

Lexia In Budapest

HUNGARIAN AREA STUDIES AND CULTURE



Preliminary Schedule of Program Dates* 2009-2010
Fall Semester: September 4 – December 16, 2009
Spring Semester: January 31 – May 14, 2010

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

Lexia Study offers summer, semester and academic year options in Budapest, Hungary. This curriculum describes the semester and academic year programs. Please contact Lexia for further information about the summer program.

Based at the **Eötvös Collegium** in cooperation with Pázmány Péter Catholic University, the Lexia in Budapest program introduces students to the language, history, politics, economics and culture of Hungary, placing this fascinating country in the regional context of Central and Eastern Europe. Coursework, language training, excursions, research projects, 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 Lexia participants immediate and direct access to the culture. No prior knowledge of Hungarian is required, as all courses are taught in English. However, intensive language training is provided, thereby helping students develop the skills and confidence to live, study and conduct research 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 political, economic and social 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.
- To familiarize students with the research methodologies necessary for conducting independent field studies in a foreign setting.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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

- Orientation
- Hungarian Language Course
- Hungarian Area Studies Seminar
- Research Methods Seminar
- Field Research Project
- Review and Evaluation

All components of the Lexia program are required of all students and, when completed successfully, yield 14-16 semester or 21-24 quarter credits per year. The program is designed to be academically challenging and demanding, while allowing ample time for students to become acquainted with the local culture.

Orientation (Non-graded, but required)

During the first few days of each semester, all students participate in the Lexia Orientation to Hungary and Budapest, which outlines the academic requirements and the logistics of living in the host country. Participation in the remainder of the program is contingent upon attendance during Orientation. Students meet the staff and other participants and are introduced to the Lexia approach of staggered courses and components. They also become familiar with their new home, Budapest, through lectures, field trips, group discussions, walking tours, selected readings, films and social gatherings.

The Resident Director addresses topics such 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. Students become familiar with the program objectives and are able to share their own academic and personal goals for the coming term with the group.

Hungarian Language Course (Four or six semester/six or nine quarter credits per term)

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 Lexia program, acquiring language skills is an essential goal. Language training also provides the mobility to accomplish personal and academic objectives, particularly during the period of independent research. These objectives are addressed through formal language

instruction. The language training is supplemented by an abundance of opportunities for informal use of the language, including in the course of the Field Research Project and daily interactions.

Formal classroom instruction takes place from two to four hours daily, supplemented by discussions, films, cultural excursions and field exercises. Classes are small (usually not more than ten students) and are offered at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. During the last half of the program, instruction hours are reduced to allow time for students to pursue their research interests. The course offers a choice of 60 or 90 hours of classroom training in Hungarian per semester. All students are registered in advance for six semester (or nine quarter) credits (90 hours), but they may elect to reduce the number of credits once on site.

The course is taught by professors from the Eötvös Collegium or Eötvös Loránd University. Students receive one grade for each semester's course. Evaluation is based on attendance, performance in class and the results of oral and written examinations conducted by the language school.

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

International Studies 437V, Area Studies Seminar

An interdisciplinary course, the Hungarian Area Studies Seminar introduces students to Hungary—to its history, politics, economics, art, geography and culture. Covering a broad variety of topics and issues, this examination of the host country prepares students for pursuing their individual study and research interests. Lectures, complemented with small group activities, expose students to the richness of Hungarian history and culture. The aim of this course is to help students develop a comprehensive understanding of Hungarian institutions and Hungarian 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 professors, with occasional lectures by specialists from government and industry. Classes include 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 somewhat each semester, but the following list serves as a 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 Germany, Hungary 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 Germany; 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: Béla 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

Research Methods Seminar (Two semester/three quarter credits)

International Studies 437X, Research Methods

While the Hungarian Area Studies Seminar introduces students to the culture, history, politics, art, and context of Budapest and Hungary, this seminar teaches a range of methods for engaging in sustained, original inquiry in the field and sets the framework for developing rigorous, individual projects. By exposing the students to the diverse environments of Budapest and Hungary, this course encourages students to examine and revise their ideas of what is Hungarian – and, by extension, to begin to question their own sense of self and to explore the culturally-embedded nature of identities in general.

The course introduces a variety of research skills, methodologies and techniques including reading, listening, observing, choosing, questioning, summarizing, organizing, writing, presenting and reflecting. A variety of techniques for collecting and analyzing data will also be examined.

Budapest offers students a myriad of visual and cultural encounters, from architecture to the collections of images housed in museums, to the fascinating, often fleeting exchanges on every street corner and subway ride. Through a series of visual and writing exercises, students explore language ability, visual skills, ethical issues, theorizing about experience, and how to synthesize field knowledge into original work and/or formal academic writing.

Field Research Project (Four semester/six quarter credits per term)

International Studies 437Z, Field Research Project

The Field Research Project (FRP) is an opportunity for students to pursue an independent, well-defined study of a topic of their choosing. For academic year participants, one topic may be explored in depth throughout the year, or different topics may be chosen for each semester. Students are encouraged to use their language skills and their knowledge of the local culture and subject matter to investigate their selected topic(s). The study should be narrow enough for completion during the allocated time, yet broad enough to present a variety of research

challenges. Students work closely with a faculty advisor, who monitors their progress and suggests appropriate data sources (e.g., local organizations, government and business offices, libraries and archives).

Students generally spend a total of 60 hours per semester conducting research for their project, meeting for a minimum of 8 hours with their project advisor. A week at the end of each semester is planned for the synthesis of the students' findings and for writing, followed by the presentation and discussion of the results of their research in a group setting.

Grades for the Field Research Project are based on the required paper or material project, meetings with the faculty advisor and the oral presentation. The required paper is 15-20 pages (or 30-40 pages if a single topic is chosen by academic year participants). Field Research Projects are generally conducted in the social sciences, arts and humanities. However, projects in fine arts or sciences may also be completed and alternative projects pursued. See the FRP Ideas List for Budapest for further details. Final grade assessments are made by the faculty advisor and the Resident Director. The final project must be submitted before departure from Budapest. Late projects are not accepted.

Review and Evaluation (Non-graded, but required)

During the semester, 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 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 program. 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.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM

Students on academic year programs complete the regular semester program described above during the first semester and continue language training and their Field Research Projects during the second semester. Academic year students are encouraged to consider spending the Spring semester at a different Lexia site, conducting a comparative or complementary Field Research Project. Students who remain at the same site choose two Elective Tutorial Courses to complete their academic program during the second semester.

Elective Tutorial Courses (Four semester/six quarter credits)

International Studies 437B, Special Topics

International Studies 437C, Special Topics

Taken by *academic year participants during the second semester only*, the Elective Tutorial Courses generally include a primary course (four semester or six quarter credits) and a secondary elective (two semester or three quarter credits). Popular Elective Tutorial Courses have included:

- Hungarian Literature and Film
- The Modernization Process in Hungary
- Political Transition in Hungary, 1989-2003
- Central European Nationalism

- Hungarian Theater
- Visual Arts Instruction

All courses offered are in English or Hungarian, depending upon availability and student interest. Lexia will accommodate the student's first choice for a tutorial whenever possible.

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. **In addition, Lexia Budapest students participate in joint visits and seminars with other Lexia program sites in Central Europe, such as Berlin, Krakow and Prague.** Students visit one or more of the other sites for several days, meet other Lexia students in seminars and excursions and compare their experiences as a way to further explore the legacy of East-West European divisions and the promise of a larger European identity. 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.

EXTRACURRICULAR 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 she may help the student become involved.

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. 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, field trips and a considerable amount of independent study and research. 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 four courses per semester. Students who successfully complete the program requirements are able to earn the equivalent of one full semester or academic year of college/university level credit, 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>>.

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION AND THE PROGRAM STAFF

Hosted at Budapest's Eötvös Collegium, in cooperation with the Péter Pázmány University, the Lexia program offers students opportunities to explore this historical 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 or other higher education institutions, with occasional lectures by specialists from government and industry. These professors also serve as advisors for the Field Research Project and offer a link to local Hungarian students.

Note: This curriculum is subject to change.

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