

BUDAPEST SEMESTER IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

for undergraduates in the related disciplines

A PROGRAM IN ENGLISH FOR
US AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Program Information and Call for Students
last updated 9th January 2009, replacing earlier versions.



Eötvös University, North Science Building, Dome

Program Home Page: <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PROGRAM STAFF

- General Director: *George Kampis*, Ph.D., D.Sc., Dr. Habil. Assoc.Professor, Chairman of History and Philosophy of Science, Eötvös University, Budapest, Hungary
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Kalamazoo College	Prof. Péter Érdi
University of Cincinnati	Prof. John Bickle
Hokkaido University	Prof. Ichiro Tsuda
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HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The BSCS program for US and international students was founded in 2003 upon a joint initiative of the three founding Directors, John Bickle, Péter Erdi and George Kampis. We offer Semesters since 2004. Besides US students the program regularly enrolls part time and full time students from Hungary and the surrounding region. Our past US students' home institutions include Carleton College, Kalamazoo College, Duke University, Northwestern University, the University of Cincinnati, Birmingham Southern, Truman State University, Dartmouth College and others. Starting with 2009 we upgraded the program with improved facilities and services and accompanied higher costs to provide more benefits to the students. Higher value added extended services are available on the basis of individual agreement with selected sending Universities and colleges.

FRAMEWORK

AIMS AND SCOPE

The Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science (in short BSCS, or “the Programme”) is a non-degree undergraduate programme for students from the US and other countries to study abroad in the field of cognitive science from an interdisciplinary perspective. Lecturers of the Programme are established experts with a high-level international research and teaching experience.

AFFILIATION WITH EÖTVÖS UNIVERSITY

The Programme is run by the Hungarian Cognitive Science Association (www.makog.hu) and is affiliated via a bilateral contract with Eötvös University of Budapest (Hungary) where it is entitled to use the name and the facilities of the University. Supervision is provided by and responsibility lies with the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (<http://hps.elte.hu>).

THE UNIVERSITY

Eötvös University (pronounced Ötvösh, ’ö’ as in German) is Hungary’s premium science and liberal arts university. Founded in 1635 by Cardinal Péter Pázmány as a Catholic institution, the University owes its name to Baron Loránd Eötvös (1848-1919), an eminent statesman and physicist with considerable reputation of his time. He gave first compelling evidence for the identity of gravitational and inertial mass in 1889.

Today the University has more than 30,000 students and is dispersed at several locations and buildings in Budapest. The most recently built is the Lagymanyos Campus where BSCS is held (hereafter Campus). The University home page, <http://www.elte.hu/en> provides more information about the University.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BENEFITS

- STUDY ABROAD AND SAVE MONEY

The main student benefit is the completion a study abroad semester of high standard recognised by the students’ home university, at no more, and probably less, cost than they would spend at home in the same period. Staying and studying in Budapest is much cheaper than in the US or in the Western part of the EU.

- OBTAIN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

An important side benefit is to learn about life in Hungary and the Region in a safe and assisted way. Students and faculty come from several countries, some of them from Eastern Europe.

- GATEWAY TO VIENNA, PRAGUE, AND THE REST OF EUROPE

Hungary is a full member of the European Union since May 1, 2004. Budapest is just 250 km to Vienna and 300 km to Prague. These cities as well as many other European destinations are easily accessible from Budapest on a long weekend. BSCS provides assistance to students who wish to organise their personal trips within Europe during their stay.

CALL FOR STUDENTS

The 2009 Call for Students is available since October 2008. The deadline for applications in 2009 is April 15. Interested students should contact the US Coordinator, the BSCS Web page <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>, or send an email to one of the Program Directors.

BASIC INFORMATION

OBJECTIVES

- To obtain an introduction to the cognitive sciences at an undergraduate level.
- To gain safe and assisted experience of living in a European environment.
- To give an opportunity to learn about Hungarian and European culture and history.
- To give students an opportunity to learn (some) Hungarian.

LANGUAGE

All courses are taught and all communications are conducted in English.

TUITION FEE

The tuition fee for 2009 is USD 5000 (see also Stipends).

STIPENDS

For students whose social conditions do not permit them to pay a full tuition fee, and for students from eligible countries, a stipend (from the practical point of view: a partial waiver) is available upon request. Stipends are distributed by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis. Together with the request for a stipend, we will require proof of parental income and other financial aids obtained. Students should inquire at their local universities and grant-giving organizations for additional support.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TUITION AND WHAT IS NOT

The tuition fee includes:

- a 5-day orientation upon arrival
- courses and course handouts as described separately
- unlimited free Internet access on University machines and WiFi
- two weekend excursions within Hungary
- Hungarian language course
- cultural courses and other cultural programs.

