



# International Student's Guide to Slovakia



# **International Student's Guide to Slovakia**

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## **International Student's Guide to Slovakia**

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hello  
ahoj



# CONTENT

I.	ABOUT SLOVAKIA	4
1.	Slovakia in Brief	4
2.	Geography	5
3.	Political System and State Bodies	6
4.	Languages Spoken in Slovakia	7
5.	Religion	8
6.	Slovakia and UNESCO World Heritage	9
7.	Famous Slovaks	12
II.	HIGHER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA	18
1.	Oldest Slovak Universities	18
2.	Higher Education Institutions	18
3.	Organisation of Study	27
4.	Admission and Tuition Fees	29
5.	Recognition of Previous Education	32
III.	ENTERING AND STAYING IN SLOVAKIA – VISA AND RESIDENCE	38
1.	Navigation	38
2.	Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals Coming to Slovakia	42
3.	Duties of Third Country Nationals Coming to Slovakia	44
4.	Useful Addresses for Visa and Residence Permits	59
IV.	WORKING WHILE STUDYING	64
V.	USE OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS IN SLOVAKIA	67
1.	Apostille	67
2.	Legalisation	68
3.	Where to Find an Official Translator	69

<b>VI.</b>	<b>GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>70</b>
1.	Funding Based on Slovak Sources	70
2.	Funding for Bilateral Co-operation	73
3.	Multilateral Programmes	76

<b>VII.</b>	<b>LIFE IN SLOVAKIA AND OTHER PRACTICAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>84</b>
1.	Transport	84
2.	Import of Goods	92
3.	Accommodation	93
4.	Health and Medical Care	94
5.	Language Courses for International Students	97
6.	Student Organisations	98
7.	Student Cards	101
8.	Banks	101
9.	Shopping	103
10.	Electrical Appliances and Computers	103
11.	Communications and Post Offices	104
12.	Sport	106
13.	Culture and Media	108
14.	Cuisine	112
15.	Libraries	115
16.	Other Services	116
17.	Public Holidays	117
18.	Living Costs	118

<b>VIII.</b>	<b>USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS</b>	<b>120</b>
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<b>IX.</b>	<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>122</b>
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# I.

# ABOUT SLOVAKIA

## 1. Slovakia in Brief

**Official name:** Slovak Republic

**Capital:** Bratislava (417,389 inhabitants)

**Date of establishment:** 1 January 1993  
(after splitting of the Czech and Slovak  
Federative Republic)

**Political system:** parliamentary democracy

**Administrative organisation:** 8 higher  
territorial units, 8 regions, 79 districts,  
2,933 municipalities out of which are 138 cities and towns;

**Regional capitals:** Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Trenčín, Žilina,  
Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Košice

**Official language:** Slovak

**Neighbouring countries:** Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine

**Area:** 49,035 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 5.4 million (out of them 51.3 % of women)

**Density of population:** 111/km<sup>2</sup>

**Large towns:** Košice (239,797), Prešov (90,923),  
Žilina (81,273), Banská Bystrica (79,368), Nitra  
(78,351), Trnava (65,978), Martin (56,526),  
Trenčín (55,886), Poprad (52,654),  
Prievidza (48,134), Zvolen (43,100)

**Ethnic mix of population:** Slovaks  
(80.6 %), Hungarians (8.5 %),  
Roma (2 %), Czechs (0.6 %),  
Ruthenians (0.6 %), Ukrainians  
(0.1 %), Germans (0.1 %),  
Polish (0.1 %), other (7.4 %)



**Population and their religions:** Roman Catholic (62 %), Evangelical Lutheran of Augsburg Confession (5.9 %), Greek Catholic (3.8 %), Reformed Christian (1.8 %), Orthodox (0.9 %), Jews (0.1 %), others (1.2 %), without denomination (13.4 %) and unknown (10.6 %)

**Currency:** euro (since 1 January 2009); 1 euro (1 €) = 100 cents (100 c), banknotes issued in 500 €, 200 €, 100 €, 50 €, 20 €, 10 € and 5 € denominations; coins in 2 €, 1 € and 50 c, 20 c, 10 c, 5 c, 2 c and 1 c denominations



**Membership in international organisations:** EU (since 1 May 2004), NATO (since 29 March 2004), UN, OECD, OSCE, WHO, INTERPOL, etc.

**Main agricultural crops:** wheat, rye, corn, potatoes, sugar beets

**Breeding:** cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, goats

**Main fields of industry:** automotive industry, chemical industry, iron ore processing, fertilisers, plastics, mechanical and electrical engineering

**Natural resources:** iron ore, mercury, copper, lead, zinc

## 2. Geography

The Slovak Republic is situated in Central Europe, sharing borders with Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine. Mountains, lowlands, valleys, lakes, cave formations, forests and meadows provide many examples of Slovakia's year-round natural beauty. The Carpathian Arc, a range of mountains stretching across the north, takes up almost a half of the country. The south and east of the country lie in the lowlands, an important agricultural area in Slovakia.

**The highest point:**

Mount Gerlach  
in the High Tatras  
2,655 m above sea  
level

**The lowest point:**

River Bodrog 94 m  
above sea level

DO YOU KNOW?



The Tatra Chamois is a completely unique chamois, because after the end of the ice ages it evolved thousands of years totally isolated. At present, there are only slightly more than 200 pieces.

**Maximum length:** 428 km (Záhorská Ves [W] – Nová Sedlica [E])

**Maximum breadth:** 195 km (Štúrovo [S] – Skalité [N])

**The longest river:** River Váh (378 km)

**Time:** GMT +1 (GMT +2 from last Sunday in March to last Saturday in October). In winter, the Sun rises approximately at 7:30 and sets around 16:00. In summer, sunrise is before 5:00 and sunset is around 21:00.

**Weather:** The Slovak Republic has a continental climate with 4 seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Summers are hot; winters are cold, cloudy and humid. The average winter daily temperature is  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can plummet to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The average daily temperature in summer is  $21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can be as warm as over  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The coldest month is January; the hottest month is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season. Data concerns Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Weather in northern and mountainous regions could be much colder.

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest river island in Europe is the Rye Island in southern Slovakia ( $1,326\text{ km}^2$ ).



### 3. Political System and State Bodies

The Slovak Republic has been established on 1 January 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy, and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex, race, colour, language, faith, religion, political affiliation or conviction, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic origin, property, birth or any other status.

#### State Bodies

The **National Council of the Slovak Republic** is a unicameral parliament and the country's main legislative body. The National Council has 150 members elected for 4-year terms in direct elections.



The electoral system is proportional representation. Parties are allocated seats in the Parliament according to the percentage share of the votes they get in parliamentary elections. Only a party with at least 5 % of votes can obtain seats in the Parliament.

The **President** is the Head of State elected for a 5-year term in a direct two round election. The same person can be elected President for a maximum of two consecutive 5-year terms. The current Slovak President is Mr. Andrej Kiska (elected in 2014).

The **Government** is the highest tier of executive power and consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers. The Government is formed on the basis of parliamentary elections (last one held in March 2012). The Prime Minister is appointed and can be dismissed by the President. Upon the advice of the Prime Minister, the President appoints and dismisses other members of the Government. The Government is collectively responsible for the exercise of governmental powers to the Parliament, which may hold a vote of no confidence at any time. The Parliament can hold a vote of no confidence to a single member of the Government, too. The current Prime Minister, Mr. Róbert Fico, has been appointed in April 2012.

Other constitutional bodies are the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic.

The **state administration power** is mostly executed on central level. The central bodies have lower – regional – levels. If needed, local state administration authorities establish other authorities and offices in regions.



## 4. Languages Spoken in Slovakia

Slovak is the official language of the Slovak Republic and belongs to the West Slavic subgroup of the Indo European language family, and uses the Roman script. It does not differ significantly from Czech,



and comprehension in both languages is rather common. The majority of the population of the Slovak Republic (86 %) speaks Slovak as their mother tongue. The second most widely spoken mother tongue is Hungarian.

The most widely spoken foreign languages are English, German, Russian, Hungarian and French.

The young urban population is generally considered to be the most linguistically proficient. Foreign languages are sometimes taught at kindergarten, usually at primary school in lower grades and always in the upper ones (5<sup>th</sup> till 9<sup>th</sup>) and at secondary schools. There are some primary and secondary schools that conduct classes in foreign languages such as Hungarian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. Private language schools offer many possibilities for children, young people and adults to learn foreign languages.

## 5. Religion

The Slovak Republic is by tradition a religious country; the first Christian bishopric was established in the 9<sup>th</sup> century in Nitra. At present, several legal norms regulate the freedom of conscience and religion, and provide a guarantee for general respect of these fundamental human rights and freedoms.

According to the Slovak Constitution, *"Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief will be guaranteed. This right will include the right to change religion or belief."*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The world's highest wooden gothic altar is to be admired in Levoča, in the St. James Church. It is 18.6 m high and his author is Master Paul from Levoča. He carved it of lime wood at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It took him 10 years to finish it.



## Religious Services

There are services available in foreign languages (mainly in English, German and Hungarian) all over the country (for more information, please, consult your church).

List of registered Churches in the Slovak Republic:

- Apostolic Church
- Bahá'í Community
- Baptist Union
- Brethren Church
- Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities
- Christian Corps
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Czechoslovak Hussite Church
- Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession
- Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church
- New Apostolic Church
- Old Catholic Church
- Orthodox Church
- Reformed Christian Church
- Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses
- Roman Catholic Church
- Seventh-day Adventists Church
- United Methodist Church

## 6. Slovakia and UNESCO World Heritage

Places included in the UNESCO List of the World Heritage and the UNESCO List of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in Slovakia:

### Cultural Monuments

- **Vlkolínec** – a Monument Reserve of Folk Architecture – a remarkably intact settlement of 45 traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas ([www.vlkolinec.sk](http://www.vlkolinec.sk)).
- **Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity** – the town of Banská Štiavnica is an old medieval mining centre that grew into a town with Renaissance palaces, 16<sup>th</sup> century churches, elegant squares and castles ([www.banskastiavnica.sk](http://www.banskastiavnica.sk)).



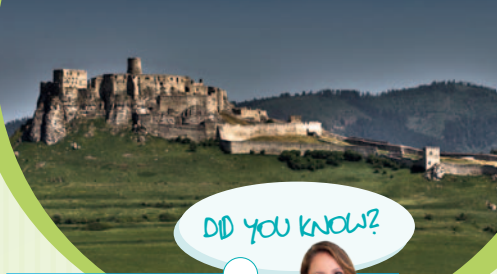
- **Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments** – Spišský hrad (castle) has one of the largest ensembles of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century military, political and religious buildings in Eastern Europe, and its Romanesque and Gothic architecture has remained remarkably intact ([www.spisskyhrad.sk](http://www.spisskyhrad.sk)).

The extended site features the addition of the historic town-centre of Levoča, founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, within fortifications. Most of the site has been preserved and it includes the 14<sup>th</sup> century Church of St. James, a remarkable collection of polychrome works in the Late Gothic style, including an 18.6 metre high altarpiece completed around 1510 by Master Paul from Levoča ([www.levoca.sk](http://www.levoca.sk)).

- **Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve** – a small but exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of a fortified medieval town. Among other remarkable features, it also contains a small Jewish quarter around a fine 18<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue ([www.bardejov.sk](http://www.bardejov.sk)).
- **Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area** – two Roman Catholic, three Protestant and three Greek Orthodox churches built between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1273>).

## Natural Monuments

- **Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst** – the variety of formations and the fact that they are concentrated in a restricted area means that 712 caves currently identified make up a typical temperate-zone karstic system. Because they display an



DID YOU KNOW?

Spišský hrad (castle) is the largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe. It is more than 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> large.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ochtinská Aragonite Cave is the only cave of its type in Europe. Along with other caves of the Slovak Karst, it is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.



extremely rare combination of tropical and glacial climatic effects, they make it possible to study geological history over tens of millions of years. Caves open to the public: Dobšinská Ice Cave, Domica Cave, Gombasecká Cave, Jasovská Cave, Krásnohorská Cave, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave ([www.ssj.sk/jaskyne](http://www.ssj.sk/jaskyne)).

- **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forest of Germany** – a transnational (Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine) serial property comprising fifteen components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>).

### Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Fujara and its music** – extremely long flute with three finger holes traditionally played by Slovak shepherds, is regarded as an integral part of the traditional culture of Central Slovakia. It is not just a musical instrument, but also an artefact of great artistic value due to its highly elaborate, individual ornamentation. Fujara can be up to 2 m long ([www.fujara.sk](http://www.fujara.sk), in Slovak only).
- **Music of Terchová** – the village of Terchová in north-west Slovakia is renowned for its collective vocal and instrumental music, performed by three-, four- or five-member string ensembles with a small two-string bass or diatonic button accordion. It is often accompanied by polyphonic singing and combined with folk dances. The musical tradition of Terchová also includes solo instrumental performances on shepherds' fifes ([www.terchova.sk](http://www.terchova.sk), in Slovak only).



**More information:** <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk>.  
[www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00559](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00559)

## 7. Famous Slovaks

### Art

#### **Brunovský, Albin**

(1935 – 1997)

*painter, graphic*

*designer*

*and illustrator*

One of the most important modern

Slovak painters. He employed imaginative, fantastic themes in his creative work. He was an adherent of fantastical realism (the second surrealistic wave), based upon perfect drawing and a philosophical/ethical message. Works: Czechoslovak banknotes, paintings on wood at the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and paintings at the UN building in New York.



#### **Cikker, Ján**

(1911 – 1989)

*composer*

*and pedagogue*

He continued in the tradition of late romanticism, often employing Slovak folk music. In the 1960s, he turned to modernisation and a rational style of composition. He encouraged the development of a Slovak national sentiment and its music, and his art traversed the borders of Slovakia. He became a UNESCO



Music Prize Laureate in 1979.

Works: operas Juro Jánošík (1950 – 1953), Beg Bajazid (1957) and Mr. Scrooge (1963), as well as symphonic compositions and the arrangement of songs for folk groups.

#### **Fleischmann, Arthur**

(1896 – 1990)

*sculptor*

He worked in the Republic of South Africa, France (Paris), United Kingdom (London), Bali, Australia and Spain. He was an adherent of kinetism and op art in sculpture. He created fountains, statues and the “Crystal Crown” for Queen Elizabeth II. He also worked with George Lucas on the first Star Wars sci-fi trilogy. (Arthur Fleischmann Museum, Biela ulica 6, Bratislava, Slovakia)



#### **Hložník, Vincent**

(1919 – 1997)

*painter,*

*graphic artist*

*and illustrator*

The leading figure in the generation of artists that came of age during the World War II. The prevailing ethos of his works is one of humanism and anti-fascism. Typical hallmarks include expressive overstatement,



masterly calligraphy and bold imagery. Graphics and illustrations loom large in his output. For his work in these fields he has been the recipient of numerous awards both at home and abroad. He was Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava from 1960 to 1964.

### **Popp, Lucia**

(1939 – 1993)

*opera singer*

A world famous opera and concerto soprano. She graduated from the Bratislava School of Opera, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1963, and worked primarily in Austria and Germany. An event entitled Hommage á Lucia Popp is held in Bratislava every year in her honour.



### **Sokol, Koloman**

(1902 – 2003)

*painter and graphic designer*

One of the most famous Slovak artists in the world and the founder of modern Slovak graphic art. His paintings involve the intersection of real experience, dreams, fantasy, personal knowledge, desires and belief. He worked in Czech Republic (Prague), Mexico, USA



and in Slovakia (Bratislava). He lived in the USA from 1948, and received many state awards. (Koloman Sokol Centre, Pongráczovská kúria, Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

### **Suchoň, Eugen**

(1908 – 1993)

*composer*

Ranks among the most prominent representatives of contemporary Slovak music. From the very beginning the work of the artist has been a representative expression of the modern Slovak musical culture. It has acquainted the European musical scene with the typical psychological world of the Slovak man and his national ethics on the high artistic level, and in spirit of the fundamental tendencies of the European music of this century. The success of his first opera "Krútnava" (The Whirlpool) established modern Slovak opera, and drew international attention.



