

Studying in Hungary

A guide for international students & families — how Hungarian higher education works, the study residence permit, affordable English-taught medicine, the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship, and work.

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AFFORDABLE ENGLISH-TAUGHT DEGREES — INCL. MEDICINE

Hungary is a top destination for **English-taught degrees at low cost** — especially **medicine, dentistry, and engineering** — plus one of Europe's largest scholarship programs, **Stipendium Hungaricum**, which fully funds selected students. Non-EU students need a **residence permit for study**. Living costs are among the EU's lowest. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Hungarian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Hungarian mission/immigration authority, Study in Hungary, and your university.**

Understand Why Students Choose Hungary

WHAT TO KNOW

Hungary offers **affordable, EU-recognized English-taught degrees (especially medicine and dentistry), the generous Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship, very low living costs, and a central Schengen location** — a strong package for international students.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-taught medicine

a fraction of UK/US cost

Stipendium Hungaricum

full funding

Low costs

among EU's lowest

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Hungary's **affordable English degrees and generous scholarship** against the fact that Hungarian is expected for work — it's a leading value pick, especially for medicine.

GOOD TO KNOW

Hungary is one of Europe's **top destinations for English-taught medicine** at a fraction of Western fees — a major draw.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Hungarian universities offer **700+ English-language programs**. Leading names: **Semmelweis** (medicine), **ELTE** (Eötvös Loránd), **BME** (engineering), **Corvinus** and **CEU** (business/social sciences), and **Debrecen, Szeged, and Pécs** (strong, affordable medical schools). Degrees are Bologna-compliant and EU-recognized.

BY THE NUMBERS

Semmelweis

medicine

BME / Corvinus / CEU

engineering / business

Debrecen/Szeged/Pécs

affordable medicine

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — Semmelweis or regional schools (Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs) for medicine, BME for engineering, Corvinus/CEU for business/social sciences — all with strong English tracks.

GOOD TO KNOW

Regional medical schools (**Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs**) offer the same EU-recognized medical degree at **lower cost** than Budapest.

Get the Residence Permit for Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students need a **residence permit for the purpose of studies** (via a Type D long-stay visa at the consulate, or the **Enter Hungary** online portal, depending on nationality). After arriving, **register your address at the kormányablak** and collect your permit card.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence permit

for study

Consulate or Enter Hungary

by nationality

Register

at the kormányablak

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **study residence permit** (consulate or Enter Hungary portal) after accepting your offer and paying tuition/deposit — budget 4–10 weeks and register your address on arrival.

WATCH OUT

Start the permit **as soon as you have your offer** — processing takes weeks, and OFFI-certified translations are usually required.

Apply to Universities (or Stipendium)

WHAT TO KNOW

Most students **apply directly to universities** (main intake September; many medical programs also offer February). **Stipendium Hungaricum** applicants apply through **Tempus** after being nominated by their home country. **Medical schools require a written entrance exam** (biology, chemistry, often physics).

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

+ Stipendium via Tempus

Sept & Feb

medical intakes

Medical entrance exam

biology/chemistry

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to universities** (or via Tempus for Stipendium), prepare for the **medical entrance exam** if relevant, and note the September and February intakes.

GOOD TO KNOW

Medicine and dentistry require a **written entrance exam** — prepare in biology and chemistry (and often physics) well ahead.

Understand Tuition & Stipendium Hungaricum

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students pay: **English-taught medicine/dentistry** ~€8,000–18,000/year and **other English programs** ~€2,000–8,000/year. **Stipendium Hungaricum** scholars pay **nothing** — it covers full tuition, a monthly stipend, dormitory/housing, and insurance.

BY THE NUMBERS

Medicine

~€8k–18k/yr

Other English

~€2k–8k/yr

Stipendium

full funding

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **self-funded tuition** (medicine is the outlier) — or pursue **Stipendium Hungaricum**, which fully funds tuition, stipend, housing, and insurance.

