

Date: Tue, 19 May 2009 16:53:04 +0200

This is an enquiry e-mail via <http://is.itk.hu/mbs>
from:

Noel Fallows <nfallows@franklin.uga.edu>

Dear Prof. Bélik: Please forgive my writing in English. I am wondering if you can send me some information about the "Maymester in Budapest" study abroad program at your university that University of Georgia (UGA) students have attended? Specifically, our students have been taking the following courses:

MM ELTE 3240

MM ELTE 3241

MM ELTE 3990

We do not have any course descriptions or syllabi on file for these courses - could you please send them to me for our records? I am also wondering if your university issues the transcripts for this program? If so, would you be able to send me a list of UGA students who have received past credit for this Maymester program?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely, Prof. Noel Fallows (Associate Dean of International Programs, UGA, Athens, Georgia, USA).

from Lszl Boros <laciboros@yahoo.com>
to nfallows@franklin.uga.edu
cc Dezso Benedek <cmsdezso@uga.edu>
date Thu, May 21, 2009, at 2:40 AM
subject Maymester in Budapest

Dear Dr. Fallows:

Your request for information on the Maymester in Budapest Program (MBP) of the Humanitad Foundation was forwarded to me for an answer.

In 2004, for reasons unclear to us, the University of Georgia decided to discontinue its affiliation with the MBP. This happened in November of 2004, when there were students enrolled already, so the request of Dr. Clifton Pannell and Dr. Dezso Benedek of UGA was for us to take over the academic sponsorship of the Program.

In my capacity of Vice Rector for International Relations, I decided to do so, with the mutual understanding that ELTE will have no financial or any other organizational responsibility as far as the running of the program is concerned. That remained, and still remains, the responsibility of the Humanitad Foundation. We accepted the academic sponsorship of the MBP agreeing to the following stipulations of UGA:

- there will be no official UGA involvement with this program
- UGA will accept the ELTE transfer credits only if the content of the UGA approved courses remains the same, and if the instructor of record is a UGA professor. The agreement was that we will forward the transfer credits as:

MM ELTE 3240 - equivalent of UGA CMLT/ANTH 3240

MM ELTE 3241 - equivalent of UGA CMLT/ANTH 3241

MM ELTE 3990 - equivalent of UGA CMLT 3990

In this designation "MM ELTE" stands for MayMester at Eotvos Lorand Tudomány Egyetem (ELTE). Since these in fact are University of Georgia courses, I am sure that you can have access to the syllabi at UGA, and I also trust that all the above information is on file at UGA, and readily available to you from Dr. Pannell's office. Also, I am confident that the University of Georgia keeps a record of all students to who it issues transfer credits and it could easily assist you with the information you need. After all, UGA has been issuing credits for the MBP for almost a decade.

Since you do not seem to be familiar with the background of the MBP, I wish to add some more information for you. In 2004, the only way we could accommodate the UGA request to issue credits for UGA courses taught by a UGA professor, was if the UGA professor was also an ELTE adjunct educator.

Since an earlier visit of an official UGA delegation lead by Vice President Dr. James Fletcher, an academic cooperation agreement was signed between our Universities

which made it possible for us to accept Dr. James Fletcher and Dr. Dezso Benedek as adjunct professors. Our academic cooperation with the University of Georgia has been excellent for the past ten years. Within the academic projects established by Dr. James Fletcher, Dr. Benedek has been delivering, yearly, guest lectures, has served on dissertation committees, and conducted graduate study tests. We do hope that this sound academic relationship will continue.

The Maymester in Budapest Program certainly is one of the better academic programs around, for which, we issue credit, not only to the University of Georgia, but, for other prestigious schools as well.

This year too, there is a group of UGA students enrolled in the Maymester in Budapest Program, and after the exams, when the grades have been submitted, we will send you the transfer credits as we have been doing for the past years.

Should you have more questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Laszlo Boros

From: Noel Fallows <nfallows@franklin.uga.edu>
Subject: Re: Maymester in Budapest
To: "Lszl Boros" laciboros@yahoo.com
Date: Friday, May 22, 2009, 10:20 AM

Dear Dr. Boros:

Thank you for your response to my e-mail. Based upon your e-mail to me it appears that you are representing Humanitad and not the University of Budapest. Could you please confirm which organization you currently represent and what your role is? I would be grateful if you could send me your official title and affiliation along with your business address, since this information is not included in your e-mail. I would also greatly appreciate it if you could send me official documentation that confirms your authority to grant credit for the University of Budapest.

