

Visa / Residence Permit Information

For students from non-European Union Countries

United States citizens traveling to Hungary as tourists are not required to obtain a visa ahead of time. Upon arrival in Hungary, they receive an automatic 90-day tourist visa stamp in their passports. However, for those who will be in the country more than 90 days in any calendar year, a visa is required.

Students from other countries should check with the Hungarian Embassy in their country of citizenship to determine to find out specific visa information related to travel to Hungary.

As part of this information packet, you have received an official acceptance letter from the Word of Life Hungary Bible School that also serves as an invitation letter for the purpose of obtaining a visa from the Hungarian embassy in your country. Please note that our school is not accredited by the Hungarian government. This means that you are therefore ineligible for a student visa, as we would be unable to provide you with the paperwork necessary for that type of visa. Please contact the embassy for further information regarding this.

Most visas are valid for only one year. Since our school is a two-year program, you will need to apply for a one-year residence permit in May, at the end of your first year. The total cost for the permit process as of August 2004 is approximately \$150-\$175 (although this is subject to change depending on the exchange rate and other factors). This cost includes travel/transportation to the various offices you will need to visit. Part of the residence permit application process is that you must go through several medical exams to determine that you are not bringing dangerous communicable diseases into the country.

A staff member will assist you during throughout this process. (You may have heard that students in previous years simply applied for a second visa to attend the second year of classes. However, since this is not the proper method according to Hungarian law, this is usually no longer allowed and you will almost certainly be denied a second visa).

You should call the Hungarian Embassy to obtain a visa application and to make sure you have up-to-date information concerning the visa application process in general. You need to make sure that you send in your visa application as soon as possible after receiving your acceptance letter. The process can take as little as a couple of weeks or as long as 4-6 weeks since all visas are issued in Budapest. Since your visa is a stamp placed in your passport, you will need to mail it in with the application. You need to keep this in mind if you would need to travel outside your home country while your visa is being processed. Also, you will want to make sure that your passport is valid until at least the end of August of your second year. If it isn't you should consider renewing your passport prior to applying for your visa.

If you experience a long delay (a month or more) without receiving any information from the Hungarian Embassy, or in the unlikely event that you are denied a visa, make sure that you contact us immediately. So far all of our students have received visas, though it occasionally requires some intervention on our part.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For students from European Union Countries

Students who are citizens of EU-member countries are not required to obtain a visa to travel to Hungary. However, since they will be in Hungary for more than 90 days each calendar-year, they are required to apply for a residence permit (see information above concerning this). Please note that the cost of a residence permit for a student from an EU-member country is approximately 40 euros.