

PRESS RELEASE

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Erste Bank: Karrier Program launched for university students

Budapest, 5 August 2008 – Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt. has launched the three-phase Karrier Program [Career Program] for university students in their senior year and for fresh alumni, offering them the opportunity to gain experience in banking or even secure a job. Students accepted in the program can gain professional experience in risk management, real estate finance, treasury, and corporate banking services in Hungary and Vienna, Austria, at the headquarters of the banking group.

Kristóf Baltay, Head of Human Resources at Erste Bank, says a total of 47 university students are spending their four- or six-week mandatory summer training at the financial institute. They are also given the chance to be on attachment to the bank in the longer term, also furthered by the three-stage Karrier Program, which debuted in April 2008.

In the first stage (Karrier Start [Career Start]), students in their senior year at a higher education institution majoring in economic areas (and obtaining their degrees in the first half of 2009) are selected, who then will work in one assigned area each during the program that lasts 6 to 8 months. This phase is followed by a one-year program designed for fresh alumni (Karrier Plusz [Career Plus]), offering participants the chance to familiarise themselves with various areas in banking in a rotation system. And, ultimately, the most talented students are given the opportunity of a 12 to 18 month training to obtain professional expertise in the Vienna headquarters of Erste Holding and in other Central and Eastern European countries (Group Karrier [Group Career]).

The HR manager adds that the program welcomes talented students not only in Budapest but in rural areas as well. To date, 53 university students have applied for the program Karrier Start, leaving close to 90 places unoccupied (40 of them in rural areas). The program starts for all participants with an orientation program, which provides them with general information on the bank and its operations. In addition, they will be involved in special trainings as well, including bank safety and information security.

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