Factsheet about Residence Permit

WHAT IS A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

The residence permit is an official document that allows you to legally stay in Hungary. It is a plastic card issued by the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (Immigration Office), which confirms the purpose of your stay in the country to the authorities. Depending on the purpose of residence, there are several types of permits. If you got accepted at our university and are not an EEA citizen, you are eligible to apply for a Residence Permit for the Purpose of Study.

WHO NEEDS A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

You need a residence permit if you are a citizen of a non-EEA country.

If you come from an EEA country (EU member states, as well as Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Lichtenstein and United Kingdom) you only need a Registration Certificate. You can find more information on the website of the Directorate-General for Aliens Policing.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT? HOW TO APPLY FOR A VISA?

The visa is a document that enables you to travel into the country.
The residence permit is a document that enables you to stay in the country.

You need to apply for a D-visa (visa entitles you to receive a residence permit) if you come from a country that is under visa obligations. Your residence permit application will also be started during this process. The decision on residence permit with study purposes is usually made **within 30 days** and you will receive your D-visa to enter Hungary.

Please note that after obtaining a D-visa, it enables you to enter Hungary **only once** within a year after its issuance. However, after your arrival, you have **30 days** to pick up your residence permit in the office of the Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (1135 Budapest, Szegedi út 37.)

You can apply for D-visa at the Hungarian embassy/consulate in your country (please note that you need to book an **appointment** for your visa application).

WHERE CAN YOU APPLY FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

There are two ways to apply for a residence permit depending on which country you come from:

A.) If you come from a non-EEA country that is **under visa obligation**, you have to apply for a D-visa (and the residence permit simultaneously) at the Hungarian embassy/consulate in your country.

B.) If you come from a **visa waiver** non-EEA country (do not need visa, see the list here), you can apply for residence permit after your arrival on the Enter Hungary website.

If you are a scholarship holder student, the whole visa and residence permit application process is free for you!

HOW CAN YOU APPLY FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

A. If you apply for a residence permit in your home country, you will need to present the following documents at the embassy/consulate:

- documents verifying the purpose of residence (Letter of Acceptance OR Certificate about student status)
- documents of means of subsistence in Hungary (a certificate on the payment of scholarship grant OR funds held on bank accounts)
- documents proving Hungarian home address
- documents proving the existence of comprehensive health insurance

Please find more detailed information about what kind of documents are acceptable here. If you got accepted to the university with a scholarship (eg. Stipendium Hungaricum, Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship, Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People), you can present the Letter of Acceptance and the Letter of Award instead of the required documents listed above, as they have paragraphs about the scholarship payments, health insurance, and accommodation.

B. If you are a citizen of a visa waiver country, you are able to enter Hungary with your ordinary passport and legally stay in the country for 90 days. You can and should start the application process **after your arrival, as soon as possible**. To start the application process, you have to register on the Enter Hungary website and upload the following documents:

- copy of valid travel document
- bank statement issued by a Hungarian or foreign financial institution concerning the applicant's bank account about covering the expenses of travel
- statement of leaving the country voluntarily in case of refusal
- In case an authorized person conducts the procedure, the legal document of authorization
- certificate of enrolment issued by the host institution of education OR Letter of Acceptance OR certificate about student status
- invoice and/or certificate of the tuition fee's payment OR Letter of Award (scholarship)
- language certificate
- bank statement of a Hungarian or foreign bank OR Certificate of scholarship (Letter of Award)
- health insurance

After you uploaded and submitted everything, the website will close itself. From that time you have 15 days to personally visit the office of the Directorate-General for Aliens Policing to submit your biometric data. Please note that on the 16th day, your electronic application will be terminated!

Although you can travel to Hungary more easily from a visa-waiver country, the University highly recommends already starting the residence permit application in your home country, as this significantly facilitates and speeds up the administration of the residence permit after arrival!

It is **important** that you clearly understand how you can arrange the residence permit for the purpose of studies (and the D-visa, if required). Before submitting your application, please read the relevant pages carefully on the official website of the *National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing*. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Hungarian Consulate in your home country and the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing.