

**BUDAPEST SEMESTERS IN MATHEMATICS**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**SPRING, 2012**

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## ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

All-European Emergency Number

(works as the Us "911" number): **112**

equivalently, while in Hungary:

Police 107

Ambulance 104

Fire 105

English-language police hotline +36-1-438-8080

### BSM CONTACT INFORMATION

#### STAFF

Dr. Dezső Miklós (Program Director) dezso@renyi.hu

Dr. Ágnes Szilárd (Deputy Director) szilard@renyi.hu

Mariann Köves (Student Coordinator) mkoves@mcdaniel.hu

*In case you have any problems do not hesitate to turn to us.*

#### OFFICE AND CLASSROOMS

Budapest, 7<sup>th</sup> dist. Bethlen Gábor tér 2.

Tel: 061-413-3038

Fax : 061-413-3030

office: 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (room 219)

classrooms: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

#### MAILING ADDRESS for letters

- Use this address for letters only!!!

College International  
Budapest Semesters in Mathematics  
*Your name*  
1406 Budapest 76  
P.O.Box 51.  
Hungary, Europe

#### MAILING ADDRESS for packages, couriers

- For your packages and courier mail (FedEx, Dhl etc)!!!

College International  
Budapest Semesters in Mathematics  
*Your name*  
Bethlen Gábor tér 2.  
Budapest 1071  
Hungary, Europe

#### BSM HOTLINE

If you find yourself in a situation when you urgently need the help of the student coordinator you can call:

##### **Mariann Köves**

Mobile: **06 30 474 3924** (from within Hungary)

003630-4743924 (from outside of Hungary)

Office: 061-413-3038

**College International central office:** (+361) 413 3003

**fax:** (+361) 413 3030

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

First day of classes	February 6 (Mon)
Feedback session	February 23 (Thu), 4pm
Registration deadline	February 23 (Thu), 10am
Deadline to apply for Pass/Fail	April 27th (Fri)
Deadline for dropping a course	May 11 (Fri)
Last day of classes	May 18 (Fri)
Final exams	May 21-23 (Mon-Wed)
Transcripts (drafts) handed out	May 24 (Thu)

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Local Math Competition March 10th (Sat), 9am-2pm  
Spring break: March 31 (Sat) - April 9 (Mon)

Official holidays (no classes):  
March 15 (Thu),  
April 9 (Mon),  
May 1 (Tue)

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Because of the holidays above, there will be two "long weekends" March 15-18 and April 28-May 1, since March 16 (Fri) and April 30 (Mon) will be traded for March 24 (Sat) and April 21 (Sat), respectively. Thus March 24th (Sat) the Friday, and April 21st (Sat) the Monday class schedule will be valid.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND REGULATIONS

The semester starts with a trial period of three weeks, when you can sit in as many classes as you wish. Only at the end of this period must you register for the courses you really want to take.

There are two types of courses.

**Regular courses** meet twice a week for up to two each time. These are mostly lecture format.

**Reading courses\*** meet only once a week for up to two hours each time for consultation.

(An academic hour is 45 minutes long.)

\* In the transcript no difference is made between *reading* and *regular courses*.

Below you will find a list of our standard course offerings.

For an up-to-date list check the local BSM homepage at [www.bsmath.hu](http://www.bsmath.hu).

**NOTE:** *During/after the trial period ends (i.e. by the end of the third week) course offerings may change in response to increased/decreased demand:*

- *high demand courses may be offered in parallel sessions*
- *courses with fewer than 3 students will be canceled*
- *courses with 3-5 student will become reading courses.*

### STANDARD COURSE OFFERINGS

The standard BSM curriculum includes introductory and advanced mathematics courses.

The introductory courses are with prerequisites not going beyond calculus or linear algebra, but the advanced math courses are somewhat more challenging and may require some experience in the given field.

The **syllabi** of the courses is available on the BSM local web site [www.bsmath.hu](http://www.bsmath.hu).

**NOTE:** *up-to five math courses are included in your tuition and as many of the non-math courses listed below as you wish. You will have to pay extra for any additional math course, see pg.8*

### **Introductory level math courses:**

These courses do not require more prerequisites than usual college level introductory calculus and algebra classes, but some may still be very demanding.

