

VISA/RESIDENCE PERMIT INFORMATION FOR FULBRIGHTERS March 2019

US citizens who spend more than 90 days in Hungary need a residence permit for their entire stay in our country. So far Americans could fly to Hungary with only their US passports, and could start the application for residence permit at the Hungarian Immigration and Asylum Office. In January 2017 two Fulbrighters were stopped by the airline (Delta) officers at boarding their flights and were required to present either a return ticket within 90 days or an entry visa. They had neither because they wanted to start their application for residence permit upon their arrival in Hungary.

To make sure you will not encounter a similar problem, I turned to the consular section of the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, DC for advice.

Below please read what I learnt. There are two options:

- 1) Grantees who live near the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, DC, or one of the Hungarian consulates (New York City, Los Angeles or Chicago) should submit an entry visa application in person at the consulate.

Information: <https://washington.mfa.gov.hu/eng/page/residence-permits>

If you choose this option, the majority of paperwork will be done in the US, and you do not have to bring original marriage (for spouses) or birth (for children) certificates to Hungary. The process in Hungary is much shorter, but you still have to go to the Immigration Office to hand in apartment rental related documents and to pick up your residence permit card.

- 2) Those who do not live close to one of the Hungarian consulates in the US: the Hungarian consulate can issue a statement for you that you can enter Hungary without a visa and will submit your residence permit application for a stay longer than 90 days upon your arrival in Hungary.

You need to send the following personal data via email: name, date and place of birth, your passport number, date of expiration of passport, date of travel, and you also need to attach a scanned copy of your passport and airplane ticket.

The consulate of the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, DC or the Hungarian consulate in whose district you reside can do this for you

Consular districts: <https://washington.mfa.gov.hu/eng/page/consulates>

Consulates may receive applications at the earliest 3 months before the beginning of the visit, and processing visa applications or statements (as in item 2 above) takes about 1 month. Please make sure you write for an appointment as early as possible as appointment slots are booked very early.

If you choose the second option, and will submit your residence permit application upon your arrival in Hungary: I will give you the necessary forms for your residence permit application during the orientation program at the beginning of September/February (or earlier if you come to Hungary before your grant period starts), and will help you with the entire process of application.

Residence permit application forms – which form do I need?

Research grantees: Residence permit application for the purpose of research

Teaching or teaching/research grantees: Residence permit application for other purposes

Students: Residence permit application for the purpose of studies

Dependents: Residence permit application for the purpose of family reunification

Option 2: the checklist of what you have to submit in Hungary at the Immigration Office after your arrival in Hungary:

1. **Valid passport (and copy of photo page and pages with stamps)**
2. **1 passport size photo**
3. **Application form (you receive this from me)**
4. **Fulbright grant document** and a **letter from your host institution**, which justifies that you are affiliated with your host institution, and that your living expenses are covered
5. **'Igazolás'**, a statement/letter to the immigration office issued by the Fulbright Commission to inform them about your grant and that you the grantee are exempt of paying the fee for residence permit application (family members have to pay USD 71 or HUF 18,000)
6. **Rental agreement** (English version is enough, signed by the landlord/lady and you, if you come with dependents: listing all the family members residing in the property, 2 witnesses at the end of document required with witnesses' names and address)
7. **Accommodation reporting form for third country nationals** (signed by the landlord/landlady, one form per person, all the owners listed on the 'Tulajdoni lap' have to sign it) – You will receive this form during orientation.
8. **Proof of health insurance** (your State Department insurance card that you will receive from me at orientation, card of any other already existing US insurance, original and a copy)
9. **For spouses or children:**
 - passport (and copy)
 - passport size photo
 - application form
 - fee HUF 18,000 – paid at the time of application by bank card
 - marriage (for spouses) or birth (for children) certificate (they want to see the original, but will only keep a copy)
 - Accommodation reporting form for third country nationals'
 - a statement of support – a short statement that you the grantee cover the living expenses of your dependent/s
 - sometimes, but not always the immigration officer asks for a recent bank statement (to make sure you have enough financial resources to cover your cost of living in Hungary)

Fulbright grantees are exempt of paying the residence permit application fee. The number of regulation which states this is: 28/2007. (V. 31.) IRM rendelet 5. paragrafus (2) b).

Family members have to pay USD 68 or HUF 18,000.