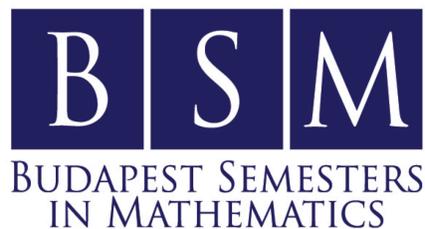


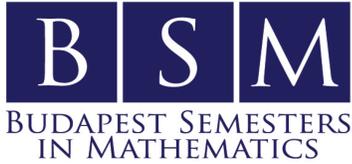
# BUDAPEST SEMESTERS IN MATHEMATICS

SPRING 2020



## STUDENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

[WWW.BUDAPESTSEMESTERS.COM](http://WWW.BUDAPESTSEMESTERS.COM)



BSM North American Director: Professor Kristina Garrett  
BSM Associate Director: Professor Kathryn Ziegler-Graham  
BSM Administrator: Deb Fleming  
Office Phone: 507-786-3114

### **CHECKLIST TO COMPLETE**

BSM Handbook online here: <https://www.budapestsemesters.com/importation-information/>

- \_\_\_\_\_ Email **budapestsemesters@gmail.com** to confirm acceptance
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Tuition DEPOSIT DUE (applied to full amount due):** \$750.00 within 3 weeks of receiving this handbook.  
**Remaining TUITION DUE December 15:** Read financial information in Student Handbook and process tuition payment accordingly. **Tuition Invoice on pages 5-6.** Checks **payable to Budapest Semesters** and mail to: BSM, Attn: Deb Fleming, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Optional Babilon Language**-Cost & payment deadlines (page 6; non-credit)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Keep these 3 letters** for future travel to Budapest:  
(1) BSM Acceptance letter, (2) College International Letter, and (3) Travel letter from Budapest Office
- \_\_\_\_\_ Read the **Student Handbook** in its entirety & bring to Budapest
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Prescription Medications: It is illegal to mail prescription medications from the U.S. to Hungary. Plan ahead and take a full supply of medications with you for the semester and a doctor's note certifying that you need this medication.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Read, sign (student AND both parents) and return** the required BSM Waiver Form online (form is in the Post-Accept email and in the Student Handbook)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Post-Acceptance Forms:** Complete the **required online forms;** link to all forms in a separate email you will receive from BSM (page 18 instructions)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Non U.S./Canadian Citizens:** Start familiarizing yourself with the VISA process and apply as soon as possible, as it can be lengthy. Read here <https://sites.google.com/a/bsmath-forms.net/visainfo/> regarding up-to-date VISA information (see also pages 3 and 17).
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact the BSM Office** with any questions (contact info below)

1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057 | [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com) | 507-786-3114

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## **WELCOME---ACCEPTANCE TO BUDAPEST SEMESTERS IN MATHEMATICS**

We are excited for your acceptance into the program! We want you to recognize that BSM is an academically rigorous study abroad program that focuses on mathematics and is geared for students who are serious about math. While the coursework is challenging, it provides students with a new understanding of math focusing on problem solving, student creativity, and group learning. Be sure to go through the entire Student Handbook as well as our website <http://www.budapestsemesters.com/> for in-depth information about the program and next steps.

**CONTACT the BSM North American Office** at [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com) or 1-507-786-3114 with any questions or concerns.

**ACADEMICS:** Students normally take three or four mathematics courses and one or two intercultural courses each semester. Academic program courses and syllabi, BSM professors, undergraduate research opportunities and past resulting articles can be found here: <http://www.bsmath.hu/> -> [History](#)

### **TRAVEL/FLIGHTS to BUDAPEST:**

Hungary is one of the [Schengen area countries](#). BSM is **strongly suggesting**, that U.S. students make their first stop in a non-Schengen Zone (i.e. London) with a connecting flight to Budapest. This will ensure ease of going through immigration when you travel for a semester with either open-ended tickets or a return ticket for more than 90 days when students do not have a “residency VISA” in hand. **U. S. citizens** are not required to have one in hand if their first port of entry into the Schengen zone is in Hungary. You may obtain it after you arrive in Budapest with the help of our Budapest staff. The 3 important letters included in this packet should be taken with you to the airport and on your flight to show to customs officials if requested. Recent changes in EU immigration rules require you pay close attention to these issues as you plan your travels to Budapest.

**VISA/Residence Permit Student Information for Fall/Spring and Summer semesters see:**  
<https://sites.google.com/a/bsmath-forms.net/visainfo/> (additional VISA information also found on page 17)

This may be the first time you are traveling alone for an academic program. This is a change for some students as many study abroad programs have a faculty leader and a group attending/traveling together.

The following is a summary of what you can expect as you arrive in Budapest:

- At the airport/train station in Budapest you will be picked up by a BSM representative and escorted to your apartment. In the airport (after luggage pickup) go forward to the arrival hall and look for the BSM signs. A BSM representative will in all cases be waiting for you (unless it is otherwise negotiated personally with you). In case you miss each other, be patient and try to locate him/her. In dire need, call the local 24/7 emergency number in Budapest at 00-36-20-628-5562 or 011+36-20-628-5562 (using your U.S. phone) but in no case leave the station/airport before successfully contacting BSM staff in Budapest.
- After you have arrived at your apartment, the BSM representative will provide you with a brief introduction to your neighborhood, nearest ATM, pharmacy, metro and location of BSM offices and classrooms.
- Apartments may be different than American standards and it can sometimes take some time to get adjusted to your living situation. Each student will have their own bedroom, however Hungarian apartments are smaller than average U.S. flats. BSM staff in Budapest are ready to help, share your questions or concerns. (see page 13)
- If you have chosen to take the Hungarian Language Program, you will be immersed in the language and culture of the city. You will also meet fellow BSM students taking the language course.
- For those who decide not to attend the language program, BSM organizes a half-day mandatory orientation session the last Saturday right before the start of the semester.
- Travel outside of Budapest is popular; it's up to the individual student how to plan their free time/course work.

- It's the law in Hungary that every adult must carry ID on them at all times. It is best to have a copy of your passport page together with your driver's license.
- You must have your passport with you at all times when traveling outside Budapest.

**BSM OFFICE AND PARENT COMMUNICATION:**

Please note because of student privacy laws, our office cannot always communicate specifics about students with parents. Please note a student's safety and wellbeing is of highest priority.

**QUICK REFERENCE/EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR HUNGARY**

Dezső Miklós, Director: [dezso@renyi.hu](mailto:dezso@renyi.hu)  
 Agnes Szilard, Associate Director: [szilard@renyi.hu](mailto:szilard@renyi.hu)  
 Anna Foti, Director of Student Services [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu)  
 Budapest Office hours: 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Address: Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, 1071-Hungary  
 BSM is located near Keleti Railway Station ("Keleti Palyaudvar" in Hungarian) and close to metro line 2 ("red metro").

BSM 24/7 emergency cell phone # (within Hungary): 00-36-20- 628-5562  
 The same cell phone # from the United States: 011-36-20- 628-5562

Please note that the above number is for emergencies only. For regular office business call the regular office cell number given below or write an email at one of the addresses given above. (Emails are answered promptly and may be the best way of communication in non-emergency situations.)

