



## TEFL Jobs in Hungary



### Country overview

The following section provides useful, practical information about your destination country. It includes heaps of information about the local cuisine, cultural taboos and travel safety, so that you can make the most of your overseas teaching experience.

### Basic Facts

This small country is one of the great survivors of history: states and empires emerged, expanded or disintegrated and disappeared around it. Hungary and the Hungarian nation survived the devastation of the Tartars and Turks, Habsburgs and Russians in the Carpathian Basin; survived the fact that it belonged among the losers of both world wars. A stormy history? The national anthem describes the Hungarians as "people torn by fate".

Hungarians learnt and became tempered in the tormenting storms of the world: you can experience a particular organic link between the old and new, between history and the present-day in this country, which is still keenly safeguarding its traditions, culture and arts, but was always perceptive to what is new, different and ultimately to come.

Do you know that one of the centres of the Renaissance was here in the 15th century? That the Hungarian statehood is 1,000 years old? That after 1945, the first armed revolution against Stalinism took place in Hungary? That the iron curtain was dismantled on the frontier of Hungary and Austria?

In Hungary, you can see regions with a particular atmosphere, fabulous villages, churches and castles. You are welcome in Budapest, which many consider to be one of the finest cities of Europe. If you are fond of tasty food, and exclusive wines, this is the place to be.

## Communications

In towns and cities, calls can be made from public phones with 10, 20, 50 and 100 Ft coins (minimum call 20Ft), though card phones are far more common and it's worth keeping a phone card (*telefonkártya*) to hand. Cards valid for 50 or 120 units (currently 800Ft and 1800Ft respectively) are available from Matáv (the Hungarian telecommunications company) shops, post offices, tobacconists and some hotels. Two cards giving cheaper rates for international calls are the Barangalo card, available from post offices, or better still, the Budget Phone card, available from most Tourinform offices.

To make a direct call outside the area you are in, dial 06 (which gives a burring tone), followed by the area code and the subscriber's number. To make international calls, dial 00, wait for the burr, then dial the country code (UK and Northern Ireland 44, Republic of Ireland 353, US & Canada 1, Australia 61, New Zealand 64) and the subscriber's number minus the first digit. The number for the international operator is 199.

One of the best ways to keep in touch while travelling is to sign up for a free internet email address that can be accessed from anywhere, for example YahooMail or Hotmail - accessible through [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com). Once you've set up an account, you can use these sites to pick up and send mail from any internet café, or hotel with internet access.

There are now many internet cafés in Budapest, but outside the capital they are still fairly scarce, even in the larger centres of population. If you can't locate an internet café, seek out a Matáv shop, as they usually have at least a couple of terminals. Many of the more upmarket hotels have an ISDN line. Connections vary, but generally speaking are pretty slow, although prices are reasonable: expect to pay around 500Ft for an hour online.

## Banks and exchanging

Banks are open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All banks are closed on Saturdays. Money can also be exchanged at exchange offices, hotel reception desks and travel offices. Currency exchange machines and ATMs operate after hours in Budapest and other cities. It is recommended that all money exchange receipts be kept.

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Note: Foreign currency should be exchanged for Forints only in authorized exchange offices.

## **Society and Culture**

### Nation of Horsemen

The Ancient Hungarians lived in the Euro-Asian nomadic pastoral region, where the keeping and use of horses played an important role in their lives. Therefore it is not surprising that the horse riding has a central place in Hungarian History, leading to Hungarians being regarded as the nation of horsemen. Invitations to foreigners for horseback riding are not uncommon.

### Family in Hungary

The family is the centre of the social structure. Generations of extended family often live together. The grandparents play an important role in helping raise the grandchildren. The family provides both emotional and financial support to its members.

### Get Personal

Hungarians expect friends to share private and intimate details of their personal lives. If you ever feel you are being asked personal questions, this is simply meant as part of the getting-to-know-you process. Hungarians will even enjoy sharing details of their romantic life with you!

## **Etiquette & Customs in Hungary**

### Meeting Etiquette

- Both men and women greet by shaking hands, although a man should usually wait for the women to extend her hand.
- The older generation may still bow to woman.
- Close friends kiss one another lightly on both cheeks, starting with the left cheek.
- In the business context is safest to address people by their titles and surnames.

### Dining Etiquette

If in the rare case you invited to a Hungarian's house:

- Arrive on time if invited for dinner, although a 5-minute grace period is granted.
- If invited to a party or other large gathering, arrive no more than 30 minutes later than invited.

