

Balassi Summer University BUDAPEST 2016.

4 weeks, 80 language classes, 16 lectures on Hungarian culture, excursions, afternoon programs

The Summer University of Balassi Institute (25th July 2016 - 19th August 2016) offers its program in the heart of Budapest (Hungarian language classes, lectures on Hungarian culture and field trips to popular spots in Hungary). Students can join Hungarian language classes at all levels from basic to advanced (A1-C1). The lectures as well as the field trips are designed to present different aspects of Hungarian culture (history, art, folklore, movies, literature etc.).

Balassi Institute is a central institution of Hungarian culture – like the Goethe Institute or the British Council. It is of outstanding importance also in the cultural diplomacy of Hungary. The 59-year old Balassi Institute has been the first and is still one of the most authentic institutions in Hungary in teaching Hungarian as a foreign language. We had 26.000 language classes taught in all in 2014. The main tasks of the institute are to manage the network of Hungarian Institutes (23 countries) and the network of visiting professors and lecturers of Hungarian Studies (2000 students at universities out of Hungary), to prepare foreign students for studies at Hungarian universities, to organize language courses, to offer scholarships in Hungarian Studies, to participate in teacher training programs (Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest and Károli Gáspár University send 20-30 students per year to our institute for their teacher training practice) etc.

At Balassi Summer University the aim of the language classes at beginner level is to help students speak Hungarian with confidence from the first day. Students are exposed to a balanced treatment of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and skills combined with communicative strategies. At intermediate and advanced levels courses start by a placement test, then a short period of systematizing students' grammatical and lexical knowledge.

After that the courses will help students to gain self confidence when using their Hungarian. Our experienced and enthusiastic teachers use the most up-to-date methods of guided discovery and self-discovery, students are exposed to everyday situations in Hungarian in a challenging way. Besides establishing patterns for sentence structure, students will be able to assimilate pronunciation, intonation and vocabulary by actively participating in the lesson and by listening to the recorded materials, watching DVDs, working with interactive materials on computer and taking part in creative group activities.



The Hungarian language lessons are combined with lectures on Hungarian history, music, folk and fine arts, gastronomy as well as on the country's special position in Central Europe with the teaching aim to survey the periods of Hungarian history, focusing on the most important events and personalities as well as the European aspects, 20th century etc.

The museum visits and field trips connected to the lectures assist in putting the theory into practice. The capital city, the atmosphere of an exciting European metropolis and the countryside provide a variety of enriching cultural experiences.

Students can apply for the Balassi Summer University program through the Tempus Foundation (<http://tka.hu/international-programmes/4133/information-for-applicants>), or they can enroll and pay for the course themselves. Heritage students from overseas can apply for the Balassi Summer University scholarship directly.

For those applying for the program on a self-paying basis:

Important dates:

Deadline for application: 8 July, 2016
 Arrival: 24 July, 2016
 Instruction begins: 25 July, 2016
 Departure: 19, August 2016

Course fees:

Registration fee: 12.500 HUF (appr. 45 Euro)
 Tuition fee: 222.500 HUF (appr. 730 Euro)
 Accomodation:
 - in a 3-bed room 20.000 HUF (appr. 70 Euro)
 - in a 2-bed room 30.000 HUF (appr. 100 Euro)

Study only: 150 000 HUF tuition fee plus 12 500

The tuition fee includes the cost of language courses, lectures, field trips, course materials.

Balassi Summer University offers:

LANGUAGE CLASSES (80)	4 lessons/day (small groups, focusing on communication, interactive tasks, language laboratory)			
CULTURAL LECTURES (14)	e.g. The Hungarian Language, The Hungarian Dream, Spotlight on the Hungarian Theatre: Its Past and Present, „Survival Hungarian Literature”, The Breakthrough Period – Hungarian Painting 1867-1920, The Milestones of Hungarian History, The Revolution and War of Independence in 1956, The History of Hungarian Movie			
EXCURSIONS (2)	to Northern Hungary and to Lake Balaton			
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS (12 - and a lot more possibilities in the Budapest summer)	Gellért Hill Walk	Parliament of Hungary	Zwack Museum	Folk dance event
	Introduction to Hungarian Wine with tasting	Budapest Zoo	Hidden Treasures: City Walk	House of Terror
	National Museum	Margitsziget Musical Fountain	Opera House	City Park

Programs

Zwack Museum

Location: Haller street (near to Boráros Square)



Description: Zwack Museum follows the story of a special drink and the history of a family. It all began in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, about two centuries ago when József Zwack, a royal physician to the Habsburg Emperor, invented a bitter, dark-coloured drink. Unicum, a blend of more than 40 herbs, is created

according to the secret formula, closely protected by the Zwack family, ever since. The museum also houses a unique collection of 15,000 miniature bottles of every alcoholic beverage you can imagine. After your visit of the museum's exhibits you can sample the famous Unicum and other Zwack products.

Skanzen: Open Air Ethnographical Museum

Location: Szentendre (north to Budapest)

Description: The Skanzen or Open-Air Ethnographical Museum shows the rural life of Hungarian folks about 200 years ago through authentic replicas of Hungarian rural architecture. It can be stated that the museum is basically Hungary in small as it demonstrates the cultural heritage of different regions on a 60-hectare area where maisonettes, farms, mills, forges and schools have been collected from all parts of the country. Each region has its own spot and in 2010 the museum established its own railway to connect these sections (additional tickets are needed to ride the train). The open-air museum covers such a large area that it might take a whole day to explore it.