### **Warhol, Andy**

(1928 – 1987)

*painter, graphic designer and filmmaker*

He was born into a Slovak Ruthenian family that had immigrated to





the USA. Warhol was the founder of pop art and also its most important representative; he was involved in drawing, painting, graphic design and film. He painted everyday objects and film stars, while his films were about time, boredom and repetition. (Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art, Medzilaborce, Slovakia)

## Science and Technology

### Banič, Štefan

(1870 – 1941)

*inventor*

He lived in the USA from 1907 to 1921.

He constructed a prototype parachute in 1913, which was patented at the United States Patent Office. He was also involved in the improvement of mining production and bridge construction. The parachute has, of course, become a vital part of modern aviation.



### Bel, Matej

(1684 – 1749)

*polyhistor,  
pedagogue,  
scientific researcher  
and evangelical  
priest*

He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the



18<sup>th</sup> century, and was referred to as the *Magnum decus Hungariae* – the Great Ornament of Hungary. He made an important contribution to pietism, was a pioneer in the field of collective research into the Hungarian nation, and carried out comprehensive scientific, historical and geographical research. He was the co-author of a unique account of agriculture in the Hungarian Empire – the works *Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus* (1723), *Adparatus ad historiam Hungariae* (1735–1736) and *Notitia Hungariae novae historico geographica*. The Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica bears his name.

### Murgaš, Jozef

(1864 – 1929)

*priest  
and electrical  
engineer*

He lived in the USA, where he worked as a priest. He was also involved in electrical engineering and registered 12 patents in the field of wireless telegraphy. He established different frequencies for the dots and dashes in Morse code, thus accelerating the transmission of messages. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison”.





**Stodola, Aurel**  
(1859 – 1942)

*engineer,  
professor  
and inventor*

He graduated in the field of mechanical engineering and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. He achieved his greatest successes in the area of steam turbines; his calculations and constructions formed a basis for this particular field of mechanical engineering. He received the highest engineering awards – the Grashof Medal and the James Watt Gold Medal. He was also a correspondent member to the French Academy of Sciences.



1770. He sailed across the North Pacific and arrived in France in 1772. King Louis XV appointed him the Governor of Madagascar and he was elected the country's King in 1776. He fought in the American War of Independence in 1779 and 1781, and was a friend of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Works: *Memoirs and Travels* (1783).

**Dubček, Alexander**  
(1921 – 1992)

*politician*  
The leading figure in the Prague Spring (1968 – 1969). In the 1960s, he endeavoured towards reforming the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and establishing “socialism with a human face”. He faded into the background after the invasion of Warsaw Pact forces in August 1968. During the period of “normalisation” in the 1970s, he was expelled from the party and became a subject of persecution. As a symbol of efforts towards reform, he returned to politics in 1989; he became the Speaker of the Federal Parliament and the leader of the Slovak Social Democratic Party.



## Politics

**Beňovský, Matúš Móric**  
(1746 – 1786)

*nobleman  
and King  
of Madagascar*

Baron Beňovský began his career in the Seven Years' War. He fled to Poland in 1768, where he fought against the Russian Tsar, was captured and was sent into exile in Kamchatka. He managed to escape by boat in



### **Hodža, Milan**

(1878 – 1944)

*politician,  
diplomat  
and statesman*

He was involved in the Agrarian

Movement. He was a co-founder of the most powerful party in the Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1939) – the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party. He was a Member of Parliament, the Minister for the unification of laws, agriculture, education and national edification, and finally the Prime Minister. He immigrated to France in 1939, and then to the USA in 1941. He was active in the foreign resistance movement during the World War II. He created the idea of a federal state in Central Europe, stretching from the Baltic to the Aegean, from Germany to Russia.



### **Štefánik, Milan Rastislav**

(1880 – 1919)

*politician, soldier  
and astronomer*

During his studies in Prague, he became acquainted with Tomáš G. Masaryk and Eduard Beneš, with whom he established an anti-Austrian resistance movement abroad for the creation of an independent



Czecho-Slovak State. He worked in France as an astronomer, became a French Air Force officer during the World War I and was one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Republic. He died in a tragic air accident.

### **Štúr, Ľudovít**

(1815 – 1856)

*national  
activist and  
linguist*

The leader of the Slovak National Revival in the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

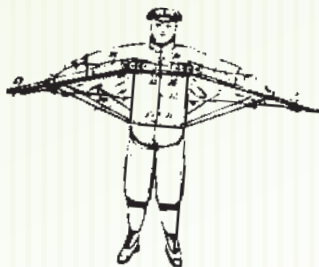
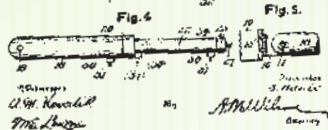
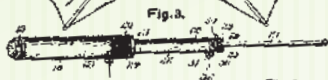
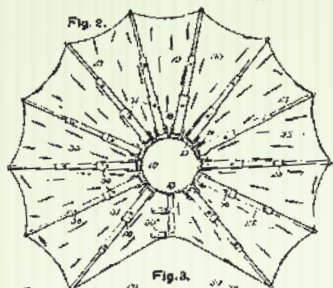
the author of the Slovak language standard eventually leading to the contemporary Slovak literary language, an organiser of the Slovak Volunteer Campaigns during the 1848 Revolution in the Kingdom of Hungary, a member of the Diet of the Kingdom of Hungary, politician, Slovak poet, journalist, publisher, teacher, philosopher and linguist.



1.108,484.

S. BANIČ  
PARACHUTE  
APPLICABLE UNDER THE PATENT ACT

Patented Aug. 25, 1914  
ROBERT D. BROWN



DID YOU KNOW?

Štefan Banič from Slovakia built the first parachutes to see use beyond the experimental stage, patenting it in the USA in 1913. He sold the patent to the United States military.



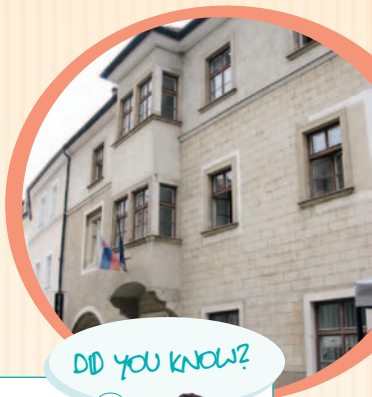
## II.

# HIGHER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

## 1. Oldest Slovak Universities

The first university on the territory of the present-day Slovakia, the **Academia Istropolitana** (1465–1491), was established in Bratislava during the rule of the King **Matthias Corvinus** (1458–1490). In 1635, Peter Pazmany established the **Trnava University** (relocated to Budapest in 1777).

The Jesuits founded the **Košice University** in 1657. In 1762, the enlightened absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world – the **Mining Academy** in Banská Štiavnica.



DO YOU KNOW?

Academia Istropolitana was the first university in the Kingdom of Hungary, and it was founded in 1465, even before America was discovered.



DO YOU KNOW?

The first technical university in the world was the Mining Academy founded by Maria Theresia in 1762. It was placed in Banská Štiavnica, which used to be the centre of mining science and technical development in Europe.



## 2. Higher Education Institutions

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are third level education, scientific and art institutions. The major task of HEIs is to provide higher education and creative scientific research or creative artistic activity.

Higher education institutions are classified **by the nature and scope of their activities** into university type of HEIs and non-university type of HEIs:

- a) The **university type** of higher education institutions provides education in study programmes of all three levels of higher education (Bachelor, Master, Doctoral level) with a significant portion of study programmes of the second level and study programmes of the third level. Study programmes are carried out in connection with activities of higher education institutions in the field of science, technology or art, and in compliance with the current state and development of such fields. The term “university” may only be used in the name of a university type of higher education institution.
- b) The **non-university type** of higher education institutions provides higher education mostly in study programmes of the first level of higher education.

**Based on founding and funding** there are 3 types of HEIs:

- **Public higher education institutions** are established by law. They are funded mostly by the government. They are statutory and self-governing institutions. At present, there are 20 public higher education institutions in Slovakia, comprising 9 more or less traditional universities, 5 universities of technology, 3 higher education institutions of art and music, 1 university of economics, 1 university of veterinary medicine and pharmacy and 1 university of agriculture.
- **State higher education institutions** (3 HEIs) are military, police and medical schools. They are established by law and governed by the state through the respective ministries of the government. The state HEIs are fully funded from the state budget.
- **Private higher education institutions** (13 HEIs) need a state approval issued by the Government of the Slovak Republic. They are established and funded by non-governmental institutions or founders. Most of the private higher education institutions provide education in the fields of economics, business, management, public administration, law, international relations, regional development, medical and social work.

HEIs can be divided into organisational units, i.e. faculty (“fakulta”; a self-governing unit with a higher level of autonomy), institute (“ústav”; governed by the respective HEI or faculty, mostly covering more departments) and department (“katedra”).

Also foreign higher education institutions established and situated on the territory of another Member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland may provide higher education in accordance with the law of their country of origin on the territory of Slovakia once they have been granted official approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

All types of higher education institutions provide higher education within the framework of study programmes accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

## List of Higher Education Institutions

HEIs are listed in alphabetical order according to the university cities:

### Public Higher Education Institutions

#### BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

**Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica** ([www.aku.sk](http://www.aku.sk))

- Faculty of Dramatic Arts
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Music

**Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** ([www.umb.sk](http://www.umb.sk))

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations

#### BRATISLAVA

**Academy of Fine Arts and Design  
in Bratislava** ([www.vsvu.sk](http://www.vsvu.sk))

**Academy of Performing Arts  
in Bratislava** ([www.vsmu.sk](http://www.vsmu.sk))

- Film and Television Faculty
- Music and Dance Faculty
- Theatre Faculty



## Comenius University in Bratislava

([www.uniba.sk](http://www.uniba.sk))

- Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Physical Education and Sports
- Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences
- Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin
- Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology of Cyril and Methodius



## Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava ([www.stuba.sk](http://www.stuba.sk))

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
- Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies
- Faculty of Material Sciences and Technology in Trnava
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

## University of Economics in Bratislava ([www.euba.sk](http://www.euba.sk))

- Faculty of Applied Languages
- Faculty of Business Economics in Košice
- Faculty of Business Management
- Faculty of Commerce
- Faculty of Economic Informatics
- Faculty of International Relations
- Faculty of National Economy

DID YOU KNOW?

The so called "Bratislava tapestries" exhibited in the Primatial Palace are the world's most complete collection of tapestries made in English royal manufactory in Mortlake (part of London).



DID YOU KNOW?

## KOMÁRNO

### J. Selye University

in Komárno ([www.ujs.sk](http://www.ujs.sk))

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Education
- Reformed Theological Faculty

## KOŠICE

### Pavol Jozef Šafárik

University in Košice ([www.upjs.sk](http://www.upjs.sk))

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Public Administration
- Faculty of Science

**Technical University of Košice** ([www.tuke.sk](http://www.tuke.sk))

- Faculty of Aeronautics
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
- Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies in Prešov
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Metallurgy
- Faculty of Mining, Ecology, Process Control and Geotechnology

**University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice** ([www.uvlf.sk](http://www.uvlf.sk))

## NITRA

### Constantine the Philosopher University

in Nitra ([www.ukf.sk](http://www.ukf.sk))

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Central European Studies
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care

The gothic St. Elisabeth Cathedral in Košice is the most eastern situated western-type cathedral in Europe. At the same time, it is the largest church in Slovakia.





## **Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra** ([www.uniag.sk](http://www.uniag.sk))

- Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources
- Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Management
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development
- Horticulture and Landscape Engineering Faculty

## **PREŠOV**

### **University of Prešov in Prešov** ([www.unipo.sk](http://www.unipo.sk))

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health Care
- Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Orthodox Theology
- Faculty of Sports
- Greek-Catholic Theological Faculty



## **RUŽOMBEROK**

### **Catholic University in Ružomberok** ([www.ku.sk](http://www.ku.sk))

- Faculty of Arts and Letters
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health Care
- Faculty of Theology in Košice

## **TRENČÍN**

### **Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín** ([www.tnuni.sk](http://www.tnuni.sk))

- Faculty of Health Care
- Faculty of Industrial Technologies in Púchov
- Faculty of Social and Economic Relations
- Faculty of Special Technologies

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The most northern point in Central Europe, where the Roman legions came to, was Laugaricio – today's town of Trenčín. There is a proof of their stay engraved in the castle rock dating back to A.D. 179.



## TRNAVA

**Trnava University in Trnava** ([www.truni.sk](http://www.truni.sk))

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health Care and Social Work
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Philosophy and Arts
- Faculty of Theology in Bratislava

**University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava** ([www.ucm.sk](http://www.ucm.sk))

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Mass Media Communications
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences



## ZVOLEN

**Technical University in Zvolen** ([www.tuzvo.sk](http://www.tuzvo.sk))

- Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- Faculty of Environmental and Manufacturing Technology
- Faculty of Forestry
- Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology

## ŽILINA

**University of Žilina in Žilina** ([www.uniza.sk](http://www.uniza.sk))

- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Management Science and Informatics
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications
- Faculty of Security Engineering

## *State Higher Education Institutions*

### BRATISLAVA

**Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava** ([www.akademiapz.sk](http://www.akademiapz.sk))

**Slovak Medical University in Bratislava** ([www.szu.sk](http://www.szu.sk))

- Faculty of Health in Banská Bystrica
- Faculty of Medicine

- Faculty of Nursing and Professional Health Studies
- Faculty of Public Health

## **LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ**

**Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik  
in Liptovský Mikuláš ([www.aos.sk](http://www.aos.sk))**

## ***Private Higher Education Institutions***

### **BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA**

**Ján Albrecht Music and Art Academy in Banská Štiavnica  
([www.huaja.org](http://www.huaja.org))**

### **BRATISLAVA**

**Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts in Bratislava  
([www.bisla.sk](http://www.bisla.sk))**

**Media Academy, School of Media and Marketing Communication  
in Bratislava ([www.akademiamedii.sk](http://www.akademiamedii.sk))**

**Pan-European University in Bratislava ([www.paneurouni.com](http://www.paneurouni.com))**

- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Informatics
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Mass Media
- Faculty of Psychology

**School Goethe Uni Bratislava ([www.guni.sk](http://www.guni.sk))**

- Faculty of International Entrepreneurship
- Faculty of Media and Cultural Studies
- Faculty of Tourism in Piešťany

**School of Economics and Management in Public Administration  
in Bratislava ([www.vsemvs.sk](http://www.vsemvs.sk))**

**St. Elizabeth University of Health Care and Social Work in Bratislava  
([www.vssvalzbety.sk](http://www.vssvalzbety.sk))**

### **DUBNICA NAD VÁHOM**

**Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom  
([www.dti.sk](http://www.dti.sk))**

## KOŠICE

University of Security Management in Košice ([www.vsbm.sk](http://www.vsbm.sk))

## PREŠOV

International School of Management ISM Slovakia in Prešov  
([www.ismpo.sk](http://www.ismpo.sk))

## SKALICA

University of Central Europe in Skalica ([www.sevs.sk](http://www.sevs.sk))

## SLÁDKOVIČOVO

College Danubius in Sládkovičovo ([www.vsdanubius.sk](http://www.vsdanubius.sk))

- Faculty of Public Politics and Public Administration
- Faculty of Social Studies
- Janko Jesenský Faculty of Law

## TRENČÍN

School of Management in Trenčín  
([www.vsm.sk](http://www.vsm.sk))

### *Foreign Higher Education Institutions in Slovakia*

Banking Institute/College of Banking,  
Prague, Czech Republic ([www.bivs.cz](http://www.bivs.cz))

Fresenius University of Applied Sciences,  
Idstein, Germany ([www.hs-fresenius.de](http://www.hs-fresenius.de))

Institute of Hospitality Management in Prague, Czech Republic  
([www.vsh.cz](http://www.vsh.cz))

Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic  
([www.upol.cz](http://www.upol.cz))

College of International and Public Relations, Prague, Czech Republic  
([www.vip-vs.cz](http://www.vip-vs.cz))



### 3. Organisation of Study

Higher education institutions provide higher education in the framework of study programmes accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. The main teaching language is Slovak, however, there are programmes delivered also in foreign languages (mainly in English), mostly for international students.