- You may be asked to remove your outdoor shoes before entering the house.
- Do not ask for a tour of the house.

Table manners are formal in Hungary.

- Table manners are Continental - the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right while eating.
- The hostess will wish the guests a hearty appetite at the start of each course.
- Do not begin eating until the hostess starts. Do not rest your elbows on the table, although your hands should be visible at all times.
- Hospitality is measured by the amount and variety of food served. Try everything.
- If you have not finished eating, cross your knife and fork across your plate.
- Indicate you have finished eating by laying your knife and fork parallel across the right side of your plate.

Toasts and drinks

- The guest of honour usually proposes the first toast which generally salutes the health of the individuals present.
- At the end of the meal, someone toasts the hosts in appreciation of their hospitality.
- An empty glass is immediately refilled so if you do not want more to drink, leave your glass ½ full. Never clink glasses if drinking beer.

### **Food and Drink**

Budapest has over 1,000 restaurants, offering Hungarian and international cuisine. In the past ten years the choice has been growing fast: French, Chinese, Russian, Italian, Serbian, Indian, American, Greek, British, Czech, Danish, even vegetarian or kosher eateries have been opened. Fast food chains are also common. You will not have any difficulty in finding a place to eat which fits your budget.

The simplest way to learn about a nation is said to be through its cuisine. This city has a number of flavours: different in Óbuda, Buda and Pest.

Many think that Hungarians eat heavy, fatty dishes, a key ingredient of which is the throat-burning hot red paprika. We have to disappoint you if you are one of the many. Lard has long been replaced with vegetable oils, and red paprika is only used to enhance the flavour of the dishes.

The first thing that people recall about Hungarian cuisine is goulash, which is, contrary to popular belief, not a stew but an artistically prepared thick soup. Sour cream is often used to soften flavour. You must try fish soup, chicken paprika, good home-made pörkölt (stew) and the excellent fresh-water fishes: grilled pike-perch, trout with almond. Also compulsory is goose liver. Whether fried or grilled, cold or hot, it is simply unforgettable. Only the larger restaurants have their menus printed in foreign languages.

Desserts in Hungary are incredible. The most delicious ones are strudels, Gundel pancakes, somlói dumplings and gesztenyepüré (cooked chestnuts mashed, topped with whipped cream). Specialities include salty and sweet pastas, of which túrós csusza (pasta with curd and sour cream) is warmly recommended.

Pálinka: This alcoholic drink is distilled from fruit grown in the orchards situated on the Great Hungarian Plain. It is a spirit native to Hungary and comes in a variety of flavours including apricot (barack) and cherry (cseresznye) - plum (szilva) is considered the best of all.

Beer: Beer goes well with many traditional Hungarian dishes and so many Hungarians chose to drink it with their lunch. The 3 main Hungarian breweries are: Arany Ászok, Kőbányai, and Dreher.

Wine: The choice of good wine available in Hungary has increased dramatically over the past few years. Most popular styles include: dry white Chardonnay and Reisling, medium-dry Zöldszilváni, Harslevelû and Szürkebarát, medium-sweet Tramini and the aromatic Muskotály. Among red wine, the dry Kékfrankos, Burgundi, Oportó, Cabernet and Pinot Noir are popular. The medium-dry Merlot is one of the best ones. Eger is well known for its wine and the robust red Egri Leányka and the dry red Egri Bikavér will show you why. There is a special type of wine called Tokaji, which is a dessert wine. Its bouquet and flavour come from mould that grows only in the fork of the Bodrog and Tisza rivers and the volcanic soil in which the vines grow.

Hungarians enjoy drinking refreshing spritzers. This is basically a proportion of wine with a proportion of soda water.

In many restaurants with live Gypsy music, mainly frequented by foreign tourists, musicians go up to the tables and play a song on request. They expect a gratuity in return. If you do not like this kind

of entertainment, try to sit further away from the band or go to a "music-free" restaurant. There are plenty of both types.

You are not advised to accept the waiter's offer about the speciality of the house, particularly if you do not know the price. You should study the menu whether the main course includes the price of garnishes. Always ask for an itemised bill. Beverage prices are usually rather high in good restaurants, so first consult the wine list. Waiters usually receive a tip in restaurants, which is about 10-15 percent of the bill. Service is included in the price at some places, where no tip is expected.

