

# *Semester Abroad Experience Report*



**Partner University:** Corvinus University of Budapest

**Country:** Hungary

**Semester:** Winter Semester 2024/2025

**Degree Program:** International Management (M.Sc.)

**Name of the Program:** Master International Management (CEMS MIM)

**Completed courses (graduate courses):**

- CEMS Block Seminar
- Comparative Cross-Cultural Management
- Corporate Sustainability and CSR
- Decision Making Skills
- Global Strategy
- Skill Seminar: Business Communication

## The University

Studying at Corvinus University of Budapest was, overall, a pretty solid experience. The university itself is a mix of the old and the modern facilities. On one hand, you've got the stunning old main building and on the other hand, there's the modern building that's well-equipped for all your study needs. The university library is definitely a good place to study, I preferred the fancy Metropolitan library. I didn't try the canteen food, but the little bistro on campus did the job when I needed a quick bite or a coffee. I definitely recommend café frei on campus (it's just as cheap as the bistro).

The courses I attended were somewhat varied in terms of quality and engagement. While some were genuinely interesting and offered valuable insights, others felt less captivating. The academic workload was generally manageable but required consistent effort due to weekly assignments. Although the courses were not overly challenging, they demanded regular participation and timely submissions. I would have appreciated a broader selection of courses, particularly those focusing on hard skills.

Anita (CEMS Program Manager @CUB) was a great help with any administrative questions, don't hesitate to reach out to her.

## Courses

The **CEMS Block Seminar** dealt with different topics of digital transformation and was a great start of the semester. The sessions were interesting and interactive. However, the focus was to get to know each other during lunch and evening events. The lecturers brought interesting topics that could sometimes have been delivered in a more engaging way. Overall, it was a nice seminar to get to know everyone with interesting technologies and not too much effort with just some minor and one big presentation to deliver.

**Decision Making Skills** was split up into two parts with two different lecturers. The first part with professor Szentesi was really fun while the second part lost a bit of this dynamic. Overall, the course was fun but not delivered too much new knowledge to me. Grading consisted of two learning diaries and two open book exams which were graded very fairly.

**Cross-Cultural Management** dealt with different cases and topics of cross-cultural collaboration. The course was exactly what one could expect from the title. Half of the course consisted of online lectures and podcasts, which is why we only had about 12 sessions of 1.5 hours. In groups, we had to deliver two

presentations about a country of choice and analyse its culture qualitatively and quantitatively and secondly present a specific cultural topic in that country. We further had to present/sum up a given case about cross-cultural collaboration as well as present one topic of our lectures. Two short learning diaries were also part of our deliverables. Overall, the course was interesting and not too much effort and I can recommend it if you are interested in cross-cultural management. The grading was also fair, but you should be aware that participation accounts for quite some stake of the grade, so it is important to participate in every class.

**Corporate Sustainability and CSR** was overall my favorite course. We had different types of lectures from SDG games over guest lectures to an educational workshop about responsible dining with our community partner. So, it was really diversified. Our main task was to deliver a project proposal of a potential collaboration of our community partner with a selected company. For CEMS students all groups were consulted by Deloitte, and it was the only deliverable we had besides some smaller assignments. Overall, the course consisted of a great variety of lectures with a fun project and a nice professor, though I would have loved some more strategic perspective on CSR. The grading was also very very fair.

**Global Strategy** definitely required the most effort and was the course I was most disappointed about. Over the semester, we had to solve 4 cases in groups, one company presentation as well as a final exam. The lectures consisted mainly of small lectures and a task to create a presentation about a topic like megatrends or a unicorn (company). I perceived the course to be not well organized and we could have used the time better to discuss about global strategy or learn a bit more about how to approach a case. The book we worked with, however, was really good and a great basic book for all dimensions of strategy. Overall, I would have loved an engaging and knowledge/practical insights focused course. The grading was fair.

The **Business Communication Skill Seminar** was interesting and fun. The professor was really engaging and fun. It is relatively comparable to what we did during our personal development seminar in Cologne.

Originally, I planned to undertake a Spanish course for the language requirement, however, it overlapped with another course and took time 3 times a week, which is why I decided not to take it.

## Life in Budapest

Living in Budapest was lovely. Budapest is a beautiful city with great restaurants, nice bars and lovely cafes. I loved spending time in the city park. I recommend buying a basketball or table tennis equipment at decathlon in the beginning. We spend a lot of time outdoors there especially in the beginning of the semester since they have great sports facilities there. The weather was also very good in total with a lot of sun. The buda side is nice for calming hike in the nature (one secret tip: take the train through the hills close to elizabeth lookout which is operated by children as a community project). Overall, I had a great time in Budapest meeting amazing people, while I thought that the Hungarians (not the Cemsies) could be a little more enthusiastic from time to time.

## Preparing for the exchange

The preparation for the exchange was not too difficult. We mainly had to choose our courses (which you can switch during the first week again), hand in our Erasmus documents and find accommodation. Only the courses during the intensive week were very limited, so if you would like to take them you must be quick. For accommodation, I found my apartment via Facebook (330€ per month). Finding accommodation in Budapest was not very difficult. I will put some links below that you can check out, which were used by several Cemsies.

Going to Budapest is straightforward. You can either take the plane or the train since there is a direct train from Cologne to Vienna and then a train or bus to Budapest.

One more tip: Don't drink on benches or in parks, the police will fine you with 75€ if you will be caught.

Accommodation links:

<http://www.rental-flat-budapest.com/4-bedroom-apartment/>

<https://budapeststudentrooms.com/>

<https://unitederasmushousing.com/>

<https://smarthomeapartment.hu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1DmCGWPPHM/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BzNgSpFWf/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1DtXPR1qNY/?mibextid=wwXlfr>