AL1	Introduction to Abstract Algebra
ANT	Topics in Analysis
CLX	Complex Analysis
C&P	Conjecture and Proof
CO1	Combinatorics 1
MPS	Mathematical Problem Solving
NU1	Number Theory 1
PRO	Probability Theory
SET	Set Theory
TOP	Introduction to Topology

## Advanced math courses:

AAL	Advanced Algebra
ALT	Algebraic Topology
CO2A	Combinatorics of Finite Sets
CO2B	Extremal Combinatorics
COP	Combinatorial Optimization
DIG	Differential Geometry
FUN	Functional Analysis
GAL	Galois Theory
GEO	Topics in Geometry
GRT	Graph Theory
MAP	Mathematical Physics
NUT1	Topics in Algebraic Number Theory
NUT2	Topics in Analytic Number Theory OR
NUT2	Additive Combinatorics
RFM	Real Functions and Measures
THC	Theory of Computing

## Additional BSM math courses:

### 1. A three week "crash course" in Classical Algebra

Because of the diversity of mathematical curriculum in US colleges and Universities, BSM faculty have designed a special three week course in classical algebra that reviews topics crucial to the study of mathematics that may have been absent from your undergraduate curriculum.

This course is held during the first three weeks of the program in order to make sure everyone has the necessary background in this basic topic, which is a prerequisite for almost all of our courses .

You are urged to attend this classical algebra course for your own benefit (even if you believe you thoroughly know the material covered by it): nobody later should claim at BSM about the material presented here that they are unfamiliar with it or they have never learnt it.

Please note, that though the course is essentially required for all of your BSM studies, it is especially important for those who wish to take Introductory Number Theory, Galois Theory, Introductory (or Advanced, of course) Abstract Algebra and Complex Functions. Nobody should claim in those courses the lack of knowledge of some topic covered by the Classical Algebra course.

**NOTE:** *this course is not for credit and in fact, you need not even register for it, since it will be over by the registration deadline.*

Nevertheless, those who successfully complete the course and would like to have it mentioned in their transcript as a NC (non-credit) course should register for it using the BSM online registration software at <http://www.renyi.hu/~bsmphp/>

## **2. Reading courses**

The following math courses usually start as reading courses and are changed to a regular course only if their audience exceeds 6 (and other circumstances allow).

D&B	Dynamics and Bifurcations (Differential Equations)
LOG	Mathematical Logic
STA	Statistical Methods
STT	Set Theoretic and General Topology

**NOTE:** *Based on registration/attendance data other courses may also start or eventually become reading courses as well.*

## **3. Competition Preparation Course**

We will organize a complimentary, out of curriculum competition (e.g. Putnam) preparation course which will meet once a week. The course is given by a BSM alumnus (currently a Fulbright Fellow at Renyi Institute): Adam Hestenberg.

This course is useful for the BSM local math competition as well, which is to be held March 10th, 9am-2pm.

### **Non math courses:**

These courses are cross-listed with McDaniel College and therefore they have pre-set meeting times. Thus their scheduling cannot be changed even if they conflict with some of the other courses you would like to take.

The courses count as regular BSM courses, no need for special arrangements to sign up for them and they will appear on your BSM transcript as regular BSM courses. *You may take as many of these courses as you wish.*

HL1	Beginner Hungarian Language	
HL2	Intermediate Hungarian Language	
HUC	Hungarian Art and Culture	
HIS	Holocaust and Memory	
HMS	History of Modern Science	
FILM	Film Analysis - Great Masters of	European Films
OPH	Old World and New World Political	Philosophy

When taking these courses you may meet non-BSM classmates.

### **McDaniel and AIT courses:**

**McDaniel College courses** are available at the Budapest branch of McDaniel College, which you may wish to attend. These courses are held in the same building where we have the BSM classes but we can not take care of the scheduling conflicts; so you will only be able to audit these courses if you do not have a BSM course at the same time.

In case you wish to attend any of them, please contact the student coordinator (Mariann) or the Hungarian director (Dezso Miklos) of the BSM program.

**NOTE:** *McDaniel courses are not for credit, unless special arrangements are made.*

If you need credit for these courses, you need (and will get) the permission of the local McDaniel office and you will get a McDaniel (not BSM!) transcript, however you should also check with your home institution if it accepts your McDaniel courses for credit.

Please note that you are not guaranteed to be able to take a McDaniel course due to the limit on the number of students (since McDaniel college will naturally register their own students first).

### **AIT (Aquincum Institute of Technology) courses**

Aquincum Institute of Technology is an English language institution that works similarly to BSM. Their campus is located at Aquincum, Óbuda, which is about 45 minutes from Bethlen Square.

BSM has a similar arrangement with AIT as with McDaniel college: you can freely attend their courses, get an AIT transcript for your AIT courses if you wish, however, you need to make arrangements with your home institution yourself if you would like AIT courses be accepted by your home institution for credit.

For more information on AIT, their course offerings etc see [www.ait-budapest.com](http://www.ait-budapest.com)

### **ADVISORS**

All BSM students are assigned an advisor who will help them with their academic issues such as choosing courses. This semester all students whose **last name starts with**

- **A through I** will have **Miklós Dezső** as their advisor,
- **J through Z** will have **Ágnes Szilárd** as their advisor.

