Szia!

I studied at Corvinus University of Budapest for the period of a whole academic year. What I mainly liked about the academical aspect of my stay in Hungary is that the contact with professors or administrative staff is much more easy-going than in Belgium. I also liked the campus a lot. A giant ball (don’t think of a ball in the old fashioned way) is held each semester in the old building, which gives you the opportunity to see your study environment in a different light. Unlike the grey buildings I study at in Belgium, this is actually an environment where you can take a graduation picture. The statue of Karl Marx in the big hall helps to remind us of the history of this university.
I was enrolled in the European Master of Public Administration programme. This will of course give you the opportunity to explore another country and city, although I doubt any can top Budapest. Not many people are usually enrolled in this course, which I must say, is an advantage. I definitely learnt more from the classes with few people in them, than classes that I shared with a bigger group such as Erasmus students. This also means that you will get to know some professors better, which is always good for choosing a dissertation subject.

Of course, I must be honest. I did not just choose Corvinus for academical purposes. Budapest was already my favourite city in Europe and my stay here has definitely not changed my opinion. I have never lived in a city that has so much to offer as BP, as we would call it. A green lush island in the middle of the Danube, parties at thermal spa’s, wine or pálinka (strong Hungarian liquor) festivals at Buda Castle hill, concerts, pubs with live jazz bands. This city contains plenty of beautiful historical sites, but is no dead open air museum like, let’s say Bruges in my country. No, this city lives and enjoying life to the fullest might never be easier than here.

Egészségedre!

Philippe Maertens, Belgium, former EMPA student