The tuition fee does not include:

- accommodation
- visas, passports, photographs, necessary health insurance
- travel from home to Budapest and back
- travel within Europe
- health insurance and other insurances
- local transportation costs
- telephone bills, medical costs, damage reparations, etc.
- Further organised excursions planned to neighbouring countries (Romania, Slovakia, Croatia), to be specified later
- Intensive 2 weeks Hungarian language course for early birds arriving not later than mid August.

Based on individual agreement with selected sending universities and colleges special packages of service can be ensured to students.

NO-REFUND POLICY

The Programme runs on fixed costs (e.g. dormitory, teachers' fees, excursions etc.) and is fully tuition driven. As a general practice, we adopt a strict no-refund policy towards all enrolled students.

ACCOMMODATION

The basic accommodation is in a student dormitory (simple rooms in new condition, 30+ minutes travel from Campus) for the 2009 Semester for 700, 1400 or 2100 USD in 3, 2, or 1 bed rooms respectively. BSCS students wishing to stay in the dormitory are placed in: Kerekes Kollégium, 1135 Budapest, Kerekes u. 12-20 (phone +36 1 350- 1456) www.kerekes.elte.hu

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

STUDENT STATUS

BSCS students obtain guest student status in Eötvös University, with an access to Eötvös's student facilities.

FACULTY AND COURSES

BSCS faculty and courses are detailed separately.

TEACHING AND RESOURCES

Students are not required to buy textbooks (with the exception of language courses). All courses are based on lectures. Teaching material is developed (or, in the case of readings, collected) by the faculty and distributed to the students. Classroom teaching is supplemented by readings and by further assignments (such as Internet or library-based student research) outside of class hours.

Resources available to students include a library with a number of select professional books and reviews in the English language, as well as a limited number of PC-s with permanent Internet access. Internet is available in the classroom and free WiFi in various University areas.

CREDITS TRANSFER AND TRANSCRIPT

Transcript: Every BSCS student who attends at least 90% of the classes and meets the requirements of every examination receives a Certificate from Eötvös University which shows the duration and other specifics of the courses attended as well as the grades obtained. US compatible official transcripts are also provided for all completed courses (see sample model in annex)

Credits: Students' home universities typically require the achievement of credits as result of a study abroad stay. Recognition of the credits by the students' home university must be negotiated in the application phase in the case of doubt. BSCS's credit system is fully compatible with the credit system of Eötvös University, which strictly follows the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). For official ECTS information, please consult:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html

In the ECTS framework, a one-semester course with 20 contact hours typically earns 2 ECTU (European Credit Transfer Units). Accordingly, the whole BSCS semester earns altogether 24-30 ECTU (see separately; see also "Grades" below). The 20 contact hours are equivalent to 1,4 US semester hours (for 14 week US semesters) and this allows a clear conversion of transcripts to US credit units.

Credits Transfer Official: the Credits Transfer Official of the BSCS is the General Director.

QUALITY CONTROL

We are currently seeking external accreditation through a US University. At the moment the main quality control is exercised by the board of directors and by Eötvös University. The

Department of History and Philosophy of Science has received “excellent” marks in the last national Teaching and Research Quality Assessment in Hungary. A further component of surveillance is exercised through the US Director and the students’ home Institutions. In 2004 & 2005 three on-site visits were performed by US home College administrators. Additional on site audits are always welcome by the Board.

EXAMINATIONS

Typically, there will be an oral examination at the end of each course. Students receive a grade for each examination as well as a summary grade (the average of the grades obtained) in the Certificate.

Oral examinations are a common means in the European higher education system. An oral examination is conducted in the form of a dialogue between the teacher and a student. As a rule, the student may take time to prepare for the answers. Oral examinations at Hungarian universities are open to the public (practically: fellow students) to ensure transparency. Dates and places are announced in the courses.

GRADES

In Hungary, grades are on a five-degree scale that ranges from 1 to 5, with 5 being the best and 1 the worst. The grades and their official meanings are: 5 “excellent”, 4 “good”, 3 “medium”, 2 “sufficient”, 1 “insufficient”. As implied by the name, grade 1 means failure to pass.

Equivalence issues concerning the different national grading systems and credit systems should be consulted with the Student Advisor and the Study Abroad Office of the student’s home university and with the Program Chair of BSCS. In most cases, it is easy or straightforward to establish equivalence between different systems.

ELIGIBILITY

Undergraduates of all disciplines with a sufficient personal maturity to function in a different society. Any university undergraduate in good standing who by the time of the Budapest Semester has completed the first two semesters is eligible. Students from all disciplines are acceptable, although priority areas are given as: computer science and mathematics, natural sciences, philosophy, or psychology. Students from other disciplines should contact the BSCS Program Chair before application time, to discuss their personal backgrounds and expected benefits.

