



PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE 2021/22**

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## University of Pécs - International Student Guide 2021/22

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# GREETINGS

Dear Freshman Students,

**The founding charter of the University of Pécs has good reason to say that: “Pécs is especially suited for disseminating the seeds of science.”**

Since King Louis the Great founded the predecessor of this institution in 1367 as one of the first universities in Central Europe, there have been many fundamental changes: faculties moved back and forth, legendary professors were followed by their hard-working students in professorship.

Today, this University is one of the largest institutions of higher education in Hungary with the widest spectrum of teaching and research activities. We are proud of the achievements of our professors and scientists, furthermore, we are determined to share this knowledge with our students and the wider public. Our University represents and accepts as its own a great tradition of 650 years, while at the same time it also plays an active role in institutionalizing new knowledge that is aimed both at the present and the future. We do our best to further raise the standards of our education and facilitate more and more opportunities for enjoyable and useful free-time activities on campus. We are more than convinced that our students, prepared for the most beautiful professions and equipped with a competitive degree, will have plenty of wonderful perspectives opening up in several countries of the world. Welcome! Enjoy your time with us in Pécs!

With best regards,

Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta  
*rector*



Dear Students,

**It is our pleasure to extend a cheerful welcome to all the first-year students at the first university of Hungary. We would like to congratulate you on choosing one of the most outstanding higher education institutions in Central Europe. We believe that you - as one of our newest international students - will bring a huge additional value to our University.**

The University of Pécs is right in the middle of a large-scale internationalization strategic program, which places the spotlight on students. We have a colourful student body with 5,000 international students studying at our ten faculties.

We believe that our University and the Students' Union together with the City of Pécs itself can provide wonderful opportunities for not only academic progress, but leisure activities as well.

The aim of this booklet is to give you a glimpse of all that is awaiting you, even if you are coming only for an exchange semester, or for your full-time studies. Enjoy your time in Pécs, and live your university years to the fullest!

Dr. István Tarrósy,  
*director of the International Centre*

Arnold Koltai,  
*president of the Student Union*



## A TRULY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY | in a truly international city

The University of Pécs has had English-taught full degree programs for over thirty years, and German-taught programs for more than ten. International students make up twenty percent of our student body, by coming from 110 different countries.

This variety defines the core identity of our city and university. Openness and curiosity is needed from every student, because being an international university is not only about knowing the foods and drinks of each other, or that we celebrate Nowruz together each March. It also means that we learn from each other in research, studying, thinking and ways of understanding: as a political scientist, it was amazing to hear the debate of a Mongolian and Azerbaijani student over green policy or freedom of speech – knowing that Azerbaijani women can be hot-tempered. I personally experienced how it feels to study in an international environment, and I can only wish everyone to experience the same: when the above mentioned debate happened, I was at a class with students from the following countries: Croatia, Mongolia, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Germany, Norway, Poland, Nigeria, Moldova and Laos.



So internationalization for the University of Pécs means a combination of long time tradition and hard work: it influences the atmosphere of the university, it is a part of our everyday business. This movement gained momentum in 2015, when the University of



Pécs started its new internationalization plan with the financial support of the Government of Hungary. According to that, the University has doubled its number of international students reaching 5000 by 2020. To help this project, the government were ready to provide additional development funds for Pécs. This means that now every fifth student of the university will come from abroad, which is a huge accomplishment, and also a huge opportunity.

By the strengthened opening towards international students and lecturers, we create the possibility to welcome the knowledge and experience gained all over the world: the 5000 international students mean 5000 new thoughts, new opinions, and new points of view, which is priceless.

The research portfolio of the University of Pécs is considered international as well. There are many opportunities for any students to join the research projects working at different levels and in different fields of the international sphere. If you have a particular interest in one or another part of the World, there is definitely somebody at the university who is actually a specialist of that field. Here are some examples of the Research Centers working in Pécs:

- Africa Research Center (the only in Hungary)
- American Corner (the first in Hungary)
- Europe Center
- Ibero-American Center
- Documentation Center of the East-Mediterranean and Balkan Studies



- Documentation Center of Asian Studies
- Russian Center (second in Hungary)
- Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine (seventh in the World).

Apart from that, our tuition fee paying international students have the opportunity to study abroad with scholarships at our more than 500 partner universities all around the world. You can visit the 26 EU member states and Turkey, Macedonia, Iceland, Lichtenstein, and Norway in the framework of Erasmus+ programme. But you can go overseas as well: from Mexico to South-Korea, the University of Pécs can offer you several opportunities to study abroad for free.

A new era has begun in 2019 when University of Pécs joined the European Universities Network as a member of the EDUC Alliance. The six partners of this alliance plans rethink international partnerships by providing new ways of virtual and physical mobility for our students and staff.

But it is not only about the University. Pécs has always been a multi-ethnic, multi-religious city, and it has somehow soaked into the locals. The Main Square is named after Széchenyi (who was a 19th century politician), but he is not the one on the horse on the statue. It's János Hunyadi, who got famous for his brave fighting against the ottomans. However, right next to our legendary ottoman-killer, we have a huge, beautiful mosque. Serbs, Croatians, Germans and Hungarians have been living here together for centuries. There was no question when the Yugoslav wars began that Pécs would help everyone who asked for it: this was how the city earned the UNESCO Peace-Prize.

My friends who visit Pécs for the first time are first surprised by the African-American hairdresser, then by the fact, that he is currently doing his PhD at our Business School. The Mediterranean feeling is coming not only from the buildings and narrow streets, the cafés with huge terraces, and the infinite sunshine, but the fact that fresh seafood from the Adriatic Sea arrives several days a week, and it is treated by expert hands: in Italian style, or in Balkan style.



# How to get a residence permit

## 1. Book an appointment

and ask your 'Buddy' to take you to the [Regional Directorate of Southern Transdanubia\\*](#)



*All non-EU citizens must check in at the Directorate within 30 days after their arrival to the Schengen area.*

### Opening hours

Monday: 8:00-18:00  
Tuesday: 8:00-16:00  
Wednesday: CLOSED  
Thursday: 8:00-16:00  
Friday: 7:30-12:00

Address  
7623 Pécs,  
Cséud utca 3.



## 2. Your residence permit will arrive

to your Hungarian address, if not, please follow the 3rd point



## 3. Visit again the Directorate

in office hours or book an appointment



## Please take the following documents with you

1. Valid passport / national ID
2. One passport-size photo
3. Datasheet from their website  
(“Residence Permit for the Purpose of Studies” – filled out)
4. Letter of Award  
(from Tempus Public Foundation)
5. Student status certificate  
(from Registrar’s Office)  
and/or Letter of Admission  
(from your study programme)
6. Dormitory contract OR  
(if you live in a rented flat)  
lease agreement + a copy of  
ownership certificate from landlord  
+ accommodation report form



**Please, always keep your Hungarian health insurance card 'TAJ kártya', your residence permit and the copy of your passport with you!**



### Important general information:

With the type “D” visa you received at the [Hungarian Consulate](#) you can only travel in to Hungary once and its only valid for 30 days (the 30 days starts when you enter the Schengen Area vagy at any Schengen Area border), so please make sure you visit the Directorate as soon as possible preferably in the first two weeks of your arrival. If you are under 18 years old, you are a minor in Hungary you will need a legal representative who signs the official documents for you.

**Please note: You have to inform the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing Regional Directorate of Southern Transdanubia every time you move to a new address in Hungary within 3 days. You have a chance to inform them online: [enterhungary.gov.hu](http://enterhungary.gov.hu)**



# APPLICATION

## for student card

### 1. GO TO THE 'GOVERNMENT OFFICE'

to fill out the application document.

#### Opening hours (in academic terms)

Mon: 8:00-18:00,  
Tue: 8:00-14:00  
Wed: 8:00-18:00,  
Thu: 8:00-12:00  
Fri: 8:00-16:00

Szántó Kovács  
János u. 1.  
Address



### 2. PROVIDE YOUR PERSONAL DATA

exactly as it is written in your passport

make sure that your data on the paper matches exactly with your data in Neptun

**IF NO**

Please visit the Registrar's Office at your faculty and ask them to update your personal data

**if Yep.**

Fill in the 'NEK' number from this document to NEPTUN.

As soon as you can see this on your Neptun system: "OH befogadta".



### 3. PICK UP YOUR TEMPORARY STUDENT CARD



If you are studying at

the Faculty of Health Sciences, Engineering and IT, Arts, Sciences, or Education

the Faculty of Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Humanities and Social Sciences or Business

go to the Faculty registrar's office

Make an appointment in advance at [time.pte.hu](http://time.pte.hu) go to the central registrars office



After 4 weeks

### 4. YOUR PERMANENT STUDENT CARD IS READY

you will receive a Neptun notification to pick up

**It has to be validated for every semester**

by a sticker at the office  
otherwise you will be fined  
by the conductors on trains, buses!



**address:**  
Faculty of Law, Building Z,  
lower ground floor  
H-7622 Pécs, 1-3.  
Dohány utca,  
**opening hours:**  
Monday – Thursday: 9:00-15:00,  
Friday: 9:00-13:00  
(lunch break: 12:00-12:30)

# HEALTH SERVICE

**First aid and emergency medical care are free for foreigners, in other cases you have to pay for the treatment. A full coverage general health insurance for Hungary is a prerequisite for registration at any faculty of the University of Pécs.**

EU citizens are insured on the basis of the European Health Insurance Card when they are in another member state and are, from the point of view of social security, entitled to the same rights and have the same obligations as citizens of that given member state. The EU card only covers the 'medically necessary' services (e.g.: dialysis treatment, oxygen therapy), but does not authorize the use of deferred care.



## Private medical insurance

Although EU-students may be able to use their insurances in Hungary, a private medical insurance is recommended to international students. The University of Pécs can assist the students with the additional insurance. We usually offer the Generali-Providencia STUDIUM accident and health insurance with cost reimbursement. If someone gets this insurance, then this person will be eligible to other services of the entire clinic, as detailed in the contract. The contract details what services can be used - implant of dentures or a prosthesis are for example excluded. The amount of the insurance is currently about 70 000 HUF at an annual level. The English and German Student Service Offices of the Medical School can provide more information on the insurance and the contract can also be signed there.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Tamás NÁDAI

E-mail: [nadai.tamas@pte.hu](mailto:nadai.tamas@pte.hu)

Address: Pécs, Dohány utca 1-3. (3rd floor, room 329)

If you prefer to choose some other private medical insurance, you have to go to the chosen health insurance fund and make an agreement individually.

## Hungarian Social Security Card

The second option is to have a Hungarian Social Security Card (TAJ kártya) and a Social Security Number (TAJ szám). With the „TAJ” health insurance ID, you are eligible to use the health services in Hungary.

You can either apply for this yourself at the local National Health Insurance Fund (Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár in Hungarian) at Nagy Lajos Király Street 3. Pécs, 7623, or you can ask your program coordinator or mentor to see if they can sort out the paperwork for you. Applying in person, you need to bring your registration card, address card (lease agreement or dormitory contract), enrolment certificate, EU ID card or passport. The monthly contribution fee is 38,250 HUF (as of January 2017) for their first year of residence in Hungary.

If you are a student with a scholarship offered by the Minister of Education in Hungary (including Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship), you are eligible for health care services in Hungary and you will receive a „TAJ card” for free.

If you aren't an EU citizen and do not have a private medical insurance or a Hungarian Social Security Card, you have to pay for care in accordance with the reimbursement policy of the Clinical Centre.







### Where to go in case you need medical care?

*To see a family doctor/general practitioner (GP) you can go to:*

Centre for Occupational Health and Hygiene of the University of Pécs Clinical Centre /  
'PTE KK Foglalkozás-egészségügyi és Munkahigiénés Központ'

The place of consultation: Pécs, Nyár u. 8.

Opening hours:

- Monday: 8:30 – 11:30 and 12:30 – 15:00
- Tuesday - Wednesday: 8:30 – 15:00
- Thursday: 8:00 – 15:00
- Friday: 8:00 – 12:00 and 13:00 – 14:00

Should you have any questions, problems or would like to make an appointment, please contact our English speaking GP on Tel. +36 72 507-520 | Web:haziorvos.pte.hu | E-mail:haziorvos@pte.hu, gp@pte.hu

*If you fall sick outside the GP's opening hours, you will need to go to the General Practitioner on duty:*

The place of consultation: Janus Pannonius Clinical Block, Ifjúság útja 13. (entrance to the Clinic from Honvéd Street)

Opening hours:  
weekdays 8:00 am -12:00 pm

*In the case of emergency:*

In case you have serious illness or an accident (and you are able to get there yourself), you also need to go to Janus Pannonius Clinical Block:

Pécs, Ifjúság út 13. (entrance from Honvéd Street)

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies in Pécs (gyógyszertár in Hungarian) are well supplied and can provide medicaments for most common ailments.

All-night chemist's: SIPO Zsolnay Patika  
(next to Penny Market)

Address: 7622 Pécs, Zsolnay Vilmos u. 8.

Phone: +36-72- 516-760

Open: Mo-F: 7.00-20.00 (on DUTY after 20:00), Sat: 7.00-13.00, Sunday: 9.00-13.00 (on DUTY after 13:00)

Important telephone numbers in case of emergency:

- General emergency service phone number: 112
- Police: 107
- Ambulance: 104
- Fire service: 105
- To call these numbers is free of charge.
- 24-hour English-language crime hotline: +36 1 438 8080
- English language telephone directory service: 191
- International operator: 199

# ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT NEPTUN



**The first time when you log into the unified electronic education system (neptun.pte.hu), your desperation is almost guaranteed. There are countless possibilities under numerous menu items and there are even different virtual spaces as well....**

**You can find video guides about how to use it but with this article we try to save your time.**

As we can read on the website: the main goal of the unified electronic education system is to keep a record of university studies, store the data of registered subjects and exam results, assistance in educational administration, e.g.: handling and submitting the applications and also assistance in education, with the usage of the virtual spaces of Neptun Meet Street.

From your point of view, this is the portal where you will spend long hours during your studies because you have to register for subjects, plan your timetable, register for exams, follow your grades and manage your school finances here.

Let's see the main features of the system.

Under the **'My data'** section, obviously, you can check and/or provide your personal information. It is very important to give your data precisely. You can only modify your e-mail address, phone number and postal address, other data can be changed by the administrator of the Registrar's Office.

**Make sure your data is correct because if you do not receive an official notification from the university due to the incorrect information, it will be your fault and appeal will not lie!**

The section of **'Studies'** contains information about your education: general average of your grades, how many credits you have and your current timetable can be found there.

You can register for a course at the **'Subjects'** section. Here, furthermore, you can also find your results and grades by subjects.

At the **'Exam'** section - you can guess - registration for the exams can be carried out. Under this menu item or on the MeetStreet virtual space you can also find the smaller tasks given by lecturers during the semester. Virtual tests - when students have to take the exam on a computer - are posted in this section too.

**'Finances'** menu item takes you to that part of Neptun where you can pay the tuition fee, the exam fee, the fee for issuing the student ID, or the fee of the re-examination. That's right, too many exams in one subject can be expensive. Not only your payments but your pay-outs are also recorded here. So if you receive a scholarship or any other grant or support from the university, it will be in this section. Please note, if you want to pay in cash, you can go to one of the cashiers of the University.

