Rules and Principles for Application and Admission

Academic Year 2027/2028

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 the online application system 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 2028.

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 Division of Admissions for International Studies 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 through the "Semmelweis Admission Hub powered by SEMAPHOR" (hereinafter referred to as the online application system) at **https://apply.semmelweis.hu** **until May 31, 2027**. 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 the online application system. 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 in 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 Division of Admissions for International***

Studies. 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 for the given application and can only be changed in well justified cases with the consent of all the parties involved and with the permission of the Division of Admissions for 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. The same applies to applicants who are under 18 at the time of application but turn 18 later in the admission year.
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** must be issued within 90 days prior to the date of upload. (https://semmelweis.hu/admission/files/2025/01/Medical_certificate_to_admission.pdf)

Applications can only be submitted after the payment of an **admission procedure fee of 250 EUR**, 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 the online application system 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 application cycle, and this cannot be circumvented by parallel registrations.

Applicants must pay the admission procedure fee through the online application system by credit card, or by wire transfer directly to Semmelweis University's EUR account. In the latter case, the name of the applicant and the application ID used in the online application system must be included in the comment field of the wire transfer and the proof of payment must be uploaded at the application through the online application system. 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, 2027. 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.

Requests for withdrawal must be submitted through the Contact Center in the online application system by selecting the topic "Request for withdrawal of application."

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 the online application system 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 application cycle, 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 the online application system 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.

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 the online application system 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 the online application system 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 weeks 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.

Decision and Appeal

Decision regarding the admission is made by the Admissions 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, their motivation, attitude, intellect, general information, communication skills, spoken English and personality are also 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 the online application system, and decision letter is sent by email and is uploaded to the applicant's documents in the online application system within 2 weeks after the oral interview. **Applicants must 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 the online application system. This polite gesture will make the work of the Division of Admissions for International Studies a lot easier.

Admission is offered for one program only. For applicants who apply to multiple programs, the Admissions Committee considers their choices in the order listed on their application, beginning with their first choice. If an applicant does not meet the admission requirements for a program, the committee will consider their next choice. Therefore, applicants are advised to list their program choices in order of preference.

If an applicant has an objection to the admission process and considers that the procedure by the Admissions Committee was inappropriate or unfair, they can send an appeal within 15 days by email to the Division of Admissions for International Studies. 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 Vice-Rector for International Studies, and the applicant is informed about the outcome within 30 days.

In order to comply with the legislation governing Semmelweis University, the Division of Admissions for 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 their application. During the admission procedure, the Division 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).

Exemption from Taking the Entrance Examination

Applicants, who have submitted their application(s) through the online application system, 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) or have completed two years of a program at the same level they are applying for taught in a higher education training program in English language. Exemption is discretionary and not automatic. All requests for exemption are considered by the Admissions 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. Exemption from the exams can only be requested through the Contact Center in the online application system by selecting the topic "Request for exemption from the entrance examination." 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. **The deadline for entrance exam exemption requests is May 31, 2027.**

Upper-Year Admission

Applicants may submit an upper-year application if they have completed a B.Sc. degree in medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy (or a higher degree in these or related fields), or have pursued studies outside Hungary in an undivided one-tier program in one of these fields. Applications are assessed in accordance with the general admission requirements. Eligibility to apply does not guarantee placement in a higher year.

Applicants must submit an upper-year application in the online application system within the application deadline. Selecting this application type indicates that the applicant is seeking placement in a higher year. The general application criteria, document requirements, entrance examination and exemption requirements, fees, and acceptance and enrollment deadlines also apply to upper-year applications.

In addition to the standard application documents, applicants must also upload the following to the online application system:

- official academic transcript(s) showing completed courses, grades and credits,
- detailed course descriptions or syllabi for all courses they wish to have recognized,
- a diploma, if applying on the basis of a completed B.Sc. or M.Sc. degree.

Documents must be submitted in the format and language specified in the relevant section of this document. Additional documents or clarification may be requested if necessary.

Admission and recognition of previous studies are considered separately. The admission decision is made first. After admission has been offered, the course and credit recognition procedure is conducted in the online application system. The relevant academic departments and the Credit Transfer Committee make and record their decisions on the recognition of previously completed courses and credits in the online application system, in accordance with the University's Study and Examination Regulations. An offer of admission does not guarantee recognition of any particular course or credit, or placement in a particular year.

The year of entry is determined by the competent University body on the basis of the recognized courses and credits, and the requirements of the relevant curriculum. The number of years completed at another institution does not, by itself, determine the year of entry at Semmelweis University. Applicants may be required to complete outstanding courses from earlier years. Registration of courses is subject to the applicable prerequisites and academic regulations.

Applicants are informed of the credit recognition decisions and their placement before beginning their studies, provided that the required documents have been submitted by the published deadlines and the evaluation has been completed. **If the recognized previous studies do not allow placement in a higher year, the applicant may begin their studies in the first year in accordance with the terms of the offer of admission.**

Applicants must accept the offer of admission and meet the applicable payment and enrollment deadlines. A pending evaluation of previous studies does not automatically extend these deadlines.

Postponement of Enrollment

The decisions apply to admission for the academic year for which the applicant has applied, and accepted admission entitles the applicant to enroll in that academic year starting in September. An applicant who has paid the deposit and formally accepted the offered admission

but is unable to start their studies due to some unforeseen obstacle beyond their control (e.g. serious illness, accident, or other extraordinary circumstances), may request a one-year deferral of enrollment.

The request for deferral must be submitted through the Contact Center in the online application system by selecting the topic "Request for deferral of enrollment," no later than the in-person enrollment for the academic year concerned. The request must include an appropriate justification supported by documentary evidence (e.g. an official medical certificate in English) substantiating the circumstances preventing the applicant from commencing their studies.

If the one-year deferral is granted by the Admissions Committee, the deposit remains on the University's account, and the admission process continues the following year when the applicant needs to confirm their intention to enroll by the given time period requested by the Committee upon receiving the deferral and pay the balance of the tuition and enrollment fees by July 31. Once enrollment has been completed, any request for suspension of studies shall be governed by the University's Study and Examination Regulations.

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: EUR 250

The admission procedure fee is payable before submitting an application.

Deposit: EUR 2 000

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

Enrollment fee: EUR 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)	EUR	9 340	/ semester
Dentistry (5 years)	EUR	9 340	/ semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (5 years)	EUR	5 820	/ 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)	EUR	1 180	/ semester
Dentistry (in years 3-5)	EUR	2 350	/ semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (in year 2)	EUR	370	/ semester
Pharmaceutical Sciences (in years 3-5)	EUR	740	/ 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 the online application system 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 the online application system
This payment method is only available for paying the admission procedure fee. Card payments are made through a secure online system of OTP Bank (SimplePay), the largest commercial bank

in Hungary. The payment can be initiated automatically from the online application system. 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 bank account. Payments must be made in EUR.

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):	HU51 11763842-00880888-00000000
SWIFT code (BIC):	OTPVHUHB

The money transfer sheet must include the name of the applicant as written in the passport, as well as the 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 the online application system 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 finance administrator of the Division of Admissions for International Studies at the email address: application.finance@semmelweis.hu to inquire about further information on payment details.

Refund Policy

1. **Prior to enrollment (signing the contract in person) at the university**

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

2. **After enrollment (signing the contract in person) 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.finance@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 ADMISSIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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