant experience on this matter.

5. Accommodation options (dormitory, private)

When one thinks about housing options in Budapest, one should expect the approximate price range from 420€ to 515€ per month. Usually, this is charged for rooms in shared apartments with an average renting period of 6 months, while the semester, on average, lasts for five months. Thus, there is usually a one-month discrepancy, during which students either sublet their rooms or enjoy life in Budapest without studies.

Concerning public housing, Corvinus University notified me in advance that there are no available dormitories for incoming exchange students, as there is a strong demand for these dormitories among Hungarian students.

To compensate for this, the university offered two private dormitories:

1. Maverick Student Lodge (<https://maverickstudenthousing.com>)
2. Belvárosi Albérletház

However, the prices for these dormitories were much higher than the market average, so I started to look for a private apartment. Luckily, I found one for a very reasonable price through a friend living in Budapest.

Furthermore, **Corvinus University of Budapest created a housing guide that will help applicants who are looking for either private or public accommodation.** The guide contains many insights, tips, and warnings about the housing market. Following this link, one can find it under the “accommodation” section: **[Incoming Exchange Student - Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem.](#)**

Ultimately, for accommodation searching, one can use the following reliable sources:

1. <https://erasmuslifebudapest.com/flat-flatmate-finder/>
2. [WG Zimmer Wohnungen Wohnungssuche WG Suche WG Wohnung vermieten WG Nachmieter Zwischenmiete : WG-Gesucht.de](#)
3. For elite student accommodation, check out this link: <https://deansbudapest.com/en/student>

6. Enrolment at the host university

There are a few enrolment procedures at Corvinus University. **First is the preliminary course registration** (which lasts for two days), which I have already mentioned.

Second, students will have to activate their accounts on the internal platform for courses and exam registrations. Otherwise, they will not be able to take them. The credentials for this platform will be received from the university, and the activation will become available with the final registration for courses. The link to the platform: <https://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu/Hallgatoi/login.aspx>

Next, after activating the student account, **one needs to set up a so-called CUSMAN account** that will provide access to the local “StudOn” and MS-365 services. Here is the link to register on the platform: <https://cusmanweb.uni-corvinus.hu/webapp/LoginJSP.jsp?lng=en>

Ultimately, students need to physically come to the university to sign the Confirmation of Arrival for Erasmus and receive the local temporary student ID. The dates can be found here under “Schedule for the Academic Year”: <https://www.uni-corvinus.hu/ind/international-and-administrative-student-services/incoming-exchange-student/?lang=en>

7. Technical and administrative support at the host university (International Office, academic advisors, buddy programs, student initiatives, etc.)

Luckily, Budapest and Corvinus University of Budapest are places where no one will be left unnoticed. The university itself provides extensive student support, helping to find answers to any questions.

During my semester abroad (September-December 2023), the Erasmus coordinator whom I contacted the most was Eszter Szabados. The coordinator does not have a specific E-mail, so for any inquiries, I used this E-Mail address: corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu

Furthermore, on the second floor of Building E (Google Maps), students can always find an international office booth that will be happy to help or redirect them to the responsible person.

And finally, concerning the Buddy programs, ESN Corvinus will be happy to support students with that. The following link: [For exchange students | ESN Corvinus](#).

8. Courses / timetable at the host university

The studying process differs from a traditional German one. In Hungary, students go through continuous learning, with weekly lectures and seminars compulsory to attend. The studies imply many group works, presentations, mid-terms and final exams. The timetable can be found here: under “Schedule for the Academic Year”: <https://www.uni-corvinus.hu/ind/international-and-administrative-student-services/incoming-exchange-student/?lang=en>.

During my semester abroad, I took these subjects:

1. Money and Capital Markets
2. Managerial Accounting
3. Online and Digital Marketing
4. Organizational Theory and Behaviour
5. Taxation and Tax Planning

I can recommend all of them apart from Organizational Theory and Behaviour, as it is pretty much a psychology class with no direct connection to Business and Economics.

9. Language courses at the host university (free, paid)

There were not that many language courses at Corvinus University of Budapest. Students could take free Hungarian A1 (which is unnecessary to survive in Budapest) and German language

courses. However, I don't recommend taking any language courses, as FAU students won't get ECTS for them and will not sign any Learning Agreements.

P.S. Concerning the Hungarian Language, no one attempts to study it either in advance or during the studies because it is a unique and complicated language, having no connections with other language groups and not spoken anywhere but Hungary.

10. Facilities of the host university (library, computer rooms, etc.)

The university has two well-equipped facilities, with everything being in one place. There are two buildings:

1. E - old historical building where you may have lectures
2. C - modern and recently built facility with three floors library and financial laboratory.

Financial laboratory implies having access to, for example, Bloomberg Terminal. Apart from the financial laboratory, there are two computer rooms in the library.

Both buildings have two coffee and snack machines per floor, at least two water coolers per floor, classes with a high-quality TV and projectors, free Wi-Fi that covers all facilities, a heating system, and everything students need for more than comfortable studying. Additionally, the university is located right on the river in the city centre, so there is a high chance of going for a pleasant stroll in the picturesque city of Budapest after a long study day.

11. Leisure activities

Budapest - is the city of tons of leisure activities. Students can find everything for every taste, starting from clubs and nightlife and ending with chess, volleyball or hiking clubs. It's the capital of Hungary, meaning that there are almost no boundaries in terms of what one can find.

