A Students Guide To Veterinary School In Budapest

Getting to and Living in Budapest
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Congratulations!

You’ve just made it one step closer to your dream of being a Veterinarian, and on behalf of the FSA (Foreign Students Association) at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, we would like to welcome you to what we hope will be the best years of your life.

We’ve cobbled together some information, from a student perspective, which we feel, might be useful to know, before you finally arrive to Budapest.

If you have any questions or simply just require a friendly chat with the current students, please do not hesitate to contact us at: fsa.vet.hu@gmail.com

The FSA is a student organisation by the International Student Community for the International students at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Budapest. We organise events and activities, which offer cultural, sporting and professional interaction for the students of all years and we help the freshmen settle in and cope with their new life at the University. Additionally, we hold a seat on the University Senate, representing the International student body. The FSA operates purely on a non-profit basis.

(Perenyi Janos, DVM)

To read more about us visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/fsa.vet.hu,

Or our webpage: http://fsabudapest.weebly.com
ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

Please do read the official student guide distributed by the University.

This is just a guide to your first year in Budapest, compiled by International Students in senior years, who remember how we felt when we first got here and is in no way intended as a substitute for the guide released by the University.

We’ve tried to summarise as much information as possible, but of course for more detailed information please do get in touch with us.

Moving to a new country is always a different experience. Whether you have just finished high school or travelled the world, dealing with a new country, culture and a demanding course can be quite a bit to handle in your first year here. However, most students adapt quite fast and Budapest itself has a unique and wonderful charm, which you will grow to love.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about living in Budapest and life as a student at our University. Here is a short summary of people, places and some basic inside information about the changes you are about to experience and some useful links for making life a bit easier.
ABOUT BUDAPEST

The Faculty of Veterinary Science is located in the beautiful Hungarian Capital of Budapest. Split by the Danube into hilly regal Buda and flat hip Pest, for most of us in our senior years, Budapest is a city we have developed a special relationship with.

With several world heritage sites and an exponentially growing international community, Budapest offers a wide range of interests and activities, all you have to do is look.

Stroll along the Danube, pack a picnic to have on Margit Island or climb up to Gellert Hill for a breathtaking view of the city. They are all spectacular tourist attractions and in summer, the city is overrun with them. Enjoy them when the tourists are gone and you can see the more Hungarian aspects of the city. But you only need to visit the hip grungy bars in the 7th district or go for a hike in the forests of Buda, to remember that the city has much more to offer than the almost fairy tale like charm one can see along the Danube.
GETTING TO HUNGARY: ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (PASSPORT, VISA, RESIDENCE PERMIT etc.):

For EU, EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) and Swiss students a valid passport or ID card is sufficient for entering the country. If you are a student from another country you need to have a valid passport and prior to departing from your home country you need to obtain a visa at the closest Hungarian Embassy in your country. For more detailed information please check the following site:

www.mfa.gov.hu

As for the regulation of obtaining a residence permit please carefully read through the information letter of the International Study Program of the Faculty:
http://www.univet.hu/english/education/0708/tarteng07e.pdf

Embassies And Consulates:

Please find the up-to-date list of embassies and consulates on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

To and From The Airport:

Airport: www.bud.hu

• The Airport Minibus service (http://www.bud.hu/english/transport/airport_shuttle) can take you directly to your address in the city: tickets can be purchased while waiting in the luggage hall or when you come out into the main concourse. You can also return to the airport with the minibus - call 1/296-8555 a day in advance
• By public transport

There is a frequent airport bus service (200E), which runs every 8-10 minutes in peak-hours. It stops at all airport terminals and terminates at the southeast end of Metro line (M3). This station is Kőbánya-Kispest. From Kabana you can take the Blue Metro line all the way to the city center-Deak Ferenc Ter where the three metro lines converge. A map of the metro lines has been provided on page 10.
LIVING IN BUDAPEST: ACCOMMODATION

There is no on-campus residential hall but there is a student dormitory for Hungarian and Erasmus students in the XIV district of the city.

Unfortunately, due to the limited amount of places as well as remote location and Hungarian law, Hungarian students from the countryside (and Erasmus students) are given priority; most students are encouraged to find their own accommodation.

There are certain areas in the city, students tend to favor above others to live in.

The Danube divides Budapest into the Buda and Pest. Most students prefer living in Pest since its easier to get to the University. However, since M2 and M4 runs into Buda, it certainly isn’t too much of an issue.

College International also provides services for students looking for accommodation: http://www.budapesthousingservice.com/about-our-service.

