

**LLP/ERASMUS PROGRAMME**

**ERASMUS INTENSIVE LANGUAGE COURSES  
2008-09  
- ORGANISING INSTITUTION'S INFORMATION FORM -**

<b>INSTITUTION NAME:</b>	<b>BALASSI INSTITUTE</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>1016 BUDAPEST, SOMLÓI U. 51.</b>	
<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	
<b>EILC LANGUAGE</b>	<b>HUNGARIAN</b>	
<b>LEVEL COURSES ORGANISED:</b>	<b>LEVEL I (BEGINNER) 2 NUMBER OF COURSES DATES: 28. 07. – 22. 08. 2008</b>	<b>LEVEL II (INTERMEDIATE) NUMBER OF COURSES: DATES:</b>
<b>WEB SITE</b>	<b>WWW.BBI.HU</b>	

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL STUDENT EILC APPLICATIONS FOR OUR EILC SHOULD BE SENT BY E-MAIL TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: [anna.lorincz@bbi.hu](mailto:anna.lorincz@bbi.hu)

*STAFF*

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**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **DESCRIPTION OF TOWN**  
- **SHORT HISTORY AND LOCATION**

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary and the country's principal political, cultural, commercial, industrial and transportation centre. In 2007 Budapest had 1,696,128 inhabitants. Budapest became a single city occupying both banks of the river Danube (Hungarians call it the Duna river) with the amalgamation on 17 November 1873 of right-bank (west) Buda (Ofen in German) and Óbuda (Old Buda or Alt-Ofen) together with Pest on the left (east) bank. Aquincum, originally a roman settlement, was the direct ancestor of Budapest, becoming the Roman capital of Lower Pannonia. Magyars arrived in the territory around 900. Their first settlement was pillaged by the Tatars in 1241-42. The re-established town became one of the global centres of Renaissance humanist culture in the 15th century. Following nearly 150 years of Ottoman rule, development of the region entered a new age of prosperity in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Budapest became a global city after the 1873 unification of its three constituents. It also became the capital of Hungary, during the personal union with Austria which was dissolved by in 1918.

Widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world,, Budapest is considered an important Central European hub for business, culture and tourism. Its World Heritage Sites include the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter, Andrásy Avenue and the Millennium Underground railway, the first on the European continent. Budapest attracts over 20 million visitors a year, making it one of the top destinations in Europe. The city ranks 74th on Mercer Consulting's 'World's Top 100 Most Liveable Cities list.

#### **- MAIN LOCAL/CULTURAL EVENTS**

The cultural life is vivid and colourful in Budapest. Hungary is strongly capital-oriented. The main cultural events are the Budapest Spring Festival in March and April, the Budapest Autumn Festival and Sziget” (Island) festival. These festivals have provided several opportunities to get acquainted with local and foreign products of art. You can visit several concerts (classical and pop and folk music), exhibitions, Theatre performances, etc. The programmes represent the highest cultural values and it is a good opportunity to show parts of the Hungarian as well as foreign culture. Beside these Festivals you can find interesting programmes in the main cultural centres as well: The Palace of Arts (MÜPA) is of outstanding importance. Its concert, theatre and exhibition halls are among the best in Europe. Concerts, dance performances and exhibitions of contemporary arts are over visited. If you are interested in contemporary arts, visit Gödör or Trafo club.

This year, 2008, is a very special year, the „Year of Renaissance”, not only because it is the anniversary of King Matthias coming to the throne of Hungary, but the year may also be considered as a symbol of Renaissance because in the present era our world is changing profoundly. The Renaissance Year – 2008 is an event series of varied programmes connected with folklore, music, gastronomy, science, fine and applied arts, architecture, etc.

The season has been launched on 22nd January and will come to an end out the same day a year later.