The **'Administration'** section is also a very important part of the system where you can handle your enrolment and activate your semester. **Attention! Activation of the semester has to be done at the beginning of each semester.** Without this you will not have a valid student status for the given semester. Besides, you can apply for dormitory placement, submit your requests, or require a certificate of student status, a student ID card and apply for your thesis topic here.

And if you click on the Neptun Meet Street tab above the main menu items, you will reach another virtual space where you can keep contact with your teachers.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN HUNGARY

**Most of the time we would recommend you to ride a bike or use car-sharing services like motar.eu or airport shuttle services like Mecsek Travel. But sometimes you just can't avoid using public transport, so try to prepare yourselves.**

## In Pécs...

The monthly bus pass for students is around HUF 3900 (EUR 11). Make sure that you always have your student card with you while travelling, because otherwise you can get fined. By bus you can reach every corner of the city in twenty minutes, and buses run until late at night. Important: single tickets have to be validated on the bus. You can find validating machines on the handrails, and you should put your ticket into the machine and punch it. If nothing happens, ask a local for help.

## How to get to other cities in Hungary?

Basically you have three choices: railway, bus, or car-sharing services. Most of the time, going by train takes more time, and is less comfortable than the bus, except for Budapest. Students have a 50% concession for long-distance coach tickets and railway tickets, but again: make sure that you have a valid Hungarian student card. With that 50% percent concession, you can get to Budapest for HUF 2500.

And that is why we would recommend the different car-sharing options, like motar.eu. It costs basically the same, but it is faster, way more comfortable, and you can get directly to your destination.

## In Budapest...

Probably you will visit Budapest a couple of times during your stay in Hungary. As Budapest is our capital with a population of around 1.8 million, there are buses, trams, subway, and trolleys. A single ticket costs HUF 350, but 24h, 72h tickets or weekly tickets are also available; you should consider them if you go to the capital for two- or three days.

## To other countries...

One of the biggest upsides of Hungary is its location. The international railway system in Europe is cheap and can get you to every capital city. Of course it is slow, but you can see the places in between, and traveling by international trains is so much fun.

The Adriatic Sea in Croatia is within a 5-hour drive from Pécs, and it can also be reached by train. The nearest capitals (Vienna, Bratislava, Prague or Krakow) can be reached by bus as well, and it takes less than 7 hours, so these cities can be destinations for longer weekends.



## WHERE TO STAY

**As a foreigner in Pécs, Hungary you have to find a place to stay during your studies. There are two basic options: you can choose to stay in one of our dormitories or rent a flat. Overall, there is no bad choice. Here we introduce you both alternatives so you can decide which one you prefer.**

### Dormitories

The easiest and most often the cheapest way to get a place is applying for dormitory placement. The dormitories offer safe accommodation with their 24/7 security service (face control at the entrance) and installed fire alarm system for university students. There is a scheduled weekly cleaning in every room and bed linen is changed once every three weeks, which can be extremely helpful with your daily chores, especially in the exam period.

Among the options, there are five outstanding choices: Szántó Dormitory, Jakabhegyi Dormitory, Boszorkány Dormitory, Szalay László Dormitory and Hunyor Dormitory. Let's have a look at them, one by one.

#### Szántó Dormitory

Address: H-7633 Pécs, Szántó Kovács János u. 1/d  
This dormitory is located 15 minutes away via bus from the city center, which makes it the farthest dormitory of all. The building and the rooms are in a good condition, they were renovated in 2011. The dormitory is in the neighborhood of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development (FCSERD) and the Central Registrar's Office (Központi Tanulmányi Iroda in Hungarian). Furthermore, there is also an Office of Government Issued Documents (Kormányablak in Hungarian) nearby so you can easily arrange the application for your Student ID Card. There are 2 bedrooms in a block with 2 beds in each. One block shares a kitchen, a bathroom and a restroom. Except in wing "D", where one room with 2 beds has a kitchen and the sanitary unit can be found in the corridor.

If you do not mind using public transport when you are heading to the city center, Szántó Dormitory can be the best choice.

#### Jakabhegyi Dormitory

Address: H-7624 Pécs, Jakabhegyi út 8.  
The next dormitory towards the city center is Jakabhegyi Dormitory. Like Szántó Dormitory, this building is also in a very good condition. The rooms here con-

tain 3 beds but the size of the rooms is also bigger. Thus 6 residents live in one block and they share a kitchen, a bathroom and a dining room. This dormitory is closer to every Faculty - except the FCSERD - than the Szántó Dormitory.

#### Boszorkány Dormitory

Address: H-7624 Pécs, Boszorkány u. 2.  
The next option is the Dormitory in Boszorkány street. Here, in one block there are 2 bedrooms with 2 beds in each and the 4 tenants of the block share the common sanitary unit. There are 2 big kitchens on each floor with cookers and microwave ovens. A fridge belongs to each block.

The comfort of this dormitory is similar to that of the previous dorms and it is extremely close to the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology and also close to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Pharmacy. A further advantage of this place is that the biggest dorm parties usually take place in this dormitory, so you cannot miss any of them if you live here.

#### Szalay László Dormitory

Address: H-7622 Pécs, Universitas u. 2.  
And here comes the first dormitory which is not named after the street where it is located! The building has recently been renovated and is located next to the Central Library and Central Europe's best Concert Hall. The beautiful Zsolnay Cultural Quarter is only a 5 minutes' walk from here. The surroundings of this dorm are amazing, and it is close to the Faculty of Business and Economics, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts and some Departments of the Faculty Humanities that are situated in Zsolnay Cultural Quarter. There is also a block system at Szalay Dormitory with 2 rooms in every block and each room contains 3 beds. In every block, you can find a kitchen, a bathroom and a dining room.

Out of all the dorms probably this one is the quietest so it is an ideal option for those who really want to focus on their studies.

#### Damjanich Dormitory

Address: H-7624 Pécs, Damjanich utca 30.  
The Damjanich Dormitory is the most recently renovated dormitory of the University. As a part of Modern Cities Programme, the dormitory went through a complete renovation in 2018, and serves around

100 residents. Located in a beautiful park, near to the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, it is the home of the Preparatory Programme students.



If you prefer peace, comfort and privacy, or require superior quality accommodation, rented flats are an alternative for you. However, it is not as easy as it sounds. But do not panic! Take your towel and search for flats and flat mates in Facebook groups, such as 'Flats for rent Pécs', 'Pécs flats for rent', 'Pécs apartments for rent', 'Flat for rent – Pécs' and so on. It is worth keeping your eyes peeled on the corridors of the Campuses because landlords often post their ads on the news-boards. You do not need to live alone and pay alone for a flat. You can share the costs and the experiences if you get together with your friends or classmates and rent a flat together.

There are obvious advantages of renting a flat: you can live together with your best friends, and nobody else can chip in your rules of coexistence.

Although the Faculties of the university are located in different parts of the city, it is not difficult to find a nice apartment close to any campuses for a reasonable price. It means that you can live in a separate room and you do not have to share your kitchen and bathroom with more than 2 people for 50,000 - 70,000 HUF/person including public utilities, depending on the size, location and facilities. For a cheaper flat you do not have to go to the end of the world because the main spots of Pécs are accessible by public transport in 10 and on foot in 35 minutes from most corners of the city.