I can for sure recommend the greatest and the biggest Erasmus Community ever - Erasmus Life Budapest (<https://www.facebook.com/ErasmusLifeBudapest>). They literally have events every day, and one will never feel bored in Budapest after attending their events. They organise trips, walking tours, parties, board game nights, and many more.

My recommendations to visit in Budapest:

- Thermal bath (Szechenyi; Rudas, etc)
- Opera
- Parliament
- New York Cafe
- Lake Balaton

12. City (sights, festivals, museums, etc.)

Budapest is a very contrasting city, meaning that on one street, one can be surrounded by imperial architecture, but on another street, one can encounter drunk and homeless people. However, as I have already said, one can find everything in the city for every taste.

Thus, I can recommend attending all walking tours around the city, either from ELB or ESN communities, where you'll be able to see all the sights with tour guides.

For those who are coming in the summer semester, I strongly advise visiting the Sziget Festival ([#SZIGET2024 - Die Island of Freedom \(szigetfestival.com\)](https://www.szigetfestival.com)) and for those who are visiting it during the winter semester, I advise visiting the Christmas market and ice skating in the city park.

Budapest is the city of young people, so have fun and explore it!

13. Everyday life (withdrawing money, cell phone, job)

Everyday life is pretty much the same as in every city for an Erasmus student. Studies, parties, excursions, and meetings with friends.

In terms of **weather**, Budapest is similar to Nuremberg, but the sunnier days and warmer summer. The good weather period lasts from April to October, with colder weather starting to settle down in November.

Also, for those coming from Germany, there is no need to buy a **new cell phone card**, as German cards work across the EU. My German number and the cellular data were perfectly functioning in Budapest.

Finally, when it comes to **money and financial operations**, Hungary uses its own currency — Hungarian Forint. In order to avoid bank commission, I advise using either N26 or Revolut. Both are online banks that will provide you with the availability to pay without commission and withdraw money without fees up to three times per month. In addition, from my experience, there is no need for cash in Budapest, as one can pay by card everywhere. Other than that, everyday life feels like in any other big European city.

14. Financial (cost of living, scholarships)

The overall cost of living for me was approximately ≈560 € per month. It was primarily influenced by the rent, groceries, and entertainment. Below, I have provided a detailed break-down of my average monthly expenses:

- Rent ≈380 €
- Groceries ≈120 €

- Entertainment ≈60 €

I received Erasmus funding, namely 2075 € for four months abroad (518 € per month). Nevertheless, while the Erasmus funding covers a lot of one's costs, it will not cover everything, plus, any unforeseen expenses could arise, so advise having a financial safety cushion before pursuing for the semester abroad.

15. Important contacts and links

I have already mentioned a lot of important people, organisations, and links throughout the report, so in this section I will briefly summarise them:

- a. **Erasmus coordinator** - Eszter Szabados via corvinus.incoming@uni-corvinus.hu
- b. **FAU's international office** - Polina Podtichova via mobility@fau.de
- c. **Semester abroad application** - <https://ib.wiso.fau.de/en/outgo/application/>
 - i. **Application form:** - [Bewerbungsformular-Outgoing für 2024/25 - Büro für internationale Beziehungen \(fau.de\)](#)
- d. **Corvinus mobility manager** - <https://corvinus.mobilitymanager.hu/student/index.php>
- e. **General guide for incoming international students** - [Incoming Exchange Student - Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem \(uni-corvinus.hu\)](#)
- f. **Accommodation:**
 - i. ELB housing - <https://erasmuslifebudapest.com/flat-flatmate-finder/>
 - ii. WG Gesucht - [WG Zimmer Wohnungen Wohnungssuche WG Suche WG Wohnung vermieten WG Nachmieter Zwischenmiete : WG-Gesucht.de](#)
 - iii. Dean's Hotel - <https://deansbudapest.com/en/student>
 - iv. Maverick Student Lodge - <https://maverickstudenthousing.com>
- g. **Neptun Corvius (local MeinCampo)** - <https://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu/Hallgatoi/login.aspx>
- h. **Cusman Account (necessary for using Moodle)** - <https://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu/Hallgatoi/login.aspx>
- i. **Moodle (local StudOn)** - <https://neptun3r.web.uni-corvinus.hu/Hallgatoi/login.aspx>
- j. **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** - [ESN Corvinus](#)
 - i. **Buddy program** - [For exchange students | ESN Corvinus](#)
- k. **Eramus Life Budapest (ELB)** - <https://www.facebook.com/ErasmusLifeBudapest>
 - i. Webpage - [Main Page - ELB \(erasmuslifebudapest.com\)](#)
 - ii. Their events - [Cooltix - ErasmusLifeBudapest](#)

16. Conclusion (best and worst experience)

As in a typical life cycle, everything comes to an end. My fifth semester has come to an end, my stay in Budapest has come to an end, and this report also comes to an end. **Overall, I am glad and satisfied that I spent my semester abroad here**, as I gained more than I lost. It was a priceless experience for my personality, allowing me to find out, overcome and understand a lot of crucial aspects of myself. The train station I left for my semester abroad in August contemplated the old version of me for the last time as I returned as a new person in December. I believe that life is about experience, so the more we experience, the more proudly we can scream: “We are alive!”.

In conclusion, Budapest is the kind of city that will adapt to you, meaning that if one wants to party, they will always find it, while others will always find the peace and mindfulness they are seeking. It is a unique city with its unbelievable experiences. And finally, what happened in Budapest will forever stay in Budapest.