

PIFIS

# PIFIS students' guide for Budapest



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## WELCOME

First of all, welcome to our Preparatory Program; welcome to Budapest!

Finishing your summer holiday, you are about to start your new life in Budapest. You might have heard of the country or the city, but living here will let you have an adventurous experience. With this booklet we would like to provide you some life tips and guides on your arrival in Budapest.

Wishing you all the best for your first year in Hungary,

*PIFIS team*

## HUNGARY AND ITS CAPITAL, BUDAPEST

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Hungary is located in the heart of **Central-Eastern Europe**, neighbored by 7 countries: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Our population is near to 10 million people. Our biggest city, which is our capital as well, is Budapest, with a population around 2 million people. Other major cities in the country are Szeged, Győr, Pécs, Miskolc and Debrecen. They are all worth a visit, if you get the chance.

We have two major rivers in the country, the Danube and the Tisza. The Danube runs right across Budapest, slicing it into two halves: Buda and Pest. Central Europe's biggest lake is also located in Hungary, and it's called Balaton. It is located South-West from Budapest and can be easily reached by trains.

Our national **language** is Hungarian which is considered one of the most difficult languages in the world. Most young Hungarians speak at least one foreign language as well, which is usually English, but we advise you to always have a translator with you, as older people might not speak English or any other languages.

Our **currency** is called Forint, abbreviated as Ft. The international currency code is HUF. The change rates for some important currencies are approximately as follows:

1 EUR (€) = 397 HUF

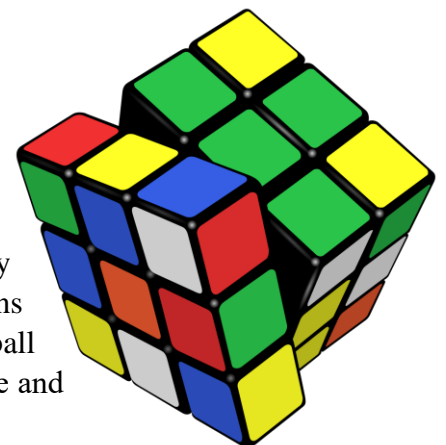
1 USD (\$) = 366 HUF

1 CNY (¥) = 55 HUF

### CULTURE

Hungarians are hospitable people who are really proud of their history and their origin. Many famous things were invented by Hungarians which we like to tell and show to foreigners. Such inventions are the ball pen (biro pen), the Rubik's cube, or the nowadays world widely more and more famous and used Prezi ([www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com))

Hungarians are also proud of their cuisine and they like to eat a lot. One of the easiest ways to get someone know, is to go out and eat with them. The most traditional foods are the gulyás



leves, the csirkepaprikás or the töltött káposzta but the famous chimney cake (kürtőskalács) originates from a late-Hungarian region as well. Nowadays, especially in Budapest, street food is becoming popular. New bistros and specialty fast food restaurants open every day in the city, and different nationalities' kitchens, such as Chinese, Italian, Turkish, or Indian, are easy to find as well.

Big part of our culture, which could be surprising to a foreigner, is personal hygiene. Unlike other nationalities, we shower every day, sometimes twice a day. In Hungary it is rude spit or snuffle in public, and we always use tissues to blow our noses, and never suck it. Politeness is also really important for Hungarians. The most important things are to always say hello, goodbye, please and thank you and to keep at least 3 steps away from people to give them enough personal space while talking. Politeness in written form is also important, so when you are writing a letter or e-mail to your teacher or to the school, pay attention to start the letter with Dear ....., and finish it off by signing it with your name.

### **NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

Hungarians have several national holidays which we usually celebrate by commemorations, festivals or fireworks and also by having a day off. Our national holidays are the following:

1<sup>st</sup> January – New Year's Eve

15<sup>th</sup> March – Memorial Day of the 1848 Revolution

March-April – Easter (moveable feast)

1<sup>st</sup> May – Labor Day

1st Sunday in May – Mothers' day

April-May – Pentecost (40 days after Easter)

20<sup>th</sup> August – Hungary National day – Saint Stephen's Day

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Republic day

1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints day

24-26<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas



### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

The public transportation in Hungary and in Budapest is very convenient. The whole country is covered by either train lines (MÁV) or regional bus lines (VOLÁN). You can check the up to date schedules for both at [www.menetrendek.hu](http://www.menetrendek.hu)

In Budapest we have underground metro- (M1,M2,M3 and M4), tram-, bus- and trolley bus-lines operated by BKK, covering the entire city. Tickets and monthly passes can be bought from the ticket offices at the major stations, or at the vending machines in many stations. By holding a monthly pass, you can use all the public transportation vehicles in the city. For up to date information and schedules we advise you to download the official application of BKK called BKK Futár, available in English on iOS and Android as well.



