

# *University of Szeged*

*Department of Physical Geography and Geoinformatics  
Természeti Földrajzi és Geoinformatikai Tanszék*



## *Incoming students*

*2008/2009 autumn semester*

*Jerome Lacroix*

*from Clermont-Ferrand (FR)*

*2009/2010 autumn semester*

*Jerome Jardine*

*from Clermont-Ferrand (FR)*

*2009/2010 autumn semester*

*Jerome Jardin*

[Jerome.jardin@yahoo.fr](mailto:Jerome.jardin@yahoo.fr)

Hello!

The city of Szeged is very nice as its people and it was a pleasure to spend 5 months there. We were about 80 foreign students during my exchange and it was great. We had a warm welcome from Erasmus office and Hungarian students, a lot of fun as well as quality studies and we learnt lots of things about Hungarian culture and history.

First of all, you don't have to worry about your accommodation or your integration into the Erasmus group. There is a student association which looks after the Erasmus students and books for you a hostel for the first nights and organizes with the university an integration week where you can meet all the other foreign students. I advise you to **don't miss this week**, it is really important for fixing all the administrative problems and having fun!!! It is also during this week that you can go to visit flats with the Hungarian students. These flats are usually in very good state and in the city centre. All of us chose to live with other Erasmus students, I don't know if they can propose you a single flat. **The rental price including the utilities is between 120 and 150 euro** (about 35 000 forints). You can find cheaper if you search by yourself or further from the city centre but it is less practical. The Hungarian students will also help you in all your formalities (completing forms, registration, get internet, buy a bike and so on) and they will organize party or trip for the Erasmus student, so they make the life easy and pleasant in Szeged !

If you want to participate at these events, you absolutely shouldn't miss the **Wonder Camp!** It is a crazy weekend during October at the Balaton Lake (one of the largest in Europe) with Erasmus students from all Hungary. It is a great opportunity to visit Balaton Lake and meet people! (It costs about 120 euro/ 30 000 forint). Of course you can travel by yourself too. The public transport network is efficient and cheap (you get a half price in all Hungary with your student card and the transportation in Szeged is free for the students) and you can find very cheap accommodation on [www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com) (between 5 and 10 euro per night). There is a very beautiful place in Hungary. Budapest of course, Debrecen, Pécs (Cultural European capital 2010), Tihany by the Balaton Lake, and so on.

At the university, the Hungarian students were very kind and the study condition was excellent. Concerning the courses, the Erasmus program in Szeged was a very good experience insofar you can realise projects in human and physical geography. It was a new way of studying for me because I was used to a timetable with only courses in class. I worked about the landuse development since 1800 in an area near Balaton Lake in physical geography and the cycling in the city of Szeged in human geography; I also realised a geographical map and learned how to use ArcGIS (it is a mapping and geographical data managing informatics program). This semester was also positive because I improved my English with which I had some problems at the beginning! The teachers are very nice and you can discuss with them about the goals of your semester. For example my teachers were not so exigent in English. However you have **to pay attention to the ETC's credits** if you must choose the courses in English (I mean if you don't know Hungarian language). It was a big problem for me in Szeged. A physical geography course gives 5 credits and a human one only 2 and I had to get 60 ETC. As the number of the courses in English is limited, you should make sure you can get all the ETCs you need.

Beyond these pieces of information, there are all the things more difficult to express: the people you meet, the relationship you create, the experience you live... being in a foreign country with foreign people during several months is an amazing experience and it really changes your life, your way of thinking, your project for the future! I am still in touch with my Erasmus friend and I will never forget this semester!

I wish you the same experience!

If you wish more information you can contact me: [Jerome.jardin@yahoo.fr](mailto:Jerome.jardin@yahoo.fr)

*2008/2009 autumn semester*

*Jerome Lacroix*

jeromelacroix@free.fr

Hello,

I tried to write a little about my experience here...

First of all, when I arrived in Szeged, everything was done to welcome us!! One Erasmus volunteer came to pick me up at the station and bring me to the hostel they had booked for me before my arrival!! So we shouldn't worry about where to live when we arrive!!

Then the first week was an orientation week when we met every morning to make all the administrative papers, registration, we also get a lot of information about Szeged, the university, the different courses for which we can apply... And the afternoons were dedicated to finding a flat!

Also for that, no problem!! The Erasmus coordinators have a list and when we are interested in one we were visiting! We just had to say "ok I take it". I found my accommodation the first day of visits!!!

And almost everybody found something in a week! The most interesting is to share with other student!! I was in collocation with 2 Romanian girls and a polish boy! This is the best solution as you share the expenses and for a month, we paid each (all included: rent, electricity, gas, water) around 30000ft (~125€) when the weather was ok and 34000f (~140€) in winter time.

What is really good also in Szeged and in all Hungary is transportation for student: in Szeged, for every tram, bus or trolley, we don't pay anything because we get a season ticket at the beginning of the semester with our student card. And this Hungarian student card gives us 50% discount for all trains and bus in the country!! (for example: 12€ return ticket to Budapest!!)

Food is also nice but the price are almost like in France, (it depends what you buy), and you have to go to the market for all fruits and vegetables: cheaper and better!!! Paprika, potatoes, Fish soup, sausages, Gulash soup...And a lot of drinks, many different Hungarian beers, thousands of wine, and Palinka (plum, grapes, pear...), really nice.

And I can promise that we don't have time to be bored, 85 Erasmus students mean a lot of meeting, parties, and trip!! At the beginning, a few parties were organized by coordinators to know each other. It's such a good cultural melting!!!! There are a lot of nice pubs where we can have a glass of wine and speak about everything. And thanks to the cheap transportation, nice visits can be done. I've been to Budapest (visit and caving), Serbia, Vienne, Balaton Lake, Pécs...and also to Prague (35€return ticket from Budapest!!) It is really easy to organize a nice and cheap w-e, and if you need more information, just ask the Erasmus coordinators!! It's even easier!

One problem, Hungarian language!! If you're not so good in studying foreign languages, it even more difficult with Hungarian! But the course for beginners is really nice, we can have an overview of the language; I would have liked it a little bit more useful for everyday life.

All others course were really good and interesting for me as I discovered more than just learning information, but I could assess how to realize a full project, with all the difficulties that can be encountered and teachers were always there to help. Physical geography is really interesting in Hungary, especially considering hydrology, thermal water...

The department is nice with an important GIS lab that we can use to work on special programs (ERDAS Imagine, ArcView, ArcGIS). All was new for me and I get nice experiences!!

The most significant building of the University of Szeged is the Library (TIK): 4 floors, more than 200 computers available, WI-FI access, copy machines... a lot of events took place there (party also!!). One small regret about the library is that as I wasn't a PH-D or a teacher, I couldn't take all the books to my flat.

This Erasmus exchange was the most interesting experience of my student life!!

Many people from everywhere met (USA, Turkey, GB, Estonia, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, Spain...and Hungary of course), with for each of them a specific language and culture to share! Lots of visits, parties, a new educational system discovered...a fantastic experience that has to be tried by everyone!!