With regards to my previous request for syllabi, I am wondering if it is common practice for your university to issue credit for courses for which you apparently do not have syllabi, and I would like to ask you once again for copies of the Maymester-specific syllabi for the courses listed for 2009, should these be available.

Finally, I would like to point out a very important issue, which is that the UGA students currently enrolled in the 2009 Maymester in Budapest Program will not in fact be able to transfer credit into the University of Georgia, a decision that was conveyed to the program's director in early January of 2009, in the wake of a rigorous and on-going review of all non-UGA study abroad programs. In light of this situation, and for my own records as Associate Dean of International Programs at UGA, I will need to see the list of UGA students registered with the University and with Humanitad in the 2009 Maymester in Budapest Program, and I would be grateful if you could clarify to whom these students have paid tuition. I am sure that you can understand my concerns, and I very much hope that you will supply this information.

I do thank you for your message, and I look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Sincerely, Noel Fallows.

- Show quoted text -

-- Dr. Noel Fallows

Professor and Associate Dean
Franklin College of Arts & Sciences

University of Georgia
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Athens, GA 30602
U.S.A.
Tel: 706-542-3400
Fax: 706-542-3422
E-mail: nfallows@franklin.uga.edu

From: "Lszl Boros" laciboros@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Maymester in Budapest
To: "Noel Fallows" <nfallows@franklin.uga.edu>
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 4:35 PM

Dear Prof. Fallows,

Perhaps my previous e-mail couldn't be correctly clear in English but I'm representing only my University, Eötvös Lorand University Budapest (ELTE). I have never had any personal interest, any position or any relationship with Humanitad Foundation.

I send you my CV and you can see my positions at my University, in the Hungarian and the European Higher Education Systems, in different scientific projects and research institutions.

In this sence I can only repeat each sentence of my previous e-mail. I have only academic responsibility for the MBP based on the academic cooperation agreement between two Universities and my University has no financial or any other organizational responsibility for the program.

I hope my answer can help to have a clear view of my role in this traditional cooperation.

Sincerely
László Boros

Prof. László Boros
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May 27, 2009

TO: Rector Prof. Dr. Ferenc Hudecz
Eötvös Lörand University, Budapest

CC: Chancellor Dr. Juhászné Huszty Katalin

FROM: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr., Provost
University of Georgia

RE: Academic credit

Dear Rector Professor Hudecz:

I write to you in my capacity as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Georgia.

We are currently reviewing all of the study abroad programs that our students attend, and some important questions have arisen about academic programs of your university sponsored by the Humanitad Foundation. The titles of these programs are "Maymester in Budapest" and "Julumester in Budapest":

<http://homepage.mac.com/humanitadprograms/culture/>

As far as we can tell from this web site, the nature of the relationship between the Humanitad Foundation and the University of Budapest is unclear.

We would like to know if, or to what extent, these Maymester and Julymester in Budapest programs are affiliated with the University of Budapest, and if they are taught on the Eotvos Lorand campus by its faculty? Some of the course numbers for these programs as they are listed on the Humanitad website, and as they appear on transcripts received by our university, are as follows:

MM ELTE 3240 - equivalent of UGA CMLT/ANTH
3240 MM ELTE 3241 – equivalent of UGA CMLT/ANTH
3241 MM ELTE 3990 - equivalent of UGA CMLT 3990

I enclose in the attachment a previously received transcript for Maymester in Budapest. We would like to know if these courses listed are valid

University of Budapest courses?

In addition, can you please tell us if the University of Georgia students who are participants in the program are registered students of the University of Budapest, and do they pay tuition to the institution? As you can see from the attachment, the transcripts as we receive them are signed by Dr. Laszlo Boros. We would like to know if Dr. Boros is an officer or faculty member of the University of Budapest and if he has the authority to issue transcripts. These transcripts are not written in Hungarian, but they are being represented to us as official transcripts from your university. We would like confirmation if they are indeed official University Budapest transcripts.

Also, according to an email recently received from Dr. Boros, he states that a faculty member at the University of Georgia, Dr. Deszo Benedek, apparently holds a position with your university as "Adjunct Educator". We would appreciate any further information about Dr. Benedek's contractual obligations to your institution in this or any other role.

Thank you for your time to respond to this email.