### **THE PIFIS CAMPUS AND ITS SURROUNDING**

#### **WHERE IS THE CAMPUS?**

The campus' address, where the staff office is located as well, is:

### **1056 Budapest, Váci utca 47. III/317**

You can reach it by walking for example from Ferenciek tere (metro line M3 station) or from Fővám tér (metro line M4 station).

### **WHERE ARE THE DORMITORIES?**

PIFIS is in contact with different dormitories with whom students can contract to get accommodation.

### **DEAN'S COLLEGE HOTEL**

As a newly built apartment complex, Milestone can be found at **1094 Budapest, Tűzoltó utca 50-56**. As the complex was just renovated several new cafés, restaurants and grocery stores are located in the surrounding. The dormitory has its own gym, study room, community room, rooftop terrace, party room with Dolby surround sound and washing lounge. Corvin plaza is the nearest mall with many stores (clothing and grocery as well), restaurants and cafés.

### **JINTAU BUDAPEST**

You can rent an apartment from our Chinese partner.

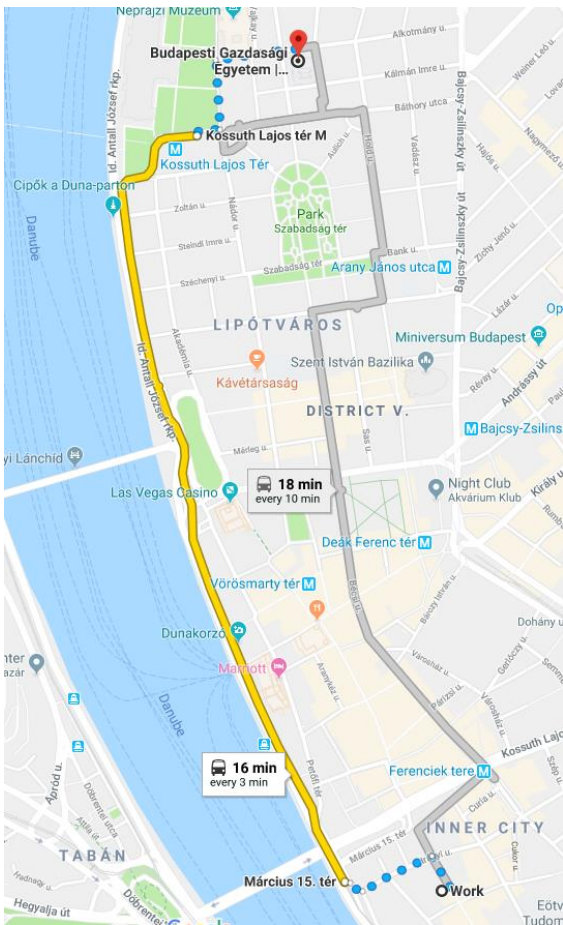
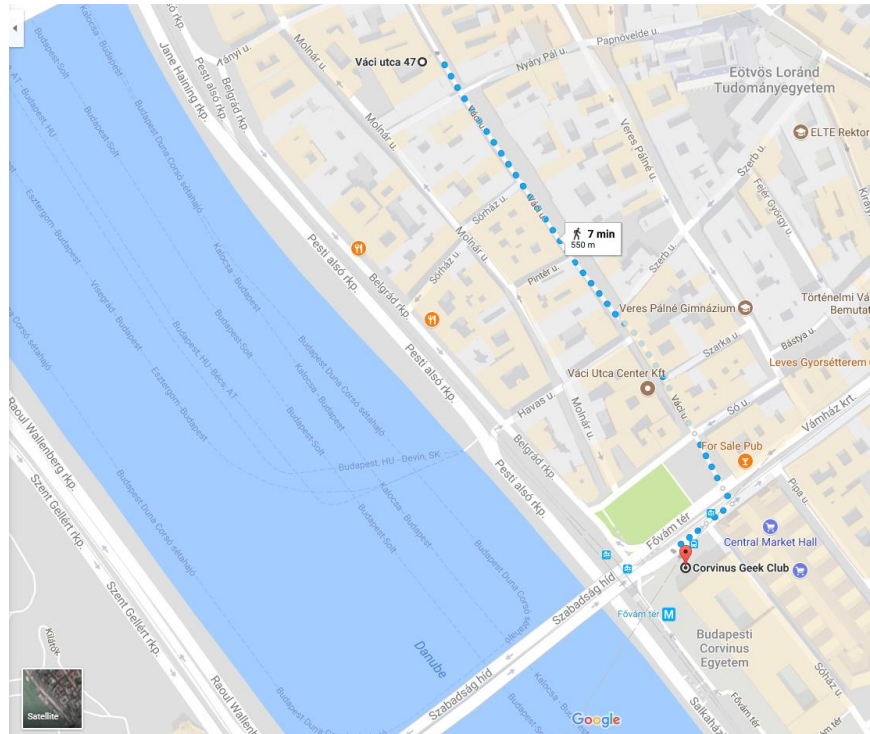
### **SRS – STUDENT RENTAL SOLUTIONS**

