

My name is Katelyn Obert, and I'm from Montana State University in the United States. I studied abroad at the University of Pécs during the fall of 2024 at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, majoring in Architecture.

What initially drew me to the University of Pécs was the affordability—it offered the best value in terms of living costs, housing, and tuition. As I researched more, I became captivated by the architecture of Pécs. Hungary, in general, boasts some of the most unique and stunning buildings I've seen, even after extensive travels. I prioritized studying in a location rich in culture and history, and Pécs, home to one of the oldest universities in the world, fulfilled those expectations perfectly.

What's even more important than what drew me to Pécs are the reasons I desperately want to return. As corny as it sounds, I made lifelong friends while studying there. I was initially apprehensive about dorm life, but Szántó Dormitory turned out to be a great place to live! I was lucky to have three roommates who became close friends. I shared a room with Tursinoy, the first person I'd ever met from Uzbekistan, and we shared a kitchen with Mako from Japan and Hyebin from South Korea. Despite our cultural differences, we meshed surprisingly well, explored Pécs together, and enjoyed the vibrant downtown nightlife.

Socializing in Pécs was easy. Since it's an international school, everyone is from different places and open to meeting new people. I also felt very safe in Pécs. Walking alone at night, something I'd never do back home, felt completely normal there.

During my time abroad, I traveled extensively, visiting eight new countries, including Greece and Italy—places that had been at the top of my bucket list for years. Traveling from Budapest was easy and affordable, and Budapest itself is a beautiful city worth visiting.

Pécs is full of hidden gems. If you're studying architecture, I highly recommend the Architecture of Pécs course. Each week, we took in-depth tours of incredible buildings across the city. I felt like I was always discovering something new in Pécs. While it has a small-town vibe, it's surprisingly extensive. My advice? Use the buses and explore different routes around the city. I found some of my favorite shops and cafes this way.

Overall, the University of Pécs and its campuses were amazing places to study, and I'm so glad I chose it for my study abroad experience. Hungary is a beautiful and underrated country that I encourage everyone to visit at least once in their lifetime.