

**NGUYEN HUY CUONG,**

**PhD Student at Doctoral School of Education, Faculty of Arts**

### **First impressions of SZTE**

My first impression is about the enthusiasm of SZTE mentor team. Before coming to Hungary, I was very worried about how to get to the dormitory of the SZTE, and to complete all procedures to prepare for a first semester. I was very happy when the team of International Directorate introduced me a mentor, a Hungarian girl who is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year student studying English literature. I had received a lot of information from the mentor about the SZTE, the procedures before starting the new semester, and especially the specific detailed instructions so I could get to Szeged.

I had a long and tiring flight from Vietnam to Budapest, and then another 2 hours on the train from Budapest to Szeged. Welcoming me at Szeged station were two Hungarian beautiful girls, who speak English very well. They greeted me with a friendly smile, and graciously asked me about the trip. We caught the bus to Öthalmi student dormitory. They helped me to complete all the procedures to check in to the dormitory. They just leaved when everything was ok. I was very grateful for the enthusiasm of the two girls, and I had a good sleep after having a hard and tiring day.

On the first day I went to the SZTE, my first impression about the SZTE was that the University was so large with both modern and ancient architecture. I could see a lot of the statues in the buildings. The statues were created to recognize the distribution of famous people to the development of the SZTE. The SZTE buildings mixed with public buildings, offices, shops, and stores that made the area become crowded and busy.

The faculty and staff of the SZTE were always willing and enthusiastic to help us to complete all the procedures. I was also very surprised about the proportion of international students of the SZTE (10%). At SZTE I could meet a lot of international students coming from many different countries such as China, Japan, India, Egypt, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Taiwan, France, Turkey, Israel, Serbia, etc. International students and Hungarian students were always cheerful and willing to help each other. I am sure that this will be a multi-cultural studying environment and I will have a lot of new friends from all over the world.

I actually fell in love with the city of Szeged. It is a pretty quiet university town. It gets really quiet after 11 at night, when all the buses stop. All the locals are very nice and most are willing to help. I would say Szeged and SZTE is definitely best place to live and study.