Selection of students takes place on a competitive basis, with previous student records being a sole criterion. On a US scale, the normally required grade at application time is GPA 3.0, on the 4 point scale. Students with a GPA less than 3.0 should inquire at the BSCS administrators or Directors.

HOW TO APPLY

Form sheets for application are available at <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>. [GK1]Application deadline for 2008 is April 15.

Applications can be sent in email to:

John Bickle, Professor (U.Cincinnati)
George Kampis, Professor (Budapest)

bicklejw@email.uc.edu , or,
gk@hps.elte.hu

Email applicants are also required to send the signature page (included in the downloadable application form) by air or by surface mail to:

Laszlo Ropolyi, Assistant Professor, Programme Chair,
Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
Eötvös University, Budapest
H-1518 Budapest, P.O.Box 32.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information contact the US Coordinator (jhegedus@kzoo.edu) or don't hesitate to turn to one of the Directors, or the Program Chair:

George Kampis, Professor	General Director	gk@hps.elte.hu
John Bickle, Professor	US Director	bicklejw@uc.edu
Péter Érdi, Henry L. Luce Professor	Co-Director	perdi@kzoo.edu
Laszlo Ropolyi, Assist.Prof.	Program Chair	ropolyi@hps.elte.hu

COURSES INFORMATION

COGNITIVE SCIENCE IN GENERAL

Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary approach to the human mind. It is generally considered a new “superscience” in the sense that it offers a common platform and a common language for numerous traditional disciplines ranging from biology and brain science to computer science to linguistics and philosophy.

The benefit of studying cognitive science lies in the fascinating integrative world view that can be obtained which enriches the disciplinary knowledge of the student's own field. Successful completion of BSCS capacitates the students to pursue graduate studies in the cognitive sciences at a later stage of their carrier.

BASIC TIMING & THE SEMESTER SYSTEM

Eötvös University runs a genuine two Semester system, with independent 14-week Semesters. The Spring Semester is held from early February to mid-May, and the Fall Semester is from early September to mid-December. This Semester System fits well into the US “Long-Term Study Abroad” programs.

BSCS is held in the Fall Semester of each year since 2003. In the year 2009, the core program dates are August 31 – December 6. An Independent Research Module (see below) is also available in January 2010.

„Early birds” wishing to spend their August holiday in Hungary may apply for a 2 weeks (40 contact hours, i.e. US 2,8 semester hours) intensive language course in the second half of August 2009. The cost of this course is USD 500 and is not included in the listed tuition fee

COURSES IN BSCS

Every course is designed for the nonspecialist student who has little or no prior knowledge of the given subject but is equipped with curiosity and good general intelligence to absorb new concepts, methods, and modes of thought.

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science, which hosts BSCS, has been providing service teaching at the Science Faculty of Eötvös since 1994. The Department's students mix in an average course and represent all disciplines. The Department has experience in handling various student backgrounds, interests, and levels of competence within a single course. BSCS courses were designed and professors were selected to fit these criteria without compromising teaching quality.

BLOCK COURSES SYSTEM

BSCS is based on a block courses system. A block course means a one-week (i.e. 5 days), 5 hours per day, intensive course of 20 contact hours altogether. All BSCS block courses are in the form of lectures (occasionally accompanied with independent student work). Because of the many foreign BSCS professors who only spend part of the Semester at Eötvös, the Block Course

System is the only viable solution to teach full courses during the Semester. Each BSCS course is a block course except some special courses (see below). Classes of the special courses (e.g. Hungarian Language and Culture) are in the afternoon. To a limited extent blocks may move within the block course system without prior warning.

Block courses are not uncommon at Eötvös and are generally welcomed by the students because of their highly focused character. A block course ends with an oral examination at the time of the course's end.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSES

COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes are Monday to Friday, 9:00 – 13:30. Location is room 6.85. in North Science Building. Map is at <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>. Breaks are from 10:30 to 10:45 and from 12:15 to 12:45.

- **ORIENTATION WEEK (1. WEEK)** Required, 0 (zero) credit. Personal introduction, introduction to Hungary and Budapest, to the University and its facilities, to the specifics of the local educational system, to how BSCS works, timetables, etc. Includes a 10-hour intensive course of Hungarian language.
- **REGULAR COURSES (2-13. WEEK)** All regular courses are required. They are 2 ECTS credits worth each, equivalent to 1,4 US standard semester hours. The table (next page) summarizes regular course information and their lecturers for 2008.
- **ADDITIONAL SPECIAL COURSES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM**

Hungarian Language	2 ECTS credits, 1,4 semester hour	compulsory or elective
Hungarian Culture	2 ECTS credits 1,4 semester hour	compulsory or elective

- **OTHER SPECIAL COURSES INCLUDED**

As temporary students of Eötvös University, BSCS students are entitled to take any undergraduate course offered by the University not specifically designed for BSCS. More specifically, in each Semester the University offers several courses, some in English or other major languages, for which no special prior requirements other than student status is necessary.

The catalogue of these courses for the current Semester is available on Eötvös's Intranet, and is made accessible for BSCS students during Orientation. Usually, special courses begin one or two weeks after Semester begins (in the 14-week semester, 12 weeks are required as a minimum for the credit).

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS

In order to keep student work focused, no BSCS student is allowed to take more than 32 ECTU. The offered semester hours for the core semester: 17,2 semester hours, for the regular Hungarian language and culture courses: 2,8 semester hours, for the optional Independent Research Module 5,6 semester hours, while for the optional intensive Hungarian language course 2,8 semester hours.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS

BSCS students are encouraged to seek contacts (assisted by the Program) with Eötvös's research Departments in the students' own main fields. This is not a part of the formal requirements of BSCS. Former experience shows, however, that informal contacts between guest students and other research Departments tend to work out fruitfully. Eötvös has a long record of accepting guest students at all levels in various disciplines and in a large number of international programs.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH MODULE

The BSCS Semester takes four month. For students who need more credits or want to spend more time in the study abroad framework we offer an Independent Research (IR) package. IR can be taken consecutively to the BSCS semester or separately as a summer program.

The cost of IR in 2009 is USD 1200. (Again, individual agreements with selected sending universities, increased value added service pack can be provided.) Within IR, students are placed in various Eötvös research Departments according to their majors and receive research tasks suitable for their general background.

IR is available in conjunction with BSCS or separately and under identical conditions (student status, dormitory, infrastructure etc.). IR dates for the 2009 BSCS Semester are from 4th to 29th January, 2010. The IR module involves a dayly 8 hrs contact hours and can be accounted to 50% in the crediting system, so the full Independent Reserch module represents an 5,6 semester hours workload.

2008 SCHEDULE (2009 SCHEDULE T.B.A)

Schedule 2008	Course Title and link to syllabi	Lecturer	Contact Hrs	(14 weeks) semester hours	Course code
Sep 1 – 5.	Orientation week	Ildikó Pieczka and Judit Hegedűs	10	0,7	ORIE 1
Sep 8 – 12.	Introduction to cognitive science	Prof. George Kampis , Dept. HPS, Eötvös U	20	1,4	IDSY 1 BIOL 1 PSYC 1
Sep 15 – 19.	Cognitive Ethology	Prof. Ádám Miklósi , Dept. of Ethology, Eötvös U.	20	1,4	PSYC 2 BIOL 2 BEHA 2
Sep 22 – 26.	Complexity, Cognition, Computation	Prof. Péter Érdi , Kalamazoo College, MI	20	1,4	NEUR 1 COMP 1
Sep 29 – Oct 3.	Philosophy of science	Assoc.Prof. Péter Szegedi , Dept HPS Eötvös U.	20	1,4	PHIL 1
Oct 6 – 10.	Philosophy of language	Prof. Gábor Forrai , Dept. of Philosophy, Miskolc, Hungary	20	1,4	PHIL 2 LANG 1
Oct 13 – 17.	Cognitive psychology	Rozália Ivády , PhD student, TU Budapest	20	1,4	PSYC 3
Oct 18 – 22.	Concepts and Categorization	Assoc. Prof. Lilia Gurova (New Bulgarian University, Sofia)	20	1,4	PSYC 4 PHIL 2
Oct 27 – 31.	Holiday	---	0	0	
Nov 3 – 7.	History of Philosophy	Dr. Gábor Kutrovátz , Assistant Professor, Dept. HPS, Eötvös U	20	1,4	PHIL 3
Nov 10 – 14.	Consciousness	Prof. John Killstrom (Univ. California, Berkeley)	20	1,4	PSYC 5 PHIL 4
Nov 17 – 21.	Computational Neuroscience	Dr. Silvia Scarpetta (Univ. Salerno, Italy)	20	1,4	NEUR 2 COMP 2
Nov 24 – 28.	Cognitive Impairment in Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders	Dr. Krisztina Szalisznyó , Dept. Biophysics, KFKI RMKI, Hung. Acad. Sci. Budapest	20	1,4	NEUR 3 COMP 3
Dec 1 – 5.	Cognitive Development	Assist. Prof. Zoltán Jakab , TU Budapest	20	1,4	PSYC 6
Sep 1-Dec 5	Hungarian Language course	Prof. Dr. András Szöllőssy-Sebestyén , TU Budapest	20	1,4	LANG 2
Sep 1-Dec 5	Hungarian Culture studies	Prof. Dr. András Szöllőssy-Sebestyén , TU Budapest	20	1,4	CULT 1
Jan 7 – 25	Independent Res.Module	Individual supervisor from various Budapest research institutions	60*	4,2	INDE 1 IDSY 2 or Depending on project
Total Sep 1-Jan 25	16 courses		340	23,8	
2 weeks in August 2009	Hungarian language	Babylon Language School	40	2,8	LANG 3

Course Syllabi for the 2008 courses are downloadable from <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>

FACULTY IN 2008

PROFESSOR JOHN BICKLE

Author of *Psychoneural Reduction: The New Wave* (MIT Press, 1998) and *Philosophy and Neuroscience: A Ruthlessly Reductive Account* (Kluwer, 2003).

Chairman of Philosophy Department at U. Cincinnati.

Web: http://asweb.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/philosophy/fac_staff/profile_details.aspx?ePID=MjY1NDI%3D

PROFESSOR PÉTER ÉRDI

Author of *Mathematical Models of Chemical Reactions* (with J. Tóth, Princeton UP, 1999), *Neural Organization: Structure, Function, and Dynamics* (with M.A. Arbib and J. Szentágothai, MIT Press) and *Complexity Explained* (Springer).

He is Henry R. Luce Professor of Complex Systems at Kalamazoo College, and Head of the Department of Biophysics in KFKI RMKI at the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences.

Web: <http://kzoo.edu/~perdi/>

PROFESSOR GÁBOR FORRAI

Author of *Truth, Reference and Conceptual Schemes* (Kluwer, 2002).

Chairman of Philosophy Department, Miskolc University, Hungary.

Web: <http://www.uni-miskolc.hu/~filtort/forrai/FGang.htm>

Dr. ROZÁLIA IVÁDY

Assistant Professor of Cognitive Psychology at the Cognitive Science Department, Budapest Technical University. Teaches at McDaniel College also.

Web: <http://www.cogsci.bme.hu/~ivady/>

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ZOLTAN JAKAB

Author of *Why Not Color Physicalism Without Color Absolutism?* (Commentary on A. Byrne and D. Hilbert: Color Realism and Color Science), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 26 (1), 2003, 34-35

Technical University, Budapest

Web: <http://www.cogsci.bme.hu/DoCS/munkatarsak/JZpub.html>

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GEORGE KAMPIS

Author of *Self-Modifying Systems* (Pergamon, 1991), editor (with M. Stoeltzner and L. Kvasz) of *Appraising Lakatos: Mathematics, Methodology, and the Man* (Kluwer, 2002).

Founding Chairman of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Eötvös, in 2002-

3 Fujitsu Professor of Complex Systems at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and

Technology, in 2007 Wayne G. Basler Chair at East Tennessee State University.

Web: <http://kampus.web.elte.hu/>

PROFESSOR JOHN KILHLSTROM

University of California, Berkeley, Professor at the Department of Psychology, Director of the Group Major in Cognitive Science, Member of the Institute of Cognitive and Brain Sciences, the Institute of Personality and Social Research and the Center for Health Research. Author or editor of several seminal publications, among them, books such as *Cognition and Emotion* (Oxford UP, 2000), and *Sleep and Cognition* (1994).

Web: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~kihlstrm/>

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GABOR KUTROVATZ

Author of *An Epistemological Reconsideration of Present Controversies about Science*. In Sonya Kaneva (ed.): *Challenges Facing Philosophy in United Europe*. Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2004. Pp. 31-38.

Department of History and Philosophy of Science

Web: http://hps.elte.hu/~kutrovatz/page_2/home_e.htm

PROFESSOR ÁDÁM MIKLÓSI

Author of *The ethological analysis of imitation*, *Biological Review*, 74, 347-374, 1999 and other publications.

Leader of the Cognitive Ethology Group at the Department of Ethology at Eötvös since 1991.

Web: <http://etologia.aitia.hu/main.php?folderID=872&articleID=3864&ctag=articlelist&iid=1>

Dr. SILVIA SCARPETTA

Researcher in Computational Neuroscience and Artificial Neural Network Group,

Department of Physics, University of Salerno, Italy

Web: <http://www.physics.unisa.it/silvia.scarpetta/>

Dr. KRISZTINA SZALISZNYÓ

Postdoctoral research fellow at the Computational Neuroscience Group, RMKI, KFKI (Hung.Acad.Sci.) Budapest.

Web: <http://cneuro.rmki.kfki.hu/people/szali>

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PÉTER SZEGEDI

Editor (with K. Martinás and L. Ropolyi) of *Thermodynamics: History and Philosophy* (World Scientific 1991).

Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Eötvös since 1994.

Web: <http://hps.elte.hu/~szegedi/indexh.html>

Dr. SZŐLLŐSSY-SEBESTYÉN ANDRÁS

Department of Information & Knowledge Management in the Faculty of Social & Economic Studies, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, former Head of the Department of Hungarian Language and founding Director of Translation and Interpretation Training Courses at the Institute of Modern Languages of the same university. Beyond research papers and scientific studies he also has published essays, journalism and poetry.

Web: <http://itm.bme.hu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=263>

GUEST FACULTY IN 2008:

Professor John Kihlstrom, Prof. Silvia Scarpetta, Dr Rozália Ivády, Dr. Krisztina Szalisznyó

RESIDENT SECRETARY

BSCS employs a Resident Secretary who is responsible for all administrative matters and all contacts during the students' stay in Hungary and while studying in the BSCS. She is also the main contact for the parents (and families) of the students. The Resident Secretary is fluent in English.

The Resident Secretary has office hours every day 13:30 – 14:30 (in room 1.711) and she is available at all times, 24-7, in case of emergency during the whole Semester of BSCS. Please avoid calling the Resident Secretary outside Semester. In all off-Semester matters consult the US Coordinator or the Program Directors. The name, email, and cell phone number of the Resident Secretary is:

Ildiko Pieczka, pieczka.i@gmail.com, phone: +36 20 348 5858.

VISA INFORMATION

Admitted students are required to obtain a Study Visa (Hungarian D-5 Visa) for the duration of their stay. The possession of a Student Visa is absolutely required for any study purpose stay irrespective of duration.

Visas can be obtained from the Hungarian Embassy. For US students, the Hungarian Embassy is available in Washington, D.C.

Embassy of Hungary

Department of Consular Affairs <http://www.huembwas.org/Consul/ENG/ConsularAffairs.htm>

3910 Shoemaker St., NW

Washington, DC 20008

Tel.: (202) 362-6730

ARRIVAL

Program representatives will meet you upon arrival if they know the time, date, and location of your arrival (airport or rail station). It is therefore vital that the organizers in Budapest are informed about your travel well ahead of time. Please send your travel plans to the Resident Secretary as soon as they are made. Under almost every circumstances, someone from the program will meet you upon your arrival in Budapest and you will be taken to your residence. However, if your arrival in Budapest is delayed or affected by any unforeseen factor, make a phone call to Katalin Mund +36 30 442 9898 (see also “Mail and Phone”).

ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE

THINGS TO TAKE ALONG

Students should not forget their passport, airline ticket, a major credit or debit card, and a sufficient amount of money in cash and travelers checks to cover immediate expenses upon arrival. A few extra passport-type photos may come in handy. This document contains important names and telephone numbers; we recommend that you carry it with you in your carry-on luggage.

It is important that you bring an ample supply of any medicine you frequently use. Take shoes and clothes appropriate for all seasons. Dormitory rooms come completely furnished with such things as furniture, sheets, kitchenware, etc. and you can easily find further items in shops. Clothes dryers do not exist. Thick items, such as sweatshirts, take two to three days to air dry. The dorm has a laundry. Towels and other personal items of hygiene are necessary.

While traveling, keep your passport, cash, and a week's supply of any vital medication in your carry-on luggage. Although unlikely, it may happen that checked baggage is put on the wrong plane. At check in time, make certain your baggage is labeled inside and out with your final destination: Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science; Eotvos University, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, H-1117 Budapest, Pazmany P. s. 1., Hungary. Phone: (30) 442 9898.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage used in continental Europe is 220 Volts. This renders most American appliances useless unless they are convertible, battery-operated or you have an adapter. In the US, adapters can be bought at every major electricity shop. Note that the outlet geometry is also different. Outlet adapters also exists that switch between the different systems and are available in the US for a few dollars.

Today most general use electronic devices (such as laptops, portable CD players etc.) come equipped with a built-in conversion system between 110/220 Volts (but not between the

mechanical outlet geometries). In such a case all you need is the mechanical adapter. In case of doubt students should check their devices and consult the Program staff in advance.

CLIMATE

Climate in Budapest is similar to that of other cities with continental weather at similar latitude (e.g. Paris, Vienna, Munich). It can be quite windy near the river Danube (next to the campus).

Note that in Europe, temperature is measured in Centigrade. Zero Centigrade is 32 Fahrenheit and every 10 Centigrades difference makes another 18 Fahrenheit (i.e. 50 Fahrenheit is 10 Centigrade, 68 F is 20 C, etc).

CURRENCY

Hungarian currency is called Hungarian Forint, or Forint (Ft) for short. As a general rule, students should not carry much Forint in cash, as there are many ATM's in the city (a few of them directly on the Campus). They also give a very good exchange rate. You can exchange dollars or travelers checks to Forints at the airport, rail station, or any of the hotels or banks in Budapest. There remains a currency black market in Hungary, but there is also a good deal of counterfeit currency in circulation; students are strongly advised not to trade currency with strangers.