#### Academic Year

The academic year begins on 1 September of the current year and ends on 31 August of the following year. It is composed of 2 semesters (winter semester lasts from September to January and summer semester lasts from February to June). Organisation of the academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the higher education institution.

#### Teaching Process and ECTS

Teaching process includes lectures, seminars, exercises, laboratory work, projects, practical training, consultations, etc. For the assessment of students' achievements, the credit system following the rules of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used; it was introduced in 2002 for all levels and forms of higher education study. Student's standard work load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. Every higher education institution determines the total number of credits required for the due completion of the study in its respective stages. Grading is based on the ECTS grading scale:



<b>A</b>	Excellent = 1
<b>B</b>	Very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
<b>C</b>	Good (average achievements) = 2
<b>D</b>	Satisfactory (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
<b>E</b>	Sufficient (achievements fulfil only the minimum criteria) = 3
<b>FX</b>	Fail (achievements do not fulfil even the minimum criteria) = 4

## Levels of Study and Degrees Awarded in the Slovak Republic

Study programmes are usually offered in one of the three levels of higher education, but a HEI may join the first two levels of higher education into a single whole.

The **first level** is a Bachelor study programme.

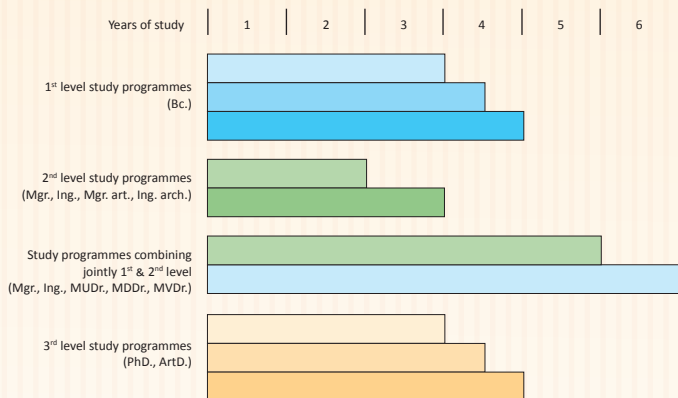
Study programmes of the **second level** and those of the first two levels of higher education joined into a single whole are:

- Master study programmes,
- Engineer study programmes,
- Doctor study programmes.

Study programmes of the **third level** are doctoral (PhD) study programmes.

All study programmes must be accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

### Higher Education System in the Slovak Republic:



In accordance with the level of study, higher education institutions award following academic degrees:

- 1<sup>st</sup> level – Bachelor  
(comprising app. 180 credits)
  - “bakalár” (abbr. “Bc.”).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> level – Master  
(comprising app. 120 credits)
  - “magister” (abbr. “Mgr.”),  
in the field of art “magister umenia” (abbr. “Mgr. art.”),
  - “inžinier” (abbr. “Ing.”) in technical, agricultural and economic fields of Engineer’s programmes, and in the field of architecture and town-planning the academic degree of “inžinier architekt” (abbr. “Ing. arch. ”),
  - “doktor všeobecného lekárstva” (abbr. “MUDr. ”) in the field of human medicine,
  - “doktor zubnej medicíny” (abbr. “MDDr.”) – in the field of dentistry,
  - “doktor veterinárskeho lekárstva” (abbr. “MVDr.”) in the field of veterinary medicine.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> level – PhD (doctoral level)
  - “philosophiae doctor” (abbr. “PhD.”),
  - “artis doctor” (abbr. “ArtD.”) in the field of art.



## 4. Admission and Tuition Fees

### General Principles

The principal requirement for entering a Bachelor degree programme (3–4 years of full-time study) or a programme combining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level (5–6 years of full-time study) is the completion of a full secondary general education or vocational education with a “maturita” – school-leaving examination. Admission to a follow-up Master’s degree programme (2–3 years of full-time study) depends on the completion of a relevant Bachelor degree programme or its equivalent. Admission to Doctoral studies depends on the successful completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> level degree programme.

Students, who would like to study a full study programme, should apply directly at the respective higher education institution. Students may apply for several study programmes at various higher education institutions and faculties. The deadline for submitting applications is set by each higher education institution, usually the end of February or March. The date, content and form (oral or written examination, aptitude test) of the entrance process are decided upon by the respective faculty or higher education institution. Entrance examinations are usually held between June and September. Examinations at art higher education institutions take place earlier, in January, and the deadline for filing applications is usually the end of November.

### Admission of International Students

Admission requirements for international students are, in general, the same as for Slovak nationals. In justified cases the academic senate of the respective faculty/HEI may appropriately adapt them upon the proposal given by the dean/rector. International Baccalaureate holders meet general requirements for admission to higher education institutions in Slovakia. For the admission process, documents of your previous education must be recognised by the Slovak Republic – for more information see chapter “5. Recognition of Previous Education” (page 32).

Foreign applicants, who do not meet all the requirements for admission, may be required to attend preparatory courses, including Slovak language courses. Such courses are offered by the Institute for Language and Academic Preparation for Foreigners and Compatriots, an independent unit of the Comenius University in Bratislava ([www.cdvuk.sk](http://www.cdvuk.sk)). Courses of Slovak language are also organised by some other universities in Slovakia.

