

# **Erfahrungsbericht über einen Auslandsaufenthalt im Rahmen eines Austauschprogramms (Studium)**

Gastland: Ungarn

Gastinstitution: Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME)

## **1. Für welches Austausch- oder Förderprogramm fertigen Sie diesen**

### **Erfahrungsbericht an?**

Erasmus (Europa oder Übersee)

## **2. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasteinrichtung)**

The preparation process for my Erasmus semester was relatively easy and self-explanatory. My host university, the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), provides a well-structured website where the entire process is clearly explained, from application and enrolment to course selection. If questions still came up, there was a coordinator at BME who was very helpful and responded quickly. On the side of my home university, FAU Nuremberg, I also received very good support whenever I had questions. In addition, several information events were offered before the stay abroad, which helped me prepare well. The most time-consuming part of the preparation was the Learning Agreement, especially finding suitable courses that could be recognized by my home university. I would recommend starting this step early, but once all required documents were submitted, the overall process moved forward quickly.

## **3. An- und Einreise (Visum, Flug/Bahn/Bus)**

As an EU citizen, I did not have any visa-related issues and did not need to take care of any visa formalities. My arrival in Budapest was very easy and well organized. I travelled to Budapest by train, which was the most convenient option for me. Traveling by train felt more relaxed, especially because I had a lot of luggage, and it was also cheaper than flying in my case. However, arriving by plane is also a very practical option. Airports such as Stuttgart, Nuremberg, and Berlin offer affordable flights to Budapest with airlines like Ryanair or Wizz Air.

## **4. Unterkunft (Wohnheim/Privat)**

I lived in a shared apartment with one roommate on the Pest side of Budapest. Even though BME is located on the Buda side of the city, I would clearly recommend looking for accommodation on the Pest side, as this is where most of the student life takes place. This is also where the majority of clubs, bars, restaurants, and other social activities are located. In general, the closer an area is to the river, the more central it is, but the more expensive it also becomes. A very useful reference point when searching for accommodation is the tram line 4/6. It is the most important public transport line in Budapest, as it runs 24/7 and forms a semicircle around the city. Ideally, students should try to find a flat within this semicircle in order to live as centrally as possible. However, living slightly outside this area is also not a problem. I started my apartment search quite late, only three to four weeks before the semester started, which made the search more difficult. In the end, I found my room through Facebook from a private landlord, but if you start early, there are many platforms that offer accommodation specifically for Erasmus students. WG-Gesucht also works very well, as many German students live and study in Budapest. If nothing is found at first, there is no need to panic, as some of my fellow students stayed in an Airbnb or a hostel for the first two to four weeks and then found a permanent place locally.

#### **5. Fachlicher Aufenthalt an der Gasteinrichtung (Lehrveranstaltungen, Praktikumsinhalte und -aufgaben, Sprachkurse, Stundenplan, Prüfungen, Abschlussarbeit)**

During my stay at the host institution, I completed a total of four courses, each worth 5 ECTS credits. As I study business and economics, these were the courses that could be recognized by my home university. In the field of economics, the host university offers several courses related to sustainability, and I chose two courses in this area. All courses were taught in English, and in my experience, the lecturers were generally easy to understand. Overall, the workload felt somewhat lower than what I am used to in Germany. The structure of the courses was also different compared to my home university. In most courses, there were two midterm exams instead of one large final exam at the end of the semester. This meant that I had to work continuously during the semester, but the workload was better distributed and felt more relaxed in the end than in Germany.

#### **6. Betreuung an der Gasteinrichtung (International Office, Fachbereich, Praktikumsbetreuung)**

The supervision at my host university, BME, was very good. There is a central contact person at the International Office who is available for questions and usually responds quickly. In addition, a lot of important information is provided on the university website and through the Neptun online system. At the beginning of the semester, several information and orientation sessions are offered to explain organizational and academic matters. Changes, updates, and reminders are also regularly sent to students via email. This helped me to stay well informed throughout the semester. In addition, the student organization ESN, which is run by Hungarian students, offers support not only through events and parties but also by helping international students with questions related to their studies.

#### **7. Ausstattung der Gasteinrichtung (Bibliothek, Computerräume, Laboratorien, Unterrichts- und Arbeitsräume etc.)**

The university is divided into two main areas with very different impressions. There is an older part with a beautiful historic main building, but many of the surrounding facilities are less modern and appear somewhat worn, which is also noticeable in some classrooms. In contrast, the newer part of the university is very modern and well equipped, with attractive lecture halls and better facilities. BME also has a very impressive historic library, which is visually appealing. However, in my experience, it is not ideal for studying, as it is a large open space and can become quite noisy. Unfortunately, there is no modern library directly at the university that is well suited for quiet individual study. This was not a major issue for me, as Budapest has many universities, and some other institutions, such as Corvinus University, offer modern libraries that are also accessible to students. I mainly used these external libraries for studying, and I did not make use of computer rooms or technical facilities at BME, so I cannot assess them from personal experience.

#### **8. Alltag und Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld abheben, Handy, Jobs)**

Budapest is a very beautiful city with a large number of impressive sights and places to visit. In my experience, it is also a very lively student city with many young and international students. During the semester, there are almost daily activities organized by student organizations such as ESN or ELB, including group trips to sights and social events. One of the main highlights for many Erasmus students is the weekly "Morry Monday" party at the club Morrison's 2, which is especially popular among international students. In addition, the city offers countless bars, restaurants, and cafés across different districts. In everyday life, I paid almost everything by card, which was possible everywhere, and cash was rarely needed. Withdrawing or using cash was therefore not an issue for me. There are also several fitness studios in Budapest, but most of them are relatively small, and monthly membership fees are usually around 30 euros or higher.

#### **9. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien, finanzielle Unterstützung der Gasteinrichtung)**

Although Budapest is generally a bit cheaper than Germany, it was more expensive than I and many of my fellow students initially expected. While drinks, such as beer, and eating out are cheaper than in Germany, grocery shopping is similarly priced or sometimes even more expensive. Rent is also not extremely cheap compared to expectations. I paid around 500 euros per month for a room in a shared apartment for two people in a good location. Among my fellow students, the average rent was around 400 euros per month. Overall, rental prices ranged roughly between 300 and 700 euros, depending on location and apartment quality. I received approximately 500 euros per month through the Erasmus scholarship. Under certain conditions, it is possible to receive an additional top-up, for example for first-generation students. In this case, the monthly financial support can be higher, so it is definitely worth informing yourself about these options in advance.

#### **10. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)**

Overall, I can highly recommend an exchange semester in Budapest. It is a city where you can have a very enjoyable time, and it is especially easy to meet new people due to the large and active student community. My personal highlight was the city itself, as Budapest is truly beautiful and offers a very high quality of life. I was also positively surprised by how well organized many aspects of the stay were, as the overall process was easier than I initially expected. I did not have any truly negative experiences during my semester abroad. If I had to mention one limitation, it would be that the culture and everyday life do not differ very strongly from Germany or other German cities. I personally expected to gain more completely new cultural perspectives and experiences. This may also be related to the fact that I am already a master's student and have had several international and academic experiences before. For students who are looking for a very different cultural experience, a stay outside of Europe might therefore be more suitable, but overall, I would still clearly recommend Budapest as an Erasmus destination.

#### **11. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links**

Nothing

#### **12. Nur Erasmus-Aufenthalte: Für diejenigen Studierenden, die eine Sonderförderung erhalten haben: Bitte stellen Sie kurz dar, wie Sie Ihren Aufenthalt in dieser Hinsicht erlebt haben.**