

This is the second time I've had the honor of being selected as one of the recipients of the Hungarian-Cleveland scholarship to study Hungarian at Debrecen University. The experience is one I will treasure all my life because it has brought me closer to my Hungarian Heritage and family in Hungary.

As a second-year participant I was able to learn enough Hungarian to communicate a bit with some elderly family members who only speak Hungarian. They were thrilled to listen and encouraged me as I tried speaking to them.

My classes were wonderful! I had two very experienced and dedicated teachers. Their knowledge and patience were valued at every step. I really enjoyed the format of having the theoretical part of language learning in the morning and the practical part in the afternoon. The games and activities after lunch kept us awake and focused. It also pushed us to practice what we had previously learned. It was such a fantastic experience, I wanted to stay for another two weeks to continue growing in my knowledge of Hungarian.

The new cafeteria was spacious, clean, and air conditioned. It offered three delicious meals and some friendly smiles.

The friendships created during every one of these trips have proven long lasting even across the borders. I still communicate with many people I have met at Debrecen and enjoy keeping up with them.

The city of Debrecen is so charming and accessible to tourists and students from abroad. There are trains that get you there from Budapest in a jiffy! I feel right at home when I walk around the town. I always enjoy getting a cup of coffee and a pastry down town or trying a new flavor of one of the delicious ice-cream while I walk the streets window-shopping. My favorite place continues to be the thermal baths at the Aquaticum in Debrecen. My body feels invigorated and more youthful after an afternoon at the bath. Their facilities are impeccable and a great value.

My desire is to continue studying Hungarian next year. As a person living with a limited budget I have been truly blessed with this scholarship. Without its provision it would be very difficult for me to afford it. Thank you so much!

I also want to take the opportunity to thank all the staff at Debrecen University for your support on accommodating me during my stay at the University. Special thanks to Judit Kulcsár and Dóra Fehér for everything you did.

Sincerely,

Marie Kurucz