Links: [www.kultura.hu](http://www.kultura.hu), [www.mupa.hu](http://www.mupa.hu), [www.sziget.hu](http://www.sziget.hu), [www.fesztivalvaros.hu](http://www.fesztivalvaros.hu), [www.budapestinfo.hu](http://www.budapestinfo.hu), [www.itthon.hu](http://www.itthon.hu), [www.budapest.hu](http://www.budapest.hu), [www.budpocketguide.com](http://www.budpocketguide.com), [www.reneszaszev.hu](http://www.reneszaszev.hu), [www.godorklub.hu](http://www.godorklub.hu), [www.trafo.hu](http://www.trafo.hu)

#### **- HOW TO REACH TOWN (LINKS FROM THE NEAREST AIRPORT, TRAIN OR COACH STATIONS)**

You can arrive in Budapest at the Ferihegy Airport or at one of the Central Railway Stations. ([www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)).

You can reach the town from the airport:

by taxi

[www.zonataxi.eu](http://www.zonataxi.eu), tel:365-5555

[www.budataxi.hu](http://www.budataxi.hu) , Tel:2-333-333

[www.6x6taxi.hu](http://www.6x6taxi.hu), Tel: 6-666-666

By minibus (Shuttle):

There is a shuttle service, the so called Airport minibusz: [www.airportshuttle.hu](http://www.airportshuttle.hu) , malev minibus: (+36 1) 296-8555, [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu) (booking in advanced)

By underground (metro) or by bus

You can use public transport as well. The 200-as reptéri busz (Airport bus No. 200) is a direct bus running between the terminals and the city. The bus stop is In front of terminals. It takes you to the underground station Kőbánya-Kispest, (the so-called blue line) from where you can get to downtown – to Deák Ferenc Square in 20 minutes. The price of a one-way ticket is 270 HUF (bought in advance, if you buy it from the driver, it is more expensive]. More details:

[www.bkv.hu](http://www.bkv.hu).

#### **- MAP**

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=hu&geocode=&q=Budapest,+Soml%C3%B3i+%C3%BA+51.&sll=47.498403,19.040759&sspn=0.650387,0.948944&ie=UTF8&t=h&ll=47.48689,19.033041&spn=0.010469,0.017424&z=16&iwloc=cent>

**- TRANSPORT IN TOWN (BRIEF INFORMATION ON THE MAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORT AVAILABLE)**

In Budapest the BKV Zrt. is responsible for public transport ([www.bkv.hu](http://www.bkv.hu)). It runs 3 metro-lines, several buses and trams. The one-way ticket costs 270 HUF, the day-ticket costs 1550 HUF and the 3-day ticket costs 3.400 HUF. The main junctions are the Móricz Zsigmond körtér, Moszkva tér, Deák tér, Blaha Lujza tér, Nyugati tér.

**• SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISING INSTITUTION**

The Balassi Institute is responsible for promoting Hungarian culture all over the world. At the same time it helps us to get to know Hungarian traditions and culture that exists outside of Hungary. The Institute is a central office of the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture, which is responsible for the international network of Hungarian culture and civilization. On 1st March 2007 the institute has been made into a special central institution – similar to the Goethe Institut or the British Council. It is unique as to the subjects and methods of its activities. The Balassi Institute has a great significance in the cultural diplomacy of the Hungarian Republic. The main activities are the following: THFL (Teaching Hungarian as a Foreign Language) in 9 courses, in-service teacher training, part-time (Hungarian) studies for university students, the management of Hungarian cultural institutes abroad, national anniversaries. The Institute is responsible for the Márton Áron college and the Hungarian Scholarship Board As well.

Concerning the present application, we should stress that the 50-year old Balassi Institute (established as an International Pre-university Language school) has been the first and is still the most authentic institution in Hungary in teaching Hungarian as a foreign language. Formerly its main task was to prepare foreign students for studies at Hungarian universities. At present, in addition to the above, the Institute organizes language courses at different levels with or without a transmitting language. We have a special training of translators which is a relatively new type of activity - it was launched 3 years ago. The staff of the Institute is made up of qualified and experienced teachers. Our teachers speak more than 15 different languages. Many of them worked as language teachers at different foreign universities for 4 or more years.

**• ACCOMMODATION**

*- SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMMODATION OFFERED (HOTEL, APARTMENTS, STUDENT HALLS, OTHERS; IF THERE ARE COOKING FACILITIES) AND ON THE RENT TO BE PAID PER WEEK*

The **student hostel** in the building of the Balassi Institute ([www.bbi.hu](http://www.bbi.hu)) is available for the EILC student from 26. 07. to 23. 08. 2008.

