

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Hungary

A guide for aspiring teachers & educators — how teaching in Hungary works, the routes and requirements, visas, pay, contracts, and how to find the right program.



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

HIGH DEMAND AND ONE OF EUROPE'S LOWEST COSTS

Hungary has **strong, all-levels demand for English teachers** and one of the **lowest costs of living in the EU**. Roles span **private language academies, public-school placement programs, bilingual schools, international schools, and tutoring**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, visas, pay, and contracts**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find programs.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Hungarian rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer and city. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Hungarian immigration, the Hungarian consulate, and each employer**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Understand Why Teachers Choose Hungary

WHAT TO KNOW

Hungary offers **high demand at all levels**, one of the EU's lowest costs of living (often with **housing provided**), a beautiful and central capital, and **accessible entry routes for non-EU teachers** — comfortable living on a modest salary.

BY THE NUMBERS

High demand

all levels

Very low costs

often + housing

Accessible

non-EU routes

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Hungary's **low costs and accessible routes** against modest pay — for affordable, comfortable teaching and a central European base, it's one of the region's best-value choices.

WATCH OUT

Bilingual secondary schools (gimnázia) are **legally required to employ native English speakers** — a distinctive source of demand.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **private language academies**, **public-school placement programs** (which arrange visas and often housing — a common non-EU route), **bilingual schools**, **international schools** (best pay, for licensed teachers), **universities** (higher pay, higher credentials), **corporate/business-English training**, **summer camps**, and **private tutoring**. Browse and compare specific options in **the K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language academies

+ placement programs

Bilingual / int'l schools

higher pay

Corporate

+ tutoring

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — an academy or placement program for entry, a bilingual/international school for more pay, or corporate work — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

Find and compare **specific academies, programs, and schools** in the K12 Academics directory — this guide stays program-neutral.

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Requirements: a **120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate** is required by most schools; a **bachelor's degree** is required (and mandatory for the non-EU work visa); **native or fluent English** (fluent non-native speakers with experience qualify too); international schools require a **teaching license and experience**; universities expect higher credentials.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

120-hr (most schools)

Degree

required (+ visa)

Int'l schools

license + experience

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — a **120-hour TEFL** and a **degree (mandatory for the non-EU visa)**, with a teaching license for international schools and higher credentials for universities.

GOOD TO KNOW

A bachelor's degree is **mandatory for the non-EU work visa** — confirm you have one before planning a move.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA citizens work freely. For **non-EU citizens**, an independent work visa from a private school is **difficult** (strict EU labour rules), so the two main routes are: a **public-school placement program** (which secures the work visa, and often housing), or the **White Card** — Hungary's digital-nomad visa — for those teaching online or earning income from abroad. Confirm current rules with Hungarian immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA

work freely

Non-EU

placement program (visa + housing)

White Card

digital-nomad route

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — **EU citizens work freely**; non-EU teachers usually use a **public-school placement program** (which arranges the visa and housing) or the **White Card** for online teaching.

WATCH OUT

A **public-school placement program** is often the most reliable non-EU route — it secures the work visa and frequently provides housing.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Pay is modest but comfortable given low costs: full-time roles typically pay **~150,000–250,000 HUF/month (~\$400–700)**; placement programs often pay a higher net figure **plus free housing**; universities and international schools pay more. Hungary's cost of living is among the **lowest in the EU**, and private tutoring supplements income.

BY THE NUMBERS

Full-time

~150,000–250,000 HUF

Placement

higher net + housing

Low costs

among EU's lowest

HOW TO HELP

Set realistic expectations — ~150,000–250,000 HUF/month, with placement programs often adding **free housing**; the very low cost of living makes it comfortable, topped up by tutoring.

GOOD TO KNOW

With **housing often provided** and the EU's lowest living costs, a modest Hungarian salary stretches surprisingly far.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

A key distinction: a **placement program** bundles the visa and housing but places you where it decides, while private-school work offers **more choice but you arrange the paperwork** (sometimes via a local freelance licence). Check **hours, pay (gross vs net), housing, and visa support**, and favour written terms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Placement

visa + housing (placed)

Private

more choice, own paperwork

Favour

written terms

HOW TO HELP

Clarify whether you'll join a **placement program** (visa + housing, but placed) or arrange **private-school work** yourself, and check hours, net pay, and support in writing.

GOOD TO KNOW

Placement programs handle the paperwork but **decide your location**; private work gives choice but you manage the visa — weigh the trade-off.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited 120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate**. Prepare your **degree and documents (apostilled/translated)**, a **background check**, and a **strong CV**. If you plan the White Card route, line up **online or foreign-client income**. Skills in **business English or STEM subjects** can widen your options (some schools value subject teaching).

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

120-hr accredited

Documents

apostilled/translated

White Card

line up online income

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL**, prepare apostilled documents and a background check, and — for the White Card route — line up online or foreign-client income.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some schools value **subject skills (STEM, business English)** alongside English — a useful edge when applying.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

Public-school placement programs recruit months ahead for a **September start** (apply in spring/summer); **private academies** hire most in **August–September and January**; **international schools** hire **January–May**. Non-EU teachers should apply early to the placement route to allow for visa processing.

BY THE NUMBERS

Placement

apply spring/summer

Academies

Aug–Sept & Jan

Int'l schools

Jan–May

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — placement programs recruit months ahead (Sept start), academies Aug–Sept & Jan, international schools Jan–May — and non-EU teachers should apply early.

GOOD TO KNOW

The placement route recruits **months before the September start** — apply in spring or early summer.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need Hungarian to teach** (classes are English-only), but **basic Hungarian helps daily life** (it's a challenging language). Popular bases include **Budapest (the main hub), Debrecen, Szeged, and Pécs** (smaller cities are cheaper and more immersive). Hungary is safe, affordable, and central for European travel.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hungarian

not needed to teach

Basic Hungarian

helps daily life

Bases

Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English, but learn **basic Hungarian** for daily life; Budapest is the main hub, with cheaper, more immersive options in Debrecen, Szeged, and Pécs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Smaller cities (Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs) are **cheaper and more immersive** than Budapest — great for local connections.

Find Your Program & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific language academies, placement programs, and schools in the K12 Academics directory**. Apply to several, verify each employer, contract, and visa route, and build experience toward bilingual or international schools. Confirm current rules with Hungarian immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

academies & programs

Apply

to several

Build

toward better schools

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare academies, programs, and schools, apply to several, verify each contract and visa route, and build toward higher-paid bilingual/international roles.

WATCH OUT

Browse **the K12 Academics directory** to find the specific academies, programs, and schools that fit your route and goals.

Teaching in Hungary: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with Hungarian immigration, the consulate, and each employer.

The routes

Private language academies, public-school placement programs (visa + housing), bilingual schools (which must employ native English speakers), international schools, universities, and tutoring — find and compare specific ones in the K12 Academics directory.

Requirements

A 120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate is required by most schools; a bachelor's degree is required (mandatory for the non-EU work visa); native/fluent English; international schools require a teaching license and experience; universities expect higher credentials.

Visa

EU/EEA citizens work freely; for non-EU, an independent work visa is difficult, so the main routes are a public-school placement program (which secures the visa, often with housing) or the White Card (the digital-nomad visa) for online teaching.

Pay

Full-time roles ~150,000–250,000 HUF/month (~\$400–700); placement programs often pay a higher net figure plus free housing; universities and international schools pay more.

Timeline & move

Placement programs recruit in spring/summer (September start); academies August–September and January; international schools January–May; basic Hungarian helps daily life.

YOUR TEACHING-IN-HUNGARY JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Teaching in [Country] guides, and find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

