

Guidelines for Applying for a Study Visa for Hungary

*These guidelines are for citizens of the United States; **any student who is not a U.S. citizen should refer to the Hungarian Embassy website for details and see their Education Abroad Advisor with questions.***

When and where do I apply?

U.S. citizens are required to get a long-term (“D”) study visa before their departure from the U.S. The visa can be obtained at the Hungarian Consulates in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, or Washington, D.C. To see what consulate you must use, please check your jurisdiction (see [HERE](#)). This depends on your state of permanent residence or usual/habitual residence (students studying at Richmond full-time may be able to use the DC consulate based on the fact that they are in Richmond nearly 10 months out of the year, if this is more convenient for them). Bring photo ID showing address within jurisdiction of consulate. You must appear **IN PERSON** to submit your biometrics (fingerprints and photo), which is part of the process.

Washington, D.C.: <https://washington.mfa.gov.hu/eng>

New York: <https://newyork.mfa.gov.hu/eng>

Los Angeles: <https://losangeles.mfa.gov.hu/eng/page/general-visa-information>

Chicago: <https://chicago.mfa.gov.hu/eng/page/konzuli-informaciok>

What is the timeframe?

Visa applications are processed by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Please be advised that available appointments may fill up **MONTHS** in advance during the summer, so it is important to plan ahead. Walk-ins are not allowed, not even during their visa processing hours. For fall semester study abroad, the OIE recommends you start the process to make your appointment at least by end of May in order to get an appointment in June or July (ideally no later than July 15). For spring semester, you should start the process in early October for an appointment in early December at the latest. Once you have attended your appointment, the consulate aims to process your visa within **15-30 days**.

How much does it cost?

You will need to pay a fee between \$66 - \$71 USD (as of May 2019; fee amount depends on consulate and on exchange rate). Some consulates will accept cash, money orders, or cashier’s check (no personal checks), and others will accept credit cards, so be sure to check. If paying by money order or cashier’s check, make payable to the Embassy/Consulate of Hungary. If you wish for your materials to be sent back to you by traceable courier mail (recommended), bring with you a self-addressed, pre-paid Fed Ex or UPS (or USPS, if that is all that is allowed) shipping label (check which expedited service is allowed at the consulate where you are applying).

Which documents do I need to apply?

Based on review of all the consulate websites, you must appear **IN PERSON** at the consulate with the following **original** documents (no photocopies!):

1. Valid passport (validity 3 months longer than student's actual stay in Hungary, with at least two blank pages remaining) - students also need to bring a photocopy of the photo page
2. Completed [application](#) for the “residence permit for purpose of studies” (D-visa) + [Appendix 14](#)
3. Passport-sized color photos (recent; number depends on consulate, but typically 1-2 photos)
4. Letter of acceptance from AIT and proof of housing assignment
5. Proof of finances – recent bank statements (not older than 30 days) proving that student has enough money for studying in Hungary (\$800-\$1,000/month should be sufficient; showing a minimum of 3 months’ worth or \$2,400 - \$3,000 total). If needed, include supplemental bank statement from parent/guardian or Financial Aid Office award letter. Parent/guardian should also write a few lines

that they will cover their child's expenses during his/her stay in Hungary (ideally this letter would be notarized). It is okay if the bank statement is from a recently printed online statement, ideally printed just prior to your appointment). Students receiving financial aid can get a Fund Certification Letter from the UR Financial Aid Office to show proof of scholarship/aid.

6. Proof of international health insurance – download from OIE Gateway Abroad website (+ copy)
7. Round-trip flight confirmation/reservation
8. Letter from U-Richmond – this letter indicates you are billed UR tuition and that you do not pay AIT tuition and also indicates that Richmond provides health and accident insurance for you (this is supplementary to the above proof of insurance). This letter was given to students at or shortly after the orientation.

What happens next?

Students will receive a visa sticker in their passport, which allows them 1 entry into the Schengen zone and to stay for 30 days. The submitted materials from above will be returned to you and should be carried with you in your carry-on luggage when you travel to Hungary in case you are asked to present anything at border control. After arrival overseas, students must then appear at the Immigration Office in Budapest within 30 days to get their residence permit that will cover them from the duration of stay.

Visiting the Immigration Office in Budapest After Your Arrival Overseas

Based on the current regulations, students will need to appear at the Immigration Office in Budapest within 30 days of arrival to pick up the residence card, which extends the stay for the duration of the semester. AIT will assist students with this process after your arrival overseas.

Are there any alternatives if I cannot go to DC, NY, LA, or Chicago to apply for the residence permit?

Students who would face a hardship to appear in person at a consulate in NY, DC, LA, or Chicago are advised to contact Amy Bergmann, study abroad advisor for Hungary, at abergman@richmond.edu to discuss possible alternatives for entering Hungary, a Schengen state. **U.S. citizens are able to enter and travel the Schengen states as tourists for up to 90 days within a 6-month period** (be careful if you have already been in European Schengen states recently); there is no advance application process for this. A student entering Hungary in this way would need to show a return flight date departing Hungary within 90 days of their arrival (or less if they have already traveled within the Schengen states in the prior 6 months). Ignoring this means risking that the airline may refuse to allow you to board or that you may be sent back upon arrival.

Once students are in Budapest and submit documents to the Immigration Office, the flight could be re-booked for the end of the semester. Airlines have different policies (and costs) for changing the date of the flight, and students should carefully check this when buying a ticket. Students who go through this process successfully will ultimately receive the same residence permit card that covers them for the entirety of the semester. Note that the Richmond OIE cannot reimburse students for the costs of changing their flight.

This document represents the Office of International Education's best understanding of the Hungarian visa/residence permit process at time of publication. Students are advised, however, to carefully read the online information for their relevant consulate and should not hesitate to contact the consulate with any questions. Visa policies and practices are ever-changing, and therefore the OIE cannot be responsible for any mistaken information contained herein.