

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN HUNGARY

1. Introduction

Although Hungary is generally a safe place to visit, you should use caution and stay alert.

Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting attacks in Europe. European governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations.

Be especially careful in train stations, crowded tourist areas, crowded buses, trams, and metros. You should avoid demonstrations and political rallies. In a few instances where demonstrations have turned violent, authorities have used riot police and water cannons to control crowds.

2. How the U.S. Embassy in Budapest can assist you?

U. S. Embassy Budapest address: 1054 Budapest, Szabadság tér 12.

Phone: +36-1-475-4400

<https://hu.usembassy.gov/>

[US Citizen Services](#)

<https://hu.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

Extreme ethnic nationalist groups have gained popularity in Hungary in recent years advocating intolerance towards Jews, Roma, and LGBTI persons. Although these groups are not explicitly anti-United States, you should avoid public demonstrations and confrontations with their members. The U.S. Embassy shares information on demonstrations, strikes, explosive device/suspicious packages, and weather-related events in the “[Safety and Security Messages](#)” section of the [U.S. Embassy Budapest website](#). (<https://hu.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/security-and-travel-information/>)

Crime: The Embassy regularly receives reports of pick-pocketing on the trains between Budapest and Vienna. Be especially mindful of your belongings when traveling this route. Passports, cash, and credit cards are favorite targets of thieves.

General tips to avoid becoming victim of a crime:

- Do not walk alone at night.
- Keep your belongings secure at all times.
- Do not accept food or drink from anyone but a server (there have been reports of foreigners being drugged for robbery or sexual assault).

See the [Department of State](#) and [FBI](#) pages for information on scams.

Victims of Crime:

Hungarian authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes. **Report crimes to the local police by calling 107 or 112, and contact the U.S. Embassy at (36)(1) 475-4444.**

Please also notify the Fulbright Commission's American Program Officer and/or Executive Director.

See our webpage on [help for U.S. victims of crime overseas](#).

We can assist you with a variety of needs, including:

- help you find appropriate medical care
- assist you in reporting a crime to the police
- contact relatives or friends with your written consent
- explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
- provide a list of local attorneys
- provide our information on [victims' compensation programs in the United States](#)
- provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the United States and/or limited medical support in cases of destitution
- help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
- replace a stolen or lost passport

Domestic Violence: U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

For further information:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier for us to locate you in an emergency.
- Call us in Washington at [1-888-407-4747](#) toll-free in the United States and Canada or [1-202-501-4444](#) from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and the [Europe Travel Alert](#).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
- See [traveling safely abroad](#) for useful travel tips.

U.S. Embassy Emergency Assistance

<https://hu.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/emergency-assistance/>

If you are an American citizen with an after-hours (5 p.m.-8 a.m. and weekends/holidays) emergency, please call:

From the U.S.: 011 36 1 475-4400

In Hungary: (061) 475-4400

An Embassy duty officer will be on call to handle emergencies.

During working hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. please call:

From the U.S.: 011 36 1 475-4164

In Hungary: (061) 475-4164

3. How the Hungarian Fulbright Commission can help?

Fulbright Commission in Hungary: 1082 Budapest, Baross u. 62.

Phone +36-1-462-8040

Fax: +36-1-252-0266

www.fulbright.hu

info@fulbright.hu

If in trouble, contact us at the above phone number or contact the American Program Officer at +36-30-69 70 711

Precautions:

Have an ICE (in case of emergency) phone number of a Hungarian person/Fulbright Commission staff member in your cell phone.

Always keep business cards of the following people in your wallet/purse:

- Fulbright Commission staff
- Hungarian host, friends, acquaintances
- Take a taxi if you travel at night. Two companies we can recommend (save their numbers in your cell phone:

City Taxi www.citytaxi.hu (tel: 06 1 211-1111)

6x6 Taxi www.6x6taxi.hu (tel: 06 1 666-6666)

4. Police Stations near your home

Please locate the nearest police station to your residence upon arrival in Hungary. Save its telephone number in your cell phone.