## BASIC RULES OF COEXISTENCE the absolute survivor

Laying down the rules, bringing your good and bad habits to light and compromising your views as soon as you move together could be helpful to start your common life with your flatmates or roommates smoothly. Below, we collected some basic rules for you which can support peaceful coexistence:

1. You should definitely clarify what kind of music you like. If you like pop music and your roommate prefers hard rock, you have to agree that you will respect each other and neither of you will listen to loud music all day long so nobody will hit the roof.
2. Do not buy a bulb for your bedside lamp that has an extra strong light because it can be disturbing at night when your roommate wants to sleep while you study.
3. We know that it is tempting to occupy territories which are not ours, but maybe it's not a good idea to start land grab at your roommate's desk especially if you do this with your rotten food.
4. Do not touch your roommate's coffee mug, bed and toothbrush!
5. The floor is not your wardrobe!
6. Learn how to use the washing machine and don't categorize your clothes as 1. Very dirty, 2. Dirty, and 3. Dirty but I still can wear it.
7. Wash up your dishes after you use them and not just when your food sneaks out of the fridge.
8. Take out the trash when it is full and don't wait until you need a chemical-warfare gear for that.
9. Ask your flatmate before you buy a poison dart frog/goat/Great Dane as a pet, maybe she or he can't stand slimy/furry/stinky animals.
10. Dust bunny is not on the list of the protected species!
11. Raising new civilizations in the bathroom is very indecent behavior except when the tenants are majoring in Biology.
12. Try to save the world and your and your flatmates' wallet when you have a shower. Remember, anytime you let the water run more than 11 minutes, one angel dies. And if you leave the light on when you go for a long weekend...your flatmates will explain it to you when you receive the electricity bill :)

# TIPS & HINTS

## Semester dates

The Autumn semester starts on Monday, 6th September. The Autumn Holiday is on the third or fourth week of October, and the last week of lectures is the first week of December. The exam period starts right after that, and (depending on the number of your exams) can last until the third week of January.

After (at least) one week of ultimate freedom, the Spring semester kicks off on the first Monday of February (except, again, for the Medical School students, who start one week earlier). The Spring Holiday is always attached to Easter, so it can be any week of April. The last week of lectures is the first week of May, and the exam period lasts until the third week of June.

Please note that the exact dates can be different at the faculties, and it can also vary from year to year, so these are just basic rules.



## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

1 January	<b>New Year's Day</b>
15 March	<b>National Day</b> in memory of the outbreak of the 1848 revolution and war of independence
	<b>Good Friday</b>
	<b>Easter Monday</b>
1 May	<b>Labour Day</b>
	<b>Pentecost Monday</b>
20 August	<b>Saint Stephen's Day</b> (founder of the Hungarian state)
23 October	<b>National Day</b> in memory of the 1956 revolution and the day in 1989 when the Republic of Hungary was proclaimed
1 November	<b>All Saints' Day</b>
25–26 December	<b>Christmas</b>

Of course there is no school on National Holidays, but be aware, because most of the shops are closed as well. If these holidays are on Tuesdays or Thursdays, the days between the holidays and the weekends are also free.

## Currency

Forint (HUF) has been the local currency in Hungary since August 1946. It was named after the city of Florence, where golden coins had been minted since 1252.

## Change

- 1 USD = 310 HUF
- 1 EUR = 353 HUF
- 1 GBP = 389 HUF
- 1 CNY = 44 HUF
- 1 JPY = 2,9 HUF
- 1 RUB = 4,34 HUF

Banknotes come in denominations of 500; 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000 and 20,000. All of them are water-marked, contain an embedded vertical security strip of thin metal and are designed to be suitable for visually impaired individuals. Six different coins are in use: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 forint coins. You can also open a bank account as the non-residential account service is designed especially for foreign nationals. All you need is your passport. You can open a HUF account or any other currency account.

## Tipping

Hungarians normally give tips when eating out, having a drink at a bar, or when using a taxi. In restaurants all tips should be left in cash. The tipping etiquette is 10% in case of a proper service. However, many restaurants include an extra charge for serving customers in the total, therefore check your bill prior to paying. In that case you do not have to leave any extra tip. Taxi service is also up to 10% if the service was satisfying.

# EIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SMOOTH LIFE

Mrs. Mária Mánfai Huszárné, the former head of the Registrar's Office at the Faculty of Humanities is always ready to tackle our problems. In the following article, she will share the most important things that you should take care of in order to make our everyday life at the University as smooth as possible.

Read it carefully.



1. If you are puzzled,  
**TAKE JUST ONE SMALL STEP.**

It is very important to **BE OPEN** to new information every day.  
Always read the official e-mails and letters carefully.

2. Don't compare your life to that of others', you don't walk in their shoes.

The University of Pécs is really varicoloured, our academic programmes are diverse. There aren't two similar cases. Only watchful and deliberate steps can lead to a solution.

3. Always balance your checking accounts, and you will have a happy life.  
**PAYING ATTENTION TO DEADLINES** is very important. Not just in banking but also in every duty. Late administration can be painful.

4. It is never too late to have a happy childhood, but the second one depends only on you. With self-confidence and strong will, every administrative inconvenience can be avoided.

5. **WHEN YOU HAVE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU LOVE, NEVER ACCEPT "NO" AS AN ANSWER.** The problems that you face during your studies have to be treated at the roots. If the lecturer or the departmental administrator can help you, ask them for it. If not, contact the registrar's office or the Academic Committee. But all steps need to be considered.

6. Only you are in charge of your own happiness, don't blame others. If you don't ask, you don't receive! Delaying is always a bad idea when something unexpected comes up. It is us who has to act, do not wait for others, and do not hand over this responsibility.

7. It doesn't matter how you feel in the morning; get up, dress up, and show up.  
**LEAVE YOUR ROOM BECAUSE THAT IS WHEN MAGIC HAPPENS.** There is something new in every day waiting for you to discover. The knowledge and wisdom of mankind is in the classrooms and lecture halls waiting for students to read and learn and use it. And also, attending classes is obligatory anyway.

8. Life does not come with a bow, but it is a gift. The university years are a **HUGE PACK OF GIFTS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES**, if you take care of your duties and study well. I wish all of you a wonderful time in Pécs!



## FOR A SMOOTHER TRANSITION | international student services

Studying abroad can be hard. You are far from home, everything seems to be a bit odd, a bit strange, and you can feel lonely sometimes. But don't worry, this is normal, and it happens to everyone. We have developed some tools for you to make your transition as smooth as possible.



### Cultural sensitization

Our Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development organizes five English-taught courses open for every student of the university in order to help the understanding of Hungarian culture, society and to get a glimpse of the current social and political issues here. You will be able to attend these courses for free.

#### 1. Intercultural Communication. Etiquette, Protocol and the Rules of Social Interaction in Hungary

This course provides an introduction to the key conceptual elements related to intercultural communication and its practical aspects in the special context of Hungarian culture and everyday life.

#### 2. Current Political, Economic and Social Issues of Hungary



This course aims to introduce students to the general political, economic and social features of Hungary. Students will learn about the political system and some hot topics that characterise today's Hungarian political life.

#### 3. Contemporary Hungarian Culture

The purpose of the course is to represent and advance multi- and cross-disciplinary work in Hungarian cultural studies. The focus is on today's cultural phenomena.

#### 4. Cultural Heritage of Hungary

Beyond providing an introduction to the most important events and features of Hungarian history, the course focuses on the major cultural achievements and the most influential historical figures of Hungary. Students will learn about the most important historical events and personalities, which shaped Hungarian history and culture throughout the centuries.

#### 5. Cultural Heritage of Pécs

The course is designed for foreign students who are willing to "read" the city's historic evolution, the



important layers of its “texture” highlighting how local culture and identity has been shaped throughout the centuries. There is much to explore in a 2000-year-old city.