BSM regular office cell phone (within Hungary), 8am to 6pm Central European time: 00-36-30-474-3924  
 The same cell phone # from the states: 011-36-30-474-3924  
 BSM Fax number (from the states): 011-36-1-413-3030

011=overseas access (from U.S.)    36=country code (Hungary)    1=city code (Budapest)

U.S. Embassy in Budapest: <http://hungary.usembassy.gov/service.html>  
 We suggest U.S. citizens enroll in the "Smart Traveler" program at [http://hungary.usembassy.gov/acs\\_security.html](http://hungary.usembassy.gov/acs_security.html)

<u>Student Mailing Address (letters only)</u>	<u>Student Mailing Address (packages, Fed Ex, etc)</u>
Name of Student	Name of Student
College International	College International
Budapest Semesters in Mathematics	Budapest Semesters in Mathematics
1406 Budapest 76	1071 Budapest
P.O. Box 51	Bethlen Gábor tér 2
HUNGARY	HUNGARY

College International is located in district VII within walking distance of: Városliget (City Park), Keleti Metro stop, Keleti Railroad Station.

## TUITION INVOICE/ FINANCIAL AID CLARIFICATION (2 pages)

**Important information regarding payment, please read carefully.**

Dear Students/Parents:

On the next page, you will find an invoice for tuition for the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program.

If you receive federal student loans, financial aid, grants, or scholarships through your home school, it is often possible for some or all of this money to be applied toward their Budapest Semesters in Mathematics tuition. **Students must check with your Financial Services Office or your Study Abroad Office at your college and verify if they will remit payment or if it is your responsibility. Also check with them to make sure your federal student loans will not begin repayment status as you are absent for a semester.**

If your school is responsible for your tuition, please share **this letter and invoice** with the office responsible for payment. BSM is an Independent Study Abroad program **not** a St. Olaf College program. The BSM North American Office is physically located at St. Olaf College only. **If your school needs an invoice to come directly from our office, please let me know as soon as possible and I will email it directly to them.** An invoice is not automatically sent to home schools.

Whether it is you or the school making payment, please make checks payable to:  
Budapest Semesters

Mail to: Budapest Semesters in Mathematics  
Attn: Deb Fleming  
c/o St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Regardless of your financial aid package, ALL tuition must be paid in full to the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics office in MN by the date listed on the next page; unless other arrangements have been made.**

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Fleming, Program Administrator, at budapestsemesters@gmail.com or 507-786-3114.

Thank you.  
Deb Fleming  
BSM Program Administrator



## ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COSTS

The following estimated costs of living in Budapest during the **academic year** for **five months** are below:

Apartment and/or Family Living Costs

<u>Expense Description</u>	<u>Costs</u>
Rent ( <i>per student per term</i> )	\$2,600
Meals ( <i>eating out liberally</i> )	\$3,150
Utilities	\$450
Local transportation	\$270
Entertainment, miscellaneous	\$550
Optional language course (See invoice on pages 5-6 for details)	\$350-\$440 semester, \$200-\$250 HUF summer
Textbooks	\$150-350
VISA/Residency Permit Application	\$80

The above expenses will be paid in HUF in Budapest therefore, depending on the exchange rate, are a rough estimate.

Summer program costs can be calculated on **two months** versus five months.

Two more items must be added to these expenses: Transportation/Airfare to and from Budapest, and travel within Europe.

## **BSM IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**0. CURRENCY:** ATM machines are readily available in Budapest and accept most major credit and bank debit cards (checking account only). You can easily withdraw Hungarian Forints using your debit card, the fees are much less than if you obtain Forints at a U.S. bank. Check with your personal bank on best options and minimal fees.

Don't trade currency with strangers, there are designated exchange booths all over the city for that.

It is not a good idea to exchange all of your money upon arrival as the bank will charge you for the privilege.

Personal checks, cashier checks, money orders, etc., cannot be readily exchanged, as international banking is quite slow. Although you may deposit a personal check at some local banks in Hungary, it may take several months until the check clears. Still, it is a good idea to bring some personal checks along in case, for example, you would need to send in graduate school applications. If you arrive in Budapest without forints, simply exchange some US dollars for forints near your apartment or withdraw money from an ATM using a debit or credit card.

**1. PROHIBITIONS:** Do not take any weapons or illegal drugs to Hungary. It is considered a major felony and will result in immediate exclusion from the program. Note that Hungary has zero tolerance for drugs including marijuana. In addition, one can only drive at 0% blood alcohol level.

**2. MEDICAL INSURANCE:** For long-term benefits and coverage outside of Budapest, **it is mandatory that you have a current** U.S. or Canadian international insurance policy that is valid for your travel and your entire stay in Hungary. Before you leave, please call your home insurance company and make sure your insurance is valid in Hungary and find out what type of costs and up to what extent are met by it. **We expect you to have a valid insurance policy, covering at least up to 50,000 euros of your health expenses as well as covering evacuation costs.** We also encourage students to investigate additional travel insurance that may cover evacuation in the case of a medical emergency. Several U.S. companies offer appropriate insurance for your travel, study abroad needs e.g. Gateway US, IMG, CMI or ISOS.

You will also be provided Hungarian student insurance for your stay as part of your BSM tuition. This is very limited insurance (UniMed Health Insurance) that covers emergency medical benefits (including hospitalization) within Budapest **ONLY** during your stay in Hungary. It will not pay for treatment outside the city limits of Budapest, ongoing treatment for chronic issues, evacuation due to medical emergencies or other major issues not easily addressed by the municipal health system. The supplemental health insurance (included in your tuition), allows access to a reliable, English language health service offered by Semmelweis University, the medical university of Budapest. However, it is a parallel option, but does not replace your home insurance, especially since it does NOT cover you outside of Budapest i.e. during travel, arrival, nor covers evacuation to the U.S. **[See the full terms of the local insurance here.](#)** Also found here: <http://www.bsmath.hu/>

### **3. LEARNING DISABILITIES, MENTAL HEALTH/Well-being, AND/OR NECESSARY ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS AT BSM:**

We believe that a student's mental health is just as important as their physical well-being. Adjusting to the demands of academic challenges and a new urban environment can be stressful. Talking with a professional counselor can help you find ways to manage academic pressures, personal problems, and cultural adjustments. College International – the umbrella institution of BSM- provides a counselor who will be available on campus. For those seeking long-term counseling outside the campus setting, the College also retains the services of an experienced clinical and pastoral psychologist.

### **Mental Health Counseling**

BSM also provides a counseling service in English. Counseling differs from psychotherapy in the sense that it is aimed at issues, difficulties and challenges in the present moment and its main focus is coming up with practical solutions that the client can immediately apply in his/her/their everyday life. During counseling, we try to collect all the available resources of the individual and try to figure out together how they can be used to work on the issue that is present. At BSM you can work currently with two English speaking psychologists: Andrea Turner and Adam Nemeth. Please, email the DSS (Anna Foti at afoti@mcdaniel.hu) if you would like to make an appointment with one of our counselors.

### **WELL-BEING SUPPORT-Director of Student Services (DSS)**

The DSS's job is to be there for all BSM students as a first line of contact whenever a student encounters a challenge, which they do not know how to address or do not feel having the resources to address. These can mean problems with your housing just as much as needing assistance with buying train tickets on the Hungarian Railways website. It is also the DSS who you can reach out to if you would like to schedule an appointment to one of our counsellors.

**Academic Accommodations College** International and BSM do not have a learning disabilities center in their building but can usually provide the same academic accommodations that you are currently entitled to at your home college. To qualify, you need to provide a reliable proof of conditions to our director in Budapest, Professor Dezso Miklos. A signed letter brought from your learning disabilities office or advisor, or an email sent by an appropriate staff person from your school will suffice.

**4. CLIMATE:** The climate of the Hungary can be described as typical European continental influenced climate with warm, dry summers and fairly cold winters. Note that in Europe, temperature is measured in centigrade.