As its name implies it provides accommodation to students. The flats that they offer are fully equipped and suits the needs of students. SRS has the largest number of contracted apartments.

## WHERE ARE THE UNIVERSITIES?

### CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST

Corvinus University's main building can be found on the bank of Danube at: **1093 Budapest, Fővám tér 8.** It is 7 minutes walking distance from the PIFIS campus:



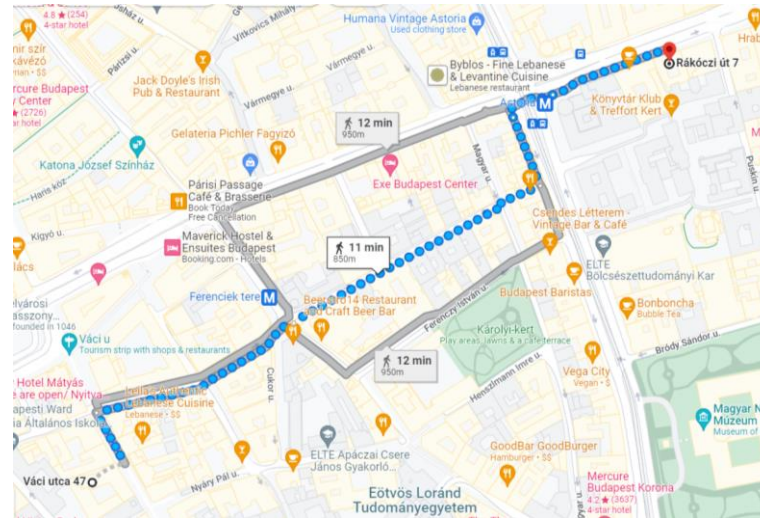
### BUDAPEST BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

BBU has several campuses depending on which faculty and program does the student attend. The main campus is in the middle of the city, near the Parliament thus the Kossuth Lajos tér metro station, at **1054 Budapest, Alkotmány utca 9.**

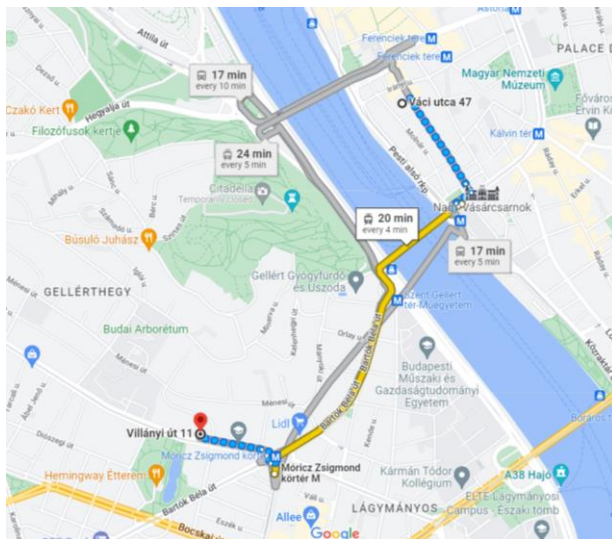
## ELTE – EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

ELTE has several campuses as currently it has nine faculties. The main building of the Faculty of Economics is located in heart of Budapest, on Rákóczi street, which is one of the busiest roads of Budapest.

**1088 Budapest Rákóczi út 7.**



## EDUTUS UNIVERSITY

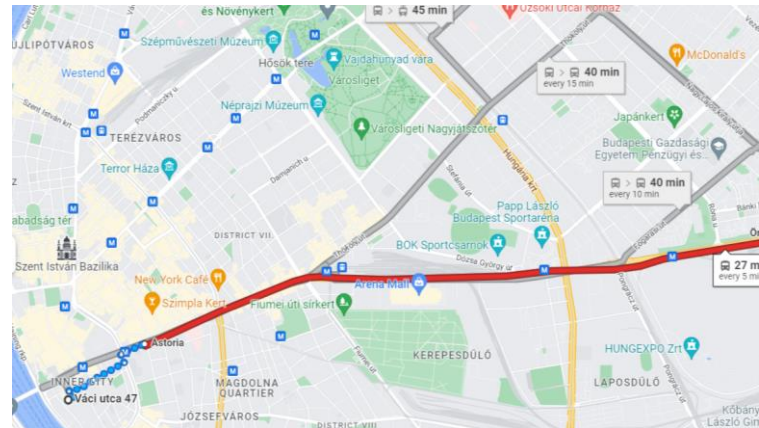


Edutus has two campuses, one can be found in Tatabánya, where the university was founded, and the other one is in Budapest, next to Móricz Zsigmond körtér.

**1114 Budapest, Villányi út 11-13.**

## BUDAPEST METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

METU has four campuses in Budapest. The main building is located in a suburb of Pest, but next to metro station Örs vezér tere. **1148 Budapest, Nagy Lajos király útja 1-9.**



## WHAT IS NEARBY OUR CAMPUS?

### VÁCI STREET



The campus is located on Váci street, which is the most visited pedestrian street by tourists and also the biggest shopping street in the Budapest. Within 300 meters from the campus you can find several restaurants and stores. If you walk past Ferenciek tere, Váci street continues on with even more restaurants and fashion stores.

### CENTRAL MARKET HALL

At the end of Váci street, right next to Corvinus University you can find one of the oldest market buildings in the city. If you would like to buy fresh vegetables and fruit, it's a great place to go. It is also a famous tourist sight, so make sure to visit it at least once.





## GENERAL USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT BUDAPEST



### GOOGLE

In Hungary (and generally in Europe) we use google, one of the biggest search engines in the world. We strongly advise you that if you are looking for something in the city (a store, an exact address) or would like to read more about something (a company or the university), even if you would like to buy something (to see the prices and the store location) use google. Google can answer most of your questions and it is easy to use. Just go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in your questions that select a website that seems to have an answer for you. Google maps ([www.maps.google.com](http://www.maps.google.com)) knows the Hungarian public transportation as well, so if you would like to travel somewhere, just type in the two addresses and check the rout between them by clicking the bus icon.



### STORES

The biggest supermarkets in Budapest are TESCO and AUCHAN. You can find them around the edges of the city. In these supermarkets you can buy food, clothing and non-food products as well (electronics, cosmetic products, etc.)



Medium sized grocery stores are INTERSPAR, ALDI and LIDL. In these stores you can mainly find food products and only a few non-food things.



Smaller grociery stores can be found all around Budapest. The biggest companies include CBA, PENNY, SPAR, RONI, MANNA and many more.



The biggest drugstore franchises in Hungary are DM, ROSSMANN and MÜLLER. You can buy mainly cosmetic products and cleaning supplies in these stores.



If you are renting an apartment and would like to buy some small furniture or other supplies for your home IKEA, MÖMAX and JYSK are the stores where you can buy these things.



For mainly electronic supplies (tv-s, consoles, vacuum cleaner, headphone, etc.) you can visit the following stores: MEDIAMARKT, EURONICS, EDIGITAL



## SHOPPING MALLS

You can find the following major shopping malls in the city. In these malls you can usually find many clothing stores as well as cafés, book store, usually a grocery store and even a cinema. If you are looking for something specific, please use google and visit the website of these malls.

Corvin Plaza – Budapest, Futó u. 37, 1083  
(Corvin negyed - metro line M3 station)



Mammut – Budapest, Lövőház u. 2, 1024  
(Széll Kálmán tér - metro line M2 station)



Arkad – Budapest, Örs vezér tere 25, 1106  
(Örs vezér tere - metro line M2 station)



Arena Plaza – Budapest, Kerepesi út 9, 1087  
(Keleti Pályaudvar - metro line M2 station)



Westend – Budapest, Váci út 1-3, 1062  
(Nyugati Pályaudvar - metro line M3 station)



Allee – Budapest, Október huszonharmadika utca 8-10., 1117 (Újbuda központ – metro line M4 station)

