

National reforms in higher education (till September 2022)

2022

Scholarships for disadvantaged students

The “Útravaló” (Path) program provides support for disadvantaged and multiply disadvantaged pupils and students from the last year of basic school (ISCED 1-2) until the HE graduation.

The scholarship program has four sub-programs: Path to upper secondary school, Path to profession, Path to graduation, Path to diploma. Due to the governmental 2.5 billion HUF subsidy, more than ten thousand children and young people can benefit from this performance-based scholarship program, the amount depends on the academic results of the pupil/student gained at the end of the previous school year.

The Roma Nationality Study Scholarships are also open for application; students who attend a Roma nationality upper secondary school and achieve an academic study average of 4 are eligible.

2020

Moratorium on repayments

The moratorium on repayments of the Student Loan took effective from 18 March 2020 as a result of the situation caused by the coronavirus worldwide. The moratorium had been lengthened until 31 October 2021. From 1 November 2021, the moratorium on loan repayment is to be only available to a certain group of customers. The new phase of the moratorium will run until December 31, 2022.

Student Loan Plus

The objective of the Student Loan Plus is to give students a one-off, interest-free general-purpose loan in this new crisis. This loan helps students who may have lost their job or have difficulties in paying their studies. It can be taken in parallel with Student Loan 1 and 2 but not in case the student has Language Learning Student Loan.

Support measures for learners in higher education

Higher education institutions must ensure the conditions according to the type of disability and accessible environment for the disabled. In addition to this, as stated by the Organisational and Operational Rules of the institution, they also have to employ a mentor, coordinator to coordinate tasks related to students with disabilities. The coordinator is one of the members of the Disability Committee, which judges the requests of students for exemptions and organises support.

The tasks of the coordinator are to:

- Keep a continuous record of disabled students pursuing studies at the institutions;
- Have individual consultation with students;
- Advise and provide assistance for them in order to assess their needs and provide information;
- Organise consultations needed by disabled students;
- Ensure support and consultations both during term-time and exam periods;
- Make a proposal on how to allocate the state funding received by the university in relation to disabled students and on purchasing special equipment for accessibility;
- Assist students with individual problems during their studies.

Pursuant to the Organisational and Operational Rules of the higher education institution:

- The institution judges the requests of disabled students for assistance, exemption, and benefits;
- A coordinator is appointed to carry out the task of providing assistance for students with disabilities at institutional level;
- Students with disabilities can use the personal and technical support and services provided by the higher education institution or not provided but made available in another manner in accordance with the type and severity of their disability;
- Students with disabilities can use the allowance for textbooks and notes for obtaining special notes or other technical aids replacing notes that help preparation.

The higher education institution provides regular or special social scholarship for socially disadvantaged students.

Guidance and counselling in higher education

Higher education institutions provide the operation of an information and counselling system for their students to help their integration and progress during higher education studies, as well as career planning counselling during and after the completion of studies.

Each higher education institution provides information on its website related to the progression in studies.

Students' Unions also help students receive the relevant information. Students' Unions help students arrange their academic matters with various tools: they operate topic-specific websites, and conduct reconciliations between teachers and students if needed.

Higher education institutions also support their students' successful studies by organising different skills development trainings:

- Stress management techniques
- Self-confidence strengthening workshop
- Learning technique workshop
- Debate culture and negotiation technique
- Building a personal brand
- Project approach

Psychological Counselling

HEI provide psychological support for their students within the frame of life coaching. Several higher education institutions also operate peer-helping groups. Psychological counselling can happen in an individual or group form, depending on what approach is needed for the concerned problem. Psychological counselling in an individual form means working on personal problems in a one-to-one situation and in full secrecy. Sessions usually happen weekly, in 50 minutes per occasion.

Psychological counselling in a group form is usually organised around a certain topic, and members arrive with similar aims to these sessions (e.g. development of self-awareness or other social skills). It happens in the form of a small group, which means a headcount between 8 and 15 persons. Two specialists who are familiar with the concerned topic usually lead groups.

Career Guidance

Higher education institutions provide career guidance for their students by means of online service and operating career offices. Within the frame of guidance, usually the following topics emerge:

- Assessment and development of personality features, abilities, skills
- Revealing further study opportunities (master's degree programme, choosing a specialisation, etc.)
- Identifying the ideal workplace and position, fitting it to the personality
- Career planning
- Job seeking techniques

Counselling is customized and happens within the frame of individual consultation. Higher education institutions transfer job offers and professional practice, as well as they organise job fairs. The most prestigious universities organise their traditional job fairs between February and April, which allows thousands of employers and graduates to contact one another.

Academic Guidance

Regarding the concept of lifelong learning, the following should be emphasized:

- Focus is shifted to students; students' needs from the system of educational institutions;
- Emphasis is put on the establishment of the capability of independent learning;
- Learning can be implemented in various places and forms, and it can be continued during the whole career.

Adult learning is focused on the adult and adult's individual motivations. Adult training activity can be provided by different state and business organisations. Accordingly, support, information, and support activity related to adult training is mainly implemented by training provider institutions.

Websites run by employment divisions of government offices contain useful information about obtainable academic opportunities for adults.

Resumo HU:

Relativamente aos estudantes com necessidades especiais, as IES contratam um mentor e um coordenador específico para estes estudantes. Disponibilizam, ainda, para todos os estudantes um sistema de informação que presta apoio aos estudantes na sua integração e progresso bem como aconselhamento sobre o planeamento da carreira durante e após a conclusão do ciclo de estudos.

As IES organizam programas de desenvolvimento de competências na área das técnicas da gestão do stress, workshops de autoconfiança, de técnicas de aprendizagem, debates sobre cultura e técnicas de negociação, construção de uma marca própria, desenvolvimento de projetos etc.

Disponibilizam apoio psicológico aos estudantes no âmbito de *life coaching* e algumas IES têm grupos de ajuda entre pares. O aconselhamento psicológico pode ser individual ou em grupo e nas sessões de grupo são trabalhadas e desenvolvidas *soft skills* e autoconhecimento.

Disponibilizam orientação profissional através de um serviço online e de gabinetes para as carreiras para efetuarem a avaliação e desenvolvimento de características de personalidade, competências, novas oportunidades de estudo (programa de mestrado, escolha de uma especialização, etc.), identificar o potencial local de trabalho e posição, adequando-o à personalidade, planeamento da carreira, técnicas para procura de emprego. O aconselhamento é personalizado é desenvolvido no âmbito de uma consulta individual.

As IES divulgam as ofertas de emprego e estágios profissional e organizam feiras de emprego.