### **Climate**

Continental, with the average temperature (listed in Fahrenheit):

January	29F	July	80F
February	39F	August	80F
March	50F	September	74F
April	62F	October	61F
May	72F	November	46F
June	78F	December	39F

### **Teaching Opportunities in Hungary Schools**

- **Salary:** up to 40,000 HUF / \$205(USD) / £105 / €155 / CAD\$240 / AUD\$260 / NZD\$295 per month based on a 22 hour week. This is a Teaching Assistant role, and for this reason, pay is lower than a very experienced English Teacher would receive. This pay is not taxed locally.
- **Accommodation:** During your orientation you will stay in shared room in an apartment, costing approximately 6,000 HUF / \$32 (USD) per night for 3 nights. For the duration of your time as a teaching assistant you will live in a homestay, hostel or in school accommodation paid for by your school, with a hot lunch provided at the school on working days.
- **Arrival:** You will be met at the airport and transferred to your accommodation. The next day you will start a 2 day orientation which will include practical teaching tips and teaching practice, before being collected and taken to your accommodation.
- **Locations:** Schools are located throughout Hungary, including a number of schools in Budapest.
- **Contract lengths:** 6 months
- **Departure dates:** February and September

## Requirements

- Native English speaker - Must be a holder of a native English passport eg. UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian.
- TEFL qualification (Essential TEFL Plus course included)
- Some experience with children e.g. working with children or babysitting (only for Nursery and Family applications)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Application
- Pre-departure
- **Hungary - Government Schools** Employment | Teaching

## Application

1. What are the application requirements?

- Native English speaker, TEFL qualified.
- For all countries except Honduras, Hungary or Indonesia, you need to be a university degree holder.

**Following your initial application, you will need to submit the following documents:**

- CV/Resume
- Covering letter
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Passport photograph
- Application Form
- Health Certificate

2. Can I apply with someone else?

Yes, in most cases -We can do the same accommodation, but not the same school in Hungary.

3. Can I choose where I teach?

If you have a strong preference on location, please specify this in your covering letter; however, it is best to be as flexible as you can.

4. When are the start dates?

There are start dates in September and February.

5. What is the project length?

6 months

6. When should I apply?

It is best to apply as early as you can to secure your application. We recommend applying a minimum of three months in advance. However, depending on availability it is sometimes possible for us to fast-track applications in 4 weeks.

7. How do I apply?

Call your nearest i-to-i office or [www.onlinetefl.com/jobs](http://www.onlinetefl.com/jobs) and apply now.

8. What happens if I apply but don't get accepted?

We have a 90% success rate for applicants who meet the basic application criteria. If however, you are not accepted, you will be refunded the full project fee.

### **Pre-departure**

1. How do I get my visa?

Any native English passport holder e.g. UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA can apply for a visa to work in Hungary. EU Passport holders can easily enter Hungary. For non EU passport holders you will be sent additional information.

Consulates of the Republic of Hungary in North America USA

Embassy of the Republic of Hungary  
3910 Shoemaker Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Phone: (202) 362-6730  
Fax: (202) 966-8135  
Website: [www.hungaryemb.org](http://www.hungaryemb.org)  
E-mail: [office@huembwas.org](mailto:office@huembwas.org)

Consulate General, New York  
223 East 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10022-67301  
Phone: (212) 838-4348, 752-0669  
Fax: (212) 755-5986  
Website: [www.kum.hu/newyork](http://www.kum.hu/newyork)  
E-mail: [hucons@humisny.org](mailto:hucons@humisny.org)

Consulate General, Los Angeles  
11766 Wilshire Boulevard, S: 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Phone: (310) 473-9344, 914-7134  
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Toronto, Ontario M4W 3M5  
Phone: (416) 923-3596  
Fax: (416) 923-2097  
E-mail: [huntor@istar.ca](mailto:huntor@istar.ca)

2. Which airport should I fly into?

Budapest International Airport

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32 Grattan Square,  
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USA: (800) 985 4864  
Ireland: +353(0) 58 40050  
Australia: +61 (0)3 9326 3066

### 3. When and how should I book my flights?

Please wait to book your flights until you are advised by our in-country agent to do so.

### 4. Do I need to take out travel insurance?

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance for the entire duration of your stay. For details of travel insurance for UK citizens, please visit [www.endsleigh.co.uk](http://www.endsleigh.co.uk). For citizens from outside of the UK, please visit: [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com).

### 5. Do I need vaccinations?

Please consult your doctor or nurse to determine what vaccinations you require for your travel. You may also find [www.masta.org](http://www.masta.org) useful.

