



# **Navigating the European Experience: A Practical Guide for Latin American Counsellors**



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**Irene Vendrame**

**[irene.vendrame@unicatt.it](mailto:irene.vendrame@unicatt.it)**



**UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA**  
del Sacro Cuore



**Michal Semian**

**[michal.semian@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:michal.semian@fsv.cuni.cz)**



**Péter Árvai**

**[arvai.peter@pte.hu](mailto:arvai.peter@pte.hu)**



**Denise Nijhuis**

**[d.nijhuis1@ucr.nl](mailto:d.nijhuis1@ucr.nl)**



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# WHY EUROPE?

- **High quality education** for a **fair tuition fee**
- Programs in a **large variety of disciplines**
- **Affordable living costs** with a **high standard of living**
- A **truly international** student experience, which includes easy, affordable and safe **travel** across the continent
- Strong student mobility with EU scholarships
- **Easy access** to the global job market, with many companies and organizations headquartered in the EU
- Ability to work during studies as well as upon graduation, made easier by a **visa upon graduation**



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# WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WILL THRIVE IN EUROPE?

- Students should not be afraid to make a choice that might be different from that of their peers and as such have a bit of a **pioneering spirit**
- Students are treated like **adults**, and as such need to be able to self-advocate, seek-out help and generally be quite **independent**
- Students should be **inquisitive, curious, motivated** and looking to make the most of all opportunities on offer (research, internships student leadership, etc.)
- Students who are **budget conscious**, and/ or who emphasize **safety** and a **healthy work-life balance** in their conversations with you as their counselor would likely enjoy Europe



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# WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW AS COUNSELOR?

- **University reps** (admissions/recruiters) are uncommon, and if available, generally cover more than one territory.
- Where University Reps do exist, they are generally seen as **marketeers**. They **do not read files** and generally have no impact on admissions decisions.
- Universities are often **decentralized**, meaning that you would need to reach out to the particular faculty a student is applying to. This also leads to **different levels** of service within one university.
- Systems are build for national students, meaning that some things might not make sense from an international perspective. Reach out! Ask!



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# RESEARCH

While there are a lot of similarities between the different European countries, and the overall student profile is similar, there are quite a few **differences** between countries as well. This is what students should be looking at.



**Academics**



**Student Life**



**Housing**



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# ACADEMICS

- While many European destinations are predominantly known for **STEM** or **Medicine**, there are actually **far more fields** on offer in English. So, it doesn't matter what a student is interested in, somewhere will offer it in English.
- There are many **different types of institutions** in Europe such as comprehensive research universities, business schools, hospitality schools, universities of applied sciences. All of them educate in a different manner, which students should look in to.
- It is important to look at the differences between **public** and **private** institutions
- **Degree length** will be different from country to country

## CZECHIA

Diverse landscape with the dominance of big public research oriented universities in Prague. Emerging destination for social sciences programs.

## ITALY

Ancient academic tradition; high rankings in Biological Sciences, Humanities, Medicine and Business;  
**Growing internationalization**

## HUNGARY

big public "city" universities.. The structure of the study programs and the teaching methods will be similar, but each university has its own specialty: Pécs is a bit stronger in business, social sciences and arts, Debrecen is in engineering, etc.

## NETHERLANDS

400+ programs in English  
  
Three types of institutions  
Universities of Applied Science (4y)  
Research Universities (3y)  
University Colleges (3y)



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# STUDENT LIFE

- Most universities are predominantly educational institutions, not focused on student life as much. As such, student life tends to be **student driven**
- That said, most universities will have numerous **student and/or study associations** organizing activities and events
- Greek life is not common, and where fraternities/sororities do exist, they may not be international
- There are **cross-border student associations** such as the European Student Network and the International Student Network

## CZECHIA

Prague is a cultural and sports hub with amazing public transport. Many special offers and discounts for students. Greatly connected to the whole Europe.

## ITALY

Students live the **city**  
the concept of “**vita universitaria**” is very popular  
students are **independent**

## HUNGARY

Very diverse international community, lots of self-organised events, many opportunities outside of the campus

## NETHERLANDS

Work-life balance  
International society  
Well-connected with Schiphol and extensive rail network



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# HOUSING

- Dorm life the way it happens in North American universities is not common in Europe
- In many cases, cities have been built around university buildings, and as such, the **entire city center is the university campus** (shared with other citizens of course)
- While universities may offer **some housing** for (international) students, this is not the norm. Students need to be **proactive** in arranging housing according to the guidelines and timelines provided by the university.

## CZECHIA

Many universities secure dormitory housing to all international students. It is common to stay in shared housing with newly met friends.

## ITALY

Not directly provided by university;  
Dorm with limited space/private dorms;

We love to share flats as well!

## HUNGARY

Same as Czechia.

## NETHERLANDS

Universities not allowed to own housing, student is responsible

Universities mostly provide resources, while some have (some) housing available



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# PROCESS

Once students have determines which country/countries suit them best, it is important to look at the practicalities of applying to and studying in that country. Time for practicalities.



**Admissions**



**Fees & Funding**



**Visa**



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# ADMISSIONS

- Processes are different in each country. Students should make sure to start their **research early**
- Identifying the **process, required documents** and **deadlines** for each country students are applying to is essential.
- Ideally this research should take place during their **junior year** at the latest, so that the senior year can be used to submit applications and to keep track of the different processes

## CZECHIA

Admissions is decentralized organized by particular Faculties. Ranging from holistic approaches within social sciences to sit-down entrance exams for medicine

## ITALY

Every university/programme has its own process and entry requirements.

Important:

**academic background** and **language proficiency**

## HUNGARY

Separate admission systems for every university. Strong focus on the entry test, motivational letter and interview.

## NETHERLANDS

Generally admission is based on diploma equivalency, only 15% of programs has a selection process

Applying is a two-step process:  
Studielink + University Portal



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# FEES & FUNDING

- Tuition fees are generally **affordable** across the continent, though there is a difference between public and private institutions
- Tuition fees for public institutions vary between €0-€20,000 per year. For private institutions, this is between €10,000-€35,000 per year
- **Fee status** may be determined on passport, but this is not the case everywhere. Students should research which fees they will be paying.
- **Scholarships** may be available, but are not as prevalent as in the North American context.

## CZECHIA

Averaging at 6000 EUR for non-medical programs.  
Only a handful of scholarships mainly in the form of tuition fee reductions

## ITALY

Fees: 2000 - 20 000 depending on the programme and institution;  
  
Partial scholarships, merit based

## HUNGARY

Non-medical programs are around 6,000 EUR, medical programs are around 16,000 EUR, Stipendium Hungaricum full scholarship is available

## NETHERLANDS

Fees based on passport only  
EU: 2601  
non-EU: 6,000-18.000  
  
Only a handful of scholarships (usually for specific program)



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# VISA

- Despite the existence of the **Schengen** Area, the immigration laws are organized by national government. Each country has **different application processes**
- As any other policy, visa systems are subject of changes in time. Always verify the information you collect from previous cohorts.

## CZECHIA

Universities provide guidance. Application is time-consuming -> apply early. Students has full access to the Czech labor market.

## ITALY

- visa + permit of stay
- students are allowed to work up to 20h per week
- after graduation, visa can be extended 9/12 monts

## HUNGARY

Visa application takes about 6 weeks, the best is to apply in early June.

## NETHERLANDS

University applies for visa on behalf of the student, so generally no issues

Students are allowed to work on student visa (up to 16 hrs/week)



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# RESOURCES

## Czechia

[www.studyin.cz](http://www.studyin.cz)

[www.studyinprague.cz](http://www.studyinprague.cz)

[www.studycharles.cz](http://www.studycharles.cz)

[www.studysocialsciences.cz](http://www.studysocialsciences.cz)

## Italy

<https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/>

<https://international.unicatt.it/>

## Hungary

<https://studyinhungary.hu/>

<https://stipendiumhungaricum.hu/partners/>

<https://international.pte.hu/>

## Netherlands

[www.studyinnl.org](http://www.studyinnl.org)

[www.studyfinder.nl](http://www.studyfinder.nl)

[www.duo.nl](http://www.duo.nl)

[www.universitycollege.nl](http://www.universitycollege.nl)



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