

## **CENTRAL Leadership Program for graduate students and doctoral candidates**

24. August -14. September 2025



Summer in the park © Jacqueline-Brandwayn on unsplash

### **CENTRAL Network**

The CENTRAL Network is excited to announce grants for its new Leadership Program in summer 2025. Join us as we bring together top universities from Austria (University of Vienna), Poland (University of Warsaw), the Czech Republic (Charles University), Hungary (Budapest ELTE), and Germany (Humboldt-University Berlin). Additionally, for the CENTRAL Leadership Program, the CENTRAL universities also invite graduate students from the Andrassy University (Budapest), the Ivan-Franko University (Lviv) and the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv) to participate in the leadership program.

### **Leadership program highlights**

The CENTRAL Leadership Program offers an immersive journey through the region. In this unique initiative, up to 30 students and doctoral candidates will explore Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Warsaw. Participants gain invaluable insights into the diverse realms of economy, politics, diplomacy, society, and public service, fostering the skills and vision needed to drive the advancement of the Central European region, promote peace, and strengthen the European project. Specialized workshops provide deep insights into the region's political and cultural dynamics and refine leadership skills. A preparatory online meeting ensures participants are ready for this transformative experience.

### **Program funding and travel details**

Participants in the program enjoy comprehensive support covering all program expenses across the five locations. This includes an Interrail Pass for train travel, accommodation, most lunches, special

dinners, that are part of the program, and cultural activities. Individuals are responsible for their travel arrangements to and from the first (Budapest) and last (Warsaw) locations. While meals, other than program lunches and special dinners, are also self-funded, the program ensures coordination for an enriching experience. Please note that the accommodation will be shared (same sex) in some location and any upgrade or alternative hotel booking is handled by the participants themselves.

## Who Can Apply

The CENTRAL leadership program seeks advanced graduate students or doctoral candidates with a minimum B2 level of English proficiency and a basic interest in Central European politics, history, and culture. This program is designed to equip participants for leadership roles in various fields such as society, economics, politics, or public service across Europe. Participation offers individuals a pathway to more effectively plan their career trajectories.

## Participant Selection Procedure

The selection of participants is conducted independently by each partner university, employing equitable selection methods. Prospective participants are required to submit their CV and a motivation letter as part of the application process. Subsequently, their home university might arrange an interview. Key selection criteria encompass motivation for the program, affiliation with Central Europe, previous civic engagement and career objectives relating to the progress and leadership of the Central European region.

### Preliminary Program Schedule

June / July	(digital) Kick Off and Get Together
August	(digital) kick-off - Leadership and Soft Skills
24. 8. (Sunday)	Arrival Day - Travel to Budapest
25. – 27. 8.	Budapest program
28.8. – 1.9.	Vienna program
2.9. – 5.9.	Prague Program
5.9.	Prague / Berlin Program
5.9. – 10.9.	Berlin Program
10.9.	Berlin Program / Warsaw
11.9. – 14.9.	Warsaw Program
14.9. (Sunday)	Departure Day
October	Alumni events for promotion and distribution

**Application Deadline:** 31 March 2025

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