Description of the accommodation: 2 bed rooms with bath, kitchen, canteen.

**Prices:**

Double Room: 100 Euro/month/person

**• MEALS**

*- SHORT DESCRIPTION ON THE SERVICES OFFERED (UNIVERSITY CANTEENS, RESTAURANTS, BARS, OTHERS)*

In the building of the Institute there is a possibility to cook. In addition you can have breakfast for 1,5-2 euros, lunch for 2,7 euros and dinner for 2,2-2,7 euros in the canteen of the institute.

**• RECEPTION OF STUDENTS**

*- MEETING POINT (PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF FIRST MEETING - FOR EACH COURSE WHERE DIFFERENT)*

Balassi Institute (1016 Budapest, Somlói út 51.)

**• EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES**

**- SITE VISITS**

Beside the colourful cultural opportunities in Budapest (you can find the details at “main local/cultural events”) our institute sets up different cultural and leisure-programs for the students. We built in the schedule of EILC students several sight-seeing programs in the evenings (visiting famous places, museums, and the most popular pleasure-grounds), and study-trips to famous and historical country towns which attracts lot of tourists as well.

**- SPORTS FACILITIES (SWIMMING, TENNIS, GYMNASIUM; OPENING DAYS AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION)**

Sport centres close to the building of the institute:

MOM PARK: Extensive, fully equipped gymnasium, tailor made workout programs, indoor heated swimming pools and spa area including sauna and massage, group exercise studios, special gymnastic classes. ([www.momwellness.hu](http://www.momwellness.hu))

MAMMUT SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER: 24 bowling lanes, numerous squash courts and fitness and health centres – with various services – provide all the sporting opportunities visitor’s desire.

([WWW.MAMMUT.COM](http://WWW.MAMMUT.COM))

In the town: Since 1934 Budapest has been known as a town of spas. Due to its abundant thermal sources several forms of thermal cures have been applied since the Roman Times, through the Period of the Turk Occupation up to the 20th century. We often pass along the spas all over the town. The most beautiful and popular ones are Rudas Gyógyfürdő, Gellért Gyógyfürdő, Lukács Gyógyfürdő, Széchenyi Gyógyfürdő. ([www.budapestgyogyfurdoi.hu](http://www.budapestgyogyfurdoi.hu)) All of them can be easily reached on foot or by bus.

Outdoor sport facilities:

Margaret Island: this lovely little island connecting Pest and Buda is often called the "lung of the city". The island is alive with people running from dawn to late evening. The 5350 meter long running track around the island provides an excellent opportunity for amateurs to gain and maintain good condition and for professionals to prepare for various competitions. Should you not be interested in running you still have the opportunity to play five-man football or to play basketball on the street ball court with friends.

The Margaret Island Athletic Centre is looking forward to seeing you every day of the week! ([www.margitsziget.com](http://www.margitsziget.com))

**- ENTERTAINMENT (CINEMA, THEATRE, ETC.; BRIEF INFORMATION ON PLACES AND STUDENT FACILITIES)**

ENTERTAINMENT IN BUDAPEST: [http://www.talkingcities.co.uk/budapest\\_pages/entertainment\\_main.htm](http://www.talkingcities.co.uk/budapest_pages/entertainment_main.htm)

Cinemas and theatres in Budapest: detailed information can be found on the following websites: [www.est.hu](http://www.est.hu), [www.exit.hu](http://www.exit.hu), [www.szhaz.hu](http://www.szhaz.hu). Out of them 11 are multiplex (Price of a ticket: 800 – 1.200 HUF) and 14 are smaller art cinemas (500 – 1.000 HUF). In a number of them Students are given discounts. For theatre performances you had better book tickets in advance, but sometimes you may get tickets also on the site. Tickets cost 700 - 4000.-huf – depending on the theatre and/or the performance.