**5. IMPORTANT ITEMS TO TAKE:** Don't forget your passport, airline ticket, bank debit card, a major credit card, and some cash and/or perhaps some travelers' checks to cover immediate expenses upon arrival. A few extra passport-type photos may come in handy. Page 4 contains important contact numbers and we recommend that you carry this book with you in your carry-on luggage. There is more information later in this handbook listing what to take and pack.

**It is important that you bring an ample supply of any prescription medicine you use, with a note from your MD certifying that you need the medication for your condition.**

**Note that it is illegal to mail prescription medicines from the U.S.**

Use the service provider <http://www.northernpharmacyinternational.com/> as suggested by the U.S. Embassy at [http://hungary.usembassy.gov/medical\\_information.html](http://hungary.usembassy.gov/medical_information.html)

While traveling, keep your passport, cash, and a week's supply of any vital medication in your carry-on luggage. Although unlikely, it may happen that checked baggage is put on the wrong plane. At check-in time, make certain your baggage is labeled inside and out with your final destination: [Budapest Semesters in Mathematics; Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, Hungary 1071] Use this same address to have your lost luggage sent to. There is 24-hour door service to receive your luggage.

Apartments offered via BSM come completely furnished with such things as furniture, sheets, towels, kitchenware, washing machine, etc. Clothes dryers are extremely rare. Keep in mind thick items, such as sweatshirts, take several days to air dry; please plan accordingly.

**6. ELECTRICITY:** The voltage used in continental Europe is 220. This renders most North American appliances useless unless they are convertible, battery operated, or you have an adapter. Note that the outlet geometry is also

different. For battery-operated devices, it may be advisable to take a set of spare batteries along for the trip. Sometimes it may be difficult to get the right size battery in Budapest.

**7. SCHEDULE:** Two semesters are offered each year; each semester comprises fourteen weeks of teaching and one week of comprehensive examinations. The 8-week summer semester (2 courses) is offered from mid-June to early August. A student may participate in either semester or in two consecutive semesters. There is a brief **mandatory** orientation program at the beginning of each term. The academic program always begins on a Monday; the Welcome Party for new students is held on Friday afternoon of the week preceding classes or on the first Monday; and the Farewell Party is held on Thursday afternoon during final exam week. Please see academic calendar on page 20-21 for more information.

**8. HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE COURSE:** The **Babilon Language School** offers an intensive language course in Hungarian (non-credit) as well as immersion in local culture and life in Budapest. The course begins two weeks (see academic calendar) prior to the beginning of the semester or one week in summer and is not for credit. This is optional and not included in the BSM tuition fees.

#### Babilon Costs and Deadlines

##### FALL and SPRING

1) The cost of the optional intensive language class: \$350.00 if paid to the BSM U.S. office by December 15, 2019. See invoice on pages 5-6.

2) The cost is \$440.00 if payment is after December 15, 2019. Payment is then made in person, with cash, directly to the Babilon School Office.

##### SUMMER

1) The cost of the optional intensive language class: \$200.00 if paid to the BSM U.S. office by May 1, 2019. See invoice on pages 5-6.

2) The cost is \$250.00 if payment is after May 1, 2019. Payment is then made in person, with cash, directly to the Babilon School Office.

If you indicated on your application that you would like to attend, you are already enrolled.

If you did not indicate that and would like to attend, please email the BSM office at [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com). All students will receive an email from Babilon about a month before it begins with details on the program.

Babilon School of Languages  
1075 Budapest  
Károly krt 3/a IV em  
Hungary

telephone: (011) (361) 269-5531  
fax: (011) (361) 322-6023  
email: [info@babilon-nyelvstudio.hu](mailto:info@babilon-nyelvstudio.hu)  
website: [www.babilon-nyelvstudio.hu](http://www.babilon-nyelvstudio.hu)

**9. GRE/PUTNAM:** Students have to check with GRE organizers if GRE will be offered in Budapest, Prague or Vienna. It is, however, more difficult to apply to graduate schools and NSF graduate fellowships when you are away from your home college. Please plan ahead to request and obtain letters.

**Fall semester participants** are encouraged to take the Putnam Exam while in Budapest. The North American BSM office will contact the Putnam advisor at your home institution, but your home institution must list you on their home school Putnam list to be eligible for participation.

**10. TRAVEL:** You may make travel arrangements through any experienced travel agent or online. One travel agency where you can talk to a “real” person is listed below. They have had experience with BSM students.

BURSCH TRAVEL, Inc. - 309 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057 phone: 1-800-657-4888 / 1-507-645-4458, fax: 1-507-645-4331 <http://www.burschtravel.com/contact/12/>. Please take into consideration VISA regulations as well when buying your ticket. See <https://sites.google.com/a/bsmath-forms.net/visainfo/>

Note that the cost of a flight to Budapest can vary as much as several hundred dollars, shop around for best prices.

**11. ARRIVAL:** A BSM representative will meet you upon arrival at the airport or rail station and drive you to your apartment. It is vital that the office in Budapest is informed about your travel well ahead of time. Please fill out the travel form online as soon as your travel plans are made. A copy is emailed to both the American Office and Budapest Office. **It is essential that you contact both offices should your travel plans change.**

**All students:** BSM organizes housing/lodging for you while in Budapest. As there can be last minute changes, the exact address will only be known at the time of your arrival. If the **Immigration Officer** at the border asks for your lodging information, please provide "Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, 1071 Hungary" as your address.

The BSM representative meeting you will take you to your residence. After clearing customs at the airport, you will leave the baggage claim area and go to the arrival hall (ground transport). Look for someone holding up a sign saying, “Budapest Semesters”. Do not leave the airport until you locate each other. Send an email to [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu) or call 00-36- 20-628-5562 the BSM emergency number if needed.

In the very extremely unlikely event that they miss you at the airport, **during office hours (8am-3pm)**, take the airport shuttle to District 7, Bethlen Gabor ter 2 (location of BSM). The trip takes about 45 minutes and costs about \$20.

If your arrival in Budapest is scheduled at an odd hour (between 8:00 pm and 7:00 am, for example), make sure that you communicate - in advance, via email – to the Budapest Office your arrival plans. BSM will pick you up as long as we know the plans in advance. In the very exceptional case that you might need to find lodging at a hostel or hotel for night, take a taxi to the Budapest Office (Bethlen Gabor ter 2) the next working day.

To call a telephone number in Budapest from the United States, you prefix the number with 011-36-1. Dialing 011 summons the international switchboard, 36 is the country code for Hungary, and 1 is the city code for Budapest. Note the difference in time zones. When it is noon in New York and 9 a.m. in San Francisco, it is 6 p.m. in Hungary. At 6 p.m. in New York, it is midnight in Budapest.

**12. MAILING suitcases ahead of your travel.**

Email Anna Foti, [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu), in Budapest prior to mailing a suitcase. Declare value under \$50, mark the form: “used, personal items” and mail to address for student packages listed on page 4.

**13. ACCOMMODATIONS/HOUSING:** If you have indicated that you prefer living with a Hungarian family (home stay), you should know that most families in Budapest live in small apartments with just one bathroom and the commute to classes is much longer, approximately 30-40 minutes. Whether you chose to have a home stay or live in an apartment on the BSM Roommate/Housing form, please let us know well in advance if you have special accommodation needs. You can indicate special needs on the on-line form.

All apartment residences are within easy reach of the university walking distance or using the convenient and inexpensive public transportation. Program staff in Budapest coordinate housing assignments in rental apartments offered via BSM, and they will help students with any housing situations should they arise. Each student will have their own bedroom. Housing assignments are given upon arrival in Budapest. Typically, two or three students are housed together based on their requests. Due to possible last minute changes, housing assignments are given only upon arrival in Budapest. Specific questions on housing can be directed to Ms. Anna Foti, Director of Student Services, at [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu).

**Important:** BSM “housing” (i.e. placement in apartments offered via BSM) is a package – for students requiring a visa, it comes with fully organized (and therefore easier than individual) residency permit procedures at the Immigration Office in Budapest. BSM provides almost all necessary forms and documents.

Also, unlike in the US, European law requires that all residents register their local address with the government. It requires substantial paperwork and cooperating landlords who would allow BSM students to officially register in their property. BSM works with landlords who have a long history with us, are aware of this procedure and willing to provide necessary documents.

**The U.S. BSM Office and the Hungarian BSM Office have discussed and agreed that if situations pertaining to your apartment or roommate arise, they can be handled as follows:** During the first week of a student’s arrival, he/she is free to change apartments within the apartments offered via the BSM pool, paying for only a portion of the first month’s rent (plus paying the used utility fees along with any other applicable fees). **Summer Semester: No changes.**

In cases where several students occupy the apartment, everyone who exchanges their present apartment for a different one, will forfeit a portion of their rent [usually paying for the portion of days you occupied the apartment]. Please ask the Hungarian BSM Office for help on this process.

**Note** that while students can request to move to “outside rental”, BSM help with registration at the Immigration Office will be limited in that case. BSM personnel would certainly provide a list of documents necessary for registration with the Immigration Office, but it will be the responsibility of the student to actually get those papers from the landlords, as well as going through the registration process if group appointments at the Immigration Office are missed.

Budapest is a large city; it’s a good idea to lock your apartment door at all times [especially if you bring along electronic equipment].

**RENT:** Rents are payable in Budapest in Hungarian forints, usually on a monthly basis approximately \$425.00 per month. Most rents will be payable within a week of your arrival. Please be aware that Hungarian laws governing rental properties vary greatly from laws in North America. In addition, lease details may vary from apartment to apartment. Do not sign any lease agreements until you fully understand and are comfortable with the terms. Your landlord should be willing to give you a few days grace period in which to do so. The on-site BSM office will assist you if necessary.

**14. INTERNET ACCESS:** There is free wireless network available in the BSM classroom for student use. Most students choose to bring a personal laptop; however, a few computers are available for use at BSM. Outside Internet cafés charge a nominal fee and are available throughout Budapest. If you decide to bring your own computer equipment, most apartments have high-speed internet connections. Remember to bring any adapters, converters, or cords.

**15. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Although the Hungarian program directors try to make your stay in Hungary as educationally exciting and as culturally rewarding as possible, there have, on rare occasions, been students wishing to withdraw from the program. If you choose to withdraw from the program within the first five weeks, the

program will reimburse a portion of your *refundable* tuition according to the following schedule: less than 1 week, 90%; less than 2 weeks, 80%; less than 3 weeks, 60%; less than 4 weeks, 40%; less than 5 weeks, 20%.

**16. IT IS A DIFFERENT COUNTRY:** Many things are different in Hungary. Be prepared to absorb the following: the difficulties associated with a foreign language, the lack of certain conveniences and consumer goods you are accustomed to, and the disoriented, isolated, and lonely feelings you might experience the first few days, due to “jet-lag”. Having accepted this will help you minimize the “culture shock” and enable you to enjoy all the new experiences. You will find that people in Budapest are friendly and helpful, and that Hungarian food is excellent and inexpensive. Hungary has much to offer.

*“Budapest is a marvelous city! I am somewhat in awe of the history and culture of this area - Hungary and all of Europe. Living in North America, it is [often] too easy to ignore the rest of the world! For that reason alone this trip is worthwhile, and everything in addition contributes to make this an incredible experience for me.”*

*Quote from David Wagner, BSM alum, sent from Budapest*

**VISITING AND LIVING IN BUDAPEST:** Please visit this page of our website for in-depth knowledge about the city <http://www.budapestsemesters.com/other-useful-links/>

### **ARRIVAL SUGGESTIONS AND PROCEDURES (please read carefully)**

Budapest Office hours: 8:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

BSM office hours cell phone (within Hungary): 00-36-30-474-3924

The same cell phone # (from the states): 011-36-30-474-3924

BSM Fax number (from the states): 011-36-1-413-3030

Address: Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, 1071-Hungary

College International (BSM Offices) is located near Keleti Railway Station (Keleti Palyaudvar in Hungarian) and close to the metro line 2 (red metro).

BSM 24/7 emergency cell phone # (within Hungary): 00-36-20-628-5562

The same cell phone # from the states: 011-36- 20-628- 5562

If a parent is calling the student’s cell phone from North America, dial:

011-36- 30- plus 7 digit #; be sure your son/daughter’s cell phone is turned on.

011=overseas access (from U.S.) 36=country code (Hungary) 1=city code (Budapest)

**Please keep this handbook with you in your carry-on luggage. Remember to contact your parents and the BSM office in Hungary with any arrival changes or delays to keep them informed about your situation.**

### **VIA AIR**

Please fill out the BSM travel form on-line with your arrival date, arrival time in Budapest, airline carrier, flight number, and the city your flight is directly coming from (such as Frankfurt, Vienna, New York, etc.). Both the American Office and the Budapest Office will receive a copy. Any changes in your travel must be emailed to [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu) and [budapestsemesters.com](http://budapestsemesters.com).

**All students:** BSM organizes housing/lodging for you while in Budapest. As there can be last minute changes, the exact address will only be known at the time of your arrival. If the Immigration Officer at the border asks for your lodging information, please provide "Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, 1071 Hungary" as your address.

Upon arrival in Budapest, come off the plane, collect your luggage, and clear customs. You need to show your passport at this point. After you have done this, you will enter a large ground transportation/arrival hall. Anyone waiting to pick someone up from the planes will be here. **Look for the person holding up a sign that says: “Budapest Semesters”. Introduce yourself and they will accompany you to your apartment.** They should have answers to many of your housing questions. See page 3 for additional details.

**In case of a flight delay** (in North America):

Once you begin your journey, please remember to notify our office in Budapest and the North American Office of any flight changes or delays (either e-mail both: [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu) and [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com) or use one of the telephone numbers above).

**In case of a flight delay** (outside North America):

If you need to contact Budapest from Europe, the country code for Hungary is +36, followed by the BSM 24/7 emergency cell phone number 20-628-5562. **You may need to ask airline staff for assistance in making this international call. It is important to let the staff in Budapest know as they provide transportation from the airport and train station.**

**VIA TRAIN**

If you are arriving by train, please follow a few logical steps:

Before departure, please fill out the required travel form online with the following information: (simply state *arriving by train* in the airline tab) your arrival time in Budapest, where the train is coming from, and which train station you will arrive at (there are several train stations in Budapest -- for instance: Keleti [very close to BSM/College International], Deli, or Nyugati). A BSM representative will meet your train and take you to your lodging.

Go to the **engine** of the train and look for a person holding a sign with ***Budapest Semesters*** written on it. If you are traveling alone, it is best to arrive in Budapest in the morning or early afternoon. Night train travel is not advisable for male or female students traveling alone.

**If you will not know your exact train arrival time until you arrive in Europe, please:**

Contact the Budapest Semesters Office in Budapest *at least* the day before arrival with exact departure city, departure and arrival times, the train station you will arrive at, and # of your train, if applicable. We strongly advise you to contact the office sooner, if possible.

**In case of a train delay** (in Europe): Follow the same guidelines above for “flight delay. [If you arrive at Keleti train station in Budapest, it is only about 4 blocks away from BSM.]

**Unannounced arrival during office hours:**

Budapest staff will plan to meet you upon your arrival, making it necessary for you to update them on any changes in your travel plans. However, if you arrive unannounced via air between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., it may be best to hail a cab or an airport mini-van and give the driver the Budapest Semester’s Office address (if you don’t speak Hungarian, it helps to write the address on a piece of paper and show the driver the following):

BSM  
Bethlen Gábor tér 2  
1071 Budapest, Hungary  
District VII

The fee for either the airport mini-van or taxi is not expensive and well worth it. The taxi/shuttle ride from the airport to the office will take about 45 minutes.

If you arrive unannounced at the Keleti train station, Bethlen Gábor tér is about four blocks away. (Check a map.)

### **Unannounced arrival after office hours:**

If we know your travel information ahead of time, a BSM representative will meet you at your arrival. However, in the unlikely event that you have not informed anyone in the Office of your arrival plans; have an unexpected change in plans; or are delayed, and no one meets you at the airport or train, plan to take a taxi/mini-van to a hotel (panzió), motel, or youth hostel and spend the night (at your own expense). Most lodgings have someone at the front desk that will speak English.

If it is necessary to spend your first night in a hotel, motel, or hostel in Budapest before meeting people from the program, or if you are unable to make contact with someone from the program, **don't panic**. Eat a good meal, relax by reading an exciting book (probably math), soak in a hot bath, and get a refreshing night's sleep. The next morning, after breakfast, call the BSM Office and apprise them of your situation, and make plans to have someone pick you up at the motel or wend your own way to the office.

### **Housing (Apartments & Roommates):**

You need to complete a BSM "Housing/Roommate" form. The link to the form is found within the email you receive from [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com). Students will be housed in furnished apartments approved by BSM.

Lodging is arranged by our Hungarian BSM Staff along with roommate assignments upon completion of your BSM Housing/Roommate form after acceptance. Each student will have their own bedroom. Typically, two or three students are housed together based on their requests. All residences are within easy reach of BSM using the convenient public transportation.

The person who meets your plane or train from the Budapest office will accompany you to your housing. They will also give you a mini orientation of your "immediate neighborhood" including the location of the nearest ATM or currency exchange booth and how it works, where to catch the public transportation and how to purchase tickets; nearest food stores, and pharmacy in your area are located; and to mark a route on your map of how to get from your location to both BSM and the Babilon Language School (if you are taking the optional language course) and BSM on Bethlen Gábor tér]. If they do not, please ask them (or the landlord or host family) to do so.

While you are in Budapest, you will be renting apartments from private Hungarian landlords/ladies or staying with Hungarian families. In either case, the size of your accommodation and price depend on your location within Budapest. Prices per person, regardless of location, should be in the range of about \$425 plus a deposit. In general, locations in the heart of the city are higher priced. Also the apartment could be smaller with kitchen facilities a bit more spartan. City center locations do have the advantage of being close to the main cultural attractions of Budapest and commute time is much less. Apartments come completely furnished with such things as furniture, sheets, towels, kitchenware, etc. Clothes dryers are extremely rare. Keep in mind thick items, such as sweatshirts, take several days to air dry; please plan accordingly.

Rents are payable in Budapest, usually on a monthly basis. Often a security deposit equal to approximately one month's rent is also due. Please be aware that Hungarian customs and laws governing rental properties vary greatly from laws in North America. There may be slight variations in your lease depending on your apartment (or rather Landlord). Do not pay [any rent] until a contract is signed, but sign a contract as soon as you feel reasonably comfortable you understand the terms you are agreeing to. The on-site BSM office will assist you, if necessary.

***The U.S. BSM Office and the Hungarian BSM Office have discussed and agreed that if situations pertaining to your apartment or roommate arise, they can be handled as follows:***

Fall and Spring Semesters: during the **first week** of a student's arrival, he/she is free to change apartments within the apartments offered via the BSM pool, paying for only a portion of the first month's rent. (plus paying the used utility fees along with any other applicable fees). Please ask the Hungarian BSM Office staff for help with this.

Summer Semester: No changes.

**For our part:** For the rental apartments offered via BSM, each landlord/lady has been provided with a list of basic equipment each apartment should have. You can expect your apartment to be equipped with all basic and necessary items (including linen, towels, kitchenware) and to be clean and scrubbed when you arrive. After your term is completed, the office in Budapest would like you to fill out an on-line questionnaire to help evaluate each apartment or family stay for future incoming students.

**For your part:** We expect that you treat each apartment/flat and its contents with dignity and respect. After the term is over, it is up to you to be sure that all trash has been removed from the premises, beds are made, dishes are washed, and all keys are returned. Owners are allowed to deduct trash collection, repair, and extra cleaning costs from your refundable housing/damage deposit. As selected members of the BSM class, you are the forerunners for future students and your conduct and behavior will affect how willing Hungarians will be in the future to rent to BSM students.

**Currency:** The best way to get cash from a checking account for the monthly rent is to use a debit card at ATM machines. They are widely available throughout Budapest and disperse funds Hungarian forints (HUF) or Euros.

Be prepared to feel pretty tired and disoriented upon arrival, but things usually get progressively better the more you get acclimated to your new environment and get to know your classmates.

*"The hardest thing about the arrival process is that you are so tired after traveling all the way to Budapest from the US. I had no idea how hard the trip would be...especially when you've got all your luggage, etc. Another thing that makes the arrival difficult is the extreme culture shock of arriving in the new country. Obviously, there is really no way around this, but I think we should communicate to participants as much as possible to be prepared to feel tired, unhappy/uncomfortable, nervous and scared upon their arrival and for the first day or so. Other than that, however, I think that my arrival went pretty well.*

*It probably would have been better for me if I had attempted to sleep on the plane on the way over...I might advise [future] students to sleep on the way over, because they will not be able to sleep when they arrive, because there will be several hours of things to do immediately after they arrive. I had to go to the bank to exchange money to pay rent to my landlord, discuss all of the necessary things regarding rent, utilities, etc with him, buy a transportation pass, etc."*

*Dana Paquin, Davidson College*

*"The biggest (nonmathematical) strengths are the cultural opportunities available in Hungary: a unique, vibrant culture and cuisine, and a city and country waiting to be explored. By meeting Hungarians and immersing myself in Hungarian lifestyle, I was able to develop a deep affection and love for Budapest. .... I became more tolerant and patient and more appreciative of the nature and diversity of human life."*

*Jeff Wall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ*

## **INCLUDE IN YOUR CARRY-ON LUGGAGE FOR BUDAPEST**

- This BSM Student Information Handbook
- Your airline/train ticket
- Your passport (plus a xerox copy to keep in a safe place in case you lose your passport)
- Prescription medications with a doctor's note certifying that you need this medication (it is illegal to mail prescription medications to Hungary)
- Major credit card / plus a small amount of cash
- Debit bank card for withdrawing local currency
- Copy of BSM official letter of acceptance (on BSM letterhead with a lightly crimped seal)
- Official College International letter stating official acceptance (sent with letter of acceptance). College International is the umbrella institution of BSM in Budapest.
- Letter for the airlines (sent with acceptance letter) with a lightly crimped seal
- BSM contact and emergency numbers (found on page 4 of this book)
- A copy of your health insurance card (required)

## **WHAT TO PACK**

Shipping clothing ahead of your travels. Email Anna Foti, Dir. Of student Services: [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu) notifying her ahead of time regarding this shipment. Ship suitcases or boxes to Student Package address in earlier section, page 4. Declare value of under \$50.

Apartments offered by BSM and homestays come completely furnished with items such as furniture, sheets, towels, kitchenware, etc. Clothes dryers do not exist; therefore, thick items, such as sweatshirts, take several days to air dry. If you have a favorite pillow you would like to take, please feel free to do so but it is not necessary.

**Computer** – Most students choose to bring a personal laptop. There is free wireless network available at the school for student use. Students usually find a laptop necessary for coursework including math programs they may need.

**Cell Phones** – following are different options for cell phone use:

1. You can purchase a pay as you go sim card in Hungary.
2. If you choose to bring a cell phone from home you will need to check with your local company on international rates. Or bring an unlocked cellphone and buy a pay-as-you-go sim card.
3. Skype is available providing the cheapest option.

## **APPLYING FOR YOUR VISA-RESIDENCE PERMIT**

See <https://sites.google.com/a/bsmath-forms.net/visainfo/> for details.

**North American Citizens(U.S./Canada)**: As a student studying and living in Budapest for more than 90 days, you will be required to obtain a Residence Permit at the Immigration Office with the help of BSM staff after you arrive in Budapest. As a general rule, you are required to have it pre-approved and obtain a long-term visa from a Hungarian Consulate, but it may not be necessary if certain “measures” are taken. See <https://sites.google.com/a/bsmath-forms.net/visainfo/> for details.

### **VISA Information for Non-North American Citizens**

Non-North American citizens **may** require a Visa in order to enter Hungary, even as a tourist.

You should check with your home country about requirements or restrictions.

The process to obtain a Visa can be lengthy so you will want to allow yourself enough time to complete all the necessary steps. Please make sure your required travel documents (passport) do not expire within six months of leaving Budapest.

## Questions about VISA - Residence Permit? Contact Agnes Szilard in Budapest at:

[agnes.szilard@bsmath.forms.net](mailto:agnes.szilard@bsmath.forms.net)

"**Visa**"="Schengen visa"=entry permit (to Hungary and the Schengen region) -- some of you must, others are expected but not required while few of you do not need to get.

"**Residency permit**" = a permit to stay long term (more than 90 days) in Hungary -- (think of it as a temporary US "green card") -- all of you must get it.

Both documents are issued by the Hungarian Immigration Office.

All students: BSM organizes housing/lodging for you while in Budapest. As there can be last minute changes, the exact address will only be known at the time of your arrival. If the Immigration Officer at the border asks for your lodging information, please provide "Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Bethlen Gábor tér 2, Budapest, 1071 Hungary" as your address.

## If you will be applying for a residency permit in Budapest, you will need to bring the following documentation with you there:

- Passport
- 1 passport photo for application at the Immigration Office
- Official letter of acceptance on BSM letterhead-cripped seal sent with handbook. Make a copy for your records.
- Official College International Budapest letter stating your official acceptance (sent with handbook)
- Bank statement verifying you will have sufficient funds for your term abroad. Be sure to cross out all identifying account numbers (a set number is not determined but somewhere around \$1000-\$2000 USD)
- A copy of your U.S. health insurance card (required)
- Money to cover the fees for this process – the fee changes but is typically somewhere around \$80 USD.

In Budapest, these documents must be taken to the Immigration Office. To expedite the process of getting your residency permit, BSM organizes group appointments. BSM personnel will accompany you to obtain your Residence Permit. As this is a several hour process, please bring a book or something to do while you are waiting. For specifics on this process please email our office in Budapest: [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu).

You may want to bring extra photos for graduate school applications or official document/forms while in Budapest. The BSM American Office **does not need** a photo.

## REQUIRED FORMS

Please fill out the additional required forms on-line as soon as possible using the links in the email sent to you by BSM North American Office. Contact BSM with any questions.

- 1 - Medical
- 2 - Room match
- 3 - Travel
- 4 - Transcript release
- 5 - Signed Waiver Form/Release Agreement form - **hard copy** found on the last pages of this handbook or within the online application system.

\*\*Please note the above forms are **required for participation** in the program. Please complete and submit as soon as possible, allowing ample time for scheduling and coordinating. \*\*

A copy of these forms is available to the BSM North American Office and the Budapest Office.

1 – **The medical form** must include your insurance carrier and code number. This information is used should there be a medical emergency so please be sure to include all the necessary medical information. If you use medication please list its purpose.

2 – **Housing/Roommate form** is used to determine housing assignments coordinated through the Office in Budapest. **You will receive your housing information when you arrive in Budapest and are picked up at the airport or train.** Specific information that is not found in this handbook or on the website may be directed to the American Office or the student coordinator in Budapest at [office@bsmath.hu](mailto:office@bsmath.hu).

3 – **Travel form** - this information is used for transportation from the airport or train station so it is essential that the travel details you provide are accurate. It is necessary to inform both the Budapest Office and North American Office of any changes so someone will be sure to meet you at the upon your arrival.

4 – **Transcript Release Form:** The information you list in this form is where an official transcript will be mailed at the end of the semester. When the term is completed, the Budapest Office will send the transcripts to the American Office where official transcripts will be issued by St. Olaf College, the School of Record.

5 – **Waiver form:** A student cannot participate in the program until the American Office has received the signed waiver form. You may return via fax, or scan and email, or regular mail. Please contact Deb Fleming, Program Administrator at [budapestsemesters@gmail.com](mailto:budapestsemesters@gmail.com) or 507-786-3114 if you have any questions regarding these forms.

### **APPROXIMATE LIVING COSTS FOR A SEMESTER**

**FALL and SPRING:** <https://www.budapestsemesters.com/program-costs/>

**SUMMER:** <https://www.budapestsemesters.com/summer-program/>

The program tuition fees do not include lodging, utilities, meals, transportation, the optional language program, or textbooks. Textbooks will be available at a rate below U.S. university bookstore prices. Each student should expect to spend at most \$350 on textbooks. The optional language program (non-credit) for the Spring and **Fall semesters is \$350.00 payable to the BSM North American Office by July 1<sup>st</sup> or December 15<sup>th</sup> for Spring.**

**Fee is \$440.00 payable to Babilon after BSM deadlines.**

**Summer is \$200 payable to BSM by May1, OR \$250 after May 1 paid to the Babilon office in Budapest.**

**The International Student Identity Card (ISIC).** Students can choose to purchase international student IDs in the United States before traveling to Budapest as they offer some discounts to museums and other activities. Here is a link to the ID card webpage: <https://www.myisic.com/isic-card/>

A monthly pass, permitting unlimited use of all means of public transportation (subway, bus, streetcar), costs about \$40 per month. Essentially all points of the city can be reached by public transportation. A taxi will take passengers between any two points in town for less than \$35.00. A three-course meal in one of the finest restaurants in Budapest costs between \$25.00-\$75.00. Budapest offers a variety of programs in music and theater.

The ***estimated costs per student***, for living in Budapest **for five months** (including the full month during the intensive language course), are below. Due to the devaluation of the dollar, please check the currency exchange rate *link* at the bottom of the BSM homepage for dollar (USD) to Hungarian Forint (HUF) rates.

Summer program costs can be calculated on two months vs. five months.