### **Student Counselling** *psychological support for everyday life*

Student Counselling is considered an invaluable service within the University of Pécs. Its primary objective is to provide students with professional, discreet and responsive psychological counselling. The service is intended to offer counselling to students enrolled in the English language programme and seeks to render professional assistance to students struggling with a plethora of challenges and difficulties evolving from potential changes and upheavals in their personal lifestyles and studies. Our service can aid students seeking professional aid who express control of their routine lifestyle, yet are faced with temporary obstacles which seemingly they are not best equipped to solve on their own initiative. The service is free of charge and guarantees complete discretion.

You can find out more about this service at: <http://counselling.pte.hu/>

### **Campus Legal Aid Clinic** *Legal Aid for Everyday Life*

The CLAC (Campus Legal Aid Clinic) was launched in 2015 in order to deepen the academic knowledge of law students, at the same time it provides professional and monitored legal advice for the students of UP. In the past years, a number of foreign students have turned to the law clinic for legal advice. In a personal meeting they can consult their legal problem with selected law students. Then they get supervised legal advice from a professor of law. This piece of advice and possible solutions are introduced and explained by the law students to the client.

There is a possibility to give legal advice and carry out consultancy in both English and German languages. If you have a question or problem in connection with your lease agreement, equal treatment or other civil wrongs, then do not hesitate to contact us, we do our best to assist you with your legal problem.

Office address: 7622 Pécs, Dohány Street 1-3. Floor #2  
E-mail: [jogklinika@ajk.pte.hu](mailto:jogklinika@ajk.pte.hu)  
Website: [www.legalclinic.hu](http://www.legalclinic.hu)  
Facebook: Campus Legal Aid Clinic



# HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS?



**You are studying in higher education now, so you are considered adults who are equal to the lecturers and anyone else. Or no? How should you communicate with a professor and an administrative officer at the University of Pécs?**

If you do everything in order, you will contact the professors more often than the administrative staff, this is why we should start with them. In Hungary, you can address a teacher in three ways basically:

- by the first name (e.g. Dear Eva)
- by the family name (e.g. Dear Ms. Kovács)
- by the title (e.g. Dear Professor)

Most of the teachers talk about their requirements regarding communication. At least that is a good reason for attending the first week. If it is not clear for you whether you should formally or informally address the given professor, you can

ask them about it after the class. Remember, it is always better safe than sorry!

This is also important when you are e-mailing the teacher, because starting with “Dear Michael” when you are writing to a 60-year-old professor is not always the best idea. In the case of contacting a professor for the first time, the safest option is to use the title only. If you feel uncomfortable using the first name of the teacher, let them know that you would prefer to use their family name, as it shows a bit more distance.

But a University is not only about teachers, there are plenty of other office-holders who we also need to communicate with in the proper way.

First and foremost, we have a Registrar’s Office (Tanulmányi Osztály in Hungarian) and the International Office of your Faculty. Despite the fact that sometimes this office has a bad reputation among students, it is one of the most useful pla-

ces, where you can get help with nearly all your problems and difficulties. So you should keep in mind that the officers are here to help you, and to do the administrative part of your studies. However – just like in any official environment – polite behaviour is expected.

You might need to wait in a queue just to get a 5-minute help, but never let your frustration ruin your, and the administrator's day. In order to avoid standing in the queue, we always recommend writing emails first, because a lot of times your problem does not need personal meeting.

There is some kind of a Student Service Centre (Szolgáltatói Iroda in Hungarian) at every Faculty. You can scan, copy, print there, and also buy tickets or register for university events. Since it is run by students, you can address them in informal ways, use their first name, etc.

But being informal does not mean that you can be rude as well – the terms “hello”, “goodbye” and “thank you” are well appreciated. If you apply for any kind of scholarship or dormitory placement, your administrator might also be a student. You can still be informal with them, but don't forget that they are official representatives of the University in their role of working with your application. Be polite, always say hello, and remember: always write an e-mail first so that you can avoid queues.

Last but not least, the most important people you are going to talk to are your classmates. As we stated in the first line of this article, you are adults now, high school is over, and all the cliquing and popularity, competition and conflict among each other should be forgotten. University is about finding new friends and getting new experiences. Talk to your class mates, go on night outs, or just go for a coffee after classes. It is easy to make friends if you take efforts.



# WHAT IS THE STUDENT UNION?

**You are going to meet the Student Union at several different events during your university life, so it is helpful to learn a bit about the organization. Who are they? Who are they representing? And what is it good for at all?**

The Student Union is the official representative institution of university students. Their rights, duties and annual budget are described in the Act on Hungarian higher education, and in the different rules of the University.

Their job is mostly administrative, but only students can be members and office-holders, which can guarantee that they understand your problems and opinions. Every university student is automatically a member of the Student Union, and eligible to vote and to get elected.

The University Student Union (EHÖK in Hungarian) is in charge of student affairs at a university level. They represent the students' interests in the highest decision making bodies, they manage the university level scholarships, the non-freshmen dormitory places, and they organize the bigger cultural and sport events, like the Pécsi Egyetemi Napok (PEN) which is the biggest regional festival held every May.

But most probably you will more often make contact with the Faculty Student Union (HÖK). Their job is to represent the students of the given faculty, take care of the students' everyday issues and help with administrative challenges. If you have any difficulty in- or outside the University, you can ask them for help.

They also arrange smaller cultural events and weekly parties. If you would like to organize something with your friends (concerts, lectures, laser tag competition on the campus, whatever) you can ask them to help you. If you would like to hold a team building event with your classmates and professors, you can ask them for financial and organizational support.

One of the best ways to make Hungarian friends is to regularly attend the Student Union's events. During early October you can attend the Oktoberfest at every campus, in November we have the traditional Freshmen's Balls, which are among the most memorable events of student life. Also in November, we try get rid of the frustrating oncoming of the exam period with the ice skating parties. During February and early March you can experience the on-campus sausage-making festivals.

As an international student, you will meet two other student organizations as well. The ESN (International



Exchange Erasmus Student Network) organizes weekly events and bigger trips around Hungary especially for international students to have a closer look at the Hungarian cultural and historical heritage and to visit the most beautiful sights all around the country. They also provide you with an official mentor (a buddy as they call it), to help you with the transition and in everyday life. The other very important organization is the Medical School's English-German Student Council (EGSC), which of course mainly operates in the Medical School, but their events are open to the public, especially the (almost) world-famous International Evening, held every March.

You can reach the Student Union at [pteehok.hu](http://pteehok.hu), on the Facebook page of "EHÖK Pécs" or Ms. Boglárka Kovács at [kovacs.boglarka@pte.hu](mailto:kovacs.boglarka@pte.hu).

*You should also follow the "Erasmus Student Network Pécs" Facebook page, and write to [esn.pecs@gmail.com](mailto:esn.pecs@gmail.com) if you would like to contact the ESN.*

*For the latest news from EGSC, visit [egsc.aok.pte.hu](http://egsc.aok.pte.hu) or like and follow the "EGSC – English German Student Council" Facebook page.*



## SPORT EVENTS DURING THE AUTUMN

The Sports' Office was launched in 2013 and has three major goals:

- Introducing the dual- career model: helping professional athletes in their academic life so that they can perform to a high standard in both academics and sports.
- Helping student athletes to perform at the National Championship of Higher Education Students (MEFOB).
- Advertising and promoting healthy lifestyle and increasing the number of students who regularly do sport.

Since 2013 the Sports' Office has organized more than a hundred events in nearly 35 sports (Aerobic, track and field, table tennis, snooker, rattling ball, table football, go-kart, squash, fitness, floorball, futsal, handball, football (indoor and outdoor), basketball, streetball, swimming, volleyball, chess, tennis, hiking, etc.). In recent years, nearly sixteen thousand students have participated in these events.