Excursion to Lake Balaton

Description: Local people call Lake Balaton, central Europe's largest fresh water lake, the Hungarian sea. Hungary being a land-locked country, the lake has eventually become Hungarians' number one vacation resort. The fine climate and the exquisite soil made the area around Lake Balaton one of the most significant pillars of Hungarian wine production with four wine regions. Almost exclusively white varieties are grown in the area known as Balatonfelvidék (Balaton Highland) from which fiery, full-bodied white wines are produced. On the volcanic slopes of Badacsony Pinot Gris (Szürkebarát), Olaszrizling (Italian Riesling) and a local white variety Kéknyelű are produced. The Balassi excursion to Balaton covers visiting the beach in Balatonfüred and a wine-growing in Badacsony, where besides wine-tasting pörkölt (beef stew) will be served for lunch at the Rózsakő Inn.

Budapest Challenge Scavenger Hunt

Location: a lot of places in the city

Description: exploration of the city – in a different way

City Park Boat Ride

Location: City Park Pond

Description: The City Park Ice Rink is a public ice rink located in the City Park between Heroes' Square and Vajdahunyad Castle. Opened in 1870, it is the largest and one of the oldest ice rinks in Europe. In summer months the area is filled up with water to create a pond, which is primarily used for boating, but also hosted several special events, such as the snowball fight world record attempt in 2009 or the Art on Lake exhibition in 2011.

National Gallery

Location: Buda Castle

Description: The Hungarian National Gallery is the largest public collection documenting and presenting the rise and development of the fine arts in Hungary. It has operated as an independent institution since 1957. The HNG moved to its present location, the former Royal Palace of Buda, in 1975. Impressionist artworks



Balassi

from three collections together in one grand-scale exhibition. From the end of June, masterpieces from the collections of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Hungarian National Gallery, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest will be on display in the Hungarian National Gallery. Visitors will have an opportunity to view paintings by French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist artists alongside outstanding works by the most important Hungarian painters of the period.

Opera House

Location: Andrásy Avenue

Description: The Opera House is not only one of the most significant art relic of Budapest, but the symbol of the Hungarian operatic tradition of more than three hundred years as well. The long-awaited moment in Hungarian opera life arrived on September 27, 1884, when, in the presence of Franz Joseph I. the Opera House was opened amid great pomp and ceremony. The event, however, erupted into a small scandal - the curious crowd broke into the entrance hall and overran the security guards in order to catch a glimpse of the splendid Palace on Andrásy Avenue. Designed by Miklós Ybl, a major figure of 19th century Hungarian architecture, the construction lived up to the highest expectations. Ornamentation included paintings and sculptures by leading figures of Hungarian art of the time: Károly Lotz, Bertalan Székely, Mór Than and Alajos Stróbl. The great bronze chandelier from Mainz and the stage machinery made by the Asphaleia Company of Vienna were both considered as cutting-edge technology at that time. Unless a 500 HUF of photo ticket is purchased, you are not allowed to take any pictures inside.

Optional Programs

Sightseeing in Szentendre (after the Open-Air Ethnographical Museum)

Description: Szentendre is situated north of Budapest on the banks of the Danube River. Home to roughly 20,000 residents, the town stretches from the west side of the Danube to the Pilis Mountains. The city is a major tourist destination and is a common day-trip for travellers to Budapest. Its main attraction is the charming, Mediterranean-style architecture of the town centre. Owing to its excellent geographical endowments, the town of Szentendre has been populated since the New Stone Age. It has been home to Illyrians, the Celtic Eraviscus tribe, Romans, Lombards,

Avars and, of course, Hungarians. In the 17th century, Serbian settlers came to the town and gave Szentendre its characteristic, Mediterranean-style architecture. The numerous churches in town reflect the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of Szentendre. Since the turn of the 20th century, Szentendre has been home to an artists' colony, where today, about 100 artists live and work. Additionally, the town boasts of its selection of 48 museums and monuments.

Musical Fountain

Location: Margaret Island

Description: It is located on the part of the Margaret Island closer to the Margaret Bridge. It was opened in 1962. It operates from 1st May till 31st October. While working different pieces of music can be heard in every hour. Its diameter is 36 m; the tallest spout is 25 m high. It is forbidden to get into the water.

Budapest Ruin Pubs

Location: near Astoria

Description: Let's visit some of the most famous ruin pubs together (Szimpla kert, Corvin tető, Fogas ház, Fröcsterasz, Kertem)! With the help of its furniture and equipment these places recall the atmosphere of Hungary 40-50 years ago. You can find hundreds of young people here (either Hungarian or any other nations) who try to discover the spirit of the city decades before.

House of Terrors

Location: Andrásy Avenue (next to Oktogon)

Description: House of Terror contains exhibits related to the fascist and communist dictatorial regimes in 20th-century Hungary and is also a memorial to the victims of these regimes, including those detained, interrogated, tortured or killed in the building.

Budapest Zoo

Location: City Park (near to Heroes' Square)

Description: It was created in 1866, thus it is the second oldest zoo in Europe. Some of the buildings still preserve the old atmosphere but of course the facilities were modernised to face the 21st century. When the zoo opened approximately 500 animals lived there, many of them were granted by well-to-do personalities and exotic animals only arrived later (today there are more than 8000 animals). Nowadays the institution has international reputation and scientific efforts are rewarded by birth of special endangered species.

Széchenyi Thermal Bath

Location: City Park (near to Heroes' Square, Állatkerti Avenue 9-11)

Description: The Széchenyi Thermal Bath is one of the largest spa complexes in Europe. It's also the first thermal bath of Pest. It was built in 1913. The reconstruction of the pools of the swimming section, their equipment with water filtering and circulation devices was completed in 1999. The so-called fancy bath includes a whirling corridor, underwater effervescence production, neck shower, water beam back massage installed in the sitting banks and many other services.