#### Approximate Living Costs for Fall and Spring

Rent	\$2,600 (per student per term)
Meals ( <i>eating out liberally</i> )	\$3,150
Utilities	\$450
Local transportation	\$270 (~\$55 per month)
Entertainment, miscellaneous	\$550
Textbooks	\$150-350
VISA/Residency Permit	\$80

#### **Other Items:**

Optional 2 week language course Academic Year \$350.00 by 7/1/19 and \$440.00 after 7/1/19 (page 6, Fall)  
Optional 1-week language course Summer \$200.00 by May 1, OR \$250.00 after the deadline, Summer  
(*US Dollar amount for the language program fluctuates with the exchange rate*)  
Airfare to Europe: varies Travel while abroad: varies  
For currency exchange rates: [www.exe.com](http://www.exe.com)

Please note that airfares change frequently and responsibility for the transatlantic transportation lies with the student. **Please take into consideration VISA rules when buying your plane ticket.** Most participants have used the opportunity to visit other European countries as well. Vienna is only 4 hours away by train; Paris, London, Moscow are within a two hour flight. Eurail offers a variety of train travel packages in Europe. Here is the website: [www.railerope.com](http://www.railerope.com)

### **SEMESTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR: 2020 – 2022**

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON PRIOR COURSES, PROFESSORS, SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, SYLLABI, AS WELL AS CURRENT BUDAPEST CONTACT AND DIRECTIONS PLEASE GO TO [WWW.BSMATH.HU](http://WWW.BSMATH.HU)

A fall, spring and summer semester is offered; each semester comprises fourteen weeks of teaching and one week of comprehensive examinations. There is a brief orientation program at the beginning of each term and the eight-week summer term. A student may participate in either semester or in two consecutive semesters, or summer term.

The academic program always begins on a Monday; the Welcome Party for new students is held on Friday afternoon of the week preceding classes or Monday afternoon; and the Farewell Party is held on Thursday afternoon during final exam week.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is a required orientation for all students Monday morning before classes begin. Students not participating in the language program also have a mandatory practical orientation Saturday afternoon.

There are no classes on March 15, May 1, Whit (or Pentecost) Monday, August 20, October 23, November 1, and Thanksgiving. The office in Budapest will be closed on these holidays.

The **Babilon Language School** offers a 2-week intensive Hungarian language course (non-credit) about two weeks prior to the beginning of each semester (1 week in summer). This is an optional choice, not included in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program tuition. Cost of the optional intensive language class during the year is \$350.00 payable to BSM by July 1 (fall) Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> (spring), and \$440.00 payable to Babilon in Budapest after July 1 and Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. **Summer is \$200 (1 week), and is payable to the BSM by May 1, or \$250 payable to Babilon Language School upon arrival in Budapest.**

<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Earliest Arrival for BSM Housing</b>	1/6	1/4	1/10
BABILON optional Language (2	1/14-1/29	1/12-	1/18-2/2
<b>BSM Classes Begin</b>	2/3	2/1	2/7
Spring Break	4/6/-4/13	3/29-4/5	4/11-4/18
Classes End	5/15	5/14	5/20
Exams	5/15/-5/20	5/17-5/19	5/23/-5/25
Program Ends	5/21	5/20	5/26
<b>Deadline to Vacate BSM Housing (moving out)</b>	<b>5/24</b>	<b>5/23</b>	<b>5/29</b>
<b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Earliest Arrival for BSM Housing</b>	5/28	5/27	6/3
BABILON optional Language (1	6/2-6/6	5/31-6/4	6/7-6/11
<b>BSM Classes Begin</b>	6/8	6/7	6/13
Exams - Classes End	7/31	7/30	8/5
Program Ends	8/1	7/31	8/6
<b>Deadline to Vacate BSM Housing (moving out)</b>	<b>8/3</b>	<b>8/2</b>	<b>8/8</b>
<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Earliest Arrival for BSM Housing</b>	8/10	8/9	8/9
BABILON optional Language (2	8/17-9/2	8/16-9/1	8/16-8/31
<b>BSM Classes Begin</b>	9/7	9/6	9/5
Fall Break	TBD	TBD	TBD
Classes End	12/11	12/10	12/9
Exams	12/14- 12/16	12/13- 12/15	12/12- 12/14
Program Ends	12/17	12/16	12/15
<b>Deadline to Vacate BSM Housing (moving out)</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>12/30</b>
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	MAR. 15	MAR. 15	MAR. 15
	NOV.1	NOV.1	NOV.1
	AUG. 20	AUG. 20	AUG. 20
	OCT. 23	OCT. 23	OCT. 23

## **TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION and COURSE CREDIT**

Students may take as many courses as they feel they can handle. However, to avoid students overburdening themselves, the 6<sup>th</sup> and additional MATH courses carry an extra fee of \$350.00.

The “normal” course load is 4 subjects, but courses are available according to the Hungarian standard. That is, once a student is accepted to a university program of study, final course load responsibility and authority, resides with the student. **During summer semester, the normal course load is 2 courses.**

During the first weeks of the program, students may shop around for course, final registration is only during the third week of the semester. This way, students may analyze which courses would best fit with their interests or are required by their home institution. Students usually select 4 courses to study for the remainder of the term.

If a student would like to pursue a course of study that is not offered, that student should indicate this interest to the Hungarian or the North American Director. In many instances arrangements can be made to accommodate the student.

Depending upon how many students would be interested in the suggested course, the professor will try to put together either a lecture or reading course.

Transcripts will reflect either letter grades A-F, audit/non-attending or incomplete. For details see [http://www.bsmath.hu/academic\\_rules.pdf](http://www.bsmath.hu/academic_rules.pdf).

### **COURSE WEIGHT**

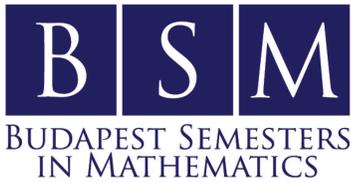
Budapest Semesters in Mathematics courses comprise 14 weeks of teaching plus one week of exams.

Each course usually meets for a total of 42 contact hours per semester plus office hours. Normally, one Budapest Semesters in Mathematics course transfers either as 3 or 4 semester hours depending on an evaluation of course material done by the home institution.

Math and non-math courses are weighted the same.

The BSM Program uses course units to describe its courses rather than ‘credit hours’ or ‘semester hours.’ This is in concert with the St. Olaf system of counting courses toward graduation. We encourage each institution to make its own evaluation of our courses relative to local requirements and credit levels, but that said, some experience with what is done at other institutions might be useful. Most schools using a semester credit system give 3 credit hours per BSM course. Those that do not, give 4 semester credit hours for the mathematics courses and 3 or 4 semester credit hours for the non mathematics courses. Those on the quarter system give 4 or 5 quarter hours per BSM course. Those schools (like St. Olaf) which use the course unit system give 1 semester course unit for each BSM course taken: For reference, at St. Olaf, 35 courses are required to graduate and a Budapest Semester’s course transfers as exactly one St. Olaf course.

**The transcripts are issued by St. Olaf College, the program’s School of Record and will be mailed to the name and address as listed in your BSM Transcript Release Form.**



**READ, SIGN AND RETURN**

**CONTRACT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUDAPEST SEMESTERS IN  
MATHEMATICS PROGRAM**

**This four page Contract Agreement requires the signature by both the student and both of his/her parents or legal guardian** and returned in order to receive permission to participate in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program.

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program,

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to the following conditions of participation:

**1.0 ASSUMPTION OF THE RISKS, GENERAL RELEASE, PERSONAL CONDUCT, AND INDEMNITY:**

**1.1** I understand that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program will be conducted in a foreign country, and that there are certain dangers, hazards and risks inherent in international travel, living, and the activities included in this Program, including but not limited to those arising from crime, civil disturbances, health conditions, and travel or other accidents. I understand that these dangers, hazards and risks could include serious or even fatal injuries and property damage. **I understand that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program has not made, and does not make, any representations regarding my personal safety or the safety of my property while participating in the Program.**

**1.2** I understand that as a participant in Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program I am subject to (a) the same standards of conduct and academic regulations while abroad as stipulated at my home institution, (b) the regulations set by my home study abroad office, (c) the regulations set by the Program and the host institution, (d) the laws of the host country. I also acknowledge that it is essential to understand and respect norms of conduct and patterns of behavior that may be different from standards in my own country. **I agree to abide by these rules and standards of behavior when I am in the company of other study abroad program participants and also when I may be physically separated from Program participants.**

**1.3** I further understand that it is important to the success of the present Program and the continuation of future semesters that participants observe standards of conduct that would not compromise the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program in the eyes of individuals and organizations with which it has dealings. I acknowledge that the North American and/or the Hungarian Director's responsibility for setting rules and interpreting conduct for this purpose. I understand and agree that if the North American and/or the Hungarian Director, the Program, or the host institution may, at their discretion, impose disciplinary measures or withdraw me from the Program because of a violation of such rules, improper behavior, academic reasons, or conduct which could bring the Program into disrepute, or its participants or personal into jeopardy, that decision will be final and may result in the loss of academic credit and the loss of Program fees.