Major international cards (in particular, MasterCard and Visa) are accepted at many places, including most restaurants, bookshops, and food stores. Further information is found in the Budapest Users' Guide. Personal checks, cashier checks, money orders, etc., cannot be readily exchanged. International banking is quite slow. Although you may deposit a personal check at some banks, it may take several months until the check clears. It is a good idea to bring some personal checks along in case you have to mail away for something like a GRE registration.

It is not a good idea to exchange all your money at once. The bank will convert Forints back to dollars but will charge you again for the transaction.

GENERAL GUIDES

A good information page is <http://www.budapeststudent.com/>. Further information, such as how to buy a monthly student ticket, how to get a cell phone, etc, are provided in Orientation Week (compulsory for Programme participants) and in the "Budapest Users' Guide", handed out for free. Also, contact <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>.

ENGLISH ON THE STREET

Not many Hungarians speak foreign languages at all, yet it is possible to get along with English. One is likely to find at least one English-speaking person almost anywhere. A handful of basic Hungarian words will help out in most real-life situations. People tend to be co-operative and friendly towards foreigners.

MEALS

BSCS students should rely on the choice of available shops and restaurants in this respect. Besides, the Dormitory offers a student kitchen in the common area. The Orientation Week gives detailed information about on-Campus student restaurants, nearby supermarkets, food stores, etc. Special needs such as vegetarian, cholesterol-free, or religiously approved (Kosher, Islamic, etc) food is increasingly common in Hungary and should be obtained relatively easily.

Living costs are relatively low in Hungary, by most Western standards. For comparison, an average daily shopping may cost 2000 Forint (10 USD), and dinner in a reasonable city restaurant starts in the same range. A complete lunch in a student restaurant costs ca. 500 Ft (ca. 3 USD).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The public transportation system in Budapest is safe, cheap, and extended. The student package contains necessary maps and descriptions. Tickets are valid for all public transport vehicles: subway, buses, trams, electric street cars (“trolley bus”). Transportation maps on the Internet are available from <http://hps.elte.hu/BSCS/>.

For accessing any city destination from the Airport, the best value for money is the “Airport Minibus”, which operates as a multi-customer taxi, and costs 4000 Forints (ca. 20 USD).

MAIL AND PHONE

To call a telephone number in Budapest from abroad, use international call prefixes. From the United States, you prefix the number with 011-36-1. Dialing 011 summons the international switchboard, 36 is the country code for Hungary, and 1 is the city code for Budapest.

Note the difference in time zones. When it is noon in New York and 9 a.m. in San Francisco, it is 6 p.m. in Hungary. At 6 p.m. in New York, it is midnight in Budapest.

Making a call from Budapest you need to dial 00 for the international switchboard, then the country code (which is 1 for the US and Canada) followed by area code and the telephone number without pauses.

Your mailing address in Budapest will be:

name of student (for LETTERS ONLY)
 Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science
 Department of History and Philosophy of Science
 Eotvos University
 H-1518 Budapest
 P.O. Box 32
 Hungary

name of student (PACKAGES or FedEx, etc)
 Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science
 Department of History and Philosophy of Science
 Eotvos University
 H-1117 Budapest
 Pazmany P. s. 1/C.
 Hungary

SAFETY AND SECURITY

By most standards, Budapest is a safe city, except at a few places and at certain hours. The most typical street crime is theft at a crowded place, and fraud by black market dealers. Common sense is usually sufficient to avoid or to solve such situations. Open threat or unprovoked violence towards strangers is very rare.

The student package (distributed upon arrival) contains Police phone numbers (English operator), as well as further information. Also, students get a Police-issued leaflet in English, which explains the basics of safety in the city, together with the most typical criminal tricks played against tourists and visitors.

HEALTH AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

In terms of general health and accidents risks, Hungary is a safe country on the absolute scale. Each BSCS student is required to have a valid full health insurance that covers all accidents and usual medical treatments for the whole duration of their stay in the Programme. Students arriving without a proper health and accident insurance are required to obtain one at their own

costs. The Resident Secretary provides help and advice if necessary. In Emergency or crisis, the Resident Secretary or one of the emergency numbers given below should be consulted.

INTERNET ACCESS

BSCS students have free broadband Internet access on university machines on the Campus when it is open. The Campus is open on workdays 7:00 am – 9:00 pm.

The BSCS classroom has currently 12 open nodes with DHCP. Student dormitories usually have open Internet nodes to which an own laptop or PC can be connected by a standard twisted pair Ethernet cable. Some buildings also support wireless connections (standard Wi-Fi). Many students use their own laptop in Budapest.