Apart from the leisure activities, the Sports' Office organizes competitions between the Faculties in different sports (outdoor football, volleyball, basketball, handball, futsal). These competitions run in a championship-scheme with more than a thousand students competing with each other. The University will organize a large multi-sport tournament on 20 September 2018 as it will be the UNESCO International Day of University Sport.

If you wishes to participate at any of these activities, contact the Sports' Office at [egyetemisport@pte.hu](mailto:egyetemisport@pte.hu)



DATE	EVENT
11 SEP	Run For Cancer Treatment
13 SEP	Dancing University: 20+1st Anniversary program
18 SEP	International Day of University Sport/ Dragonboat Regatta
20 SEP	Dancing University: First week
20 SEP	UP Tour in Mecsek
02 OCT	UP Tour in Mecsek
Beginning of October	UP "Rókaűzők" (Fox chasers) Relay Running Race
Beginning of October	Faculty Championships, UP Futsal League
13 OCT	UP „Teke” (Bowling) Cup
27 OCT	UP 3x3 Basketball Cup
30 OCT	UP Invisible Memorial Tour in Mecsek
06 NOV	UP Tour in Mecsek
10 NOV	UP Soccer Cup
17-18 NOV	UP Night of Sports
27 NOV	Aerobic Workshop
01 DEC	Dancing University: Semester Closing Party
04 DEC	UP Tour in Mecsek
08 DEC	UP „Icy” Days

## LET'S GRAB A BEER SOMEWHERE | but where?



**If your tummy is full, nothing can go wrong, but when the night comes, you might want something liquid. The list of pubs and bars in Pécs would fill up this magazine in a minute, so we had to pick our favourite ones.**

Most of the bars and restaurants can be found in Király Street, so we are going to start our journey there. **Nappali** is an iconic meeting point of the city where good beers, good wines collide with live music.

A few meters away you can find **Cooltour**, which will host many of long nights for you too. If we go to the direction of the Main Square, we will find the **Blöff** pub next to the National Theatre. This pub doesn't have anything special, but somehow the atmosphere is just unique. And don't forget that if you would like to listen to classic rock all night, this is a sure choice.

On the right side of the Main Square you can hop in to **Bazár**, which has a huge variety of handmade Hungarian craft beers, and a nice menu as well. If you are only interested in handmade beers, **Művész**

**Presszó** is a great place for you. And you must go there even if you are not a beer fanatic, because of the interior design. The place **Művész Presszó** is furnished with socialist furniture and decorations mainly from the 1970s.

**Csinos** is a textbook-version of the "ruin pubs" which made Budapest a cool destination again ten years ago. This place is always crowded, therefore highly recommended if you want to socialize.

As the sun goes down and happiness comes up, we can start looking for party places. For those who want to show their dancing skills, **Pécsi Est Café** provides up-to-date party music nearly every day of the year. On Tuesdays you can also try **Sörház** and **Trafik** for the very same reasons.

For live music, and especially for current Hungarian rock/alternative music, you should try **Szenes Klub** on the campus of the Faculty of Humanities. Szenes was the first home of many successful Hungarian bands in the last decades and plays a huge role in the history of Hungarian live music.



**University years are about discovering yourself and the world - including the world of gastronomy. Especially if you are studying abroad. In the following article we will recommend you some places for different occasions, but as always: we just show you a glimpse, the rest is waiting for you to find and taste.**

Pécs has developed a vivid gastronomic life in recent years. The basics of it goes back to the multi-cultural roots of Pécs. You can find numerous restaurants that offer different kinds of Mediterranean cuisine from Spanish to Balkan, but we will get back to this later.

If you are a fan of huge portions of heaven, **Bohemia** is the place for you. This restaurant started with traditional Czech meals and beers which are great, but the real deals are the burgers: all of them come in bagels, with juicy lucy meat patties and unbelievable toppings.

For the pizza-lovers, we would have four must-go places. **Fónix** is right at the Main Square and it is always a good choice if you would like to have a “nothing-special-but-still-good” experience. **Ciao, Elefántos**, and **Tímár26** are three very authentic places. They offer pizzas made on wood fire, and other Italian dishes with original ingredients. **Piazza del Grano** is also a good destination for Italian food, and they offer daily lunch menus as well.





But a lot of times we would like to go to a more classical restaurant, and we have several options for that too. **Király21** and **Replay** are in Király Street. They have the same owner, and a very similar cuisine: big portions, high quality ingredients, but nothing extraordinary. They know how to cook a big chunk of meat, and they love to do it. **Blöff** offers the most authentic Balkan food, and their fish plates are eye-popping. A few meters away from Blöff and Elefántos, you can find **Eleven**, which is more of a tapas bar than a classic restaurant. It offers high quality Spanish food with great Hungarian wines. It would take hours to try everything on the menu, so you must come back often.

For an everyday lunch you also have numerous options. **Paulus** is one of the perfect choices, right at the Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Pharmacy. You can find various plates, reasonable prices in a friendly environment. There is a restaurant at the Main Library as well, so if you get hungry while you study, you don't have to leave the building for a healthy lunch. However, if you do leave the building you can visit the restaurant of the **Corso Hotel**, which offers daily menus for about 4-5 euros.

Lunch is important of course, but you shouldn't go to school without coffee and breakfast. **Pécsi Kávé**, **Next Step Coffee**, **Kisülés** and **Block Coffee Room** focus on coffees. If you visit these places, you are going to learn that coffee is way more than just a shot of caffeine. And you can also grab some croissants or sandwiches for breakfast as well.

For those who love to start a day with fresh juice, **Juice&Co.** is the place. But if you are looking for something that keeps your energy until the afternoon, you should go to **Ízes Magyar Csemege** or **Reggeli**. As the first one you can buy Hungarian-style grilled sandwiches with home-made ingredients. The second one can be a 100% pure breakfast-plate with several types of egg-based dishes, grilled sandwiches, porridge, corn flakes, etc. Not really this kind of place, but we have to mention **Jókai cukrászda** as well, not only because of the amazing coffee they have, but because they are by far the no.1 confectionery in town.

If you would like to try something really Hungarian, you must leave the city for **Tenkes Csárda** and **Fülemüle Csárda**. Both of them are reachable by car or bus in about 30 minutes, and they offer one of the highest qualities of traditional Hungarian cuisine in the country. But if you don't have the time to go out of town, you must go to the **Market Hall** next to the central bus station on weekdays and on Saturday. You can buy fresh vegetables, meat, fish, home-made milk, butter, cheese, honey, and all sorts of other stuff, but most importantly, you can taste some Hungarian "street food" there. Lángos is a fried dough with garlic sauce, sour cream and cheese which causes immediate heart attack, but we love it. And you can also find fried sausages with mustard and pickles which are also worth trying.

Of course there are plenty of places offering Halal food as well, here we would like to highlight two of them: **DZ Street Food** is a specialist of taco, panini and burger, and **Noonbaghi** is a great Persian restaurant.

# SHOPPING IN PÉCS



Most Hungarians go to malls or supermarkets to buy everyday goods. Árkád is right in the city centre and you can find there anything from food to clothes, accessories, mobile phones shops, bakery, etc. Tesco Supermarket in “Uránváros” district is close to Szántó dormitory, and you can also find there pretty much everything you need.

Lidl, Aldi and Spar supermarkets can be found at numerous places around Pécs, and they are perfect for daily shopping of food, grocery, meat, etc. and you can finish there way faster than in a bigger mall.

Smaller shops are also available at nearly every corner, but their prices could be higher, and the selection of goods is narrower. However, they might be open 0-24, so they could be a good idea for a last-minute frozen pizza.

