

Guide for Graduating Students: What to Do if Your Residence Permit Expires Before Graduation

Dear Students,

If your current residence permit expires before your graduation ceremony, and you are from a country that is not visa-exempt, you may apply for a Temporary Residence Certificate (in Hungarian: *Ideiglenes Tartózkodási Igazolás* or *ITI*) issued by the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (OIF). Please [check your passport\(s\) here to see if you have 90 visa-free days in Hungary and in the Schengen area](#) after the expiry of your current permit. [Nationals of the countries listed here have an additional visa-free 90 days in Hungary.](#)

Who is eligible for this specific ITI? This certificate is specifically intended to legalize your stay for the graduation ceremony. You are eligible if you don't hold a visa-free passport and you have not applied for any other Hungarian residence permit (such as a study permit extension, a job-seeking permit, etc.). *(Please note: If you already have a pending application for another permit, you will receive an ITI based on that pending application, not for the graduation ceremony.)*

Required Documents for the Application When visiting the OIF customer service to apply for this ITI, you must bring the following documents:

- **Outbound flight ticket** *(Important update: Providing a ticket out of Hungary is now a strict requirement, as the validity of your ITI will be aligned with your departure date.)*
- **Valid passport**
- **ID photo**
- **Proof of accommodation** (e.g., lease agreement, dormitory certificate)
- **Proof of financial means** (e.g., bank statement)
- **Health insurance**
- **Certificate issued by ELTE confirming your participation in the graduation ceremony**

Important Rules Regarding Your Departure The authority requires you to plan your departure within a realistic timeframe. Your flight should be booked for the earliest possible date after your graduation ceremony, up to a maximum of 3 weeks. If there are several weeks between your residence permit's expiry date and the graduation ceremony, you must book your flight for immediately after the ceremony. The authority assumes that this waiting period provides sufficient time to close your affairs in Hungary and pack for your return home.

When and How to Apply

- **Timing:** You should visit the OIF Customer Service **1-2 days before** your current residence permit expires. There's no electronic application for the ITI via the EnterHungary website.
- **Notification:** Before your visit, please inform your faculty coordinator and the central visa coordination team (visa@elte.hu). We will forward this information to the OIF to help facilitate your administrative process.

- **Late Application:** If you fail to visit the customer service before your permit expires, you can still apply afterward. In this case, the document issued will be classified as a "country-leaving" ITI (*országelhagyó ITI*).

Travel Restrictions (Please read carefully!)

- An ITI **only legalizes your stay within Hungary**. It is NOT valid in other Schengen Member States.
- With an expired residence permit and an ITI, you **cannot** re-enter Hungary or travel to other Schengen countries. Please do not plan any international travel or holidays outside of Hungary during this period.
- If you plan to move to another Schengen country (for example, due to a job offer) or wish to travel within the Schengen zone, you should apply for a **Job-Seeking Permit** instead of this graduation ITI.
- You must hand over your ITI to the border authorities upon your departure from Hungary.

⚠ Extreme Heat Warning for Customer Service Visits ⚠ During periods of extreme heat or heatwave alerts, please avoid visiting the customer service in person if possible. If a visit is absolutely unavoidable due to your permit's approaching expiration date, please be prepared for high temperatures. Long waiting times in the heat can cause physical discomfort or illness, so please bring water and take the necessary health precautions.

What Happens If You Do Not Obtain an ITI? (Overstaying) If you do not obtain even a "country-leaving" ITI and your residence permit expires, please arrive at the airport well in advance and plan for extra time before your flight. In this case, the immigration officers at the airport will have to administer your illegal stay (overstay) and process your departure on the spot.

Please be assured that such an overstay does not automatically result in a ban from the Schengen zone. However, legalizing your stay should always be your priority. If the authorities have already established an overstay, it is crucial that you fully cooperate with them and strictly observe any given deadlines.

Feel free to reach out to visa@elte.hu in case you have any other questions. Please include your Neptun code in your letter!

Kind regards,
Zoltán Kalácska