The Institute for Cultural Relations Policy (ICRP) is a four years old non-governmental and non-profit international organisation based in Budapest that engages in cultural relations and dialogue across the globe with the aim of promoting international human rights within diverse global culture, all while appreciating different and varied cultures. The ICRP organises seminars, workshops and other related programs with think-tanks in varied disciplines to tap into their expertise and to implement scientific findings in the promotion of cultural understanding globally.

This is one of the events that the interns participate in monthly. It is called Diplomacy & Beyond, where interns get to interview one of the foreign diplomats residing in Hungary!
Alessandra D’Arrigo

WHAT DO WE DO?

Interns’ obligatory tasks include, first, writing articles and editing the ICRP monthly magazine: Cultural Relations News & Background. Every month we collect material and information for writing articles about worldwide news. Consequently, we analyse data and compare headlines from world news sources.

ICRP also publishes an international academic journal called Cultural Relations Quarterly Review. Interns who are interested in contributing to the journal are able to write a paper, around 20,000-40,000 characters, related to the topic. There are also opportunities to write for a series about Human Rights issues, or writing opinion pieces for the ICRP’s blog.

Interns are involved in event support and development. We take part in international conferences, organised by the institute, and in the preparation of future events. Additionally, we have the opportunity to interview diplomats during the monthly event series Diplomacy & Beyond.

Interns also carry on the correspondence with the members of the Advisory Board, European partner institutes and universities. ICRP is also an Erasmus+ partner and we can have the unique chance to engage in workshops with young people belonging to other countries.
Budapest is located in a strategic position and is connected to other European countries by public transportation, such as trains and buses. This is a perfect place for interns who enjoy travelling around, whether is is outside of Hungary or within the country.

ABOUT BUDAPEST

Budapest is divided into two separate parts by the beautiful Danube river. The contrast between the hilly and beautiful Buda side with the hip Pest side makes Budapest one of the best cities to live in. There are so many cultural activities and nightlife events which are good for your experience. Living in Budapest without knowing the Hungarian language or as it is called “magyar”, may be a bit difficult, but it will not be a problem. There are many international students who are studying full-time or doing exchange programs in Budapest. The student vibe is very international which makes it the best place to meet a lot of people from around the world.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How often do interns meet? Do we work in an office?
A: We do not work in an office, instead we meet twice a week (usually Mondays and Fridays) to discuss projects, deadlines, and other issues. Then, interns are supposed to work from home, respecting the deadlines. This gives interns a lot of freedom to explore the city! Our meetings are held at Andrassy ut 16 (2nd floor). When we have an arranged meeting you simply ring the number 8 bell, announce you have arrived for an ICRP meeting, and you will be buzzed in. Just open the door on the second floor and you will be directed to a room where we will meet.

Q: Is there a dress code?
A: Meetings are fairly informal, jeans and a t-shirt are generally OK, but for events a business/business casual attire is recommended.

Q: Is public transport good in Budapest? How can you pay for transport?
A: Budapest is well served by trams, metros, and buses, including many that run at night. You can purchase tickets individually at machines (beware some only accept cash or card), or you can buy longer passes, including a month long student pass, from transport booths (there is even one at the airport!). For more information on costs, and the transport system, you can have a look at this website:

Q: How can I get a SIM Card?
A: Budapest is served by a number of cellular companies. Vodafone has a stand in the airport where they can sell you a plan and a SIM card on arrival. The city also has Tmobile shops, as well as a few smaller companies. You can read more here:
http://www.budapestinc.com/sim-card

Q: What tips do you have for finding an apartment?
A: Housing in Budapest can be found in a number of ways. You could book a hostel/hotel for your arrival, and use an agent to find an apartment in Budapest if you are staying for a longer internship. There are also a number of Facebook pages dedicated to looking for roommates in Budapest. Usually you have to pay two or three months deposit in advance usually in cash. If you are coming for a shorter internship, Airbnb is a good option since you do not have to sign a contract or pay utilities.
You can find below some pages specifically designed for foreign students who are looking for rooms or apartments in Budapest.

http://iskola.org
http://srs-budapest.hu
http://roommatesbudapest.com/
https://www.facebook.com/pages/RoomMatesBudapest/162594037122570
http://www.alberlet.hu/en
http://www.issbudapest.hu/accomodation/flat/search
https://www.facebook.com/groups/105199922860266/

Rooms are usually available from 80,000 HUF (all costs included), while apartments from 120,000 HUF plus utility costs. Either you choose, we suggest you to rent directly from owners. 2 (or 3) month of deposit is usually required. Rooms and apartments on the Buda side (mostly in the I., II., XI., XII., XXII. districts) and in the city centre (V., VI., VII. districts) are a bit more expensive, being the most popular parts of the city. The downtown (where we have our regular meetings) is easy to access by public transportation no matter which part of the city you choose, however we do not recommend - mostly due to the big distance and public safety reasons - the XV., XVI., XVII., XVIII., XIX., XX., XXI., XXIII. districts and some parts of the VIII. district (Orczy tér, Népszínház utca).

Q: I have dietary restrictions/preferences/allergies, is it easy to find food?
A: Budapest is a great city for food varieties. You can find everything here, from traditional Hungarian food, to vegan/vegetarian restaurants, halal restaurants and shops, even many options for those who are gluten free or lactose free. Eating out is also relatively inexpensive for a European city, so many interns enjoy exploring the food culture in Budapest.

Q: Can I travel during the internship?
A: As long as you inform András (the boss) ahead of time, and there are no scheduled mandatory events, it’s OK. Some interns also have the chance to travel through the internship to participate in one of the Erasmus+ programs or conferences we are partners with.