Budapest Semesters in Mathematics & Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Education

By Michelle
At a certain point students realize the joy of struggle, thinking with their own brains, what it means to look for a road, find it, and reach the goal. What it is like to think freely, with the hazard of getting lost, but with the possibility of the unusual, individual, surprising.

—Lajos Pósa
Mathematics in Hungary

Home to Paul Erdős, Vera Sós, Ernő Rubik and George Pólya, among many others, Hungary is well known for its mathematics history and education.
Hungarian Approach

- Strong and explicit emphasis is placed on problem solving, mathematical creativity, and communication.
- Students learn concepts by working on problems that promote perseverance and reflection.
- Overarching goal is for students to engage in mathematics and to feel the excitement of discovery.
The Two Programs

- Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM) started in 1985 by Paul Erdős, László Lovasz, and Vera T. Sós
- Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Education (BSME) was conceived by founders of BSM in 2014.
- Both programs have small classes, taught in English
  - Full-credit courses taught by instructors with experience teaching North American students
  - Credits transferable to North American colleges and universities (St. Olaf College is the host institution, a semester school)
Course offerings combine standard upper-level courses in areas of strength of Hungarian mathematics such as combinatorics, number theory, and probability theory.

- Full semester program: 14 weeks of instruction, 1 week of finals
- Summer program: 8 weeks long
- Research opportunities with professors available
- Students also have opportunity to take courses on Hungarian language or culture
Eligibility

- To be **eligible**, students must normally (there **ARE** exceptions):
  1. have at least sophomore status & be in good academic standing
  2. have **completed** 1 semester of Real Analysis (a first course in the Theory of Analysis) or Abstract Algebra by the start of the program
  3. be motivated to study mathematics
Deadlines

Deadlines (rolling decisions):

- For Fall Semester/Fall-Spring (full year): April 1
- For Spring Semester: October 15
- Summer Semester: March 1
About BSME

- Semester-long program in Budapest, for undergrads (at least one year of college completed) and recent grads interested in teaching secondary mathematics
  - Can be pursuing or interested in pursuing teaching license or simply curious about teaching/learning
- **Goal:** To study the *Hungarian approach* to learning/teaching of math.
The BSME Approach

- Immerse themselves in rigorous problem-solving.
- Observe Hungarian mathematics classrooms.
- Teach their own lessons to Hungarian students.
- Dual role as students and as teachers
BSME Courses

Practicum

Discovery Learning: The Pósa Method

Problem Solving in Secondary School Mathematics

Concept Building through Games and Manipulatives
Other Opportunities

- Various internships in mathematics teaching
- Colloquia / workshops in math and math education
How to Apply

● Apply online

● Application deadlines:
  ○ Summer Session: March 1
  ○ Fall semester: April 1
  ○ Spring semester: November 1

● Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Apply early!

bsmeducation.com
Budapest!

- Stay in hostel or apartment
- Cost of living is modest for a big city
- Great public transportation options
Short Travel to Other European Countries

- Convenient travel by train, bus, and air
- Budapest Airport (BUD) located 10 miles from the city center
- Lots of BSM & BSME students travel on the weekends!
Note

● This program is NOT a program recognized by GEO (Global Education Oregon), so scholarships do not apply to BSM/BSME tuition

● Credits are very transferable (all of BSME credits transfer as electives, but BSM courses may transfer as mathematics courses)
Contact Information

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OR contact Michelle for any questions!
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