The best way to choose an appropriate accommodation is ideally in relation to proximity to the local underground metro or tram stops.

Of course, several students prefer to live right next to the University, and given the growing need for student accommodation in that area, it is quite easy to find a flat in and around the University, sometimes right opposite, at other times within walking distance.
Keleti pályaudvar (metro line M2), is the eastern railway station and also the metro station closest to the main campus. The area surrounding Keleti is perhaps one of the most common areas for students to settle down in the beginning of their studies. It’s close to several different transport routes to quickly bring you in to town, as well as supermarkets and the city park.

Nyugati pályaudvar (M3), the western railway station. The area boasts loads of shops, including the Westend mall, a buzzing nightlife right around the corner, and only a short walk from the city Centre. There are several transport options for getting to college from here, so you never have to worry about getting stuck.

Deak Ferenc tér: acts as the central hub of Budapest both for metro and tram lines and also in terms of the main pedestrianized shopping street, Vaci utca. This is a popular choice for students as it is where all 3 metro lines converge. There is also a host of new buildings built in this area where a largely international community predominates.

Kalvin tér: is another popular area, as there are plenty of restaurants and coffee shops, in addition to it are close to several popular libraries. A renowned fresh food market is also a popular attraction when considering this area and it is only a 10 minute walk from Deak Ferenc tér in the city center and is easily accessed by a metro line and a tram line.

There are many housing websites and estate agencies available to assist you in finding a flat, if you would like a roommate we recommend this webpage [http://roommatesbudapest.com/](http://roommatesbudapest.com/)

The best way to start the search for an apartment is to begin at least one month prior to the beginning of the school year.

By late August, many apartments have been rented out or sold. A timely arrival will afford you the opportunity to find what is best for you, as opposed to settling with what is left.
Ensure you look at several different apartments in order to get a general feeling for what it is you are searching for and have several options open to you. Central heating is the cheapest method of heating in apartments and is sometimes tied in with common costs. The alternative is gas heating, which is more common but also more expensive.

Once you have found the perfect apartment, make sure to discuss all your needs with the owner prior to signing the contract, whether it is the need of a new desk, bed, etc.

It is also important to receive a letter of approval for setting up an Internet connection.

In addition, the landlord will need to provide you with an Address Registration Form (lakasbejelento) that will allow you to receive a residence permit.

It is expected that you pay up to two or three months’ rent in advance as a deposit and it is best to have someone with you as a witness.

The average price of accommodation for a 1 bed apartment is 250-400 euro and for a 2 bed from 550 to 700. (prices are of course subject to change given the location and facilities available, older apartments usually cost less, but remember that you will have to pay for heating it in winter).
GETTING AROUND BUDAPEST AND TRANSPORT AROUND THE UNIVERSITY:

Budapest is a very well planned city, and even for those of you, who doubt their sense of direction, it’s quite easy to figure out, given its highly geometric and grid like structure.

The public transport in Budapest is incredible. The need to walk anywhere is minimal with 4 different metro lines- yellow (M1), red (M2), blue (M3) and Green (M4). In addition there are a multitude of trams and buses and trolley buses.

But of course if you do like walking, then downtown Budapest is compact enough to walk all over. Discover hidden places and watch your favourite district rapidly change.

Useful Links:

1. Budapest Airport: [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)
2. Hungarian Railways: [www.mav-start.hu](http://www.mav-start.hu)
3. Volanbusz Transport Company: [www.volanbusz.hu](http://www.volanbusz.hu)

Student Passes:

For Budapest transportation you can buy monthly travel pass and different types of tickets at the ticket offices of the metro stations. Student monthly passes are valid only with your valid student card. Do not forget to write the number of your student card on the monthly travel pass and to keep them together.

A monthly student pass currently costs **3,450 HUF** (as of May 2015)
The Main Transport Routes Next To Campus:

**Metro:**
Keleti Pályaudvar (M2):
From here look for the sign of McDonald’s so you can easily find Bethlen Gábor street (utca). Come along this street and turn left onto the third side street, which is István utca, the street of the main campus.

Trolley bus 80/ 80A will take you towards Arena Plaza and Puskas Ferenc Stadion.