**PART II: COURSE(S) DESCRIPTION**

**LEVEL:**

I: *Beginner course* X

	FROM...	TO...
PERIOD:	28.07. 2008	22. 08. 2009

• **LANGUAGE COMPONENT**

**- SHORT DESCRIPTION OF LANGUAGE COMPONENT: OBJECTIVES AND TEACHING METHODS**

Survival Hungarian (for beginners) – based on colloquial language.  
Main objective: to develop the most important communication skills. Topic: social formalities, greetings, asking information, shopping, going out, telephone-calls, health problems, travelling in and outside the town, etc.  
Grammatical highlights: conjugation of verbs in present tense, plural, accusative, possessive, adverbs of place and time; affirmative, interrogative and negative sentences.  
Texts and exercises are based on contemporary spoken language, more oral, than written, however a solid grammatical base with a view on differences between Hungarian and Indo-European languages.  
Teaching methods: the teaching is based on developing communicative and cognitive competence using cooperative methods, interaction, also considering intercultural aspects. Our teachers speak and can use in teaching different languages, but they are professionals in direct methods also, that is teaching without intermediate language.  
After their classes students have a chance of practicing with the help of Hungarian students (who are going to be graduated HL-teachers in 1-2 years).  
Participants choosing the courses of the Balassi Institute in the framework of the Erasmus program will be granted a 10 % discount.

**- DURATION**

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLASSES	130
HOURS IN CLASSROOM	80
HOURS OF PRACTICE CONVERSATION/LANGUAGE LABORATORY	20.
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	16 – lectures 14 – field trip

**- ASSESSMENT (SPECIFY IF THE ASSESSMENT IS MADE BY WRITTEN/ORAL EXAMINATION, ASSIGNMENT, ETC.)**

Written and oral exam organized by Balassi Institute.  
Possibility: Origo language exam (A) on B1 level

• **COURSE FACILITIES**

**- TEACHING AIDS: AUDIO/VIDEO MATERIALS, COMPUTERS, HANDOUT, PRINTED TEXTS, TEXT AND EXERCISE BOOK**

**- LIBRARY**

TIMES	10:00 am – 17:00 pm
OPENING DAYS	Every weekday
ADDRESS	Somlói út 51. ground floor

**- LANGUAGE LABORATORY**

TIMES	28th 07 - 7th 08 16.00 -17.30
OPENING DAYS	every weekday
ADDRESS	Somlói út 51. 1st floor
COST	free

**• CULTURAL COMPONENT**

**- SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CULTURAL ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE COURSE: OBJECTIVES AND TEACHING METHODS**

<p>A) Hungarian history I-II. 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 methods: powerpoint presentation themes: 1st lecture: a magyarság eredete / the origin of the hungarians, a magyar állam megalapítása / the establishment of hungary, a magyar királyság a középkorban / the kingdom of hungary in the middle age, a török ellenes harcok / Fights against the ottoman turks, magyarország a habsburg-birodalom részeként / hungary as a part of the habsburg empire, a 19. századi modernizáció / modernization in the 19th century 2nd lecture: az osztrák-magyar monarchia felbomlása / the collapse of austro-hungarian empire, politika a két világháború között / hungary between the two world wars, magyarország a második világháborúban / Hungary in world war II., a sztálinista-típusú diktatúra / stalinist era, az 1956-os forradalom / 1956 revolution, magyarország kádár jános vezetése alatt / socialism under jános kádár, a rendszerváltás / transition</p> <p>B) Hungarian culture Teaching aim: to show contemporary Hungarian cultural life, Features, trends and style, different cultural events, programs, performances, their operational and financial background. Common festival- and cinema visits will be organized. The participants will get acquainted with real events.</p> <p>c) Present-day Hungarian Society Teaching aim: to get participants coming from different countries acquainted with the main features of present-day Hungarian society – to dispel possible prejudices, to correct false knowledge. Power point presentations, web-materials will be used to show the political system and parties, the social distribution of the inhabitants, the standard of living, the management of educational and health system.</p> <p>d) About the Hungarian Language (Introductory lecture) Teaching aim: to get participants with different 1st languages acquainted with the main phonetical, lexical and grammatical features of the Hungarian language focusing on the challenges and difficulties students will have to face. Pragmatical peculiarities will be presented, too. We would like to stimulate students at the same time to provide a well-founded thematics for the language course.</p>
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