

# Budapest2015

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## Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your  
study abroad experience



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

**OFFICE OF OVERSEAS STUDY**

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.  
If you find erroneous information, please contact [overseas@iu.edu](mailto:overseas@iu.edu).  
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PROGRAM PURPOSE & INTRODUCTION

The Budapest program offers undergraduates the unique opportunity of studying the growing interdependence of American and European business at a Hungarian university. The curriculum includes the study of European economics, politics and law. This curriculum is provided as a framework for understanding European business and trade policies. Special emphasis is given to the current integration taking place of the economies of the European Union countries.

All students in the program are expected to participate fully in all scheduled activities and events. Your acceptance of an invitation to join the program implies your willingness to go on all field trips, attend any special meetings or events, and participate in all activities of the program. Your personal travel plans must not be allowed to interfere with your full participation in the above mentioned activities and class schedules.

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook received earlier. While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

## ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



### Student Advice

Suggestions from study  
abroad returnees

# The Program in Budapest

## Calendar, Fall 2015

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September 6.....	First day to move into Corvinus dorm
September 7 -11 .....	Enrollment week
September 7.....	First day to add/drop courses
September 10 .....	Orientation Day
September 14 .....	First day of classes
September 18 .....	Last day to add/drop classes
September 21 - 23.....	Course confirmation
October 23.....	Holiday (University closed)
October 26 - 30.....	Midterm exams
November 20.....	Last day to withdraw from courses
December 11.....	Last day of classes
December 14 - 18.....	Final Exams

## Arrival in Budapest

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You should fly into Budapest Ferihegy Airport. From the airport, you can get to the center of the city by taxi, bus, or transfer. Tandem Partners from Corvinus will meet students at the airport or contact students with instructions. Transfers to Corvinus can easily be booked from the airport.

## Orientation Days

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Upon arrival, students will receive a one week cultural, social, and linguistic orientation provided by the International Study Programs Office (ISP). This is known as Enrollment Week and Orientation Day takes place on the Thursday of that week. Students can come into the International Study Programs Office any time between Monday - Wednesday of the Enrollment Week to pick up their welcome packages and student IDs. On Orientation Day students will have an Opening Ceremony led by the Rector and the Deans of the University as well as orientation where all the necessary information is explained to them by the Management of the ISP Office. The welcome packages contain all the important information and dates to know for the semester. Students get their schedule, information about how to use the university's facilities, a map, and other useful information about the city. The student ID provides students with a large discount (about 70%) on public transportation within Budapest. The transportation pass is available to all semester students and must be purchased each month.

Students are also paired with Hungarian Corvinus students prior to their arrival, known as Tandem Partners. During orientation new students also receive support from their

Tandem Partners. The Hungarian student keeps in email contact with the US student prior to their arrival, meets him/her at the airport and helps him/her settle down in the city and get to know the student life during the first few weeks.

## Academic Program

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In Budapest students will be directly enrolled at Corvinus University, one of Hungary's best institutions, along with 16,000 other students. There are about 100 foreign students seeking degrees from Corvinus and about 80 (mainly Americans) who enroll for a semester. There is an English Language program, comprised mainly of foreign exchange students. All non-language courses are taught in English.

## Courses

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### Required Hungarian Language Course - SLAV-OS 100

Students will be placed into a Hungarian language course, depending on their level of knowledge of the language. No prior language is required, and basic introductory classes are available.

### Business Courses at Corvinus

Students can take classes through the College of Business and attain credits for upper level business courses. All students must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 courses (including Hungarian) for a total of 15 credits.

## Grades

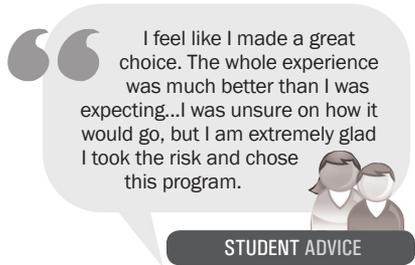
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The grades each exchange student receives at Corvinus University are summarized in a transcript after the study period. The original copy is sent to the Kelley International Programs Office soon after it is ready. Students may either ask for a photocopy at the International Office of the Corvinus University (in case they are still in Budapest at the time) or pick up the original at the home institution.

## Textbooks

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Textbooks are required for your coursework. Some textbooks may be more costly than others. You should expect to pay approximately \$350 for textbooks. However, some textbooks are available at the library and some professors create their own reading packets. All can be purchased at the bookshop.



I feel like I made a great choice. The whole experience was much better than I was expecting...I was unsure on how it would go, but I am extremely glad I took the risk and chose this program.

STUDENT ADVICE

## Libraries, Computers & E-mail

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Libraries and computers are available, but it is highly recommend that students bring a laptop. With a laptop computer you can write papers at your convenience in your dorm room and avoid the end-of-semester crush of students at the computing center. Much of the campus is wireless, but the dormitory rooms you will live in will have access to wifi.

## Supplementary Activities

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The International Study Programs Office at Corvinus arranges cultural events and lectures for its students throughout the semester. Students are also encouraged to join student clubs such as the Student Council at the ISP, which organizes all kinds of activities (parties, business seminars, etc.) during the course of the semester for students studying at Corvinus.

## Housing

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Students are required to live in the dormitories as it facilitates the visa process, is affordable, and past students have had positive feedback. The cost of the dormitory is around 50,000 HUF/person/month (approx. \$225) for a double room and about 45,000 HUF/person/month (approx. \$200) for the triple. Students will pay the dormitory fees once they arrive in Budapest. You will receive further instructions on how to do this.

## Tandem Program

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The university would like to give assistance to its exchange students in finding a helping hand for the first days or weeks of their stay. Students are paired with Hungarian Corvinus students prior to their arrival, known as Tandem Partners. During orientation new students also receive support from their Tandem Partners. The Hungarian student keeps in email contact with the US student prior to their arrival, meets him/her at the airport and helps him/her settle down in the city and get to know the student life. The Tandem Program is the Hungarian adaptation of other tutorial programs, for instance, the so called “Buddy Network” in English speaking countries and the “Tandem Program” in German speaking countries.

# Preparing for Departure

## Visa/Residence Permit

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There are three methods of applying for a Hungarian visa:

1. Students may opt to travel to Budapest as tourists. A tourist has a 90-day stay in Hungary without a visa. In this case, students' departure date must not be later than 90 days from arrival, and the departure date must be open to change. Once in Budapest, students apply for their residence permit and re-book their departure date. The residence permit card issued will be valid for the duration of the entire semester at Corvinus University.
2. Students do not obtain a visa in the U.S. and they do purchase a round trip ticket for the entire length of the semester. At the airport, students present their Corvinus University acceptance letter and their documentation showing that they will apply for a residence permit once in Hungary. Students may risk of having to re-book their flight for only a 90-day period. Our known records show that, in the past couple of years, only two American students were asked to re-book their flight for only a 90-days stay in Hungary.
3. Student obtains a visa prior to traveling to Hungary. There are three Hungarian Consulates in the United States: New York, Washington, DC, and Los Angeles. If there is a Hungarian Consulate nearby, students should go through the visa application procedure prior to departure to Hungary. There is an online application process after which the applicant must go to the Consulate for taking his/her digital photo and fingerprints. The visa issued will be valid for one entry into the Schengen zone for thirty days. Once in Hungary, and within the first thirty days, students must apply for their resident permit in person at the local Immigration Office with the necessary documentation. The residence permit card issued will be valid for the duration of the entire semester at Corvinus University.

Each method has its benefits and challenges, and students should consider which option makes the most sense for them. If you decide to apply for the residence permit once in country, please plan to bring the following items with you:

1. Valid passport (validity 3 months longer than student's actual stay in Hungary) - students will need to present a photocopy of the photo page to the Immigration Office.
2. Two passport size photos.
3. Residence permit application form (students will receive it from the ISP Office upon their arrival).
4. A bank statement proving that student has enough money for his/her stay in Hungary OR bank statement from parents. Parents/guardians should also plan to create a document stating that they will cover their child's expenses during his/her stay in Hungary.

5. 18,000 HUF in duty stamps (duty stamps can be bought at Hungarian post offices).
6. Valid health insurance with proof from the insurance company that they provide general health care (full coverage), not only emergency health service. This will be provided to you by IU.
7. A certificate from the university, stating that you are a student at Corvinus (students get it from the ISP Office upon their arrival).
8. Accommodation certifying documents (students are informed about this at the ISP Orientation, but those who rent apartments must make sure to have a legal contract to start out with) International students may need to submit additional documents.

## Traveling

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Traveling by train is a great way to explore Europe. Trains are punctual, clean, comfortable, and they go nearly everywhere. Students recommend seeking out good discount train passes after arriving to Budapest as this option will provide the most flexibility to travel at reduced rates.

Additionally, there are now many discount airlines operating in Europe. Flying with these airlines is sometimes even cheaper than traveling by train, especially when you book in advance, and of course are much faster. Corvinus staff strongly recommend that you wait to purchase any train or flight tickets until after you arrive to campus and confirm your study schedule. There will still be ample time to purchase reduced fare tickets and you will be able to better plan your travels at that time.

However, if you do plan to use discount airlines, it is recommended that you check the luggage requirements of several European airlines prior to your departure from the U.S. to ensure you bring an appropriately sized piece of luggage as luggage that exceeds the weight or size requirements will incur substantial fees on these airlines.

## Packing

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**Pack as little as possible.** Experienced travelers rely on coordinated mix-and-match outfits and don't worry if they are seen frequently in the same skirt or jacket. Hungarian students dress conservatively and are not sloppy. They seldom wear white socks or sneakers.

### Suggested Packing List:

- One or two dressy outfits
- Raincoat with hood; umbrella, scarf, mittens
- Windbreaker, warm coat and sweater
- Good walking shoes, boots with waterproof soles
- Warm bathrobe and slippers
- Small backpack for books
- Large knapsack (with zipoff bags) or weekend bag for travel

- Travel alarm clock
- Towels and washcloths
- Laptop computer (strongly recommended)
- Let's Go: Europe, Lonely Planet*, or other travel guide
- International Student ID card
- Photos of family and friends
- Pocket knife, small bottle opener, corkscrew for travel (in checked bag)
- Deodorant (Most European deodorant has no antiperspirant.)
- Prescription drugs to last the duration of your stay.
- Printed copy of your prescription using generic terms
- First aid kit with medications for colds, headaches and indigestion

**Note:** U.S. electrical appliances work poorly in Europe, even with converters, and small items like hair dryers can be purchased inexpensively in Hungary. Also, traveler's checks are **NOT** recommended.

## Guidebooks and Apps

Prepare yourself for life in Europe by reading student-oriented guide books, such as *Let's Go*, *Eyewitness Travel Guides*, *Lonely Planet* or *On the Loose*. Traveling will be easier if you understand in advance how to read a train schedule, identify a second class train car, change money, locate a youth hostel, etc.

Also, to check out useful study abroad apps for your time abroad. It is recommended you download desired apps before leaving the U.S. as some students have experienced issues trying to download some phone applications from their host country.

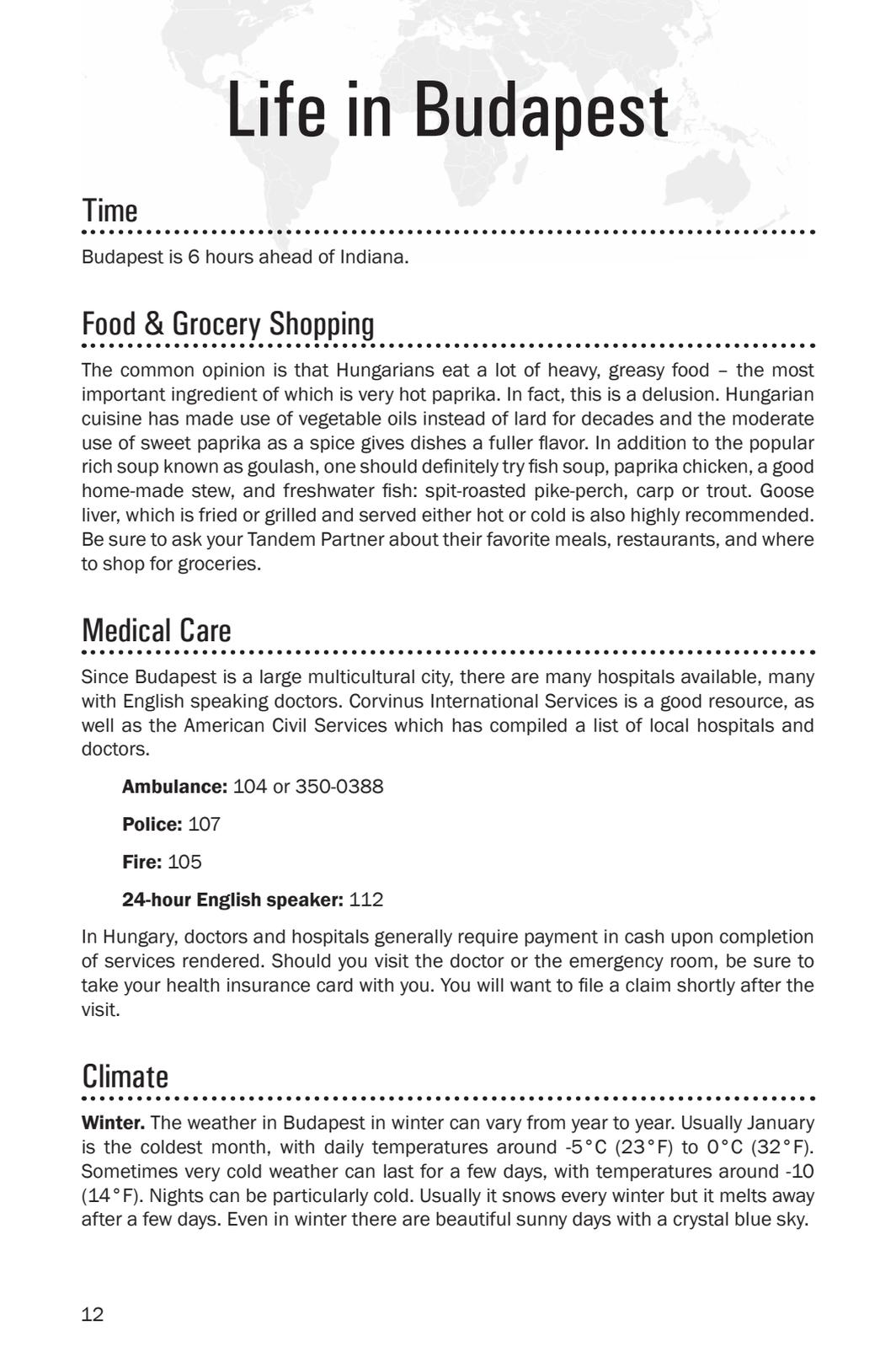
## Telephones

The country code for Budapest is +(361). So, if someone was to call you in Budapest they would dial: +(361) 555-5555.

If you want to call home from Budapest, you would dial: +(001) 555-5555.

## Cell phones

As with many European countries, cell phones are common and popular. It is easy to purchase cell phones once you arrive in Budapest, and you can add credit as you go.



# Life in Budapest

## Time

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Budapest is 6 hours ahead of Indiana.

## Food & Grocery Shopping

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The common opinion is that Hungarians eat a lot of heavy, greasy food – the most important ingredient of which is very hot paprika. In fact, this is a delusion. Hungarian cuisine has made use of vegetable oils instead of lard for decades and the moderate use of sweet paprika as a spice gives dishes a fuller flavor. In addition to the popular rich soup known as goulash, one should definitely try fish soup, paprika chicken, a good home-made stew, and freshwater fish: spit-roasted pike-perch, carp or trout. Goose liver, which is fried or grilled and served either hot or cold is also highly recommended. Be sure to ask your Tandem Partner about their favorite meals, restaurants, and where to shop for groceries.