### **REGISTERING FOR COURSES, PAYMENTS**

The semester starts with a trial period of three weeks, when you can sit in as many classes as you wish. Only by the end of this period must you register for the courses you really want to take. Thus, **the registration deadline is February 23rd, Thursday, 10 am.**

**The registration should be done online using the BSM registration software at <http://www.renyi.hu/~bsmphp/>** (a link is available from [www.bsmath.hu](http://www.bsmath.hu)).

You will receive your login and password via email the first week of the semester. For security reasons, please, change your login/password immediately the first time you use the system!

**Your online registration should be approved by your advisor to come in effect.** You will have to meet your advisor in person briefly to discuss your choices to get an approval. These meetings will take place February 23rd and 24th, as the final course offerings also depend on overall registration data. (See regular courses versus reading courses for example, on pg.7. The approval is also done online.)

**NOTE:** *You will be allowed to register only for those courses which you attended during the week of the registration, that is, the third week of the semester.*

Your paid tuition covers as much as five of the math courses and as many of the non-math courses OFFERED by BSM as you wish. (The non-math courses are listed on pg.7.)

For the sixth and any further math course you would like to take a **non-refundable** tuition fee of 350USD/course should be paid by the registration deadline, which is the end of the third week.

**NOTE:** *No registration for 6 or more math courses will be accepted without proof of payment for the extra tuition. Even if academically sound, your advisor will not approve registering for 6 or more courses if a proof of payment is not presented.*

## **GRADES, TRANSCRIPTS**

Individual homework and test grades are recorded by the lecturer. His/her grading policy is announced at the beginning of the course.

During the semester you will be able to see a Midterm Assessment Grade (MAG) using our registration software <http://www.renyi.hu/~bsmphp/>

- Go "My courses" --> the course you are interested in --> "Study information"

You will get an automatically generated email message when a Midterm Assessment Grade for a course becomes available.

The MAG grade is given by your lecturer, usually after a midterm and indicates what grade you would get if that moment was the end of semester already. This grade should help you decide with strategies for the given course.

You can view your BSM transcript (a "draft") at the Farewell Party which is usually held Thursday afternoon of the Exam Week.

The final transcripts are sent to your home institution promptly at the end of the semester.

As described before, any "unusual" activities (such as AIT courses etc) you must negotiate with your BSM advisor and your home institution to make sure they accept it for credit. For such courses you might get a separate (non-BSM) transcript provided by the institution offering the course.

## **DROPPING A COURSE**

In order to drop a course from your schedule, you must request it online via the BSM registration software (<http://www.renyi.hu/~bsmphp/>) by the drop deadline the latest: May 11th, Friday. The "request dropping a course" link is located on the homepage of that course.

- Go "My courses" --> the course you would like to drop --> "Click for drop request"

To finalize your dropping of a course **you also need the approval of the lecturer of the course** - he or she will also do this online and you get an automatically generated email about it when your request is approved.

Failure of following the above procedure OR TRYING TO DROP A COURSE WHICH YOU HAVE NOT ATTENDED FOR TWO OR MORE WEEKS PRIOR TO REQUESTING TO DROP THE COURSE will result in a "NA" (non-attending) grade for the course that will appear in your transcript, considered by many of the home colleges as "FAIL".

## **AUDITING A COURSE**

There are two ways to audit a course.

**1.** If you are sure **from the beginning** that you only want to audit a course, you may register for it as such, by registering for the course and requesting the audit option immediately (see 2. below). Please note that audited classes will count toward your class load as well (and an auditing person will count toward the class size).

**2. You may change** a course you registered for to "audit" even in the last days of the semester online via the BSM registration software <http://www.renyi.hu/~bsmphp/>. (Go "My courses --> the course you would like to audit --> Click for audit request" at the bottom of the page.)

**You also need the approval of the lecturer of the course** - he or she will also do this electronically and you get an automatically generated email about when your request is approved.

Note that you may even be able to change a course for audit upon receiving the "draft transcript". In that case your audit request should be approved by the Program Director by the Farewell Party the latest. In this case you should initiate such a change in person or by email.

## **THE PASS/FAIL OPTION**

Changing to receive a Pass (or Fail) mark for a course is not allowed in general. Nevertheless, if at any time during the semester you still have an urgent need for a Pass option, you should initiate the procedure by sending an email to your BSM advisor. Please, include the name and contact data of the person (professor or study abroad officer) at your home institution who is responsible and can be contacted for the specific rules at your home institution.

**NOTE:** *You should allow at least three weeks for the administration process (that is, this option will be closed for the last three weeks of the semester).*

## **THE LOCAL MATH COMPETITION**

The local math competition is offered **the 10th of March Sat morning 9-2pm.**

It comes with cash prizes as well as serves as a selection for the team representing BSM at the *International Mathematics Competition for University Students 2012* (Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, 26th July - 1st August).