SPORTS FACILITIES

The University Campus is still in expansion, and relatively poor in terms of sports facilities at the moment. However, basic facilities such as a jogging course, a swimming pool as well as some others are already available and can be visited by student card.

Students with needs beyond this level should use public facilities. Please consult the Chair or the Resident Secretary for details and advice. Budapest is a city which offers virtually all imaginable sports activities, from wall-climbing and skateboarding to paragliding and horse-riding, most of them usually available at low to reasonable costs. Students are advised not to forget about their gears and licences, etc.

EXCURSIONS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

BSCS offers its students two weekend excursions included in the tuition fee. A weekend excursion is a two-day (one-night) trip to a scenic and historically relevant place in the country of Hungary.

The destinations of the first excursion are:

Szentendre (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szentendre>)

Esztergom (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esztergom>)

Visegrád (<http://www.visegrad.hu>)

The destination of the second excursion are:

Eger (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eger>)

Szilvásvár (<http://www.szilvasvarad.org/#english>)

Further excursions will be organized on a cost basis to several neighbouring countries to gain a Central European experience. Individual trips are also possible during the weekends. Organizing assistance is provided by the BSCS staff

Based on individual agreements with selected Colleges and Universities further value added services can be provided. Arrangements of this kind underway with a few institutions and is open to every college and university.

BSCS does not offer organized cultural programs in Budapest, but gives help to students (who should move self-confidently in the city after orientation Week) to organise programs on their own. Quality information pages such as <http://www.pestimusor.hu/> exist in the Hungarian language, and BSCS staff gives assistance on how to use them.

BSCS staff also gives advises in terms of do's and don'ts. Student dormitories close at 22:00 which puts a limit to independent student activity.

Students who need personal guidance to cultural programs or want to be accompanied by locals should inquire at the Resident Secretary. Local Eötvös students who volunteer to keep company can be easily found on prior notice.

DECENCY

BSCS students belong to Eötvös University and the University's rules apply to them. Students are expected to conduct a decent student lifestyle. Resident BSCS staff monitors and helps extracurricular student activities in order to strictly keep this goal.

The University Campus is located within the inner city of Budapest, which has more than 2 million inhabitants. It is important for students to be aware of their share of responsibility to conduct their own life on the Campus and in the city. Improper lifestyle, in particular with respect to the use of alcohol, drugs and delinquency of any kind can not be tolerated in BSCS. Every disciplinary offence will be reported to the student's home institution.

EMERGENCY

The most important emergency phone numbers are:

General Emergency number:	112
Ambulance:	104
Fire-fighters:	105
Police:	107
Domestic directory assistance:	198
International directory assistance:	199
Posting a telegraph over telephone:	192
Automobile club emergency service:	188
Drug Stop Telephone Hotline :	(+36 80) 505 678



Annex - Sample Model Transcript for 2008

Transcript

This is to certify that the following student

Born in the country of on19.....
has fulfilled his/her university obligations in the fall semester

(from the 1st of September to 5th of December 2008, and
for the independent research modul from 7th to 25th of January 2009)

of the academic year 2008/2009 at the Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science (BSCS) at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary.

He/She has attended the courses and received the grades as given in the table hereunder:

Course code/discipline	Contact hours	Course title	Grade
IDSY 1 BIOL 1 PSYC 1	20	Introduction to cognitive science	
PSYC 2 BIOL 2 BEHA 2	20	Cognitive Ethology	
NEUR 1 COMP 1	20	Complexity, Cognition, Computation	
PHIL 1	20	Philosophy of science	
PHIL 2 LANG 1	20	Philosophy of language	
PSYC 3	20	Cognitive psychology	
PSYC 4 PHIL 2	20	Concepts and Categorization	
PHIL 3	20	History of Philosophy	
PSYC 5 PHIL 4	20	Consciousness	
NEUR 2 COMP 2	20	Computational Neuroscience	
NEUR 3 COMP 3	20	Cognitive Impairment in Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders	
PSYC 6	20	Cognitive Development	
LANG 2	20	Hungarian Language course	
CULT 1	20	Hungarian Culture studies	
INDE 1 IDSY 2 .Dependent on subejct	60	Independent Res.Modul	
LANG 3	40	Hungarian language, intensive course	

Total contact hours offered 380

Total contact hours attended:

Total contact hours graded

1 Contact hour is equivalent to a 50 min lecture in class.

Hours spent in Independent Research module are accounted at 50%.

Total number of units earned:

1 unit is equivalent to 10 ECTS standard contact hours

2 units are equivalent to 1,4 US standard semester hours. (calculated for a 14 week semester)

Budapest, 200.....

Program director Rector (Dean)

Explanation of grades: 5 "excellent", 4 "good", 3 "medium", 2 "sufficient", 1 "insufficient"