WATCH OUT

Stipendium Hungaricum applications open in **January–February** and are nominated by your home country — miss the window and you wait a year.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the permit you must prove funds — recently about **€500–700/month (~€6,000–8,000/year)**, plus tuition paid or covered by a scholarship. **Stipendium Hungaricum scholars are exempt from some financial requirements.** Health insurance proof is required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€500–700/month

+ tuition

paid or scholarship

Insurance

required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount plus tuition (or your Stipendium award), and arrange **health insurance** — both are required for the permit.

GOOD TO KNOW

Note that Hungary uses the **forint (HUF)**, not the euro — factor in currency fluctuation if your funds are in another currency.

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Hungarian** or, for the 700+ international programs, in **English** (typically **IELTS 5.5–6.5** or **TOEFL 72–90**, B2 level). Hungary isn't an English-speaking country, so some Hungarian helps daily life and (limited) work.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

IELTS 5.5–6.5

700+ programs

in English

Some Hungarian

helps a lot

HOW TO HELP

Take the **right test for your program's language** (IELTS/TOEFL for English programs), and learn some Hungarian — it helps daily life, since English-only jobs are limited.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can study fully in English, but **everyday life and most jobs run in Hungarian** — learning some helps a lot.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **residence-permit card**, **register your address**, **get a Hungarian phone number and bank account**, and **arrange healthcare** (a TAJ card once eligible, or private insurance). Use **OFFI** for required official translations. Living costs are among the EU's lowest.

BY THE NUMBERS

Permit card + address

first steps

TAJ / insurance

health care

OFFI translations

official

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **permit card**, **address registration**, **bank**, **healthcare** — use **OFFI** for official translations, and enjoy Budapest—s low living costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most universities require **OFFI (official state) translations** — standard commercial translations aren't always accepted.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Hungary is relatively generous: students may work **up to 30 hours per week during term** and full-time (up to 90 days / 66 working days) outside it — more than the UK or Ireland allow. English-only jobs are limited, though.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

up to 30 hrs/week

More generous

than UK/Ireland

English jobs

limited

HOW TO HELP

Take advantage of Hungary's **30-hour weekly work allowance** for part-time jobs and internships — though budget primarily from other sources, as English-only work is limited.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **30-hour work week** is generous — but English-only jobs are scarce, so don't rely on work to fund studies.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, options exist to **stay and seek qualified work**, and a Hungarian residence permit gives **visa-free movement across the Schengen area** — valuable for internships and interviews in Germany, Austria, and beyond.

BY THE NUMBERS

Post-study

job-search options

Schengen mobility

29 countries

EU-recognized degree

portable

HOW TO HELP

Plan for **post-study work options**, use your EU-recognized degree and **Schengen mobility** to pursue opportunities across Europe, and confirm the current job-search route.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your Hungarian permit unlocks **Schengen-wide movement** — a real asset for finding work or internships across Europe.

Studying in Hungary: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Hungarian immigration authority, Study in Hungary, and your university.

The system

700+ English-language programs; leaders include Semmelweis (medicine), ELTE, BME (engineering), Corvinus/CEU (business/social sciences), and Debrecen/Szeged/Pécs (affordable medicine); Bologna, EU-recognized.

Visa & permit

Non-EU students need a residence permit for study (via a Type D visa or the Enter Hungary portal); register your address at the kormányablak on arrival; OFFI translations usually required.

Tuition & Stipendium

English medicine/dentistry ~€8k–18k/year, other English programs ~€2k–8k; Stipendium Hungaricum fully funds tuition, stipend, housing, and insurance (apply Jan–Feb via Tempus, home-country nominated).

Money & language

Prove ~€500–700/month plus tuition; health insurance required; English programs need IELTS 5.5–6.5/TOEFL; some Hungarian helps daily life; living costs are among the EU's lowest.

Work & after

Work up to 30 hrs/week in term (generous); post-study job-search options exist; a Hungarian permit gives Schengen-wide movement.

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