
SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION ON CAMPUS AND IN BUDAPEST

CEU CAMPUS

Central European University is an educational institution but its building complex houses several other institutions. CEU's computer laboratories and library are well-known, therefore many individuals—sometimes even unauthorized ones—would like to use these facilities. At the receptions, polite but determined supervision is necessary in order to prevent any unauthorized person from entering the building complex.

Please bring your ID card with you all times and show it to the security guards.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

As has any large city, Budapest also has its fair share of crime, typically against property (burglary, theft, robbery, etc.). While there is no fail-safe method of protecting oneself completely, some basic safety precautions can help reduce the chances of becoming a victim:

1. In order to minimize the impact of a pick-pocketing incident, please keep your money in a bank account or in a safe in your hotel and carry a minimal amount of cash.
2. Pay attention to your bag and wallet especially on crowded streets, squares, popular tourist places and on public transportation. If you are carrying a great deal of money, you are strongly advised to split it up and place it in several different locations in your bags and/or pockets. A common pick-pocketing method in Budapest is for two or more pick-pockets to work together. An individual will board a bus, metro or tram in front of an unsuspecting victim, pausing for a moment to block the door. The thieves behind the victim will then push forward, as though anxious to get on, while picking the pocket of the trapped victim.
3. When staying in a hotel (including the CEU Center) leave all of your money and other valuables in the hotel's safe or other places designated by the hotel.
4. Exchange currency at bureaux de change only, since abusers may deceive you with counterfeit money.
5. Try to avoid being alone outside in the late night hours, keep away from deserted, dark places and do not behave provocatively.
6. If you need a taxi, order it by phone: the ride is cheaper and more reliable this way.
7. In order not to be a victim of a fraud ask a policeman for his police identity card before paying a cash fine or insist on paying by check. (Police officers can be identified by their uniform, identification badge or police service ID card.)
8. In order not to face any inconvenient situation, after entering a restaurant ask a waiter for a menu. Never order anything in a cafe or restaurant, etc., if there is no price list available to check the prices. Budapest's most notorious cases of this form of rip-off can cost an unsuspecting tourist as much as a thousand dollars for a few drinks.
9. Familiarize yourself with your neighborhood and the university facilities by walking around in daylight. On frequently traveled internal routes, note the location of the CEU emergency telephones or call boxes before you might ever need them.

Emergency phones are located around the CEU teaching facilities of the Nador u. 9 complex. By dialing extension 2222, the caller will be immediately connected to the dispatcher.

A FRIENDLY STRANGER

Many scams or attacks start with casual conversation. The perpetrator is sizing up the situation to see how easily he/she can intimidate or dupe you. Although most people would recognize something strange about these types of situations, many ignore their intuition because they do not want to appear to be unfriendly or suspicious.

If your instincts about a person (stranger or acquaintance) make you uneasy, get out of the situation as quickly as possible, even if it means being rude, making a scene, or feeling foolish. Use caution with strangers who offer you gifts or who ask you to accompany them to an unknown place.

A FAKE POLICEMAN

Part of this scam is also shortly described in the [Budapest money change scam](#), beware of fake police officers targeting tourists and intimidating them into handing over their wallets or bags. They are in plain clothes and may shortly show some kind of identification that an uninformed tourist may believe to be an official police ID. Their tactic is to accuse

their victims of some kind of crime and then ask for an ID and a wallet or bag. As they are as light-fingered as pickpockets, and use intimidation and distraction tactics, they are able to steal money or other valuables from the wallet or bag before handing it back.

They always work in teams, with some of them discreetly on watch for the real police, while another one who's in on the scam approaches the tourists as a local asking for a light or for directions or just trying to make conversation. The fake police officer will then step in during the conversation or after the tourists have dismissed the other scammer, accusing the tourists of an illegal transaction, like illegal money change or even a drugs deal. The other scammer will quickly show his ID and hand over his wallet to be searched by the fake cop, this is done to make their victims believe the cop is real and don't ask for an additional identification.

The fake police officer will ask the tourists for identification and their wallets for proof of counterfeit notes (in case of an illegal money change accusation) or their bags to search for illegal drugs. If the tourists resist or are still hesitant to believe the cop, they will use intimidation tactics like not letting them leave the spot and threatening to take them to the police office.

If you are approached by someone claiming to be a Budapest police officer, ask for their identification and examine it carefully. If still in doubt, ask them to either take you to the nearest police office to handle the matter or to have a uniformed cop present on the spot before they continue their search and before you hand over anything. A real cop will have no problems with this, while a scammer will trade off the risks and the potential reward and is likely to leave you alone. If you are near a hotel or bank where a security guard is on duty, try to get their attention and have them check the police ID for authenticity.

IN THE CEU RESIDENCE AND CONFERENCE CENTER

The Center (dormitory) is only as safe as the residents make it. Take your share of the responsibility for yourself and others. Also, the dormitory staff are there to help you if you need them. Develop a communication system with a roommate or friend. This can include exchanging information about your class schedules, leaving notes when you must be away unexpectedly, etc. Do not post notes for your roommate on the outside of your door.

1. Always keep entrance doors to the building closed. If you find a door propped open, close it.
2. If strangers call for their friends, ask them to wait outside while you relay the message. Do not invite them in.
3. Never open the door of your room without first asking who is there.
4. Always keep your room locked when you are there, especially late at night or when you are sleeping. Report malfunctioning locks to residence staff immediately.
5. Do not keep any valuables in your room, please use the safes available in the Residence Center.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Telephone numbers for the Hungarian public emergency services are as follows. These numbers may be dialed from any pay-phone, without a coin or card.

EMERGENCY (general line)	112
Ambulance:	104
Police	107
Fire	105