BME Doctoral School of Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences
Information for applicants
October 2018

Overview
The Faculty of Civil Engineering offers two PhD programmes – in Civil Engineering and in Earth Sciences – in continuation of the three master programs of the Faculty.

The PhD Programme in Civil Engineering offers the opportunity to draw on our expertise in structural, geotechnical, transportation and water infrastructure engineering, including the interdisciplinary field of biomechanics.

The PhD Programme in Earth Sciences covers geodesy, surveying, remote sensing and geoinformatics engineering.

Research is supported by an array of specialised experimental facilities as well as the computational modelling of the dynamics of satellites, structures, soils, construction materials, fluids and the natural environment.

Both programmes are managed by the Doctoral School of Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, a unit within the Faculty. There is a single admission procedure for the two programmes, the hosting programme being automatically determined by the topic of the research. We offer these programmes in English and in Hungarian.

4-year study programme
At the end of the four years the doctoral students must have completed at least 240 credits and submitted their PhD dissertation, a 100-page monograph with new scientific contributions summarised in theses and supported by scientific journal papers. The dissertation is defended publicly in front of a doctoral committee.

Besides conducting research under the mentoring of their scientific supervisor, students attend doctoral subjects (we offer all of them in English) in the first two years and gain presentation skills through directed teaching in our BSc and MSc classes.

Further information (curricula, schedules, course descriptions).

Tuition fee
In 2018 the tuition fee for the English PhD programmes is EUR 4500 per semester. A one-time application fee of EUR 100 must be paid. For up-to-date information, see:

Further information
Scholarships
Prospective PhD students from many non-EU countries may apply to the Stipendium Hungaricum (SH) scholarship offered by the Hungarian State. The scholarship covers the tuition fee for the whole programme (in English or Hungarian), gives a monthly stipend, and contributes to accommodation and medical insurance. Due to the high number of SH applicants and a selection in multiple stages, the rate of admission to our PhD programmes is low (less than 10% in 2018). Further information

The Faculty of Civil Engineering does not offer any PhD scholarship, and cannot waive or reduce the tuition fee.

How to apply?
You can enter our doctoral programmes in three ways.

Through regular admissions of the Doctoral School.
There are two admission exams per year: in January for starting on 1 February (spring semester) and in June for starting on 1 September (fall semester). The examination takes place in person at BME, in front of the Admissions Board. You shall register for the admissions by submitting a filled form to the Dean’s Office. Further information

Through the Stipendium Hungaricum programme.
Make sure that your country is eligible before considering this option. There is one exclusive SH admission per year in spring, independently from the regular admissions. You must submit all documents through the online platform of SH.

The general provisions of the SH (see section “Additional documents for doctoral level” of the call for applications) require that you select from the research topic proposals currently available at our Doctoral School. You may want to discuss your intentions with the supervisor of the selected topic and seek to get a letter of recommendation from him at least 45 days before the submission deadline. Since you may apply to several doctoral programmes, we ask that you make explicit reference to our topic in your research proposal, possibly alongside other topics.

Your home country, the Hungarian foundation and finally BME will evaluate and screen the application. If you pass these selection steps, then we will interview you in person or through a video conference (e.g. Skype). If you are awarded the scholarship, then you shall start your studies in September. Further information

By transferring to our school from another Stipendium Hungaricum PhD programme
The transfer (from BME or any other Hungarian university) must be requested at the end of the fall or spring semester, so that you may continue in our school in the next semester. First, you must email your request and documents to our SH academic contact (see below) at least 45 days before the start of the semester. If we find a suitable
research topic, then we will conduct an interview in person and issue you a letter of acceptance if you are admitted. With this letter of acceptance, you must get the consent of the Tempus Public Foundation according to the SH regulations (“Changing institutions”). Further information

Selection criteria
Admission to our PhD programs is selective. Criteria considered for admission include:

- grades from both graduate and undergraduate studies
- relevance of applicant’s academic background to the research topic
- evidence of motivation towards research in the resume, e.g. participation in scientific projects, publications, awards
- recommendation from academic sources
- knowledge of English

The Admissions Board seeks to draw each applicant’s profile and recommends the admission of those who show the greatest intellectual promise for doctoral level work in the selected research topic.

How to prepare your application?
Regardless of the way you apply (regular, SH or transfer), you must specify a research topic in your application. You may apply to one of the currently active research topic proposals. The offering is updated several times a year. An advisor, a location (department) and a date of expiry is assigned to each research topic.

The documents to be attached to your application are listed in the respective application form.

Application deadlines
Regular admissions: 31 May 2018 (for starting in September 2018)
Stipendium Hungaricum: 16 February 2018

The application deadlines and the dates of the interviews change from year to year. Last year's dates are only indicative. Please consult the SH website for Stipendium Hungaricum or the Doctoral School’s website for regular admissions.

Contacts
Please contact the appropriate person specified on the data sheet of our PhD programme.

Administrative issues (application, visa, arrival, accommodation)
Regular (fee-paying) students: Valéria BALOGH
admission@mail.bme.hu
+36-1-463-3981

SH applicants: Dóra FEKETE
fekete.dora@kth.bme.hu
+36-1-463-1256

Academic issues (research topics, letter of acceptance, study programme)

Dr. Tamás KRÁMER
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When contacting us, please, clearly state your name, country, the study programme, whether you are a Stipendium Hungaricum applicant, and refer to any previous correspondence.