**Trolley Bus:**
Trolley bus nos. 76 and 74 stop on Istvan Utca, stop diagonally across the main entrance of the campus.
73 stops on Rózsa utca.
The 73 and 76 can be caught on Rottenbiller Utca and are useful to get to Andrassy, Westend, Podmaniczky utca, Lehel ter etc.
The 74 can be caught on Wesselenyi utca and goes along Wesselenyi utca towards Astoria, Kiraly Utca and in the general direction of Deak Ferenc Ter.
78 will stop on the Bethlen Gabor utca outside the side entrance by the secretariat, (near the Aula)

**Bikes:**
If you live close to campus, you can always bike to school.
You can rent or buy a used one from [http://www.bikebase.hu](http://www.bikebase.hu) or check out the Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/351288841605405](https://www.facebook.com/groups/351288841605405).
There is a bicycle market regularly at Szimpla Kert ruin pub ([http://www.szimpla.hu](http://www.szimpla.hu)). Most Hungarian car drivers are not (yet) used to cyclists, so be alert when biking around.
The **red metro line** (M2) runs into Buda (Batthyany ter). An IKEA store can be found at Örs vezér tere, along with another big mall ARKAD.

The **yellow metro line** (M1) runs mostly under Andrassy Utca. Hero’s square, the Opera and Oktogon can all be accessed with this metro line.

The **blue metro line** (M3) connects Kobanya Kispest from where a bus 200E takes you to the airport. It can also be used to go to Kalvin ter (where several libraries are located).

The **4th metro line** (green M4) passes through Keleti Station and goes towards Móricz Zsigmond körtér on the Buda side.
GASTRONOMY AND EATING OUT:

The Hungarian cuisine is a prominent feature of the culture, just as much as the art of hospitality. Traditional dishes such as the world famous goulash (gulyás leves), chicken paprikash, and pörkölt stew.

Desserts include the iconic Dobos and Gerbaud cakes, Gundel pancake, plum dumplings (szilvás gombóc), somlói dumplings and gesztenyepüré (cooked chestnuts mashed with sugar and rum and split into crumbs, topped with whipped cream) and of course Túró Rudi a sweet chocolate bar filled with lemony cottage cheese.

Palinka is a spirit native to Hungary and comes in a variety of flavours including apricot (barack) and cherry (cseresznye). However, plum (szilva) is the most popular flavour.

Tokaji is the name of a very well known brand of sweet white wines produced in the Tokaj-Hegyalja in Hungary.

Zwack Unicum is a bitter, dark-coloured liqueur that can be drunk as an aperitif or after a meal; it is said to aid digestion.

Budapest also has beautiful café’s, both old and new. Walk around Budapest, and discover your favorite ones.

Liszt Ferenc tér near Oktogon is a fun, hip square with plenty of modern café’s.
**Eating at the University:**

The university has a large canteen in building F. You can choose from all kinds of hot meals or order a menu.

If you prefer eating somewhere else, you can do so in the faculty buffet (ground floor, bld. P) where cold and hot sandwiches, beverages, coffee, tea, cakes are served between 7:30-16:00.

**Eating around the University:**

**Kalicka** -aka “Glassbar” is located across the University Library (Rottenbiller Utca 32) and is a great place to grab a quick bite, play a game of table tennis or celebrate after your exams. They have a changing menu.

**Chili Bistro**- located behind the university on Damjanich utca, behind the school, has great traditional pancakes Palatschinke, for the unbelievable price of 100 HUF. Their daily menus are a steal as well for around 900 HUF for a Menu.

**Pizza Boy:** Located on Rottenbiller utca ( 28), this is a great place to get cheap if slightly greasy pizzas. You can ask them to take away too.

A small pizza (28 cm) costs around 600 HUF.

**Punto Italia:** You can order delicious sandwiches and salads from this delightful place on Damjanich Utca. Just register online to get a code and order them before 11:30 am on the day in question. They deliver to you on campus.

**Don Corleone** and a Gyros Kebab place can also be found on and around Istvan Utca if you head towards city park, if you need a quick bite.
Netpincer:

This site is going to be your best friend during exam period. Trust us.

Once registered with them, based on your location, a list of restaurants pop up and you can order food from your favourite restaurant, a pizza if you are tired or some Thai food from that place on Kiraly Utca.

http://www.netpincer.hu/.

Scroll down and look for “English” to see the page in English.
SHOPPING AND OTHER USEFUL TIPS

Supermarkets:
Tesco, Spar, Aldi and Lidl are the big supermarkets in Budapest. There is Spar just behind the University and another one close to Keleti Station.

There is an Aldi on Rackozi street around 8-10 minutes away from the University.

If you want products from home try Culinaris: with a wide range of products from all over. http://www.culinaris.hu/?adult=1&set_lang=en

Szep Kis India on Wesselenyi Utca also has several items from South and South East Asia and Africa if you are interested. The bigger supermarkets also carry a wider range of produce.