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Initial: Parent\_\_\_\_\_ Parent\_\_\_\_\_ Student\_\_\_\_\_

**1.4** It is understood that should the student elect to remain abroad after their dismissal from or their withdrawal from the Program, that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program nor any additional Program Sponsors will continue to act as sponsor for the student, nor will the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program nor any additional Program Sponsors be in any way liable for that student.

**1.5 Knowing the dangers, hazards and risks of such activities, and in the consideration of being permitted to participate in this study abroad program, I agree to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program.** In advance of my participation, I release, waive, forever discharge, and covenant not to sue the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program, its governing board, officers, agents, employees, and students acting as employees (here-in-after referred collectively as "the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program") from and against any and all liability for any harm, injury, damage, claims, demands, actions, causes of action, costs, and expenses of any nature whatsoever which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me, arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including but not limited to suffering and death, that may be sustained by me or by any property belonging to me whether caused by the negligence of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program, or otherwise, while I am on this study abroad program, engaged in any activities in connection with the Program, or in transit to or from the foreign country where the Program is being conducted.

**I agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program does not assume responsibility or liability for any personal injuries or property damage. I also agree to hold the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program harmless from any loss, liability, damage or cost the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program or any third party may incur due to my participation in any of the above described activities.**

**1.6** I, on behalf of myself, my heirs and personal representatives, hereby release the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program and any cooperating institution and their officers, employees, successors and agents from any and all claims and causes of action, including but not limited to, for inconvenience, damage to or loss of property, medical or hospital care, personal illness or injury or death arising out of my participation in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program and/or travel or activity conducted by or under control of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program or any cooperating institution.

## **2.0 MEDICAL:**

**2.1 I understand and acknowledge that inherently there are health risks associated with living and studying abroad and I agree I am personally responsible.** I assume full responsibility for any undisclosed physical or psychological problems that might impair my ability to complete the Program, and I release the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program from any liability for injury to myself or damage to or loss of my possessions caused by acts of God or by situations beyond the control of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program. I state that there are no pre-existing health related reasons or problems which preclude or restrict my participation in Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program.

**2.2** I understand and agree that, in the event of psychological illness to me, I authorize and grant permission to the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program to secure medical treatment on my behalf. I understand and agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program will notify my emergency contact if I am unable to grant consent or if circumstances warrant, and to grant, deliver or execute written or oral consents to medical action as may be required or requested by service providers. I understand and agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury or damage which might

arise out of or in connection with such authorized medical treatment, and that I accept all financial responsibility for such medical treatment and related services.

**2.3** In the event of physical illness or injury to me, I authorize and grant permission to the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program to secure medical treatment on my behalf including but not limited to surgery and the administration of anesthetic, to notify my emergency contact if I am unable to grant consent or if circumstances warrant, and to grant, deliver or execute written or oral consents to medical action as may be required or requested by service providers. I understand and agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury or damage which might arise out of or in connection with such authorized medical treatment, and that I accept all financial responsibility for such medical treatment and related services.

**2.4 I understand that psychological or physical illness or injury can be sufficiently serious as to prevent me from continuing the Program, and that if at any time the North American Director, Hungarian Director, Program, or Host Institution deems my continuing stay a threat to my health, they may at their discretion withdraw me from the Program and that this decision is final.** Knowing this, I (a) release, waive, forever discharge, and covenant not to sue the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program its governing board, officers, agents, employees, and students acting as employees from and against any and all liability for any harm, injury, damage, claims, demands, actions, causes of action, costs, and expenses of any nature whatsoever which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, (b) including but not limited to suffering and death, that may be sustained by me or by any property belonging to me whether caused by the negligence of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program, or otherwise, while I am on this study abroad program, engaged in any activities in connection with the Program, or in transit to or from the foreign country where the Program is being conducted. I agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program does not assume responsibility or liability for any such personal injuries or property damage. I also agree to hold the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program harmless from any loss, liability, damage or cost the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program or any third party may incur due to my participation in any of the above described activities stemming from or related to this withdrawal.

### **3.0 TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION:**

**3.1** I understand that I will be traveling during the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program by various modes of transportation. **I agree that the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program is not responsible or liable for any loss of property, injury or death during such travel.** I also understand that, due to traffic congestion, different traffic laws and regulations, and the language barrier, riding a bicycle and driving a motorized vehicle in a foreign country can be extremely hazardous. I understand that insurance requirements and other financial responsibility laws vary from country to country, and I agree that if I choose to do so, the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program assumes no responsibility or liability should I be involved in an accident.

### **4.0 INSURANCE:**

**4.1 I understand that I am required to have adequate health, accident and hospitalization insurance to cover myself while traveling to and from the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program, during participation in the Program, and at the Program site.** I have arranged for adequate insurance to meet any and all such needs. I agree that the Budapest

Semesters in Mathematics Program is not responsible for attending to any of my medical or medication needs, that I assume all risk and responsibility therefore, and that if I am required to be hospitalized or otherwise receive medical treatment during my study abroad program, the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program does not assume any responsibility for payment of such costs.

4.2 Additionally, I agree to complete, in full, a BSM Medical Information Form, a copy of which I have received. Failure to complete the form, to answer the questions truthfully, or failure to have and maintain proper insurance may be ground for non-acceptance or for expulsion from the program.

\*\*\*\*\*

This Contract Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the undersigned persons and the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program pertaining to the subject matter hereof. It is agreed that no oral or written representations, statements or inducements have been made, except as expressly set forth in the Agreement. No supplementation, modification, waiver, or termination of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by the undersigned persons and the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program.

Please note that this form requires the signature of both student and both parent/s or legal guardian regardless of the student's age. In particular, if a student is considered a dependent for federal or state income tax purposes or for financial aid, the parents waiver portion of this form must be signed and returned prior to participation. If the student is financially and legally independent, you should send us a letter to that effect and request an alternate form. Please make a copy for your records.

I have read and understand all the terms of the Contract Agreement as stated above, and I agree to be bound by those terms. I have been given the opportunity to understand any terms that I did not understand previously.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print) semester/s attending

We have read and understand all the terms of this Contract Agreement as stated above, and we agree to be bound by those terms. We have give our child (ward) premission to pariticipate in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/s (or legal guardian) Date

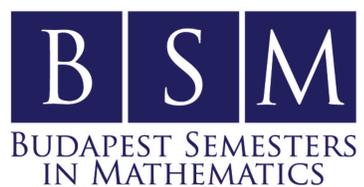
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/s (or legal guardian) Date

**Please detach this form, student and both parents must sign, and upload all 4 pages into the BSM Waiver Form link in the BSM email to students.**

**OR: mail to Budapest Semesters, c/o St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057**

**OR: return all 4 pages, via fax (1-507-786-3116)**

BSM Contract Revised 10-2-18 Initial: Parent\_\_\_\_\_ Parent\_\_\_\_\_ Student\_\_\_\_\_



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BSM Associate Director: Professor Katheryn Ziegler-Graham

BSM Administrator: Deb Fleming