### 6. How much money should I bring with me?

We recommend that you bring approximately £500 / USD \$900 / €750 to cover all initial costs until your first payday. (You may be required to pay a bond on your apartment.) Always have access to emergency funds (Monies that can be transferred to you at short notice from home)

### 7. Do I need to be able to speak the local language?

No, but learning some simple phrases will be very useful. Here are some basic phrases to get you going.

Good morning	Jó reggelt kívánok
Good afternoon	Jó napot kívánok
Good evening	Jó estét kívánok
Good night	Jó éjszakát
It's nice to meet you	Örülök hogy találkoztunk
Thank you (very much)	Köszönöm (szépen)
What is your name?	Mi a neve ?
What is this?	Mi ez ?
What is the time?	Mennyi az idő ?
How are you?	Hogy van ?
What are you doing tonight ?	Mit csinál ma este ?
I don't understand	Nem értem
Do you understand?	Érti ?
I'm (awfully) sorry	(Rettenetesen) sajnálom
I beg your pardon	Elnézést kérek
I can't speak Hungarian	Nem beszélek magyarul

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Ireland: +353(0) 58 40050  
Australia: +61 (0)3 9326 3066

It's very expensive/cheap Ez nagyon drága/olcsó  
A cold beer please Egy hideg sört kérek  
The bill please Kérem a számlát  
It's very cold/warm here Nagyon hideg/meleg van itt  
I'm sleepy/tired Álmos/fáradt vagyok  
See you tomorrow Holnap találkozunk  
Good bye Viszontlátásra

### Numbers:

1=egy 2=kettő 3=három 4=négy 5=öt 6=hat 7=hét 8=nyolc  
9=kilenc 10=tíz 11=tizenegy 12=tizenkettő 20=húsz 30=harminc  
50=ötven 100=száz 1000=ezer 1526=ezerötszázhuszonhat.

### Dates:

Mon=Hétfő Tue=Kedd Wed=Szerda Thu=Csütörtök Fri=Péntek  
Sat=Szombat Sun=Vasárnap yesterday=tegnap tomorrow=holnap  
today=ma a.m.=délelőtt p.m.=délután morning=reggel  
evening=este night=éjszaka.

### Meals:

To drink=Inni To eat=Enni Fish=Hal Pork=Disznó Chicken=Csirke  
Beef=Marha Veal=Borjú Turkey=Pulyka Cheese=Sajt Water=Víz  
Wine=Bor Beer=Sör Champagne=Pezsgő Ice cream=Fagylalt  
Bread=Kenyér Butter=Vaj Milk=Tej Honey=Méz Salt=Só  
Pepper=Bors Egg=Tojás.

### Other

### words:

Yes=Igen No=Nem Airport=Repülőtér Railway station=Pályaudvar  
Subway=Metró Hospital=Kórház Post office=Posta V.A.T.=ÁFA  
Credit card=Hitelkártya Ticket=Jegy Stamp=Bélyeg  
Medicine=Gyógyszer To pay=Fizetni Changing money=Pénzváltás  
To wake up=Felkelni To sleep=Aludni To dance=Táncolni To be  
happy=Örülni Woman=Nő Man=Férfi Child=Gyerek Girl=Lány  
Boy=Fiú Police=Rendőrség.

8. Is there a dress code?

Smart casual / work casual

9. How long will it take to complete the TEFL training?

The course can be completed in a minimum of 2-3 weeks. Most people finish the course in 4-6 weeks. You have a maximum of 6 months to complete the course. You will be sent your certificate, letter of reference and hard copy of the course within 21 days of completion of all components of the course.

## 10. What happens when I arrive?

You will be met at the airport/train station of your teaching destination and transferred to your accommodation. You will have two orientations: one to prepare you for teaching and one to show you around the school and city.

### **Hungary - Government Schools: Employment**

#### 1. How much will I be paid?

Up to 40,000 HUF / \$205(USD) / £105 / €155 / CAD\$240 / AUD\$260 / NZD\$295 per month based on a 22 hour week. This pay is not taxed.

Your accommodation and lunch on teaching days will be provided; therefore your salary only needs to cover breakfast / dinner and any extras you require. As a guide, a night out might cost 1,000-10,000HUF depending on what you do, a beer costs 400-600HUF, a meal out costs 2,000-4,000HUF, a train ticket to travel around 200k costs around 5,000HUF. In Budapest a monthly season ticket for all means of transport costs around 7,300HUF.

#### 2. Do I receive a bonus or flight re-imbusement?

There is no bonus or flight re-imbusement.

#### 3. How many holiday days will I receive per year?

Holidays will be the same as the school holidays. These are typically 2 weeks at Christmas and 1 week at Easter.