## Medical Care

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Since Budapest is a large multicultural city, there are many hospitals available, many with English speaking doctors. Corvinus International Services is a good resource, as well as the American Civil Services which has compiled a list of local hospitals and doctors.

**Ambulance:** 104 or 350-0388

**Police:** 107

**Fire:** 105

**24-hour English speaker:** 112

In Hungary, doctors and hospitals generally require payment in cash upon completion of services rendered. Should you visit the doctor or the emergency room, be sure to take your health insurance card with you. You will want to file a claim shortly after the visit.

## Climate

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**Winter.** The weather in Budapest in winter can vary from year to year. Usually January is the coldest month, with daily temperatures around -5°C (23°F) to 0°C (32°F). Sometimes very cold weather can last for a few days, with temperatures around -10 (14°F). Nights can be particularly cold. Usually it snows every winter but it melts away after a few days. Even in winter there are beautiful sunny days with a crystal blue sky.

**Spring.** Weather in March and in the first half of April is a bit unpredictable, often windy, but in the second half of April and in May days become warmer. Daily temperature are between 20-25 °C (68-77 °F).

**Summer.** It can be can be very hot and dry in Hungary as was the case in recent years. Daily temperature can go well over 30°C (86°F), especially in July and August. The annual average number of sunny hours (2000 hours) is among the highest in Europe.

**Fall.** In September days are still warm but are not scorching hot like in the summer. Kids have gone back to school and the flock of tourists starts to disappear too at this time.

If you are lucky, the first half of October will also have nice sunny days. Winter weather returns in November with shorter, grey and cloudy days. Temperature goes below 0 °C (32 °F) especially at nights.

## Public Transportation

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**Metro.** Budapest currently has three metro lines - M1 (Yellow), M2 (Red) and M3 (Blue). The Yellow line is the oldest underground transportation line in continental Europe and retains much of its old-fashioned charm. All lines meet at Deák Tér in central Pest.

**Tram.** (Yellow colored) Budapest has an extensive system of above-ground trams. The most useful lines for tourists are the 4 or 6, which follows the large ring road that encircles the Budapest city center and crosses Margit híd bridge before ending at Moskva Tér on the Buda side and Petőfi híd bridge before it terminates at Móricz Zsigmond Körtér, also on the Buda side; the 47-49, which runs through central Pest and across the river to Hotel Gellert; the 2, which follows the Danube River on the Pest side; and the 19, which follows the Danube River on the Buda Side.

**HÉV Trains.** (Green colored) These old trains still serve the outer and suburban areas of Budapest. Regular public transport tickets are not valid when the trains leave the city limits. Thus, if you are going to the popular tourist destinations of Szentendre or Gödöllő, you must go to a Pénztár window at the stations where the HÉV trains are (Batthyány tér or Árpád híd for Szentendre, Őrs vezér tere for Gödöllő) and make a round-trip purchase.



**Bicycles.** At present, there are only a few bike-routes in Budapest and the surrounding areas, however, the bike-route network is developing very dynamically. On the Fogaskereku and the HÉV you can take the bike with yourself, but you have to buy a ticket.

## Buses

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**Bus.** (Blue colored) In addition to the trams, Budapest is served by numerous bus lines. Bus lines of use to most tourists are the 7 and 73 which will connect you between the busy Keleti train station and the lesser used Kelefold train stations on the Buda side. Some other notable places that it stops along is Blaha Lujza ter (connects to the red

metro line, and 4 and 6 trams), Ferenciek tere (very near Vaci utca), and in front of the Rudas baths and the Gellert Hotel both on the Buda side. Bus 86 is also very helpful as it has a stop near the Gellert Hotel and runs along the big Buda street parallel to the Danube.

**Trolley-Bus.** (Red colored) They look much like buses except they're powered by electrical lines. One line that can be of use to visitors is the 70 which originates from the South side of Kossuth square across from the Parliament and cuts through the city center using Nagymező utca (Budapest's "Broadway) before crossing Andrásy boulevard and cutting up Király utca on its way to the Varosliget. (City Park).

**Night Bus.** (Blue colored) All regular transportation services stop around midnight (varies by route). Night busses replace the metro lines, major tram and major bus routes and run through the night until normal service resumes in the morning. Separate schedules for night and day buses are posted at every stop. Night bus tickets cost 350 Forints, and are sold by the bus driver.

# Hungary

## Brief History

Hungary is one of the oldest countries in Europe. Magyar tribes forged the nation in the 9th century AD. The official state originated when King Stephen I was given the Royal Crown of Hungary in 1000AD. This dynasty remained strong through Matthias Corvinus whose reign ended in 1490. The state was divided into three sections– one controlled by the Habsburgs, another influenced by Turks under the kingdom of Transylvania, and another as part of the Ottoman Empire. After years of war and uprisings, the Kingdom of Hungary was restored in 1848. A King of Hungary was appointed in 1867 after the Austro–Hungary Compromise–which allowed for a dual monarchy among the two territories. During WWI Austro-Hungary fought on the side of Germany. After the loss, the union with Austria ended. Turmoil ensued and Hungary then aligned with the axis in WWII. After the loss Hungary was occupied by the Soviet Union and turned to Communism. Transition to a modern state began when the country allowed for a two party system in 1989. Since then Hungary has been modernizing and, subsequently, joined the EU in 2004.

## Politics

Hungary's government runs a parliamentary democracy. There are three branches– executive, legislative and judiciary. The legislative branch consists of the National Assembly with 386 members. The head of the National Assembly is the President of the Republic. This position serves as Commander in Chief and nominates the Prime Minister, who is then elected by members of Parliament. There is mainly a two–party system comprised of the Hungarian Socialist Party and Hungarian Civic Union.

## Economy

As a former member of the Communist Block, Hungary's economy has transformed from one of central planning to free markets. The country has been a member of the EU since 2004, and has been identified as an emerging economy by many foreign investors. They have seen growth since joining the EU, but were hit very hard by the financial crisis of September 2008. While the recession will be remembered as a tumultuous era that impeded Hungary's growth, the financial crisis also marks a turning point for the country. The economy is now benefitting from correcting its macroeconomic imbalances, and adhering to prudent economic policies and fiscal discipline. Needless to say, Hungary is eager to reassert its strategic standing in Central and Eastern Europe, and reemerge as a force to reckon with in the EU.



### STUDENT ADVICE

It was quite interesting to be in classes in which some fifteen different nationalities were represented. When the weather finally turned nice in April, the city of Budapest became absolutely gorgeous.

## Population Diversity

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Ninety-five percent of Hungary's population is Hungarian, with a sizable minority of Roma, German, and Slovak. The religion is majority Catholic (55%) but there are also many Calvinists and Lutherans present. Also, around 30% are Atheist. Looking at the Roma minority, the actual number is unrecorded, but known to be growing. Their presence causes many issues for Hungary because of the intense poverty, lack of education, and growth rate of the people.

## Landscape

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Slightly more than one half of Hungary's landscape consists of flat to rolling plains of the Pannonian Basin. Transdanubia is a primarily hilly region with a terrain varied by low mountains. Hungary is divided in two by its main waterway, the Danube. Other large rivers include the Tisza and Dráva, while Transdanubia contains Lake Balaton, a major body of water.

## Culture

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**Folk.** Hungary has maintained a rich folk culture throughout history. This is seen in old "jumping" style dances dating back to the Middle Ages. Solo or couple dances accompanied by old style music, shepherd and other solo man's dances from Transylvania, and marching dances along with remnants of medieval weapon dances belong in this group. Festivals, pottery, food, and embroidery are other important parts of this culture.

**Spa.** Hungary is a land of thermal water. A passion for spa culture and Hungarian history have been connected from the very beginning. Budapest has the richest supply of thermal water among the capitals of the world.

*Information was provided by Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Hungary).*