

Dear Students,

Welcome to Szent Istvan University. In this letter, we would like to share with you some information about your stay and living in Hungary, as well as your studies.

ARRIVAL IN HUNGARY

Please note that the academic year will start on 4 September. The Orientation Week on Gödöllő Campus will start on 5 September. The program of the Orientation Week will be soon available at <http://sziu.hu/> (right bottom of the page). The Orientation Day at Faculty of Horticultural Sciences will be held on 5 September. Infos on orientations are continuously updated on <http://sziu.hu/> (right bottom of the page) Your classes will start on 11 September. Should you have any problems with visa, you are supposed to arrive in Hungary until 30 September at latest.

VISA

Students outside EU countries should turn to the relevant authorities (and their websites) at least 2 months before the beginning of their studies.

They should hand in their application for a D5 student visa at the Hungarian Embassy in their home country. With a valid student visa they can apply for a residence permit also from the embassy or when they arrive in Budapest. The student visa may take up to 60 days to obtain.

The regulations for the registration of the place of residence and the residence permit can also be found on the website of the Office of Immigration and Nationality (www.bmbah.hu) and/or of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://konzuliszolgalat.kormany.hu/en>).

You will need the following items for your visa application if you need visa.

1. *visa application form*
 2. *passport (must be valid for at least 18 months, but preferably valid until the end of your studies.)*
 3. *three passport-size photographs*
 4. *Letter of Acceptance from the university*
 5. *(transit visa if needed)*
 6. *bank receipt of transfer of tuition fee payment or a Payment Certificate from the university OR Letter of Admission from the donor institution of the scholarship if you are scholarship holder*
 7. *the Embassy may ask for your airplane reservation or fare ticket*
- the Embassy may ask for proof of accommodation*

ACCOMODATION/DORMITORY

Gödöllő Campus

If you are a [Stipendium Hungaricum](#) or [FAO scholar](#), you can be accomodated in the [dormitory of Szent István University](#). The dorm offers double rooms for newcomers.

PLease send the „*Hostel_application_form*” (at the bottom of the [homepage of the dormitory](#)) directly to the dormitory international coordinator, Ms Ágnes Lendvai at lendvai.agnes@fh.szie.hu. The application form to the hostel includes some terms of payment. Please ignore those, just write 'Stipendium Hungaricum/FAO student' on the sheet, since your accomodation fee will be covered by the scholarship through the university.

If you have an *accomodation outside our dormitory*, please let us know. (Please note that FAO scholarship covers accomodation only in the dormitory)

Please also note that due to the huge overdemand, the dorm maintains its rooms only for students, so if you arrive with your *family*, you have to find an accomodation other than the dormitory. We kindly ask for your understanding.

If you are a **self-fincancing student**, for accomodation, please check the site at <http://sziu.hu/accommodation>.

Please note that since the dormitory has limited places, newcoming scholarship holders have priority. Senior students' accomodation in dormitory is subject to good behaviour and their academic performance.

Buda Campus

For their first year, rooms are automatically booked for Stipendium Hungaricum scholars and for two years for FAO scholars in Somogyi Imre Dormitory (Address: 1118 Budapest, Szüret u. 2–18., Phone: (+36 1) 305 7100/7580).

Otherwise there are limited places in the dormitory. For further information, please contact Ms Ildikó Fedor dormitory coordinator at fedor.ildiko@fh.szie.hu

For accomodation in Budapest, please check the site at <http://sziu.hu/accommodation>.

TRANSPORT FROM AIRPORT

Transport to Budapest

There is a good public transport between Liszt Ferenc Airport and Budapest. From the airport to Budapest city center: [transport from the airport here](#)
If you choose public transport, plan your trip here: [Trip Planner](#)
In any case, please fill in this [Arrival Form](#) and note if you need help to find your way to your accommodation in Budapest and we'll try to arrange buddies or mentors to help you.

Transport to Gödöllő Dormitory

Szent István University International Office provides free transport between Budapest and Gödöllő upon arrival to small groups of students (at least 2 people) with the taxi driver contracted by SZIU. For individual American, Kazakh, Korean, Japanese **exchange students**, Stipendium Hungaricum and FAO students it is free. Individual travellers have to pay the transfer fee individually, HUF 10,000 (+ waiting time) cash to the driver.

If you know the date and time of your arrival, please fill in the [Arrival Form](#) with the required data.

STAYING IN HUNGARY

RESIDENCE PERMIT

You will need a residence permit to stay in Hungary during your studies. For detailed information, please read carefully the webpage of the Hungarian [Office of Immigration and Nationality](#) and the [page focusing on Residence Permit for the Purpose of Studies](#) as well as <http://sziu.hu/residence-permit>.

During the first weeks after your arrival, we will reserve some administration days at the Immigration Office so that you can arrange your residence permit as easily as possible.

PRACTICAL MATTERS (bank account opening, insurance etc.)

At Gödöllő Campus, there is a Student Service Office (SSO), which will help you in practical matters. For more information, please visit <http://sziu.hu/practical-matters>

Stipendium Hungaricum and FAO scholars, please note that your insurance is expected to be valid only one month after your arrival, so please take care of the coverage of your first month's insurance. Similarly, the first scholarships are expected to be paid in October, so please be sure to have enough money for the living costs of the first month.

LIVING IN HUNGARY

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are not familiar with our country, please read the [Wikipedia page on Hungary](#)

There are a lot of *sights to see and things to do* in [Hungary](#). Have a look at these pages: [Gödöllő](#), [Budapest](#), [Hungary](#)

FACILITIES

In the dormitory rooms (and most houses in Hungary) you will have *clean running water (drinkable without boiling), electricity, central heating, and internet*.

FOOD and DRINKS

You can have a variety of foods and drinks, in grocery stores, market places as well as in restaurants. *Vegetarian food* is available also in the two restaurants/canteens of the Gödöllő Campus.

Halal food is available in Budapest. Some well-known restaurants that serve Halal food in Budapest include Szeraj, Al-Amir, Cairo Café, and Antalya Kebab. There are a few Halal meat shops in Budapest. More information regarding the best Halal restaurants in Budapest can be found at one of the mosques or Islamic Centers in the city, such as the Budapest Mosque which is located at H-1119 Budapest, Fehérvári út 41.

CLOTHING

Those who come from tropical countries should note that there are colder seasons in Hungary including a winter, so be prepared to bring or buy *warmer clothes*.

STUDIES

Having a *laptop* for researching and writing is strongly recommended, although the university campus has computer facilities.

We have a *mentoring system operated by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN- at <http://szie.esn.hu/>)*. Mentors will be at your disposal in any kind of matters. However, You should also feel free to seek contact with *senior students* already here, they can help you a lot. In addition, our *Hungarian students* will be also eager to help you.

For details of your programme and faculty, visit the various [faculties' homepages](#).

The schedule of the academic year is available on <http://sziu.hu/> (right bottom).

We hope you will have a pleasant time at SZIU, and we are looking forward to meeting you soon!

[International Relations Office](#)