Anyone is very welcome to compete and the participation of good problem solvers is highly encouraged!

See information for a related preparation course on pg.7

# OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

## STUDENT CHIP CARDS

Every BSM student will get a chip card on the orientation session (or during our Babilon course preliminary meeting). You will have to pay a 3000 HUF deposit, which will be refunded prior your departure upon returning the chip card.

Your chip card is for

- entering the BSM building through its security gates (Main Entrance and yard);
- copying/printing (see pg. 13 ).

## RESIDENCE PERMITS

***IMPORTANT: ALL BSM STUDENTS MUST GET A RESIDENCE PERMIT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THEIR ARRIVAL TO HUNGARY.***

### **If you arrived with a valid VISA**

Your visa will be “converted into” a residence permit at the Hungarian Immigration Office. The BSM office will organize a joint visit on the second Wednesday of the semester. As a general rule, you will need to have (copies of) the documents which were needed for your visa application plus proof of your local residence address (provided by the BSM office). You do not need to pay extra fees.

### **If you do not have a VISA:**

As a result of Hungary’s joining the Schengen zone and according to Hungarian law, you must obtain a residence permit from the Hungarian Immigration Office.

To obtain your residence permit:

- you will be given all specific information regarding the process and the documents required during the Orientation Session. In addition, you may also check the McDaniel College website (under Admissions/Entering Hungary).
- you will visit the Immigration Office in small groups where you can submit your form and all the necessary documents.
- The entire process will cost 18,000 HUF for which **you need to get "OKMÁNYBÉLYEG" (revenue stamp\*) for the same amount**. These revenue stamps are available at any Post Office (see pg. 17).

\*FYI: A **revenue stamp, tax stamp or fiscal stamp** is a (usually) adhesive label used to collect [taxes](#) or fees on documents, tobacco, alcoholic drinks, drugs and medicines, playing cards, and many other things. Typically businesses purchase the stamps from the government, and attach them to taxed items as part of putting the items on sale, or in the case of documents, as part of filling out the form. (from WIKIPEDIA)

**NOTE:** *Your residence permit allows you to travel freely – without further visa requirements - within countries of the Schengen zone (i.e. all continental European countries west or north of Hungary plus Greece, but not the British Islands, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ukraine, etc. In case of uncertainty, check WIKI or ask the office).*

*The residence permit also serves as a return visa in case you leave the Schengen region.*

*Non-American citizens most probably need a visa to travel to the above "outside" countries.*

## STUDENT SERVICES

### GETTING TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks and handouts will be sold weekly at office hours announced/posted at the beginning of the semester. Textbooks will be fully refunded or at 50% according to the following:

- The deadline to return (unused!!!) books for a full refund is the end of the third week.
- Books in good condition are refunded at 50% of the original price the last week of the Semester.
- **Handouts cannot be refunded.**

A limited amount of used books is available at a 60% discount-price on a first-come-first-served basis.

**NOTE:** *we can only accept cash and moreover, only forints as payment. Refunds will also be paid in forints!*

### MATH LIBRARIES

1. There is a small reference library in the BSM office.
2. One or two copies of each textbook are available for you to use strictly at the BSM building so that you would not need to carry your books with you to school.
3. You can become a member of the Library of the Renyi Institute of Mathematics and borrow their books by filling out an appropriate form (available from the Renyi Institute website [www.renyi.hu](http://www.renyi.hu) or where the BSM textbooks are sold). Note, that you must have a sponsor in order to get membership. Your lecturer can sponsor you if he or she works at the Institute or you may ask Dezso Miklos or Agnes Szilard to sponsor you.

**NOTE:** *make sure to return all borrowed books by the end of the semester, otherwise we will be unable to provide a transcript.*

### INTERNET AT SCHOOL AND HOME

**AT BSM** everyone will have Internet access and may use their home e-mail address or their local e-mail account (firstinitialandlastname@mcdaniel.hu).

The Computer Room is located in the basement in B7 and is open from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, except when computer classes are in session. (Check the Class Schedule posted on the door for these times.) In addition, rooms B11 and B12 are study rooms where students may use their laptops.

**WIFI** is also available throughout the building. You will be given the access code on the Orientation Session (or ask Mariann).

#### **Computer Support:**

Géza Nagy	<a href="mailto:gnagy@mcdaniel.hu">gnagy@mcdaniel.hu</a>	+36-1-413-3020, 06-30-966-6597
Tamás Báló	<a href="mailto:tbalo@mcdaniel.hu">tbalo@mcdaniel.hu</a>	+36-1-413-3021
Zsolt Schmidt		+36-1-413-3046

## **Internet "at home":**

By now everyone should have internet access in their apartment.

