

Rules and Principles for Application and Admission

Academic Year 2026/2027

For the English Programs of:

- General Medicine – Faculty of Medicine
- Dentistry – Faculty of Dentistry
- Pharmaceutical Sciences – Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary

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APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Application Criteria

Semmelweis University seeks students who possess a strong background and interest in natural sciences (particularly in biology and chemistry), a good command of English, and a strong motivation to study and practice medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutical sciences or other health care professions.

Applicants are required to have completed high school or upper secondary school by the time of application or be currently enrolled in their final year of high school or upper secondary school. In the former case, the Matriculation or School Leaving Certificate must be uploaded in SEMAPHOR together with the application, while in the latter case, the certificate must be uploaded by August 21 of the year of application. Applicants are preferably under the age of 30 at the time of application and must be at least 18 years old by the end of the study period in the Spring semester of Year 1 at the University, i.e., by the end of May 2027.

Our English-language programs are open to applicants who have completed their secondary education in a system that does not include the Hungarian secondary school leaving examination, i.e., fundamentally to applicants of foreign nationality who are not eligible to apply for Hungarian-language programs through FELVI (the Hungarian higher education application and admission system). Candidates who apply through FELVI for any of the Hungarian medical, dental, or pharmaceutical training programs are not eligible to participate in any of these programs in English. They must inform the Admission Team of their application through FELVI and withdraw their application for the English-language program(s).

Applicants who violate the rules of the application and admission procedure set out in this document and/or make false statements during the application and admission procedure may be disqualified at any stage of the procedure, even after a decision has been made or admission has been accepted.

Application Procedure and Documents Required for Applications to the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Applications must be submitted online in SEMAPHOR (Semmelweis Application Handling and Online Review) system at <https://semaphor.semmelweis.hu> until **May 31, 2026**. The system keeps track of the applicants and their applications from the registration till the end of the admission process, throughout years if necessary, so it is important that each applicant has no more than one user account in SEMAPHOR. Therefore, creating parallel user accounts is not acceptable. ***Creating duplicate or multiple user accounts constitutes a violation of the application and admission rules, and the admissions management may block and/or delete the second and subsequent user accounts.***

Applicants having been recruited by one of the officially appointed local representatives cooperating with Semmelweis University have to assign the representative who assists their application. However, direct applications without the assistance of a representative are also welcome. The applicants who indicate that they were not recruited by any of the officially appointed local representatives ***will be assisted by the Admission Team of Semmelweis University. Since the assignment of a local representative is based on a declaration by the applicant that the assigned local representative is the one who recruited the applicant and***

assisted the application process, the assignment is permanent and can only be changed in well justified cases with the consent of all the parties involved and with the permission of the Directorate of International Studies. This also applies to those who declare that their application is submitted without the assistance of a representative, i.e., their application will not be assigned to a local representative retrospectively.

The following documents need to be uploaded (original, or as certified copies, in English or in the original language with a certified English translation).

1. **Matriculation / School Leaving Certificate** from an accredited high school or senior secondary school. Registration number of documents should be indicated. Those who have not yet received this certificate can also submit their application and take the entrance examination. The final deadline for uploading the Matriculation Certificate is August 21.
2. **Curriculum Vitae (Resume)** in English.
3. **Motivation letter**
4. **Copy of passport (or ID card for citizens of Schengen Area member countries)** with your personal data.
5. **Portrait photo (preferably passport size)**
6. **Declaration by Legal Representative** – Minor applicants, i.e., those who have not yet reached the age of 18 at the time of submitting their application, are required to submit a legal statement from their parents or guardians. The statement downloaded from <https://semmelweis.hu/registrar/declaration-minors> must be issued within 30 days prior to the date of upload.
7. **Medical Certificate** – Certification that the applicant is physically and mentally able to complete higher educational studies and does not suffer from chronic or infectious diseases is requested from the successful applicants **for the acceptance of an offered admission**. The **certificate** (<https://semmelweis.hu/registrar/med-certificate>) must be issued within 90 days prior to the date of upload.

Applications can only be submitted after the payment of an **admission procedure fee of 400 USD**, which covers the application fee and the costs of entrance examinations. Entrance examinations to our training programs (General Medicine, Dentistry and/or Pharmaceutical Sciences in English) consist of online written tests followed by an oral interview. Applicants having submitted their application(s) to the above training programs are eligible to sign up to the exam(s) of their choice – up to two occasions – through SEMAPHOR without paying any extra fee, as the two exam opportunities are covered by the admission procedure fee. Each applicant is allowed to participate in no more than two entrance examinations in a given calendar year, and this cannot be circumvented by parallel registrations.

Applicants must pay the admission procedure fee through the online application portal by credit card, or by wire transfer directly to Semmelweis University's USD account. In the latter case, the name of the applicant and the application ID used in SEMAPHOR must be included in the comment field of the wire transfer and the proof of payment must be uploaded at the application through SEMAPHOR. See below for further payment details. ***Please note that in the case of bank transfers, the date of payment is the date on which the payment is credited to the university's account, not the date on which the transfer is initiated!***

Withdrawal of Applications

Submitted applications can only be withdrawn before the application deadline, i.e., May 31, 2026. Applications cannot be withdrawn if any of the following conditions apply:

- the applicant has attended an entrance examination,
- the applicant was registered for but did not attend an entrance examination,
- a decision has been issued regarding the application, including a decision on exemption from the entrance examination.

Entrance Examinations

Once an application has been submitted to General Medicine, Dentistry or Pharmaceutical Sciences in English, the entrance examinations become available for signing up. The list of examinations appears on the application page in SEMAPHOR and applicants can sign up to or resign from them online. Each applicant is entitled to participate in no more than two entrance examinations in a given calendar year, and the examination fee for two exam opportunities is included in the admission procedure fee.

Date of Examinations

Entrance examinations are organized by Semmelweis University. Useful information can be found regarding entrance examinations at <https://semmelweis.hu/admission/process/entrance-exam-medicine-dentistry-and-pharmaceutical-sciences/>. Dates of the entrance examinations are announced through SEMAPHOR and can be seen after submission of the application(s). Exam opportunities are regularly updated and expanded according to demand and capacity.

Content of the Entrance Examinations

The online written exam consists of tests in English (general and biomedical), Medical Biology and Medical Chemistry. The subsequent interview aims to reveal the applicant's professional attitude and skills, and it includes an oral examination focused on the applicant's knowledge in Biology, Chemistry and English. The interview is conducted with personal attendance as a default, but online interviews are also available.

Guideline of Topics for the Entrance Exams at the Faculties of General Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The main topics of the exams are as follows:

1. **Evolution:** chemical and biological aspects.
2. **Chemical background in Biology:** structure of atoms; chemical bonds; ionic compounds and molecules; solutions; types and energetics of chemical reactions; acid-base reactions; redox reactions; inorganic constituents of living organisms; hydrocarbons; organic compounds containing oxygen or sulfur; organic compounds containing nitrogen; carbohydrates; amino acids and proteins; lipids; vitamins; nucleic acids.
3. **The cell and its organization** (morphology and function): Prokaryotes (bacteria) and Eukaryotes (focus on cilia and flagella, cell wall, cell membrane, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi, lysosome, mitochondrion, ribosome, centriole, nucleus, nucleolus).
4. **From cells to tissues** of different structure and function.
5. **Cell division:** mitosis and meiosis.
6. **Anabolic and catabolic pathways** regarding nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids (bioenergetics included).
7. **The physiology of living organisms:** respiration, ingestion and digestion, excretion, circulation, endocrine and neural regulation, immune-biology, locomotion.

8. **Reproduction and development of animals.**
9. **Viruses.**
10. **Genetics:** Mendelian inheritance, human genetics.

Note: Knowledge of English terminology is required in all the above areas!

The lists of topics in medical chemistry and in medical biology are available online: <https://semmelweis.hu/registrar/admission-topics>. Please note that the topics are not actual questions at the exams but are intended as a guide and orientation for preparation.

Registration to the Examination

Applicants have to register (sign up) for the entrance examinations in SEMAPHOR after having submitted a valid application (and paid the admission procedure fee). Exam opportunities are regularly updated and expanded according to demand and capacity. Exam registrations can only be withdrawn before the deadline for registration to the given examination. The absence of a registered applicant at the entrance examination is not considered as the withdrawal of registration but as an examination attended without valuable result. Those who did not get admitted after their first attempt, even if they missed the exam, are entitled to sign up to one more entrance examination through SEMAPHOR during the entrance exam period. The second attempt cannot be sooner than one week after the first attempt, and thus those applicants whose first entrance examination takes place in the last week of the examination period are not eligible for signing up to a second attempt.

Evaluation

The professor who conducts the oral interview records a detailed evaluation and a recommendation based on the scores and marks collected by the applicant during the Entrance Examination.

Exemption from Taking the Entrance Examination

Applicants, who have submitted their application(s) through SEMAPHOR, may apply for exemption from the entrance examination if they have a B.Sc. (or higher) degree in a relevant field of specialty (i.e., closely related to medicine, biology or chemistry) in a higher education training program in English language. Exemption is discretionary and not automatic. All requests for exemption are considered by the Admission Committee and decided on the basis of the type(s) and issuing Institution(s) of the diploma(s), the attached transcript(s) showing the applicants' performance, the recommendation letter(s), the proof of good command of English and of other details contained in the curriculum vitae and in the motivation letter. All documents should be submitted online as attachments to the application(s) in SEMAPHOR, and after having the application(s) submitted, a simple request for exemption from the entrance examination needs to be sent to the Directorate by email: admission@semmelweis.hu. Requests without online submission of application(s) are not considered. Applicants may sign up to and participate in entrance examinations if their request for exemption has been rejected.