Police stations of Budapest's central districts and of cities where US Fulbrighters stay:

District 1: 1013 Budapest, Pauler u. 13., Phone: +36-1-457-5600

District 2: 1024 Budapest, Rómer Flóris u. 10., Phone: +36-1-346-1800

District 12: 1122 Budapest, Maros u. 3-5., Phone: +36-1-457-5650

District 5: 1051 Budapest, Szalay u. 11-13., Phone: +36-1-373-1000

District 6: 1063 Budapest, Szinyei Merse u. 4., Phone: +36-1-461-8141

District 7: 1071 Budapest, Dózsa György út 18-24., Phone: +36-1-461-8100

District 8: 1084 Budapest, Víg u. 36., Phone: +36-1-477-3700

District 9: 1096 Budapest, Haller u. 7-9., Phone: +36-1-455-4800

Pécs: 7622 Pécs, Vargha Damján u. 3., Phone: +36-72-504-400

Debrecen: 4024 Debrecen, Budai Ézsaiás u. 4., Phone: +36-52-516-400

Szeged: 6721 Szeged, Párizsi krt. 16-22., Phone: +36-62-562-400

Sümege: 8330 Sümege, Kossuth Lajos u. 34., Phone: 87/550-292

5. Health Emergencies

Please locate the nearest clinic and hospital to your residence upon arrival. You are not enrolled in the Hungarian healthcare system so you will have to pay for treatments. You will need to file a claim with Seven Corners/ASPE insurance or your American university/work insurance provider for reimbursement. **US Department of State Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE)** information and benefit guide and forms to health care coverage are available at:

<https://www2.sevencorners.com/usdos/>

<https://www2.sevencorners.com/downloads/usdos/ASPEHealthBenefitGuide.pdf>

English speaking medical services in Budapest (often do direct billing to Seven Corners):

RÓZSAKERT Medical Center – www.medical-center.hu

FIRSTMED Centers – www.firstmedcenters.com

IMS International Medical Services – www.ims.hu

6. Sexual Harrassment

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for a sexual favor, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It may include behaviors such as: unwanted deliberate touching or pinching; unwanted sexual looks and gestures; unwanted pressure for dates; unwanted sexual teasing or jokes, inappropriate questions of a sexual nature; inappropriate discussions of a sexual nature at work; pornography in your school or office; being followed or stalked.

Please be aware that behaviors that might be construed as sexual harassment in the U.S. are not necessarily considered as such in Hungary. This may be due in part to cultural differences, unfamiliarity with or confusion over cultural signs and cues, or lack of fluency in the language of communication. If someone is being persistent, be assertive and insist on being treated with respect. *Do not* sacrifice your personal safety, security or comfort zone. Set limits for what is acceptable to you and try to be consistent. Your complaint will be taken seriously; you will not be blamed or labelled as a troublemaker.

- Your safety is the most important issue. Inform your Program Officer as soon as possible and provide as much information as you can.
- The Commission will investigate the situation and contact the host institution. Legal procedures will be investigated and pursued if necessary.
- The situation will be discussed with the grantee, and if the grantee decides to file a police report, the Commission will take the necessary steps to assist in this.
- If the grantee wants to suspend the program, the circumstances will be discussed with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- If the grantee wants to remain in the country, the Commission will do its best to make sure the grantee is safe and secure as possible.
- The Commission, in corporation with ECA and the U.S. Embassy Health Unit, will provide a professional counsellor or other advisor to assist the grantee.

Strategies to Reduce Sexual Harassment:

- Find a local ally – examples may include a fellow faculty member, fellow student, neighbor, friends, other Fulbrighters
- Exercise caution when meeting people. Arrange the meeting in a public place or with others.
- Communicate clearly. Be assertive and insist on being treated with respect.

Emergency Numbers in Hungary:

-Central Emergency:112

-Police: 107

-Ambulance:104

-Fire:105

-24-hour English speaking crime hotline: +36-1- 438-8080

Principal Resources:

□ **US State Department travel warnings:**

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

□ **Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:**

<https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs>