
EDUCATIONUSA HUNGARY NEWSLETTER: Issue 12/2021

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Fulbright EducationUSA is closing for the summer July 19 - August 7.

We will be back in early September with the next newsletter, so stay tuned for the fall dates of our SAT test prep and writing workshops!

And of course, have a great and safe summer!

Registration is open for SAT 2021-22 testing.

Be mindful of the registration deadlines and apply early (before July 30th) for the August test date.

Find more info on the College Board and Fulbright websites:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/international>
<https://www.fulbright.hu/sat/>

Student Success Story with Botond Ekler-Szabó



Botond Ekler-Szabó, an advisee of EducationUSA Budapest, is an incoming first-year undergraduate student at Columbia University, New York. He will begin his studies in Economics-Philosophy with a special concentration in Business Management at Columbia this fall. We had the great opportunity to ask him about his college application experiences; take a look at what he had to share!

EdU: What interested you in studying in the U.S.?

BES: I wanted to study at one of the best institutions in the world. There are a lot of great universities in the U.S., with very strong departments in the fields I am primarily interested in. It has also been a dream of mine to live in the U.S., especially in New York. I have always wanted to experience the mix of cultures and the wide range of entertainment that one of the most vibrant, diverse cities in the world can offer.

What was the hardest part of the college application process?

I found it very challenging to write my main essay on the Common Application. Writing a short piece that does not only thoroughly answer the essay question, but also gives a clear

idea to people you have never met about who you are as a person, what goals you have, and who you would like to become is extremely difficult. That is why I would definitely recommend spending a lot of time on it.

In your opinion, what were your strengths in the applications you submitted?

If I had to guess, I would say that what differentiated me from most other applicants is that my interests and accomplishments were unique. Based on what I have heard and read, there are many applicants every year who achieved great results in their intended area of study. What probably grabbed the attention of certain members of the admission committee is that I had a wide range of interests and accomplishments in fields that are not directly connected to my intended major.

Any advice that you would give to future Hungarian applicants to U.S. universities?

Don't be shy and too humble! In Hungary, for some reason we are always encouraged to be very modest, and as a result, we are not the best at self-marketing. Don't be afraid to take up all the space available in the application to list up your accomplishments and interesting passions!

A Few Words of Farewell from ETA Camille



Dear advisees and readers,

Unfortunately, my Fulbright grant period in Hungary is almost up, and I will no longer serve as an EducationUSA advisor. It was such an honor to work for EducationUSA, and in the

process, meet some truly wonderful and talented advisees and learn more about Hungary. Thank you for your warm welcome.

I have the pleasure of introducing Joe Anguiano, the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant for the incoming academic year, and future EducationUSA advisor. He looks forward to meeting you all in September 2021!

*Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors,
Camille*

Scholarships & News

Scholarship Alert! Check out the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Undergraduate International Student Scholarship. This is for bachelor's students on track to complete a full degree at UW Oshkosh, who demonstrate commitment to their own educational development while also striving to help improve the campus community.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is a public university in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It is part of the University of Wisconsin System and offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree programs to nearly 14,000 students each year.

Learn more about this scholarship [here](#).

Scholarship Alert! Scholarship Alert: Western Illinois University is offering an International Graduate Commitment Scholarship! All non-sponsored newly admitted international graduate students are eligible. The scholarship covers \$3000 of tuition fees and is available for up to two years.

Learn more about this scholarship [here](#).

Application Advice Corner

TOP TIPS



to improve your application!



5 ways to stand out in college applications

Every year, applicant pools to U.S. colleges and universities become increasingly competitive, so how can you make the most of your application so that you can achieve admission to your dream school? We have compiled some advice, check it out:

1 - Develop a short list of schools. Picking colleges requires a lot of introspection as well as deep research of school websites. Consider how your learning style and other preferences fit with each college's strengths. Aim to have a short list of universities ready by spring of your second-to-last year of secondary school.

2 - Consider early options. Increasingly, colleges are admitting students through an [early decision](#) process. Early decision is binding, meaning that students promise to attend the college if accepted. You should opt for early decision only if you are certain the school is right for you. This is particularly true when it comes to financial aid, because accepting a binding early decision offer means that you will not be able to compare aid packages between schools.

3 - Demonstrate interest in the school. As it becomes easier for students to apply to multiple schools electronically using the [Common Application](#), admissions officers are alert for "stealth candidates" who do nothing but fill out the forms. If you want to be taken seriously, show interest in your top universities. Go on a virtual college tour and take advantage of local college fairs and every other option for contact. Even checking emails from a college can be a way to demonstrate interest - some schools (not all) track the rates at which prospective students open emails sent by the college.

4 - Pay attention to details. Optional essays? Write them. A chance to elaborate on extracurricular activities? Take it. Colleges look at more than test scores and GPA. Extra

effort can be the difference for your odds of admission to your dream university. A good letter of recommendation can also come in handy.

5 - **Be authentic.** To communicate your qualities and experiences well to college admissions officers, you need to find your own authentic voice. Everyone has a unique 'story' to tell, and it is up to you to go deep and find it. Moreover, good writing is needed to articulate and communicate that story well.

You can read more about enhancing your college applications [here](#).

"Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious."

-Stephen Hawking

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