There are groceries, butcheries and bakeries around the city where you can buy more special goods, and you can find them all in the main **Market Hall** opposite Árkád. It is open from Monday to Saturday, but the biggest crowd (and the most vendors) are there during Friday and Saturday morning. Fresh, local vegetables, meat, great variety of homemade cheese, milk, cream and yoghurt, it is really worth going there. If you go to the Market Hall, you should prepare cash because you cannot pay by credit card there!

For halal meat and Arabic, middle-eastern and Asian food and ingredients, we can highly recommend **Dubai Supermarket** in Király street. For especially Asian groceries, you can go to **Choy Pécs**.

Supermarkets are generally open between 7 AM to 7 PM, some of them until 9 PM on weekdays. At the weekends they might open later or close early afternoon. You can pay by credit card almost everywhere but you can find ATMs near all bigger shopping centres.

Here is a list of essential items to give you an idea of prices in Hungary:

- 1 litre of milk: HUF 220 ≈EUR 0.7
- 1 small bottle of beer: HUF 300 ≈EUR 1
- 1 bottle of red table wine: HUF 600–1,500 ≈EUR 2–5
- 1 litre of petrol: HUF 350 ≈EUR 1
- 1 litre of bottled water: HUF 75–150 ≈EUR 0.24–0.5
- 1 loaf of bread: HUF 270 ≈EUR 0.87

## TWO HUNGARIAN DISHES THAT YOU CAN EASILY MAKE

**LECSÓ** is considered very Hungarian – by the Hungarians. The truth is that similar dishes can be found in the French (ratatouille), or Balkan and Turkish (Fergese, Güvec) cuisine. Actually every Hungarian family has its own recipe, we will show you now a vegetarian one.

### What you need:

- 0.2 kg red onion
- 0.5 kg pepper (different colours, hot and sweet mixed, as you like it)
- 0.3 kg tomato
- a pinch of ground red paprika
- salt and pepper
- a bit of oil
- four eggs

You start off with the oil and the onion. When the onion is stewed a bit, you can add the ground red paprika, and give it a good stir to make sure that the paprika will not get burnt. You can now add the sliced paprika and tomato and one decilitre of water. Add the salt and pepper and simmer it for 20-30 minutes until the peppers are soft. In the end, crack the four eggs to a bowl, whip it a bit, and add it to your lecsó. Give it a good stir, and you are basically done. Serve it with any kind of bread you like.

Other options: instead of bread, you can eat it with potato or rice. You can cook the rice separately, but you can add the potato to the mixture at the beginning, making it sure that it will have time to cook. You can also add sausage or bacon to it if you wouldn't like to miss meat.



**GOULASH** is perhaps the most well-known dish of Hungarian cuisine. It is like a rich soup which can take you to bed after you eat it.

### Ingredients

- 1kg braising steak or venison
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 4 medium carrots, diced
- 2 celery sticks, leaves and all, diced
- 1 red pepper, seeded and diced
- 5 garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 tbsp good sweet Hungarian paprika
- 2 tbsp caraway seeds, crushed
- 60g/4 tbsp tomato purée
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 litres good beef stock
- 4 potatoes, peeled and chopped into small cubes
- salt
- black pepper
- soured cream and flat-leaf parsley, to garnish

### Method

Trim the meat and cut it into bite-sized chunks. In a large bowl, mix the flour with a teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Add the beef and toss so that all the chunks are dusted with flour.

Heat a tablespoon of oil in a large frying pan and brown the beef in small batches, setting each batch aside while you brown the next. Take care not to crowd the pan or the beef will steam rather than brown. Meanwhile, heat a little oil in a large heavy-bottomed pan, add the onions, carrots, celery, red pepper and garlic. Cook gently for about 10 minutes until they start to soften.

Add the beef, paprika, caraway seeds, tomato purée and bay leaves, then pour in the beef stock. Stir well, cover the pan and simmer for at least 1½ hours until the beef is starting to get tender. Add the potatoes and continue to simmer for another 30 minutes. Check the seasoning before serving.

Serve the soup in bowls with a generous swirl of soured cream and a good sprinkling of parsley.



## CAN'T MISS PLACES OF PÉCS | Cultural and historical heritage



The time you are going to spend as a university student will be the best part of your life, especially if you spend it in such a vibrant city as Pécs. I am going to show you all the places that are worth a visit here. The only thing you have to do is to feel the Mediterranean vibration!

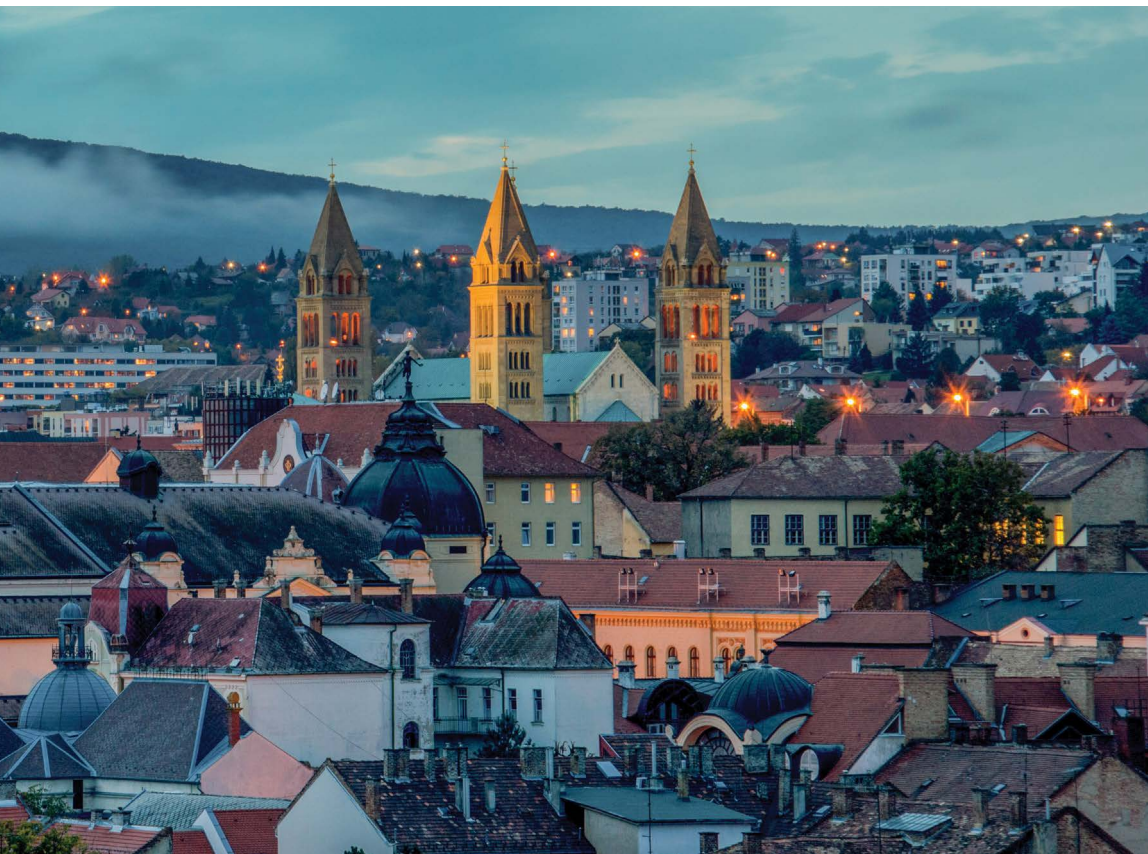
Winning the "European Capital of Culture 2010" award wasn't a matter of luck for the city which sneaks up to the hills of Mecsek. Pécs is truly a city of culture with its two-thousand-year-long history. In addition, all the sights can be reached from the centre by a nice walk – or by the **Dotto**, the local mini-train.