You may also consider getting prepaid "mobil-internet" such as Vodafone's "NETJEGY" (see [www.vodafone.hu/en/internet/pay-as-you-go-offers](http://www.vodafone.hu/en/internet/pay-as-you-go-offers)) that asks for no loyalty.

See pg.17 for the names of large internet providers in Hungary -- all have similar plans.

## **READING ROOM, OTHER PLACES TO STUDY**

The Reading Room is located in Room 205 and offers a quiet place to study between classes. The room is open from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday for studying.

You are welcome to use the public libraries in Budapest for a small membership fee:

Szabó Ervin Metropolitan Library  
Budapest, 8th district, Szabó Ervin tér 1.

National Foreign Language Library  
Budapest, 5th district, Molnár u. 11.

## **COPYING FACILITIES**

Students can use the copying machine located in Room B13 using their activated student ship card. You can print/copy up to 100 pages for free during the semester (that is: both your printing and copying count towards the 100 page limit).

After the 100-page-limit is reached, more pages can be purchased at 1000/ft per 100 pages in Room 213.

## **CAFETERIA**

A variety of foods and snacks are available in the cafeteria, which is located in the basement. The **cafeteria opens at 8:30 a.m.**, at which time service includes sandwiches, pastries, and hot and cold drinks. Hot dishes—from soup to meats, vegetables, and pasta—are served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. **The cafeteria closes at 4 p.m.**

## **SPORTS**

There is an outdoor basketball court located behind the College building, as well as courts at Varosliget (City Park), Margitsziget (Margaret Island), Pillango utca park, and other city parks.

Students can also take advantage of jogging paths, ping-pong tables, and swimming pools available in Varosliget (City Park), only minutes away from the College. In addition, there is a jogging path around Margaret Island.

# LIVING IN BUDAPEST

## HOUSING

We do our best to find your housing as requested. However, given the number of students, it might happen that you are placed into an apartment not exactly matching your request.

If you are not satisfied with the accommodation or don't get along with your roommate(s), let us (actually, the student coordinator) know ASAP because we may be able to suggest alternative housing! However, you are asked to **be patient for a few days** until our student coordinator finds you another place to live.

Due to our earlier experience, let us stress: **your housing problems can only be solved if we know about them**. So please, in case of having any problems, visit or contact the BSM office and let the coordinator handle the problem.

**NOTE:** *although BSM is an intermediary between you and your landlord, you have to negotiate and sign the Lease Contract with your landlord (not BSM).*

We have put a sample (blank) contract which you and your landlord can use, both in English and Hungarian, in the welcoming information package. Be sure you read and understand it before you sign it. Please **do not pay any rent until the contract is signed** (but sign a contract as soon as possible).

During the first month of your arrival, you are free to change apartments by simply leaving the first month's rent behind (plus paying any utility fees applicable, of course) plus any other fees, which are due.

If you change apartments later, the policy set in the Contract is to be followed (usually you will lose your deposit as well). Therefore, please **be sure that the contract has details about this case**.

Make also sure that the contract describes clearly what your utility fees are and how they are calculated. (In case of gas/electricity for example, the easiest is to read the meters at the beginning and thereafter monthly until the end of the rental period and pay the fees according to usage. Even then, discuss with your landlord what rates will be used as gas/electricity prices go up regularly.)

Your contract has also to be clear about individual payments in case the apartment is occupied by several students.

For example, as described in the welcome letter, usually each person who exchanges their present apartment for a different one will forfeit his/her deposit (again, usually the remainder of the month's rent plus perhaps a security deposit, if one was paid) even if the other students stay.

## **STUDENT INSURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES**

It is extremely important to have an appropriate health insure policy during your stay in Hungary. A proper health insurance is also required for the residency permit (in case you arrive without a residence permit/visa).

Hopefully **you have a proper US insurance** that is valid in Hungary covering at least up to 30,000 euros (about 40,000 USD) of your health expenses.

With your US insurance you can visit for example the FirstMed Clinic near Metro Szell Kalman Ter (formerly Moszkva Ter). Their website is [www.firstmedcenters.com](http://www.firstmedcenters.com)

In addition, **your tuition at BSM includes a (very) local insurance** provided by the UNION Vienna Insurance Group, called "**UniMed Health Insurance**".

This insurance

- is valid from January 18th for 6 months covering certain medical services for up to 1,000,000 forints (about 4,800 USD)
- covers primary care, outpatient specialist care, inpatient care in Budapest "only", at specific facilities of the Semmelweis Medical University
- covers emergency care in Hungary
- covers some emergency dental care for up to 50,000 forints (about 240 USD)
- covers/organizes limited patient transport
- provides limited refund for cost of medication.

Thus, in particular, this insurance does not cover you during your travels and does not provide for evacuation.

