

Students' accounts and experience of the MA New Language course

You may have heard that Hungarian is one of the most difficult languages in the world, and you may be really scared because the rumour starts from Europeans who know a dozen languages. They may tell you that learning Hungarian is more difficult than learning other languages, but this is simply because Hungarian is different from their own languages, mostly Romance languages (French, Spanish, etc.) but also German. Therefore for them it is not as easy learning other languages (e.g. a Frenchman learning Finnish). However, for you, who have already learned and mastered English which is not from your own language family, it should not be a problem to pick up another new one--anyway it is just like learning English! Moreover, I really love the way Hungarians write their names (family name-given name), the dates (year-month-day) and the address (city-street-building). This is exactly the way we do things in Asia!! It makes me feel even closer to the language :) although it would be illusionary to say that I know it perfectly well.

You may be scared of those grammatical terms. Don't panic. They are just the same as the ones we use in learning English. And guess what, you may have some advantages on that compared to native English speakers who never have to bother thinking about their own language.

Finally, and most importantly, you have a great teacher, who is always cheering, attentive, and listening to your needs and questions. I studied Hungarian and I will always remember her telling us: "Don't panic. I will help you. We can go through this together." Count on your teachers, and work hard. You will be fine.

IMESS student, 2007-9.