

Lexia Summer in Budapest

AREA STUDIES AND CULTURE



Tentative Dates*: June 19 - August 7, 2009

*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. BEFORE MAKING TRAVEL PLANS BASED ON THESE DATES,
PLEASE CONTACT THE LEXIA OFFICE.

Lexia Study Abroad offers summer, semester, and academic year options in Budapest, Hungary. This curriculum describes the summer program. Contact Lexia for further information on the semester and academic year programs.

Based at the **Eötvös Collegium**, the Lexia in Budapest program introduces students to the language, history, politics, economics, and culture of Hungary, placing this fascinating country in a broad regional focus on Central and Eastern Europe. Coursework, language training, excursions, electives, and the experience of living in a university dormitory help students to understand the local culture and to confront the issues facing this nation. The program strongly supports interaction and dialogue between Lexia participants and Hungarian faculty and students. To this end, local students and faculty are involved with the program from the very beginning, giving the participants immediate and direct access to the culture. No prior knowledge of Hungarian is required, as all courses are offered in English. However, intensive language training is provided, thereby helping students develop the skills and confidence to live and study in a foreign setting. Social and academic encounters with Hungarian students, as well as organized field trips, all contribute to a greater understanding of Hungary during this ongoing period of social, economic, and political transition in Central and Eastern Europe.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To expose students to the historical, political, economic, social, and cultural heritage of Hungary. To help students understand the role of Hungary in a changing Europe, as well as the historical and current issues concerning the relationship between Eastern and Western Europe. To encourage students to look at these issues in a comparative framework.
- To enhance students' appreciation of contemporary social and political issues in Hungary in general, and in Budapest in particular.
- To help students develop Hungarian language skills, with a particular emphasis on oral expression and listening comprehension, thereby enabling them to function and participate in Hungarian cultural settings.

- To encourage students to develop an increased understanding and respect for a different cultural system.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Lexia Summer in Budapest program is composed of several components, some of which run concurrently, while others follow in sequence. The basic components of the program are:

- Orientation
- Hungarian Language Course
- Hungarian Area Studies Seminar
- Elective Course
- Summer Review and Evaluation

With the exception of the Elective Course, all components of the Lexia program are required of all students and, when completed successfully, yield eight or ten semester (twelve or fifteen quarter) credits. The program is designed to be academically challenging, while allowing ample time for students to become acquainted with the local culture.

Orientation (Non-graded, but required)

During the first few days of the program, all students are involved with the Lexia Orientation in Budapest. This is a time to become acquainted with the other students in the group and with the academic and administrative staff.

Participation in the remainder of the program is contingent upon attendance during Orientation. The Resident Director addresses such topics as housing, health and safety, transportation and recreation in Budapest. General issues concerning living in a foreign culture and being a student abroad are considered, as are the challenges of cross-cultural learning and living.

The academic requirements of the program are introduced and emphasized during the Orientation. Students become familiar with the program objectives and are able to share their own academic and personal goals for the summer session with the group and staff.

Through lectures, field trips, group discussions, walking tours, selected readings, films, and social gatherings, students become familiar with the program philosophy, with the other participants and staff and with their new home, Budapest.

Hungarian Language Course (Four semester/six quarter credits)

Foreign Language 137B, Elementary Hungarian

Foreign Language 237B, Intermediate Hungarian

Foreign Language 337B, Advanced Hungarian

Since participation in the local culture is one of the main objectives of the program, acquiring Hungarian language skills is an essential goal. Language training also provides the mobility to accomplish personal and academic objectives. Formal classroom instruction takes place for one to four hours daily, supplemented by discussions, films, cultural excursions and field exercises. Classes are small (usually fewer than ten students) and are offered at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. During the orientation period, students are placed in the appropriate language class. The course offers 60 hours of language instruction.

The language faculty of the Eötvös Collegium teach the Hungarian language courses. Evaluation for the course is based on the following: attendance, performance in class and the results of oral and written exams conducted by the language staff.

Hungarian Area Studies Seminar (Four semester/six quarter credits)

International Studies 437V, Area Studies Seminar

A multi-disciplinary course, the Hungarian Area Studies Seminar introduces students to Hungary—to its history, politics, economics, geography, art, and culture. Covering a broad variety of topics and issues, this examination of the host country exposes students to the richness of Hungarian history and civilization. The aim of this course is to help students develop a comprehensive understanding of Hungarian institutions and culture. Teaching is arranged in thematic blocks, with lectures preparing the way for discussion of closely related themes in and outside of the classroom.

The seminar is arranged by the Resident Director and is taught by local university faculty, with occasional lectures by specialists from government and industry. The class generally includes required readings, assignments, a mid-term, and a final exam, supplemented by field activities and excursions. Classroom time totals approximately 60 hours, including instruction time during excursions. The course varies each summer, but the following list of topics serves as a general guide:

- Introduction to Hungarian geography: Physical, cultural, political, and ethnic
- Hungarian prehistory to 1301: Celtic tribes; Magyar tribes; introduction of Christianity; founding of Pest and Buda
- The Hungarian Kingdom 1301-1790: War with the Turks and the Turkish invasion; King Matthias' reign; Ottoman empire; reign of the Hapsburgs
- Early Twentieth Century History: World War I; defeat of the Hapsburgs; the Great Depression; introduction of Communism
- Links with other European countries through politics and trade
- Hungary's changing borders and regional definition of ethnic groupings
- World War II: Relationship to Hungary, Italy and the Soviet Union
- 1945: Budapest's state of ruin, politically, economically and physically
- 1949: Establishment of the People's Republic of Hungary: ideals, realities, and impact
- Resistance and revolution: 1956 revolution and subsequent emigration; underground movements; review of political and economic status through the 1980s
- The prelude to reform in the 1980s: Pressure groups; relationship with Hungary; elections of 1990
- Education in Hungary: System and structure before, during and after the Communist regime
- Social institutions before, during and after the Communist regime: Support for theater, arts, and medical care
- Hungary in political and economic transition: Introduction of a free market economy; realities of implementing a new political structure; emergence of political parties; role of youth in political leadership and party development
- Family, work, and social policy
- Hungary and the European Community: Development of international economic and political relations
- Reflections in architecture of social and political influences: Medieval architecture; the Turkish era; socialist constructions; *Jugendstil* architecture

- An overview of Budapest City architecture: The development of Buda and Pest
- Art of the Revolutions: Sculpture and paintings
- Cinema in Hungary 1960-1990: Political influences on film-making
- Theater in Hungary: Early influences; state supported theater in transition
- Folk traditions and ethnic influences on art and music in Hungary
- Hungarian composers and their work: Bela Bartók, Franz Liszt and Zoltán Kodály (among others); musical development under communist influence; Hungarian opera; Gypsy influence
- Religious influences over the centuries
- Folk art, local crafts, and popular and traditional events

Elective Courses (Two semester/three quarter credits)

International Studies 437A, Special Topics I

Students may select one of several Elective Courses arranged by the Resident Director. Course offerings may include:

- Additional Hungarian Language
- The Modernization Process in Hungary
- Hungarian Film
- Central European Nationalism
- Hungarian Theatre (with the help of Hungarian director Laszlo Magacs, students prepare a performance of a Hungarian drama in English)
- Visual Arts (instruction to painting, drawing, or sculpture by the Hungarian artist Andras Huber)

All Elective Courses offered are in English or Hungarian, depending upon availability and student interest. Lexia will accommodate the student's first choice for an elective whenever possible.

Participants may choose to continue the Language Course in place of taking an Elective Course, in which case they will receive an additional two semester (or three quarter) credits for 30 more hours of instruction. If students choose the additional language option, they will receive a single grade for the entire six semester (or nine quarter) credits of language, rather than Special Topics I credit.

The curriculum is designed for participants to choose only one Elective Course. Selection of an additional course may only be accommodated once on site with the consent of the Resident Director. Students who take two Elective Courses must reduce their Hungarian language instruction to 30 hours (two semester/three quarter credits).

Review and Evaluation (Non-graded, but required)

During the summer term, students, staff, and faculty meet periodically to discuss and review the program, allowing students to express their interests and concerns about the particulars of their academic and personal experiences. This on-going dialogue helps shape the overall program to the students' particular needs.

The Lexia Summer in Budapest program concludes with a one-day review and evaluation. This is a time for students, faculty, and staff to review the information, insights, and experiences shared throughout the term. It is also a time for critical evaluation of the program components. This debriefing time helps prepare students to

return to their home institutions and to their academic programs. Additionally, it serves to reinforce students' ties with Hungary and the region, providing ideas for future international activities.

EXCURSIONS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Integrated into the academic program are several one or multi-day excursions outside of Budapest. These excursions help introduce students to different regions of Hungary, enabling them to extend their learning outside of the classroom. Out-of-town excursions typically include some of the following: Esztergom, Visegrad, Lake Balaton, Eger, Batya, and an extended trip to Transylvania (Romania). As part of the Area Studies Seminar, program staff also organize short excursions into Budapest to explore the cultural and political dynamics of the city first hand. All of the Lexia program excursions are covered by the program fee and are subject to change, dependent on weather and accommodations. The Resident Director also informs students of cultural events and organizes optional excursions, such as a café tour and a folk dancing evening, and advises student on independent travel opportunities available to them (e.g. train travel, camping trips, lake excursions, etc.).

HOUSING

Students are housed in the Eötvös Collegium dormitory. The dorm rooms, consisting mainly of triples, are comfortable and modern. The teaching facilities are located in the same building as the dormitory and a low-cost student cafeteria can be reached by foot in five minutes. Most of the students at the Collegium are from smaller towns across Hungary, allowing Lexia students the maximum intercultural and linguistic experience.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND INTERNSHIPS

The Lexia staff assists students in adjusting to and interacting with the local culture. Students are encouraged to attend extra-curricular events and to become involved in volunteer activities during the program. Students with particular extracurricular interests should alert the Resident Director once abroad, so that s/he may help the student become involved.

All Lexia in Budapest students have the option to apply for an internship in Hungary. Internships are viewed as a supplemental part of the program and present an additional commitment beyond the regular coursework required of all students. Due to the full academic and excursion schedule, students may intern no more than ten hours per week.

In the past, internships have been completed in the following fields: government, the arts, health care, business, media and non-profit organizations. The Lexia staff makes every effort to meet a student's request for an internship, but placement is not guaranteed. Options vary, depending on the economic and employment situations in Budapest and Hungary, as well as the student's language ability.

All internships are unpaid. Students must apply for an internship at least two months in advance in order to receive consideration for placement. Final placements are not made until students arrive in Budapest and an interview is conducted with the internship provider. Internship application forms and further information are available from Lexia.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Lexia offers highly concentrated academic programs, including frequent lectures, seminars, language training and field trips. Students applying for Lexia programs must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of B– in the major field of study and should have sophomore standing or above by the time the program begins. Prior study of Hungarian is recommended, though not required. For further information regarding admission procedures, please see the Lexia application packet.

CREDIT TRANSFER

The typical course load is three courses during the summer. Students who successfully complete the program requirements are able to earn the equivalent of eight or ten semester (twelve or fifteen quarter) credits, pending approval from their home institution.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of his/her home institution's and department's credit transfer policies and requirements, including advising appointments, paperwork, and pre-departure or re-entry activities. We strongly suggest that students contact their study abroad or other appropriate office early in the planning stage to ensure that they complete all necessary requirements.

Western Washington University (WWU), a fully accredited US institution, issues official transcripts for Lexia programs. Detailed information about WWU's accreditation is available on the WWU web site: <<http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/ifadmin.htm>>.

THE EÖTVÖS COLLEGIUM AND THE PROGRAM STAFF

Hosted at Budapest's Eötvös Collegium, the Lexia program offers students opportunities to explore this historic city while confronting the daily challenges of a changing Hungarian society. The Eötvös Collegium is affiliated with the Eötvös Loránd University, founded in 1635 by Cardinal Péter Pázmány, Archbishop of Esztergom.

The Eötvös Collegium, founded in 1895 by Baron Loránd Eötvös, has achieved recognition in its own right. Modeled on the French system, it was established as a haven for deserving scholars from less privileged families in the countryside. Its best known alumni include the composer Zoltán Kodály, the poet and playwright Béla Balázs and many members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

One of the recognized strengths of the Lexia in Budapest program is the supportive faculty and staff. The Lexia Resident Director provides students with necessary information about living and learning in Hungary. The faculty of the Lexia program consists primarily of Hungarian professors from the Eötvös Collegium and other higher education institutions, with occasional lectures by specialists from government and industry. These professors also offer a link to local Hungarian students.

Note: This curriculum is subject to change.

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