**Read the Insurance policy carefully for all rules!** It is posted on [www.bsmath.hu](http://www.bsmath.hu)

The medical service provider is the Semmelweis Egeszsegugyi Kft ([www.semmelweiskft.hu](http://www.semmelweiskft.hu))

If you feel ill and need to see a doctor you have to dial the

**24-hour assistance number: +36-1-461-1590**

An English speaking personnel will help you set up an appointment or tell you where to go in case you need help urgently. You will need to take with you your health insurance card as well as your passport.

## **PHARMACIES**

All prescription and many non-prescription drugs (for example, fever reducers) must be purchased at a pharmacy. Your neighborhood pharmacist might not be able to speak English, but those pharmacies located on major shopping streets do have English-speaking employees.

There are “**emergency pharmacies**” that are open **24 hours a day** but you must ring the bell after normal opening hours and an extra fee of 300 forints is charged for the night service.

Two of the **emergency pharmacies** are:

### **Déli Gyógyszertár**

XII. district Alkotás utca 1/b  
**+36-1-355-4727**

### **Teréz Patika**

VI. district Teréz körút 41  
**+36-1-311-4439**

## **THE CITY**

WHILE YOU ATTEND BSM you’ll come to realize that you learn nearly as much in the magnificent city of Budapest as you will Math. From popular and classical music to world-class museums to hiking in the Buda hills, there is always something going on and something to do on weekends. The following section provides some basic information that will help you become familiar with the city.

### **BANKS, CURRENCY EXCHANGE**

ATM machines are available at all banks, on major streets, and in shopping malls. You will receive Hungarian forints (officially written as HUF) at that day’s current exchange rate.

Always exchange currency at banks or at designated currency exchange shops. Be sure to take your passport with you when exchanging currency at banks, and keep all receipts for exchanges since you might need to provide them when obtaining your residency permit.

**NOTE:** *Never deal with any individual offering to exchange money on the street.*

You will be cheated, since these men usually slip less or even worthless money in with the bills they are giving you in “exchange.”

### **TELEPHONES/TELEPHONING**

The **country code** for Hungary is 36 and the **city code** for Budapest is 1. From one landline to another, simply dial the 7-digit number. When calling a cell phone you add 06 then the carrier code (20,30 or 70) then the 7 digits. (e.g. 06304743924 is a cellphone number)

The **prefix for international calls is 00**. To dial internationally you put 00 then country code (for the US it is 1) the area code then the local number.

Regarding long distance calls it is cheaper to use a prepaid calling card (“Barangoló” “Budget Phone” or “Neophone” -- see below) you can buy in any post office, or newspaper stores.

The cheapest way to call home is definitely *skype*.

For their convenience and safety students are advised to buy a mobile (cellular) phone. A “mobil” (as it is called in Hungarian) can be purchased with a debit card system installed, thus avoiding a monthly loyalty plan.

Mobile phones can be purchased in phone stores on major shopping streets and in shopping malls, however you need a residency permit to obtain one. Also, check if you have one provided by your landlord for you to use.

There are 3 large mobile network providers in Hungary at the moment:

**Telenor** (uses area code 20)

**Vodafone** (uses area code 70)

**T-Mobile** (uses area code 30)

Budapest landlines have 7 digits that is used when calling between landlines. However, if you want to call a landline from a "mobile" phone, you have to dial a **+361** (or **00361**) "area code" to before the seven digit number.

A cell phone consists of a two-digit "area code" (20, 30 or 70 as above) plus a 7 digit number for the actual phone. When calling from cell-phone to cell-phone, or calling from a landline to a cell-phone, you need to dial 06+2-digit-area-code+7digit-phonenummer. (or 0036++2-digit-area-code+7digit-phonenummer when dialing from abroad).

There are also **debit calling cards** for making inexpensive (in-country and international) long distance calls. They (for example, *Neophone*, *EZ Phone*, and *Barangoló*) **can be purchased at larger newsstands and in the college’s cafeteria** at a minimum of 2000 forints’ worth of time and can be used from either mobile or land line phones. The caller uses an access number to begin the call, enters the card’s account number, then the desired phone number. These cards provide flexible use, but check the various rates they charge for international calls.

### MAIL/POSTA

**The closest post office to BSM is next to Keleti Railway Station at Baross tér**, but there are also many small branches—look for one in the neighborhood in which you reside.

Look for the green and red sign: “**POSTA**”



**Neighborhood post offices are open:**

**8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday**

**8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.**

The two main post offices near main railway stations are open longer hours:

VI. district Terez körút (**Nyugati Railway Station**)

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday-Saturdays

VIII. district Baross tér (**Keleti Railway Station**)

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Monday-Saturday

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Sunday

Stamps must be purchased at windows; credit cards are accepted at only designated windows, and the best times to avoid long lines are from mid-morning until early afternoon. ATM machines are available in main branches.

