

Balassi Institute
Hungarian Language and Cultural Studies Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Note: This information sheet has been prepared in English as a complement to the Hungarian language application. In case of doubt, please refer to the original version or visit the website of the Balassi Institute at www.balassi-intezet.hu.

The Education and Cultural Ministry of the Republic of Hungary, the Secretariat for Hungarians Abroad and the Balassi Institute invite applications for a 10 month Hungarian State scholarship during the 2010/2011 academic year. The scholarship is intended for individuals of Hungarian origin living outside of Hungary (**not Hungarian citizens!**) who wish to strengthen their language knowledge and cultural identity.

The goal of the Hungarian Language and Cultural Studies scholarship is to improve the Hungarian language skills and cultural knowledge of young people of Hungarian origin who are citizens and residents of other countries (the so-called “Western diaspora”).

The two semester course takes place at the Balassi Institute in Budapest.

Young people, **18 years or older**, are invited to apply. Volunteer work, references from post-secondary institutions, and any other activities related to Hungary or Hungarian culture are taken into consideration in the selection of the applicants.

About the program:

The program consists of language and cultural studies and provides opportunities to actively explore Hungary and contemporary Hungarian culture. In the framework of cultural studies the students learn about history, literature, geography, folklore, art history and social issues. At the end of the program students take a final exam in the above subjects, defend their final essay, and take a Hungarian language exam that is officially recognized by the Hungarian government. (The language exam’s level and type is decided on by the language skills examination board.)

For those students who wish to apply for credits in their post-secondary institution, the Balassi Institute provides detailed course descriptions in addition to the transcript.

Class attendance is compulsory. Should a participant miss classes without cause, or violate the Institute’s Study and Exam rules or Disciplinary Guidelines, the individual will lose the right to continue in the program and the right to reside in the Institute’s residence. The individual will have to pay back the scholarship received up to that date.

Program duration:

10 months (September 2010 – June 2011)

The scholarship includes:

- tuition fee
- 21000 HUF/month grant
- student residence (2-3 persons per room)
- student ID (qualifies for discounts)
- free health care (as per current legislation for foreign students)

Total number of course participants: 20

Deadline for applications
To the New York address: April 1, 2010
In Canada: March 25, 2010

The applications will be evaluated by April 30, 2010 and applicants will be notified about the results within 15 days after that. Decisions about the applications are made jointly by the Education and Cultural Ministry of the Republic of Hungary and the Balassi Institute. All decisions are binding. **The Education and Cultural Ministry will not consider applications that are submitted after the deadline and/or are incorrect or incomplete.**

Required documentation and references:

- completed application form (please print)
- an essay of about 300 words about why you would like to study in Hungary
- handwritten résumé
- copy of passport
- copy of transcripts, diplomas (signed or certified by the appropriate authorities)
- reference letter from a volunteer organization (e.g. scouts, church) or recognized individual
- deposit of US\$ 600

The applicant is responsible for the following expenses:

- Travel to and from Hungary
- Food and personal expenses
Note: Recommended monthly amount for food and personal expenses is approximately US\$ 250 (300 CAD).
- Language exam fee (ORIGO intermediate: 18.900 HUF, Advanced: 19.850 HUF, ECL B2 or C1: 22.000 HUF)
- Monthly student transit pass
- Student visa fee
- Cost of two field trips: 40.000 HUF and 80.000 HUF
- Residence card deposit and residence security deposit: 2000 HUF, student ID: 1960 HUF.

These amounts are payable at registration.

The application process is not considered complete unless a deposit of US\$ 600 is included with the application documents. This is a deposit for the field trips. Method of payment: certified cheque or international money order in US dollars (made payable to "Hungarian Scout Association"). In the case of a bank transfer the following information can be used: Bank Routing #021205376, account number: 154030818. The Canada–Hungary Educational Foundation will forward cheques, money orders and transfer confirmation to the Scout Association, c/o Dr Judit Kesserű Némethy in New York.

In the case of successful applications, the applicant will be required to pay any outstanding fees at registration. If the application is rejected, the Hungarian Scout Association will refund the deposit. If after accepting the offer for admission the applicant decides not to participate in the program, the Hungarian Scout Association will refund 50% of the deposit.

Please mail the application form and supporting documents to:

**Dr. Judit Kesserű Némethy
(Teleki Pál Alapítvány)
1 Washington Square Village, Ap. 3L
New York, NY 10012**

or

**Judy Young Drache
(Canada–Hungary Educational Foundation)
21 McLEOD ST.,
Ottawa, ON, K2P0Z4, CANADA**

Should you require additional information please contact:

Dr. Judit Kesserű Némethy
1-212-505-9658
E-mail: jn2@nyu.edu

The application form and this information in English and Hungarian can be downloaded from the Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris website: www.kmcssz.org

All Hungarian speakers should fill out the Hungarian-language form. Use the English-language form only if you do not speak Hungarian.