Decision and Appeal

Decision regarding the admission is made by the Admission Committee, which is composed of professors of Semmelweis University, including the one who conducted the oral interview. All the parameters, the uploaded documents, personal educational record including the transcripts

of high school or college, optional PreMed training and/or graduate training and work experience are considered along with the performance at the written test and the oral interview. Beside the applicant's knowledge in biology, chemistry and English language, his/her motivation, attitude, intellect, general information, communication skills, spoken English and personality are taken into account. The decision is also based on the strategic aims of the University including geographical and cultural diversity and gender balance.

The decision appears in the header and status of the application in SEMAPHOR, and decision letter is sent by email and is uploaded to the applicant's documents in SEMAPHOR within a week, but usually in a couple of days, after the oral interview. *Applicants are asked to reply to the offer of admission within 2 weeks. Although the offered place will be automatically lost in the absence of a timely online acceptance sealed with a deposit payment, it is greatly appreciated if applicants who do not wish to accept admission explicitly record their refusal in SEMAPHOR.* This polite gesture will make the work of the admissions team a lot easier.

If an applicant has an objection to the admission process and considers that the procedure by the Admission Committee was inappropriate or unfair, he/she can send an appeal within 15 days by email to the Admission Team. The appeal must set out the specific procedural infringement and must contain the arguments and evidence in support of the complaint. The appeal is investigated by the Director of the Directorate of International Studies, and the applicant is informed about the outcome within two weeks.

In order to comply with the legislation governing Semmelweis University, the Directorate of International Studies corresponds only with the applicant concerned and with a single local representative if such has been appointed by the applicant at the time of submitting his/her application. During the admission procedure, the Directorate acts in accordance with the rules in force, which are public and known to the applicants. No information is provided to, and no mandate is accepted from any person other than the above unless that person is legally authorized to represent the applicant. Those who wish to act on behalf of an applicant, must prove their authorization by a private document of full probative value in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure (Act CXXX/2016).

Postponement of Enrollment

The decisions apply to admission in the current year, and accepted admission entitles the applicant to enroll for the academic year starting in September of the current calendar year. An applicant who has paid the deposit and formally accepted the offered admission but is unable to start his/her studies in the current year due to some unforeseen obstacle, may request a one-year deferral of enrollment. The request for deferral needs to be submitted to admission@semmelweis.hu, and must include an appropriate justification. If the one-year deferral is granted by the Admission Committee, the deposit remains on the University's account, and the admission process continues the following year when the applicant needs to confirm his/her intention to enroll by the end of April and pay the balance of the tuition and enrollment fees by July 31. As the deferral of enrollment is not an entitlement but a special treatment, there is no right to appeal against the refusal of a request for deferral.

Student Visa

Foreign nationals (under visa obligation) wishing to pursue studies in Hungary are required to apply for entry visa (exceeding 90 days) in their home countries and enter the country on the entry visa issued by the Hungarian Embassy or Consulate. For more detail, please visit:

<https://konzinfo.mfa.gov.hu/en/entry-long-stay-exceeding-90-days>.

Students coming from EU & EEA countries do not need a student visa but have to apply for a registration certificate within 90 days after their arrival to Hungary.

You may find more useful information here: <https://oif.gov.hu/index.php/tartozkodas-magyarorszagon>.

FEES AND COSTS

Fees Related to the Application and Enrollment Procedure for the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Admission procedure fee: USD 400

The admission procedure fee is payable before submitting an application.

Deposit: USD 2 000

Applicants admitted to the university have to pay a non-refundable deposit of USD 2 000 within 14 days after the notification of admittance. This amount is included in the tuition fee for the first semester.

Enrollment fee: USD 230

The enrollment fee is payable together with the tuition fee after acceptance.

The tuition fee for the first semester (including the deposit) and the enrollment fee must be paid by July 31.

Admitted applicants who need to apply for a student visa may be required to pay the tuition fee for the first one or two semester(s) before the visa application may be processed. Further details will be provided in the letter of admission.

Tuition Fees and Additional Costs for Students of the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Tuition fees

Medicine (6 years)	USD 10 450 / semester
Dentistry (5 years)	USD 10 450 / semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (5 years)	USD 6 620 / semester

While tuition fees from the second semester onwards are always due at the beginning of the semester, the first semester's tuition fee (including the deposit) and the registration fee must be paid by July 31.

Please note that enrollment is conditional upon payment of tuition and enrollment fees by the deadline. Applicants who do not pay the full tuition and enrollment fees by July 31 will be excluded.

Tuition fees are subject to change and therefore may differ for students enrolled in different years. Students repeating due to failed exam(s) or inactive semester(s) will pay the same amount as other students in the same year group.

Additional material fees

Dentistry (in year 2)	USD	1 300 / semester
Dentistry (in years 3-5)	USD	2 600 / semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (in year 2)	USD	400 / semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (in years 3-5)	USD	800 / semester

The fees are subject to change.

Payment Details

Certain payment methods are only available for paying certain fees, as summarized in the table below. Please note that online payment by credit/debit card through SEMAPHOR is only available for the admission procedure fee. Checks and money orders are not accepted. Payment instructions regarding enrolled students are provided after the enrollment.

The following table summarizes the different payment method options.

Fee	Payment method options		
	Online by card	Wire transfer	Cash payment
Admission procedure fee	✓	✓	✗
Deposit	✗	✓	✗
Enrollment fee	✗	✓	✗
First tuition fee	✗	✓	✗

Online payment by credit/debit card through SEMAPHOR

This payment method is only available for paying the admission procedure fee. Card payments are made through a secure online system of OTP Bank, the largest commercial bank in Hungary. The payment can be initiated automatically from the online application system (SEMAPHOR). This is the preferred route of paying the admission procedure fee.

Payment by wire transfer

All payments can be made by wire transfer to Semmelweis University's below bank account. Payments must be made in USD.

Account details of Semmelweis University are as follows:

Bank name:	OTP Bank Nyrt.
Bank address:	Nádor utca 6., H-1051 Budapest, Hungary
Account holder:	Semmelweis University
Account number (IBAN):	HU57 11763842-00881016-00000000
SWIFT code (BIC):	OTPVHUHB

The money transfer sheet must include the name of the applicant as written in the passport, as well as the SEMAPHOR Application ID as a note. The money transfer note should also include the correspondent Swift/BIC code. In case of paying the admission procedure fee, a scanned copy of the transfer sheet must be uploaded into SEMAPHOR as proof of payment prior to submission of the application.

The above-mentioned net amounts must be credited to the account, i.e., all bank commissions and other charges must be paid by the applicant. **The date of payment is the date on which the payment is credited to the University's bank account**, i.e., payments must be received in the University's bank account by the given deadline. Since international wire transfers may take

several days, applicants are advised to initiate the wire transfer several days before the given deadline. If the above fees are not credited to our bank account by the relevant deadlines, applications will not be valid, and admissions will be automatically canceled.

Please contact the Admission Team's finance administrator at the email address: application.finance@semmelweis.hu to inquire about further information on payment details.

Refund Policy

1. Prior to enrollment (registration) at the university

Refundable: tuition fee, except for the **deposit of USD 2 000**, which is **non-refundable**.

2. After enrollment (registration) at the university

Withdrawal of studies: Students, compelled to withdraw for academic / disciplinary reasons or accepted / transferred by another institution of higher education are not entitled to a refund of the tuition fee.

Students are entitled to a *pro rata* refund of the tuition paid over the non-refundable deposit if their studies are interrupted for a justifiable reason (e.g., a medically certified severe illness, the death of one of the parents / guardians, an obligatory military service or visa problems). The refund is applicable from the first day of the month following the reporting of the above-mentioned conditions with accompanying official certificates.

3. Suspension of studies (after registration):

- a. If the student's legal status is suspended within 30 days of the beginning of the semester, the tuition can be transferred to the next active semester.
- b. The student's legal status may be suspended more than a month after the beginning of the semester only with special permission in duly justified cases. A reduction up to 75% of the tuition fee paid over the non-refundable deposit may be granted and the surplus can be transferred to the next active semester. If the request for such a special permission is rejected, the semester must be considered as active, and the tuition fee cannot be refunded.

4. The admission procedure fee can be refunded only if

- a. the application covered by the fee has never been submitted or it has been withdrawn before the application deadline; or
- b. the applicant paid a higher fee (in the latter case, only the overpayment can be refunded).

No other claims are acceptable. Requests for reimbursement of the admission procedure fee must be sent by email to application.finances@semmelweis.hu by June 30 of the year of application.

The refund process may take between 30-60 calendar days.

PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE

Students are provided a health service, which includes an English-language call center, GP-service and treatment at the Polyclinics and Clinics of Semmelweis University. This service is granted during the active semesters until the end of the studies if the corresponding tuition fee has been paid. Further details are included in the letter of acceptance. The health service is automatically suspended when the student's semester is inactive.

DIVISION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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