

## Profile of the Applicant

**Corvinus University of Budapest** (established in 1920) is one of the most prestigious universities in Hungary. It was listed in the Financial Times European Masters in Management ranking in the 62nd place. According to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (2018) Corvinus University is in the 801-1000 category. In 2015 the University had the 42nd place in the QS Emerging Europe and Central Asia (QS-EECA) list.

**Corvinus Business School** as the part of the Corvinus University to which the applicant belongs is the centre for education and research in economics, financial management, management and organisation, business, management sciences and management practice.

The **Institute for Geography, Geoeconomics and Sustainable Development** (Gazdaságföldrajz, Geoökonómia és Fenntartható Fejlődés Intézet) was established in the Faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations at Corvinus University of Budapest, in the end of 2015 as a result of evolution of the former Environmental Science Institute and the Economic Geography Department. This Institute is a follower of a long history connected to the Department of Economic Geography, founded by Pál Teleki in the 1980s.

The Institute has three centres:

- Economic Geography and Futures Studies
- Geostrategy (Spatial-Strategy)
- Sustainable Development

The Head of the Institute is Márton Péti, Associate Professor from the Centre of Geostrategy, and former Head of the Department of Spatial Development Planning of Ministry for Economy. Géza Salamin, Master Lecturer, is head planner of the governmental national planning agency, former vice-president of the Hungarian Society for Urban Planning, Hungarian delegate to the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU) and coordinator of drafting team of the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020, is the core staff of the Institute related to spatial planning.

**The courses taught by the Institute** relate to several scientific areas and specialities on BA, MA and post-graduate levels:

- geography
- regional economics
- spatial and urban planning
- geostrategy
- futures studies
- environmental economics
- sustainable business.

The share of information, the forming of view in recognizing and managing regional integratory factors and processes, practical usage and skill development are all emphasized scopes in the education.

Total Institute's teaching staff counts 16 persons, including two professors, one professor emeritus and five associate professors.

## Teaching programme

The name of the programme applied for the consideration as spatial planning is **Regional and Environmental Economics**. This is a master-degree programme with 4 semester standard time of study (2 years). 120 credits can be acquired in total in the programme. The most important courses are of the following areas: regional geography, regional economics and policies, spatial planning, strategic planning, programming and evaluating, social planning and development, strategic

management, geopolitics, geographical information systems (GIS), development policy and spatial development, urban studies, sustainability and climate change in policies, advanced environmental economics, sustainable and socially responsible corporation. The students faces several planning projects during their studies in group work or individually. The elective courses of most actual topics can be chosen in English as well.

Actually the Institute does not have a BA programme. Majority of the students come from BA or BSc programmes such as Geography (with spatial and urban development specialisation) and some of them from Landscape Architecture.

Following the Hungarian terminology, there is no education programme directly called Planning in the country. Planning professionals recruit from engineers, urban and regional development geographers or – as this is the case of the Applicant, from social sciences and economics.

The Regional and Environmental Economics programme was established a decade ago, but it was stopped at Corvinus University for two years. In 2015, when the new Institute was established in a reviewing process, 60% percent of the programme was modified and a new, planning and development oriented approach was adopted applying innovative, more practice oriented education methodology (interactive courses, group dynamics, field trips, project works, trainee programme, with several practitioners involved, etc.). The programme is strongly oriented to international planning approaches.

Most of the programme is provided by the teaching staff of the Institute for Geography, Geoeconomics and Sustainable Development. Besides, they invite instructors and lecturers from other Institutes and from the practice, also from abroad.

## **Courses of the Institute directly related to planning**

**Urban and Spatial Planning:** Introduces the students to the basic approach, the definitions and the various areas of urban and spatial planning. An integrated, holistic approach to the spatial aspects of public planning, and international trends and practices are in focus in this course. Several European and the Hungarian planning routine is presented along these points. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2x2

credits: 6

**GIS and Quantitative Methods of Spatial Analysis:** Introduces to the theoretical and practical basics of quantitative spatial analysis methods.