#### **COURIER MAILING SERVICES:**

**FedEx** (06-40-980-980),

**DHL** (06-40-454545)

**UPS** (06-40-989-898,06-1-877-0000)

### **TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT**

**Budapest Franz Liszt International Airport** ([IATA: BUD](#)) [4], *Budapest Liszt Ferenc Nemzetközi Repülőtér* (pronounced "list-ferents"), formerly, and colloquially referred to as **Ferihegy**; is the country's largest airport, located about 16 km (10 miles) southeast of the city center. The airport's central telephone number for information is: +36-1 296-9696 or on +36-1 296-7000. *Luggage services can be contacted on +361 296-5449 in connection with flights to and from Terminal 1 and +36-1 296-5965 for Terminal 2.*

The main Hungarian airlines are MALEV (national airline) and WIZZAIR (a budget airline).

Check the Airport website at <http://www.bud.hu/english> for all information (flight arrival/departure, getting to/from the airport which includes Taxi, Airport Shuttle, last minute deals etc).

If you do not have a great deal of luggage, and you have a public transportation pass, a convenient way to get to the airport at "no cost" is to take **the airport bus** since it is part of Budapest's public transportation network. The BKV (Budapest's public transportation company) has a route planner at <http://bkv.hu/en/> that you can use to plan your trip to the Airport or other trips within Hungary.

If you are flying to/from Terminal 1 then another option is the **airport train to/from NYUGATI Railway Station (Pályaudvar** in Hungarian). The train serves Terminal 1 departures and arrivals only. The stop is accessible to the terminal by a footbridge. The train **takes about 20 minutes**, and your Budapest "BKV" Pass is valid for the commuter trains (not the so called InterCity trains for which a ticket costs about 560 forints).

Check <http://www.elvira.hu/> for the train schedule for getting to the Airport and all train travel within Hungary.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - BUS, METRO, TRAM, TROLLEYBUS**

Budapest has a very efficient public transportation system. For example, by metro (subway) you can get from one side of the city to the other in about 15 minutes. The various means of transport (bus, metro, tram, trolleybus) generally run from 4:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m. daily. There are also night buses that run after these hours; their routes are posted at bus stops.

A **monthly transportation pass** is the easiest and most convenient way to move around the city. The pass can be bought at all major metro stations and the charge is **about 9800 forints**. The pass is good for 30 days; your day of purchase is the beginning of the 30 days. The pass is valid on all means of transportation and for all transfers within the city and its suburbs: metro, tram, bus, trolleybus, and suburban train (HEV).

**NOTE: As you are not a Hungarian student, you have to have the full-price pass, NOT the student one!!!! Having the wrong pass may result in a fine of 6000 forints or more!**

Single tickets and booklets of 10 tickets can also be purchased. If you have friends or relatives visiting, it is worthwhile to look into the special three-day passes, weekly passes or the tourist passes that also offer discounts at museums and restaurants. These can all be purchased at the major metro stops.

## **TAXICABS**

There are numerous companies that operate throughout Budapest and all charge lower rates if you **call for a taxi over the phone**. Even if you're standing on the street corner next to a parked taxi, it's better to phone since the fare rate will be lower. Taxis have the word "Taxi" written on them and have yellow registration plates. Do not use a taxi that does not display its company's logo on the car door because the private driver, hoping that you are unaware of the rates, will certainly overcharge you!

A sampling of the reliable companies to call:

TAXI 2000	+36-1-200-0000
CITY TAXI	+36-1-211-1111
FŐTAXI	<b>+36-1-222-2222 (the official company serving the Airport)</b>
TAXI 4	+36-1-444-4444
TELE 5 TAXI	+36-1-555-5555
6X6 TAXI	+36-1-266-6666
RADIO TAXI	+36-1-377-7777
TAXI PLUSZ	+36-1-8888-000

## **TRAINS**

Budapest has three major train stations from which trains travel to all parts of Hungary and throughout Europe. **Tickets must be bought before boarding the train; it's best to buy them a day before your trip** since you can not predict when the lines at a ticket window will be long. The InterCity and EuroCity trains cost a little more but provide assigned seats—good to keep in mind when traveling at popular times like holidays.

**Déli Station**—Alkotás utca, XII District (Buda)

Take the #18 or #61 tram or the red Metro line to the Deli Pályaudvar stop

**Keleti Station**—Baross tér, VII District (Pest)

Take the #7 bus or the red Metro line to the Keleti Pályaudvar stop

**Nyugati Station**—Nyugati tér, VI District (Pest)

Take the # 4 or #6 tram or the blue Metro line to the Nyugati Pályaudvar stop

You can find schedules for trains traveling within Hungary at [www.elvira.hu](http://www.elvira.hu)

## **LONG DISTANCE BUSES**

### **-- International Service**

You can often travel around Europe by bus as easily as by train.

If you are under 26 years old you can receive a 50% discount on your ticket to the following cities: Prague, Krakow, Munich, Vienna, and Bratislava.

Some useful websites for international bus travel:

[www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com)

[www.orangeways.com](http://www.orangeways.com)

[www.cseh-busz.hu](http://www.cseh-busz.hu)

### **-- Domestic long distance service**

You can also visit the most popular tourist destinations of Hungary by bus. A 50% student discount is also available for domestic trips.

You can buy your ticket from the driver, but it is preferable to buy the ticket before departure at the ticket offices of the main stations.

There are several **bus terminals** in the city, including:

#### **Stadion** (domestic service)

Address: XIV. District, Hungária krt. 48-52.

Can be reached with the following public transport: metro 2; tram 1; trolley buses 75, 77 and 80; buses red 130 and 95.

Information (5:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.): +36-1-251-0125

#### **Népliget** (domestic and international service)

Address: IX: district, Üllői út 131.

Can be reached with the following public transport: metro 3; tram 1; bus 103.

Information (6 a.m. – 8 p.m.): +36-1-219-8080

For domestic ticket and departure information visit [www.volanbusz.hu](http://www.volanbusz.hu)

## **SHOPPING**

Shopping can be a bit of an adventure for foreigners new to Budapest, due not to the lack of goods, but to the uniqueness of the Hungarian language. Often, you won't be able to identify products from the words on the package since there is no Latin base in the Hungarian language. Also, while sales attendants in large malls often speak English, the people selling goods at small shops or at open-air markets mostly do not. Do not limit yourself to mall shopping, however, for you'll definitely be limiting your Budapest experience. A few basic words will ease your shopping difficulties at some of the most interesting places in the city.

## FOOD

Both supermarkets and small neighborhood convenience stores abound in Budapest and you will come to rely on both. Food stores usually open early and the larger supermarkets stay open into the evening, those at malls usually until 9:00 p.m. Some neighborhood grocery shops are open 24 hours—look for the *Non-stop* sign. Open air farmers' markets are best to visit on Saturday mornings, although many are also open during the week. The **large market hall at Fővám tér** near the Szabadság hid (Freedom Bridge) is a city landmark, contains all kinds of vegetables, fruit, meats, and, fish, and is a good place to show visitors. In all types of food shopping, it is wise to **have your own plastic bags in which to put your purchased foods**. You can always buy a bag at a larger store, but small grocery shops and the open air markets assume you will have your own.

## PERSONAL ITEMS, MEDICINES

The American 'drug store' which sells everything from shampoo to dog food is relatively new to Hungary. There are two chains—*Rossmann* and *DM*—that have locations throughout the city. While these stores do stock many international brand toiletries and other personal care items, they sell only a limited selection of medicines.

**All prescription and many non-prescription drugs (like pain killers and fever reducers) must be purchased at a pharmacy.** (For more on pharmacies see pg 16.)

## OTHER USEFUL LINKS

The following links will offer you additional information about life in Budapest.

### **English Bookstores:**

The following sell new and used books in English:

<b>Pendragon Könyvesbolt</b>	<a href="http://wcs.oisz.hu/?p45917/lhu">http://wcs.oisz.hu/?p45917/lhu</a>
<b>Treehugger Dan's (used)</b>	<a href="http://www.treehugger.hu">www.treehugger.hu</a>
<b>Red Bus (used)</b>	<a href="http://www.redbusbudapest.hu/book">www.redbusbudapest.hu/book</a>
<b>Bestseller's (new books, magazines)</b>	<a href="http://www.bestsellers.hu">www.bestsellers.hu</a>
<b>Book Station (used and new)</b>	<a href="http://www.bookstation.hu">www.bookstation.hu</a>

There are also English sections in major chains such as Alexandra and Libri.

### **Things to do in Budapest:**

**Budapest Funzine Magazine**—Listings of events, restaurants, clubs, and travel possibilities. The latest issue is always available at the reception desk at school or [www.funzine.hu](http://www.funzine.hu)

**Time Out Budapest Magazine**—Another magazine with interesting articles about Budapest and Hungarian life, entertainment, cuisine, and culture. The latest issue is available at the reception desk or <http://hu-hu.facebook.com/TimeOutBudapest>.

## **OTHERS**

<http://www.budapestinfo.hu/> [www.inyourpocket.com/hungary](http://www.inyourpocket.com/hungary)

### **Planning your travels:**

[www.bkv.hu](http://www.bkv.hu)      [www.elvira.hu](http://www.elvira.hu)      <http://www.malev.hu/>  
<http://www.bud.hu/>      <http://www.volanbusz.hu/>