One of the most characteristic buildings of Pécs is the **Mosque of Pasha Qasim**, which was built during the Turkish occupation, and it is located in the Main Square of the city. If you are about to listen to some high-end quality classical music, your place is **Kodály-Centre**, which is among the best concert halls in Europe, and it is getting better and better with time as the wooden parts of the hall are aging together.

**Zsolnay Cultural Quarter** must be on your list too, but not only because of **Bóbita Puppetry**, this new part of Pécs is a proper place for relaxing walks as well. The quarter is named after Zsolnay Manufacture, which made world-famous ceramics. You can have a glimpse of it if you visit the **Pink Exhibition** and the **Golden Age of the Zsolnay - Gyugyi Collection**.

Back to the Old Town: **Cella Septichora** is an early Christian burial site from the 4th century, which has been on the UNESCO world heritage list since 2000. Right next to the burial site, you can find the **Cathedral**, which has a thousand years of history, and earned the "Basilica Minor" title from Pope John Paul II. On the left side of the Cathedral, you will find the **Bishop's Palace**. The palace is unique because of its stylistic variety. Both the Roman and Gothic and also the Neo-renaissance era left its marks on the building.

The fourth sight you should visit in this neighbourhood is the **Medieval University**. The first university in Hungary was founded in 1367 in Pécs. The current faculties



of the University are in separate places of the city, but you can still visit the original site of the Studium Generale.

From the burial site it takes only a few minutes' walk to get to the **Vasarely Museum** but it is a whole another universe: Victor Vasarely conquered the world of art with his refreshing Op-art from Pécs. As we have already mentioned, Pécs has a great heritage from the Turkish age, and the Mosque in the Main Square is not the only thing worth visiting. First off, we have another one, the **Mosque of Pasha Yakovalı Hassan**, and some smaller sights, like the **türbe of Idris Baba**, the **Turkish fountain**, or the **baths of Pasha Memi**.

Of course, there are many things we left out, because we want you to explore the city, and find the places you like the most!



## CAN'T MISS PLACES OF PÉCS | Let's explore the countryside!

There are people who prefer longer trips in the forests, hills, or by lakes. If you are one of them, you should not worry about how to spend your time in Pécs.

The **TV Tower** is the highest building of Hungary, it gives a beautiful view of the city, and it is also a great trip to climb up to the tower. And if you are already there, you should try the **Pécs-Mecsek Forest Railway**, which goes from **Dömörkapu** to the newly renovated **Zoo**.

If we mention the zoo, we have to talk about **Misina shelter** as well. They do a tremendous job for the animals that have nowhere to live, but most importantly, you can get involved too. You can go there, pick a dog, and walk that lucky one for an afternoon. Doing so,

you will make an animal happy, and you will be charged up with love for a couple of days. So you can go back again.

The good thing about Pécs is that you can have fun without spending money. As a true fan of this city, let me name some of my favorite, secret, or hidden places in the Mecsek Hills, so the best you can do is to buy something to grill, grab a bike, and find a quiet place in the forest. Cook, eat and have fun with your buddies while you enjoy the sunset.

**Tettye** is a whole another world: the rusty **lookout** right next to the ruins of the **Bishop's renaissance palace**, you cannot find that atmosphere at any corner. There is also a small football field and a playground there to make every member of the family happy.



**Havi hill** is close to Tettye, and you can enjoy the best panorama of Pécs from its walkway and snow-white limestone blocks – if you want to fall in love with the city, this is the right place. If we are talking about the best panorama, there are some runner-ups in that contest that you also should keep in mind: the **Niké statue** is also a famous place, and has a great view, just like **Kis Tubes** lookout. But you don't have to climb the hills for a romantic view of Pécs: if you get up to the top of the **tunnel of Kálvária Street** during sunset, it will be amazing.

Only a few know about the **Nyolc boldogság terasza** (Terrace of the eight happiness), despite the fact that this little beauty on Kálvária hill has a nice view too. The strength of **Zsongorkő lookout** is not only the view, but also its rocks, where you can have the feeling of standing at the edge of the world.

To see the city from the above-mentioned sights, it is marvelous. But you should find some places where you can observe the Mecsek hills, the forest and the old mines and mining sights. **Flóra rest-place** is a perfect choice for that, and it is a good choice for grilling as well.

If you are full up of the panoramas and have a free afternoon, you should go hiking. There are numerous hiking trails in the Mecsek hills, one of them is the **Rotary trail**, which guides us through 24 different paths of the area with 24 stops in four kilometers. But visiting **Remeterét** is also always a good idea.

You can learn a lot about plants by visiting three local arboretums: **Pintér kert**, the **private arboretum of Pécsbánya**, and the **botanical garden at the Faculty of Humanities**.



## CAN'T MISS PLACES NEAR PÉCS | The surroundings

Life does not stop when you leave the city: there are amazing places in a sixty-kilometre range from Pécs, so let's get on a bus or a train, and discover the surroundings of Pécs!



### Orfú

The lovely village of Orfú and its lake is about a 25 minutes' bus ride from Pécs, but the distance can be done by bike as well if you are practiced enough. The aqua park of Orfú is great, gives you some refreshment during the exam period of May and June, but the real deal here is the lake. It is totally free and the lakeside is mostly covered by huge trees and a grassy shore. The lake is perfect for swimming, but can be too deep at some parts. The shore is perhaps the best place if you are tired of the neon lights of the library.

### Baths around Pécs

If you like swimming, or just resting in hot water or in a sauna, you have plenty of options to go for: **Szigetvár**, **Harkány**, or **Magyarhertelend**. Any of them is a good choice for some leisure time, and they are good for your health too.

### Villány

Villány, which has gone through major innovation and development in recent years, is one of the top wine regions of Hungary. You can find top category wines (mostly red wines and rosés) in vineries, like **Sauska**, **Bock**, **Gere**, **Halasi**, or dozens of other. And in Villány, great wine comes with great gastronomy. Many of the vineries have restaurants as well, but if you want to taste the high-end category of Hungarian cuisine, go to **Fülemüle Csárda**, or **Tenkes Csárda**.

The wine region is not only about Villány, the surrounding villages also have nice cellars. One of them is **Kisharsány**, where you can visit the **Vylyan vinery**. The exciting thing about Vylyan is that you have all the components of a winery at one place: the vineyards, the cellars and the restaurant, so you can literally see what you drink.



### Szekszárd

Szekszárd is not only a home for one of our faculties, but also famous for its wine region. Just like Villány, the ruby grapes of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc dominate these hills. Most of the vineyards are family properties, so you can enjoy true hospitality.

### Bikal

This beauty is less than 50 km away from Pécs and has two good reasons to visit. The castle of Bikal was built in the 1840s in neoclassical style. Since 1996 the





castle and its garden has been working as a hotel, so if you would like to experience the living conditions of a Hungarian nobleman, you should not miss this place. But it does not stop there, Bikal has the first theme park of Hungary, which is open all the year round. This theme park is not only a great fun to visit, but also helps to get closer to Hungarian culture.

### Mohács

Mohács is the southernmost city on the riverside of the Danube in Hungary, and also played a huge role in Hungarian history. The battle of Mohács (1526)

ended up with the triumph of the Ottoman Empire and started the 150-year-long Turkish domination of Hungary. Besides the battle, Mohács is also known for the **Busójárás**. The origin of this festival goes back to centuries, and we don't know the root of it for sure. Some say that the people of Mohács dressed up in monster-costumes to frighten away the Turkish soldiers. Some other people believe that it was only to scare away winter itself. Whichever is the truth, the modern "monsters" of Mohács gather each February for a celebration which everybody should experience once.

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS



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Emergency 112

Ambulance 104

Police 107

Fire Department 105



24-hour English-speaking crime hotline +361 438 8080

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