teaching hours: 2x2

credits: 6

**Qualitative Methods of Planning and Analysis:** The role, usage and importance of qualitative analytic and planning methods (e.g. interview, representative questionnaire, SWOT analysis, team dynamics) and requirements of their being representative, while lying the basics of critical thinking. The methods taught here can be used both in development policies and during regional or environmental evaluation. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2x2

credits: 6

**Strategic Planning, Leadership and Project Management:** Strategic public planning, evaluation and programming with a connection to planning theories, development cycles and levels of decision-making. Practices in project-level management and an overview of related supports' and tenders' systems are also discussed. Furthermore, the course presents means of environmental integration as well (e.g. strategic environmental analysis). (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2x2

credits: 6

**Integrated European Strategies:** Strategic issues of Europe are discussed which are actual and relevant, and those that are beyond the classic approach of European policies and public communication, often manifested in horizontal objectives. Integration of sustainable development, prevention of climate change and adaption to its consequences, equal rights and demography (with a focus on gipsy and migration politics), financial crisis management and regional cohesion all belong to the topics of the course. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Development and Cohesion Policies:** Public service development of Hungary, other states and mainly international organizations (including the European Union). (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Development Policy Management and Programming:** Development policies. Methods of strategy making, creating, executing (in project management) and evaluating plans and programmes of development. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2+2

credits: 3

**Local and Rural Economics and Development:** Connections between local economic development and regional economics, and differences in strategies built on internal resources of various areas. Regional sustainability, directions and “sectors” of local economic development, questions of autonomous economic systems—demonstrated mainly through case studies—are also important topics of the course. Methods and institutions of rural development are discussed in the context of the European Union. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Urban Geography and Global Cities:** Insight to questions of urbanistics. Network and global approaches of city development and management are in focus. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Geography and Development of Budapest and Major Cities:** Comparison of Budapest and other Hungarian big cities to other countries, and critical analysis of connecting processes. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Introduction to Public Administration:** Introduction to the proceedings of public administration, the different state institutes and the roles of local governments. The main acts and laws that are needed for the basic examination in public administration are also parts of the subject. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Urban Economics and Sociology:** (including housing, property development, urban management, participation) The city as a spatial socio-economic system, where the main questions of real estate market, investments, city marketing and tourism are addressed. Besides, management of cities’ and

regions' economies, liveability and city–countryside relations are highlighted topics, too. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2x2

credits: 6

**National and Geostrategies:** Actual facts of geopolitics, and its most important trends for Hungary and the Central-European region. Furthermore, the course introduces to the operations of national strategies' international practice, and some special definitions in Hungarian national strategy. (Mandatory: MA in Regional and environmental economics)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**Local Economic Development:** Here similar topics are discussed as in Local and Rural Economic Development. But in this course, local economic development initiatives of international organizations, and a general overview of economic development – by putting to context – are also introduced, next to the European Union approach. (Mandatory: BA in International Relations, Geopolitics specialization)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

**The Geopolitics and Urbanisation of Central and Eastern Europe:** Geological space, including cities and city networks as factors of environmental, socio-economic and political spatial processes. An overview to the management and development of cities and city networks, and a related background of institutions and instruments. (optional: BA in the Faculty of Social sciences and International Relations)

teaching hours: 2

credits: 3

## Sources

Texts provided by Géza Salamin, Master Lecturer of the Institute for Geography, Geoeconomics and Sustainable Development

Hungarian Society for Urban Planning <http://www.mut.hu/?module=news&action=list&fname=szolg>

Hungarian web page of the Institute: <http://www.uni-corvinus.hu/index.php?id=57639>

English website under construction: <http://www.uni-corvinus.hu/index.php?id=63752>

## Recommendation

Formally, this is not an independent planning programme. But it is difficult to make any judgment on formal adequacy of the planning programme at the Corvinus University, when planning is not considered a specific discipline in the country. This difficulty is common for several East-Central European countries where the tradition of urbanism-based town planning (Städtebau) survived until the end of Communism era and then it was replaced by refusal of any form of planning, following the neo-liberal political attitudes. The first independent spatial planning programme emerged in Poland but till these days the very word “planning” is not legally used in that country.

The courses of the Regional and Environmental Economics programme make a good base for planning education, however specific projects as a core of the planners' training are missing. Apparently, this is compensated for by project works with practitioners involved as indicated above.

Considering all these aspects, my recommendation is to relax the strict criteria for the full AESOP membership and accept the application, which would become to my mind the only full membership from Hungary.