From: Bélik Márton (HU) <belik.marton@rekthiv.elte.hu>
To: asaye@uga.edu
Sent: Mon, June 8, 2009, 3:30 PM
Subject: Academic credit. Attn: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr., Provost
University of Georgia

Dear Dr. Mace:

Your questions have been already addressed by Dr. Boros Laszlo, in his letter of May 21, 2009 to Dr. Noel Fallows, Associate Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Georgia.

As Dr. Boros has already explained, the “Maymester in Budapest” courses are in fact UGA courses, taught by a UGA professor, and simply mirrored in an ELTE transcript. In 2004, we accepted to, yearly, return these credits at the request of Associate Dean Clifton Pannell and Dr. Dezso Benedek of the University of Georgia. At that time, our agreement stipulated that ELTE will have no administrative or organizational responsibilities, and that UGA will have no official relationship with the “Maymester in Budapest Program,” but it will continue to accept the transfer credits for its own courses, as long as the instructor of record remains a UGA professor. ELTE does not have any official relationship with the Humanitad Foundation, which appears to be an NGO in charge of the organizational, financial and logistic aspects of the Program. It is our assumption that all the above information and records concerning these issues should be on file in the offices of the appropriate UGA administrators.

We are certain that your records will also reflect that the location of the Program, as we are sure you know, is Western and Central Europe, since the classroom of the Maymester is the tour-buss in which the class travels through six or seven countries, including Budapest.

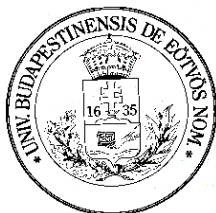
Also, as it has been already clearly explained, Dr. Dezso Benedek is not under any contract with ELTE, and has not, and is not receiving any payments from ELTE. His scholarly activities here have started within an ELTE – UGA cooperation agreement, of which you should also have your own records.

And lastly, Dr. Boros Laszlo, a respectable senior faculty and administrator, then Vice Rector of ELTE, and in Charge of International Relations, certainly had the authority to make decisions in such matters.

With this, we think we have exhausted all information we can provide to you. If you need more clarity in these issues, we suggest you contact the Humanitad

Foundation, but first of all, also consult your own records, your own faculty and academic departments, since UGA should be in the possession of all the above information.

Sincerely yours,
Marton Belik
Office of the Rector



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www.elte.hu

July 13, 2009

Dr. Arnet Mace
Provost
The University of Georgia
Athens GA, 30606

Dear Dr. Mace:

I am writing to inform you that Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) has forwarded the transfer credits of the Maymester in Budapest Program to the home institutions of all the participating students, including to the Admissions Office of the University of Georgia.

I would also like to bring to your attention the fact that Dr. Noel Fallows has informed us that the University of Georgia will not accept these transfer credits. While any university, including the University of Georgia, can take the liberty of not accepting transfer credits, usually such decisions are made at least one academic year in advance, and usually are based on issues concerning academic rigor. I wish to point out to you that in 2004, the University of Georgia requested of ELTE to assist with the transfer of credits, exactly because in December of that year there were UGA students already enrolled in the program.

Although Dr. Noel Fallows contacted ELTE with his questions and his questionnaire after the arrival of the Maymester students to Budapest, he claimed that his decision to refuse credits was based on a rigorous and timely investigation of the program. While we cannot get involved in your university's internal affairs, my colleagues and I feel surprised about Dr. Fallows' dedication to deny credits to his own students, especially in the case of such an excellent, and celebrated study abroad program as the Maymester in Budapest.

In his letter to ELTE, Associate Dean Fallows demanded that we send the syllabi of the courses to his office. When I did not do that, apparently he could not understand that we just wanted to save him the embarrassment of receiving syllabi of his own college from a Hungarian university, so we just pointed out that his office must have had the requested materials. Unfortunately, on a less collegial tone he questioned my identity, status and authority and added that: "...I am wondering if it is common practice for your university to issue credit for courses for which you apparently do not have syllabi, and I would like to ask you once again for copies of the Maymester-specific syllabi for the courses listed for 2009, should these be available."

Although, we all know that such arrogance never helps, I will now send you the syllabi,

which of course we had, and which we are certain that are available also at the University of Georgia. With this, I regard the Maymester credit issue closed.

ELTE has excellent international academic relations with over one hundred and twenty institutions of higher education around the world. We are glad to be involved in good quality academic programs with any university, including the University of Georgia, and we hope that in the future you will be able to entrust our international cooperation into the hands of qualified academic professionals with whom we can pursue together programs of academic excellence.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. László Boros
Head of Department for European Studies and
Director of MA Programs in International Studies
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