**PROGRAM GUIDE: Hungary, AIT**

[ACADEMICS](#30j0zll)

[HOUSING](#1fob9te)

[PACKING](#3znysh7)

[FOOD](#2et92p0)

[PHYSICAL FITNESS](#tyjcwt)

[COMMUNICATION](#3dy6vkm)

[TRANSPORTATION](#1t3h5sf)

[TRAVEL/SIGHT-SEEING](#4d34og8)

[CULTURE](#2s8eyo1)

CONTACT INFORMATION

[READING LISTS](#17dp8vu)

| **ACADEMICS** | |
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| General |  |
| Miscellaneous | * AIT has an amazing staff. The program is located in Graphisoft park and hosts about 50 other Americans. This makes it really easy to make friends right away. Especially because in the beginning AIT organizes a lot of group events. We went on two different day trips with other AIT students. * If possible, definitely attend the two week long Hungarian course. You get to meet a lot of people before school starts and you learn some very useful Hungarian. |

| **HOUSING** | |
| --- | --- |
| General | * Communicate with your landlady/lord if there is something you need! Often times they have what you need but don’t want to give it out unless they have to(extra pots, pans, blankets, rice cooker, etc). Also, the cleaning lady will only come every 6 weeks or so, so don’t rely on them to clean! Cleaning ladies don’t clean like they do in the US- if your apartment is “too dirty” they will quit and your landlady will have to find someone new which often results in them just cleaning it themselves. |

| **PACKING** | |
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| Clothing | Athleisure isn’t really a thing. |
| Miscellaneous | * It gets very cold/rainy in November/December. |

| **FOOD** | |
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| General | * Highly recommend chimney cakes, turo rudi, and the coco snails (like a cinnamon roll but chocolate) * Auchan (near AIT) is basically the best price market with the widest variety. It’s quite similar to a Walmart and you can get just about anything there |

| **PHYSICAL FITNESS** | |
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| General | * There should be plenty of gyms to get a membership at nearby. Also, Margit Island is a perfect place to go for a run. A loop around the island is a 5k. * City bikes are available in 30-min increments for 500ft a month (~$1.75) this is great for sightseeing and a little cardio |

| **COMMUNICATION** | |
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| Internet | * Should be provided by the apartment. Probably not going to be the best but it will do the job. |
| Cell Phone | * Get a telenor plan with their sim card- but do not sign up for a regular plan!! Make sure to get a monthly phone plan. I have still not been able to cancel my plan. You have to cancel the plan in person and then come back a month later in person to do the final payment. * If you do not watch videos/use data-intensive apps while traveling, the 1-3GB plan range worked well for me, as both the apartment and AIT have good wifi * You can also use your current sim with an international plan. I have T-Mobile and it ended up being $60 a month, but I have never had data issues and it was very little hassle |
| Snail Mail | * I tried to send postcards. It was pretty expensive ($15 for 6) and they never arrived |

| **TRANSPORTATION** | |
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| General | * AIT will help you set up transpo on first day. $13 a month for unlimited transportation in Budapest(includes, tram, train, metro, and buses) with student pass that they provide. Very easy to use. |
| Bus | * Outside of Budapest, this can be a little confusing as there are a few different companies and formats depending on where you go. Often times in smaller villages and such you can just purchase the bus ticket to your destination once you board (and there’s a student discount, so don’t forget to ask for the “diák jegy”) |
| Subway | * This is the most common place for ticket inspectors. When approaching a subway entrance, it’s not a bad idea to double check you have your pass/ticket on you. |
| Train | * jegy.com can be used to buy train tickets to places outside of Budapest. <https://jegy.mav.hu/> |

| **TRAVEL/SIGHT-SEEING** | |
| --- | --- |
| General | * Go on the trips with the language program before the beginning of the semester. Very helpful to learn how to travel and see what is out there. |
| Liberty | * Tour the Parliament building! There are a few English tours every week and the interior is just as if not more fantastic than the exterior * You have liberty everyday (if you want to think of it as liberty!) One of the best parts of studying abroad in a country with such great public transportation is the freedom that comes with it. Definitely make use of it because there is so so much to see and eat in Budapest |
| Recommended Locations | * Eger, Tokaj(go here before Fall break, once season is over the town is dead). Lillafured(hiking is beautiful in the fall). Lake Balaton(go early in the semester, easy to get to and the water gets cold very early). * Badacsony along the north coast of Balaton has an amazing series of wineries nestled into the hills * Pecs is a fun college city and is basically the quieter, more peaceful little brother of Budapest |

| **CULTURE** | |
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| Cultural Idiosyncracies | * Staring on public transportation is pretty normal, especially when you first arrive or are speaking English. |
| Cultural Advice | * A little knowledge and understanding of the language goes a long way. Many people will be far more willing to help you and will be generally more friendly if you at least attempt to talk in Hungarian at first (even if just to say “Good day. Sorry I don’t speak much Hungarian” ) |
| Noteworthy Experiences from Past Students |  |

| **READING LISTS** | |
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| Recommended Books |  |