Local Traditional Markets:
Budapest has several large traditional markets, some open throughout the week, and others bring in special produce from the countryside on weekends.

Nagycsarnok,” the grand market” the address is Vamhaz körút Budapest.

I can easily be reached by the 47/49 tram line from Deak Ferenc Ter, via Astoria.

It is a beautiful market building and located close to the Danube and Corvinus, the famous Economic University in Budapest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>06.00-17.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues - Fri</td>
<td>06.00- 18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>06.00- 14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lehel csarnok (Lehel market) is situated at Lehel tér along the blue metro line, opening hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
<th>Mon- Fri</th>
<th>06.00 – 18.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>06.00- 14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>06.00-13.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similar markets are located at Oktogon, Bosnyak tér and at several other locations. Look for the one nearest to you for freshly grown fruits and vegetables.

Malls:
Budapest has several large malls and all the big shopping brands one would expect.

The nearest Mall to the University is Arena Plaza on Kerepesi Utca. Another is West End located near Nyugati Pályaudvar.

Money Matters:
The official currency of Hungary is the Forint (HUF). You can change money either in banks or in private change bureaus. The rates differ quite a lot but they always have to have the current exchange rates clearly displayed!

Do not take the risk of changing money on the street!
The approximate exchange rate is: 1 EURO = 300 HUF.

Banks are usually open: Mon-Thurs -08:00 – 15:00

Friday - 08:00– 13:00; Weekends: closed

There are a few ATM’s around town, where you can withdraw cash in Euros.

Otherwise in most ATM’s you can only withdraw in Forints.
Post Offices:
Post offices are located all over the city. They are usually open from 8 a.m. - 6p.m.; however main post offices are open longer. Most of your bills for e.g. Telephone and electricity can be paid at the post office.

Telephone:
A mobile phone is probably going to be your only communication for the next couple of years.

Budapest has all the big companies, Vodafone, T mobile, Telenor, Djuice, and Europtel etc.

3G Internet access is also available on several plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General emergency</th>
<th>112</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: All of these numbers are free of charge*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hungary code:</th>
<th>+36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budapest:</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialing code for inland calls:</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To make an international call dial: 00 (+)/country code/area code/phone number

There are many types of international prepaid phone cards available at post offices, newsagents’.
Electricity Voltage:
Electricity in Budapest is the European standard 230 Volt with the two round prongs.

Climate
Hungary is situated in the moderate temperate zone and has a continental climate with four seasons. Summer averaging at 25 to 30 C, with warm sunny weather, while winter temperatures can easily drop to -5/-10.

It does snow in Budapest in winter. Although global warming seems to be changing it annually, but bring some basic winter gear with you.

Budapest doesn’t get too much rain, but wellingtons are useful.

Health:
For EU citizens EU Health Insurance Card is required and students from non-EU countries should take out a health insurance.

If health problems arise during your stay, you can visit the Hospital in Péterfy Sándor street (it is one street away from the main campus) or the general health center in the district of the student hostel if you stay and registered at the hostel (1148 Budapest Kerepesi út 78 / c).

In other cases you can see the general health center of the district where you are registered.

For those who live in the city: please check the GP of your district: http://www.medlist.com/Magyar/Orvosok/Csaladorvosok/indexTelep.html

Several students avail themselves of First med, a private medical service in Budapest - http://firstmedcenters.com/about-us/

Pet Health
You can bring your pets to the University clinic (small and exotic, Istvan Ut 2, Budapest - 1078).

Equine have to be taken to the large animal clinic located around 60 km outside Budapest (H-2225 Üllő, Dóra major).

Treatment charges vary according to the procedures, however in many cases an initial check-up can be free of charge.
BUDAPEST’S NIGHTLIFE AND SOCIAL SCENE

Budapest has an increasingly growing expat community and has changed dramatically in the last few years to cater to this crowd. This is perhaps most visible in and around district 8, where ruined pubs and swank new places rub shoulders. Find your favourite place and don’t be afraid to explore new ones.

On certain Thursday nights during the semester there is an on-campus party at the Equus club (under the library!) where you will surely meet fellow classmates from the different study streams. It’s a great place to hang out after hours, but remember that it is your responsibility to show up for that 8 am lecture the next morning.

Another popular international watering hole is Szimpla kert where you will definitely meet expats and visiting tourists. The average price of a beer on tap (sör) or a glass of wine (bor) is around 600 HUF (~2 €)

Clubs: Good spots are Doboz, Instant, Kolor, Hellobaby, Morrisons and Mix

There are also plenty of underground clubs like Ötkert, Rom kert, etc...

Budapest is by and large a safe city, but following basic precautions is always a good idea. Don’t leave your friends alone and avoid those areas about which you’ve been warned.

Pickpocketing and theft are known to occur and following some basic common sense and vigilance will help you out immensely.
HUNGARY, IT’S PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE

Always remember… A little Palinka goes a long way:

The Faculty of Veterinary Science, Budapest is one of the oldest Veterinary Universities in Europe and indeed around the world. Hungary is renowned for a long academic history and has several excellent institutions of education including Semmelweis the medical University and Corvinus the Economics University.

Hungary itself is a unique country, situated amongst countries of Slavic and Teutonic origin, but with their own distinct language, culture and heritage which they have retained despite their rather troubled history.

If you are interested in learning more about their history, you can start with the history of the Faculty. There are several opportunities like walking tours to the House of Terror on Andrassy Utca, and many more.

Hungary is in that sense both a young country and an old country, given the fact that the modern Republic of Hungary has been in existence only since the collapse of the Eastern Bloc in 1990, and this contrast and change is constantly visible if you stroll down the streets of Budapest.
Budapest also has several excellent music houses, from classical music concerts and Operas to Jazz concerts and rock concerts as well. The Sziget Music festival held in August on Margit Island is one of the biggest rock festivals in Europe and features well known artists from around the world.

The Hungarian people themselves are wonderful people, and will delight you for hours with stories about Hungary and its customs if you just give them a chance. Keep yourself open to making Hungarian friends in addition to those from the International Community as nothing can beat a homemade Goulash soup.

However, please do remember that you are a foreigner here and to some extent a representative of your country abroad, so please be culturally sensitive and open minded.

Several of the Hungarian students come from outside Budapest, and while they often do speak English, they may feel a tad bit intimidated at first. Take the first step and ask them about Palinka, you won’t regret it, trust us!

And finally, some of you may have had degrees before, and for several of you this is your first time away from home.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science does operate a bit differently to most other Universities, in the sense that they do let you be rather independent. Guidance is always available if you need it, but do remember you are joining a professional degree and this is just the first step towards that.
Some Basic Hungarian:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English (Angolul)</th>
<th>Hungarian (Magyarul)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hi</td>
<td>Szia (informal) (sziasztok +1 person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Day:</td>
<td>Jó napot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Morning:</td>
<td>Jó reggelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you:</td>
<td>Kőszönöm (formal) Köszi (inform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are welcome:</td>
<td>Szívesen (pron. seeveshen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me/I’m Sorry:</td>
<td>Bocsánat (pron. botchanot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes/No:</td>
<td>Igen/Nem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No problem:</td>
<td>Nem baj, No Para (slang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Hogy vagy? (pron. hodge vadge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good/Bad:</td>
<td>Jo/Rossz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand:</td>
<td>Nem ertem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t speak Hungarian:</td>
<td>Nem beszélek magyarul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant:</td>
<td>Etterem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supermarket:</td>
<td>Elelmiszer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pub:</td>
<td>Sörözö, Borozo, Kocsma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like (a beer):</td>
<td>Kerek (egy sört)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drink:</td>
<td>Ital, pia (slang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food:</td>
<td>Etel, kaja (slang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon apetit:</td>
<td>Jó étvágyat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasty:</td>
<td>Finom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheers:</td>
<td>Egészségedre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love you:</td>
<td>Szeretlek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog:</td>
<td>Kutya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat:</td>
<td>Macska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse:</td>
<td>Lo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow:</td>
<td>Marha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig:</td>
<td>Sertes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers:

1 - Egy, 4 - Négy, 7 - Hét, 10-tíz
2 - Kettő, 5 - Öt, 8 - Nyolc,
3 - Három, 6 - Hat, 9 - Kilenc,
AUTHORS AND CREDITS

So these are the basic points we as students feel you should know about the University before you get here. Of course if at any point you feel that there is something you need to know and we’ve missed out on mentioning it, please do contact us.

If you ever need help you can always go to the International Student Secretariat’s office in Building H. They are wonderful people over there and they will always help you out. In addition, you just need to approach most members of staff in the event of any difficulty and if they cannot help you out, they will guide you to someone who can. Also, always feel free to approach an FSA member for guidance as we are always happy to help.

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