

Answers to student questions received by the HÖOK SH Mentor Network

A. Education activity

1. Where can the students get help related to distance learning, or their education if they do not receive the proper tools and training?

Questions related to education organisation belong to the institution. In such cases, SH students, just like Hungarian students, can turn to the institution and its student representatives.

2. What if the student misses a class through no fault of his/her own (e.g.: no access to internet or the lack of it, etc...)? How will that absence influence the fulfilment of the course?

The achievement of the student and the evaluation of the course also belongs to institutional power, as in the first question.

3. Are they considering modifying the deadline of handing in theses?

Organising the semester and modifying any of the deadlines is an institutional question, as in the first and the second question.

B. Dormitory

1. Is the student allowed to leave the dormitory and move in with a friend or to a flat in case of emergency? In such situation, is the student still entitled to get housing support?

Students with a scholarship agreed to enlist the dormitory service. If they still decide to move out from the dormitory, they cannot get financial support for further housing. Keep in touch with the institution for more information! Further decisions are possible if the student and the university collaborate.

2. If self-financing students already paid the semester's dormitory fee, is it possible to get that money back?

The housing issue of self-financing students falls under the authority of the institution.

3. Why was it necessary to move the students from one dormitory to another?

The Operational Group can make decisions which the institution must accept and apply. Information sheets of the institution say that the housing of foreign students must be provided, that is dormitories. Moving from room to room, or from building to building falls under the authority of the institution.

4. During the moving issue, what measures are taken to provide the right hygienic circumstances when using common restrooms?

Such provisions are handled by the institution and the dormitory commission.

5. Will the students be able to move back to their former rooms when the virus is over?

Such questions belong to the authority of the institution and the dormitory commission.

C. Traveling

1. Is it permitted to leave the country in case the student wants to go home? If they do so, will they lose their scholarship?

Unless it is an emergency situation, we are suggesting the students not leave Hungary and stay at their Hungarian place of residence. This is the safest solution for us and for our loved ones. If they stay in the country, they are still provided the benefits of the program: financial and medical issues, etc... On the other hand, it is important to emphasise that due to the current border closures, the date of being able to come back is unclear if they leave the country.

SH students have to be aware of the following facts (in case they leave Hungary): They have to announce to the institution that they are going home, due to the regulations of the programme. In case their absence is over 30 days, they must be aware of the possibility of losing the institution's financial support, because it is available at the time of Hungarian residence. In the current case, it is important to emphasise that the student is obliged to take part in distance learning. If they do otherwise, they will not complete the requirements.

2. If the student travels home but does not passivate the semester, is she/he still entitled to take part in distance learning?

Yes. Organising distance learning belongs to the authority of the institution.

3. Are those students who are currently abroad still able to come back to Hungary and continue their scholarship and the program itself?

If they are still able to complete their obligations due to studying or they are on a passive semester, they will not lose the status of the scholarship. The next semester's organisation depends on the evolution of the current situation. Affected participants will get further information about the issue.

D. Administration

1. Is there any disruption expected in the case of paying the scholarships as a result of closing the higher educational institutions?

We did not get any feedback that says there will be any disruption; paying the scholarships is an institutional decision.

2. Is the health care of the students still provided in case they do not have a TAJ card?

SH scholarship students are provided medical care, even before getting the TAJ card. But the current situation complicates the case of getting medical assistance without a TAJ card because the larger amount of administration necessary. For those students who do not have one, we suggest taking the additional insurance offered by the institution, in the case of minor health care provisions.

3. If the student leaves the country and the visa expires, is it okay to apply for an online visa for the next semester?

Visa application issues can change due to the current issue and its changes. Students can get more information in the near future.

4. Where can the student get help if she/he shows symptoms related to the coronavirus? Is there any help provided in the English language for the students in the health care institutions?

Official provisions are standard. The governmental official website is available in the English language as well: <http://abouthungary.hu/>

The benefits and services provided by each medical institution shall fall within the competence of that institution. In the framework of supplementary health insurance, scholarship holders are provided with English-speaking healthcare; in view of the emergency, we recommend prior consultation with the supplier and assistance provided by mentors (online, telephone).

5. Are there any consequences to violating the quarantine?

Provisions related to the virus are given by the competent authorities, so they can make decisions in case somebody violates them. For further information, please check the governmental website and the institutional informative sheets.

E. Hungarian students abroad

1. What measures are expected for the students who take part in the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program or the Petőfi Program? Do they have to come back home, and if they have to do so, how will the situation affect their fulfilment of obligations?

Such questions related to the scholarship programmes fall under the authority of the Prime Minister's national policy.

F. Questions from March 18, 2020.

1. Can students outside the borders of Hungary, but inside the EU participating in SH program still come back to Hungary? If yes, who do they have to turn to?

There is no opportunity to overrule the current decisions related to the closing of borders, we suggest students who are currently abroad get in touch with their country's embassy.

2. If the student travels home and solves the issue of distance learning from there, is she/he able to come back for the exam period to fulfil the exams?

Taking part in distance learning from home and organising their exams falls under the authority of the host country's institution; traveling for exams to Hungary depends on the valid regulations. As far as we know, distance exams can be solved at the institution.

In view of the emergency situation, we are suggesting that students not to leave Hungary and to stay at their Hungarian residence. This is the safest solution for us and for our loved ones. If they stay in the country, they are still provided the benefits of the program: financial and medical issues, etc... On the other hand, it is important to emphasise that due to the current border closures, the date of being able to come back cannot be determined if they do leave the country.

SH students have to be aware of the following facts (in case they leave Hungary): They have to announce to the institution that they are going home, due to the regulations of the programme. In case their absence is over 30 days, they have to be aware of the possibility of losing the institution's financial support, because it is available at the time of Hungarian residence. On the other hand, they will not lose the status of being given the scholarship.

Last but not least, it is important to emphasise, that the current closure of borders results in them not being able to come back until they are unlocked.

3. If the student has already travelled home, and the next time he/she can come back to Hungary is the beginning of July, does she/he need to passivate the semester?

Due to the fact that the institution is providing continuing studies with distance learning, passivating the semester is not needed. We suggest getting in touch with the institution that provides the course. If the student decide to passivate the semester, she/he is not entitled to get the scholarship payments.

4. If the case that the emergency lasts longer, will the exams be happening online? Are they modifying the date of the state exams?

Education and organising the exams falls under the authority of the host institution.

5. How and where can I order food in English to my house or to the dormitory?

If you want to get information about the services of the place of living, we suggest asking for help from the mentors (online or on the phone).

6. Shops and supermarkets are out of products at Gödöllő, can I go to Budapest to buy some?

There can be a lack of products currently, but you should not expect a longer deficit. Travel is not limited at the moment, so the student has the right to do so, but we suggest observing the prevailing recommendations and regulations, in the interest of keeping ourselves and our fellows safe.

7. If the semester ends later than expected, will the next one start with a modified date?

The order of the school year and the organisation of the education falls under the authority of the institution.