#### 4. What are my working hours?

A maximum of 22 teaching hours per week, Monday to Friday between 8am and 3pm.

#### 5. Can I renew my contract?

Your contract may be extendable; you would need to discuss this with your school.

#### 6. What happens if I need to break my contract?

You need to give 1 month notice if you need to break your contract, to allow a replacement teaching assistant to be found.

## **Hungary - Government Schools: Teaching**

1. What age and level of students will I be teaching?

You will be teaching 10 - 18 year olds at all levels.

2. How many students will there be in each class?

From 10 to 15 students per class.

3. How long are the classes?

45 minutes.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes, but different schools will have different levels of resources available. It is always useful to bring items from home such as photos of your family and home, newspapers, posters, leaflets and information on local places of interest which you can use in your lessons.

5. Will I be teaching alone or team teaching?

You will be teaching alone.

6. What kind of school will I be teaching in?

You will be teaching in government schools.

## TEFL certification

All our TEFL Jobs include the 40 hour Online TEFL course and the 20 hour Grammar and Language Awareness Module. These courses will give you the skills you need to teach English as a foreign language, so you can walk into your first TEFL classroom with the utmost confidence.

You'll be sent details of how to access your courses via email. You will have six months to complete the 40 hour course and extra time after that to complete the Grammar and Language Awareness Module. Both courses must be complete by the time you start your placement.

It's also an idea to take your TEFL certificate with you when you go. Some placements request it – and even if they don't it's always handy to have it with you.

It's not uncommon for applicants to desire extra qualifications to supplement their Online TEFL certification and further develop their skills. That's why we offer a range of specialist certificates that will help you tailor your skills towards a specific area of the TEFL business. As an i-to-i tutee you are entitled to 10% off any of these certificates.

Visit [www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates](http://www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates) to find out more or call/email us at:

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Ireland: 058 400 50 [ireland@i-to-i.com](mailto:ireland@i-to-i.com)

North America: 800 985 4864 [usca@i-to-i.com](mailto:usca@i-to-i.com)

Australia: 1300 556 997 [australia@i-to-i.com](mailto:australia@i-to-i.com)

## **Surviving culture shock**

Almost everyone experiences some degree of culture shock when they first arrive at their destination - even if they're a seasoned traveller. It may be felt as stress, frustration, anxiety or homesickness and is a perfectly natural reaction to encountering a new culture that looks, sounds and feels different to what you're used to.

Try not to worry if you feel overwhelmed at the start of your placement - just go with the flow and before you know it you'll start to settle in. The following advice will help you to overcome culture shock as quickly as possible.

Doing as much research as possible into your destination will help to reduce culture shock, as you'll be prepared for many of the differences you will encounter. The Lonely Planet and Culture Shock! Guides are good resources to use for this.

Try to arrive at your destination as fresh as possible. Avoid alcohol and caffeine on your flight, eat a light meal and rest as much as possible. This will give you the energy to get through your first day in-country. If you're exhausted when you arrive, everything will seem a lot more challenging.

Take it easy on your first few days, to give yourself time to adjust to your new environment and get over your journey. You don't have to see and do everything in the first few days - that's just the adrenaline talking!

A good tip is to observe the locals and do as they do. They are used to the heat, humidity and altitude and know how best to cope. Watch what they do and adopt their ways.

Remember that if you're finding things difficult at your placement, it may be due to culture shock. Try to keep an open mind and avoid making comparisons with how things are done in your own country - if you wanted everything to stay the same you wouldn't have gone overseas in the first place!

If you're going away for several months, budget for a well-deserved break halfway through your placement. Treat yourself to a night in a comfy hotel and a good meal, then return to your placement feeling refreshed. It's okay to want a few home comforts while you're away - something as simple as watching a movie in English in an air-conditioned cinema can make you feel much better!

## **Checklist for Paid Teaching Placements**

### **We send you:**

- Confirmation email of PTP placement
- Confirmation/login details email of Online TEFL course
- DVD and GAM for TEFL course

### **What you need to do:**

- Send relevant documents to complete application:
- CV/Resume
- Cover letter
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Arrange suitable travel insurance.

Documents will be sent to the in-country representative who will contact you about the application. Remember to complete your TEFL course!

### **Once accepted we send you:**

- Terms and conditions to be signed.

### **In-country representative sends:**

- Confirmation of placement contract

### **Next Steps:**

- Once your visa has been accepted and returned, book flights

Enjoy your trip!