

## Budapest University of Science and Technology (BME)

Overall, I have mixed feelings about my experience in Budapest. I had chosen this destination due to the course offers, which suited the most my interests, but I found the quality of teaching very disappointing. On the other hand, Budapest is a beautiful city, with plenty of activities and at reasonable prices.

Finding accommodation turned out to be quite easy for me, since I managed to reserve a room months in advance on Facebook. However, many other people chose instead to book a hostel first and then search for accommodation when they were personally in Budapest. This was quite stressful for them, but at the end they all managed to find a room. The average price is about 300-350€ (rent+utilities), while the cost of living is similar to Cottbus. I recommend finding accommodation near the 4-6 tram line or metro 3, most convenient to reach the university.

The BME has a very large Erasmus community, in my case there were more than 400 exchange students. Most of the exchange students I met were German or French, but many nationalities were represented. During the orientation week, the ESN of the university organised several activities, which were quite nice. Also, many events and activities are organised throughout the semester, including a weekly pub evening and the so-called "Kamikaze trips". You'll find out what they are.

The studies represent the most negative aspect of my experience. All the classes I attended were essentially for exchange students, with the exception of few local students. As a result, the content of the courses was very poor and the examinations quite easy. In fact, most of the people were able to score the highest mark, also through cheating, and aided too by the fact that in order to score the highest mark only an 80% is sufficient. Furthermore, the courses dealing with environmental and sustainability matters are mainly thought for engineers (vast majority of exchange students) and economics' students, resulting superficial and boring for an Environmental and Resource Management student. Another very negative point is that there was a lot of overlapping content across courses.

As to free time and nightlife, Budapest offers a wide variety of options. In fact, there are several bars and pubs, where a 0.5 of beer costs about 1€, as well as many restaurants offering good quality food at very low prices (5€ for a meal). Another positive aspect is that you'll also be able to find parties on any day of the week. Furthermore, the city is famous for its various thermal baths, with prices for students ranging from 6€ to 20€ for a daily ticket. In addition, there are many cinemas, screening a great part of the movies in original language.

Finally, public transport is extremely good, since the city is well connected through trams, metro and buses, running frequently during the day and with satisfactory options during the night. The cost of a monthly ticket for students is about 10€.