

Dear Mr. Szaffkó,

I am sending the short feedback to you and to The Cleveland Hungarian Development Panel, which provided my scholarship grant: Firstly, I would like to warmly thank to my dear colleague Klára, who studies History and Czech language and literature (such as me) and who is keen on the Hungarian culture. She recommended me to visit Hungary for a summer school. So that was the first impulse, which sparked my interest into Hungary in general. Definitely I was kindly surprised. I've chosen the Modern Hungary course, which provided an introductory insight into the Hungarian history, art and literature. There were 60 classes, beginning with the 19th century and ending with a contemporary history. I really appreciated the teachers positive attitude. I have never been amazed by sculptures or a poetry, but prof. Rácz shown us the real value of these arts and changed my view. Standing in the presence of statues in the park and reciting poems of Csokonai Vitéz, János Arány etc., gave us the experience to partially "revive" these poets and relive it again and again. This was emotional and I realised it in hindsight more and more.

In the accommodation, I was very grateful for air conditioning. Due to the scorching summer weather, there were about 36 degrees Celsius. So the AC was a lifesaver, and I appreciate the efforts made to make our stay as pleasant as possible. Concerning the meals, which we got thrice every day, I was really satisfied. I have no limitations or diets, so I enjoyed everything that came on my plate. Also, I travelled on my own during the weekend. I have visited Hajdúszoboszló to relax in the thermal spa and Tokaj region for the wine cellar. Moreover, I spent some free time on the leisure activities such as Szusz park in Debrecen or a bike tour to nearby church ruins - that was offered by Summer School as an extra program. It broadened my horizons a lot.

To sum it up, Debrecen was a perfect place for studying. It didn't even look like a bustling city with more than 200,000 inhabitants, but more like a quiet town with a lot of greenery and parks. I would like to dedicate many thanks to the Debreceni Nyári Egyetem staff as well. Particularly to the student helper Lajos Sebők for the instructions, to the director dr. Péter Szaffkó for the welcoming dinner and to the lecturer András, who was a phenomenal dancer during folklore events. Finally, I would like to thank a lot to The Cleveland Hungarian Development Panel for the scholarship grant and for this opportunity to visit the Debrecen Summer School. It was a pleasure to be there and enjoy every moment I've had.

Sincerely,

Petr Čermák

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