

## BME Doctoral School of Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences

### Information for applicants

January 2, 2019

#### Overview

The Faculty of Civil Engineering offers two full-time PhD programmes, in English and in Hungarian:

The **PhD Programme in Civil Engineering** covers 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 is automatically determined by the topic of your research. No part-time (i.e., correspondence) training is offered.

#### 4-year study programme

At the end of the four years you must have completed at least 240 ECTS and submitted your PhD dissertation, a ca. 100-page monograph with new scientific contributions summarised in theses and supported by your papers published in scientific journals. You defend the dissertation publicly in front of a doctoral committee.

Besides conducting research under the mentoring of your scientific supervisor, you 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

The tuition fee is EUR 4500 per semester in our English PhD programmes and HUF 450,000 per semester in the Hungarian programmes. You must pay a one-time application fee of EUR 100. For up-to-date information, see:

[Further information](#)

## How to enter?

You can enter our doctoral programmes in three ways.

### Through regular admissions of the Doctoral School.

You may start your studies in the fall semester (1 September) or in the spring semester (1 February). The admission exam takes place in June for the fall semester and in January for the spring semester. You must appear in person in front of the Admissions Board that will evaluate your mathematical knowledge and your preparedness for the research topic via an oral exam.

You must register for the admissions exam by submitting a filled form to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Civil Engineering. [Further information](#)

If you apply to one of the English PhD programmes, before registering at the Dean's Office you may optionally pre-register at the BME Central Academic Office by filling an [online form](#).

### Through the Stipendium Hungaricum programme.

If you are an applicant without Hungarian citizenship, then you may apply to the **Stipendium Hungaricum** (SH) scholarship offered by the Hungarian State. Make sure that your country is eligible before considering this option. There is one exclusive SH admission per year, in the first half of the year, independently from the regular admissions. You must submit **all documents through the online platform of SH** and not directly through BME.

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.

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

You request the transfer (from BME or any other Hungarian university) at the end of the fall or spring semester, so that you may continue in our school from the next semester. First, you 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
- knowledge of English (for all PhD programmes) or other foreign languages (for a Hungarian PhD programme). English language skills must be proven by TOEFL (min 500 points), IELTS (min 5.0 points) or equivalent certificates.
- recommendation from academic sources

You must hold a **Masters degree in civil engineering or a field related to the research topic**. If your degree is not civil engineering, then the Admissions Board will evaluate whether it is acceptable.

The Admissions Board ranks the applicants and recommends admitting those who show the greatest promise for achieving the doctoral degree in their research topic. The decision is then taken by the Dean.

## Scholarships

If you are an EU citizen and enter one of our Hungarian PhD programmes through the regular admissions, then you may be offered the **doctoral scholarship of the Hungarian State** after the admissions exam, depending on the ranking of the Admissions Board. This entitles you to a monthly stipend (starting at HUF 140,000) and the state will fund your tuition fee. You may decline your studies if you are not offered the scholarship.

The **Stipendium Hungaricum** (SH) scholarship funds the tuition fee for the whole programme (in English or Hungarian), gives a monthly stipend, and contributes to your 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 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 list of research topics is updated after the regular admissions (that is the reason for the expiry),

however most of the topics that have not been assigned to students will still be offered. Please keep this in mind when planning to apply more than one semester ahead of time.

If you apply to the **Stipendium Hungaricum** (SH), you need to submit these documents:

- 1) *Two letters of recommendation*: From former or current academic supervisors.
- 2) *Optional letter of recommendation by the future supervisor*: You may ask this from the prospective supervisor at BME. This letter will specify the research topic and the hosting university department. Email all relevant documents (e.g. cv, transcript, scientific papers) to convince them. Simply asking for a recommendation letter does not grant you one automatically. Be aware that the style of your communication is an important aspect in the judgment. Leave enough time (at least 15 days) before the submission deadline for securing this letter.
- 3) *Research plan*: We recommend that you write your research plan by extending the published description of the topic for which you apply with a time plan and other details that show your preparedness and knowledge, e.g. refer to scientific literature, come up with alternative methods.

Some applicants choose to submit a single research plan even if they apply to several doctoral programmes. However, the programmes have different topic offerings. A good strategy is to write a research plan specifically for BME Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, clearly marking our doctoral school in the subtitle. You may write other research plans for the other programmes.

If, upon reviewing your application, we find that none of your research plans correspond to any of our research topics, then we may ask you to select one from our actual offering, but only if you qualify otherwise.

- 4) *Motivation letter*: This should prove your interest and suitability. Why would you dedicate 4 years to that research topic? Why are you seeking a PhD degree? What tangible evidence do you have to demonstrate your curiosity towards scientific research? Why would we choose you over other good applicants?

You may want to contact the advisor of the research topic through the email you find in the [directory of BME](#) to let him know about your interest and academic background, propose a new research topic or ask for a letter of recommendation to be attached to your PhD application.

Our faculty **will not issue preliminary acceptance letters**, so please, don't request one.

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

## Application deadlines

### Regular admissions:

For starting in February 2019:

Optional [pre-registration](#) at the Central Academic Office: 1 October – 30 November 2018

Registration at the Faculty of Civil Engineering: 1–20 December 2018

Please consult the [Doctoral School's website](#).

### Stipendium Hungaricum:

Online November 2018 – 15 January 2019

Please consult the [SH website](#).

The application deadlines and the dates of the interviews change from year to year. Last year's dates are only indicative.

## 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](mailto:admission@mail.bme.hu)

+36-1-463-3981

*SH applicants:* Dr. László Gergely VIGH

[international@mail.bme.hu](mailto:international@mail.bme.hu)

### Academic issues (research topics, study programme)

Dr. Tamás KRÁMER

[kramer.tamas@epito.bme.hu](mailto:kramer.tamas@epito.bme.hu)

+36-1-463-3578

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.