Every faculty/HEI determines its own criteria for students' admission. Students should ask for information and apply for admission at the faculty of their choice. Updated information on Slovak and English study





programmes is available on the websites or at the international offices of the respective higher education institutions/faculties. A list of study programmes offered in English and other languages by Slovak HEIs can be found also at the SAIA website [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk).

For the administration of admission proceedings fees apply – the amount is to be set by the respective higher education institution and the information can change each year, therefore, please, consult the website of the institution of your choice.

### Tuition Fees

Full-time study at state and public higher education institutions is free of charge for the **citizens of the Slovak Republic**, if the respective study programme is offered in Slovak language.

Students studying full-time in Slovakia without exceeding the standard length of study do not pay a tuition fee, if they study a programme offered in Slovak language. However, they usually must pay a tuition fee for every academic year of their studies, if their full education is carried out in other than official language of the Slovak Republic (meaning the Slovak language).

The tuition fees for study programme at any level apply and are set by each higher education institution individually. Fees vary from 700 € to 10,000 € per one academic year. Updated information on fees can be obtained from the international relations office of the respective institutions.

Tuition fees and study-related fees for students **studying under international agreements** shall comply with the provisions of these agreements. The provisions are not applicable to foreign students with permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic.



## 5. Recognition of Previous Education

The Slovak Republic is bound by the Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications. The Directive divided the recognition of documents on previous education according to the purpose of recognition on:

- recognition of previous education for academic purposes (i.e. recognition of previous education in order to continue in education in the Slovak Republic) or for pursuing a so-called non-regulated profession;
- recognition of previous education for pursuing a so-called regulated profession in the Slovak Republic (e.g. dentist, vet, university teacher, psychologist, policeman, carpenter, etc.).



### **Centre on Recognition of Diplomas:**

- recognises final documents on education obtained abroad for pursuing selected regulated professions in the Slovak Republic;
- automatically recognises documents on 3<sup>rd</sup> level of higher education obtained in another Member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland;
- recognises level of completed education obtained abroad for academic purposes, for pursuing non-regulated professions and for obtaining a so-called “Blue Card” in the Slovak Republic;
- recognises completed education and part of education obtained abroad for relevant authorities and institution in the Slovak Republic;
- is responsible for equivalence and conversion of grades obtained at primary or secondary schools abroad to Slovak classification scale.

Centre on Recognition of Diplomas (CRD) is part of ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) in the European Union, and acts as national contact point for recognition in the EU and National Centre for Europass. CRD is a part of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

**Contact:**

Ministry of Education, Science,  
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic  
Centre on Recognition of Diplomas  
Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

E-mail: [eva.kaczova@minedu.sk](mailto:eva.kaczova@minedu.sk)

Tel.: +421–2–5937–4623, +421–2–5937–4612

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
from 9:00 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 14:00

More information is available at the website of the Centre  
on Recognition of Diplomas [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk).

**Recognition of Primary and Secondary Education**

According to the legislation in force, the foreign qualifications giving access to higher education in Slovakia are recognised by the respective District Office seated in the respective region of the Slovak Republic. At present, there are more than 4 dozens District Offices seated in 8 regions in Slovakia. Each District Office has the competence to make the decision on the recognition of education and one must choose the respective District Office according to the place of his/her residence in the Slovak Republic.

The subject of nostrification is a document on education issued by a foreign school, which is comparable by its objectives and content of teaching to a primary school or corresponds to the study of an equal or similar subject in a secondary school.

At first, filled-in application form for recognition of education is submitted to the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava (application form to download at [www.minedu.sk/equivalence-of-study-on-primary-and-secondary-schools-abroad/](http://www.minedu.sk/equivalence-of-study-on-primary-and-secondary-schools-abroad/)) together with the following documents:

- verified copy of a certificate of education obtained abroad (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
- last term's certificate of education from applicant's home school (copy).

The Centre on Recognition of Diplomas issues a recommendation to the applicant within 30 days since the application was filed.

The applicant then delivers the recommendation of the Centre together with the required documents (please, contact the respective District Office) to the respective District Office according to the applicant's place of residence in the Slovak Republic.

In case that the study in a foreign school only partially corresponds to the curricula of secondary schools in Slovakia, or the applicant did not attach all the required documents, the respective District Office could lay down the obligation to take a supplementary examination. The supplementary examination is meant to verify the knowledge and skills of the applicant in subjects, or in their parts, which were not studied by the applicant in a foreign school and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued. A graduate, who is not a Slovak national, does not have to take a supplementary examination in Slovak Language and Literature.

The respective District Office determines the content, the exact date of examination and the respective secondary school where the graduate shall take the supplementary examination.

A different procedure could apply, if the credentials were issued by a foreign school situated in a state, with which an agreement has been concluded on mutual recognition of documents on education by which the Slovak Republic is bound (the Slovak Republic has sign agreements with Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania). In this case, the recognition is necessary for academic purposes (continuing in higher education in the Slovak Republic); the credentials are considered as equal without nostrification. The respective District Office shall issue a statement within 15 days since the submission of a complete application, in which it indicates the document on education with which the submitted document is equivalent.

**Contact:**

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Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic  
Centre on Recognition of Diplomas  
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Tel.: +421-2-5937-4623, +421-2-5937-4612

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
from 9:00 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 14:00

More information is available at the website of the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk).

## Recognition of Diplomas (Tertiary Education)

Due to the character of this publication, we will concentrate on the recognition of previous education only for the academic purposes (i.e. recognition of previous education in order to continue in education in the Slovak Republic). In case that you would like to find out more about the recognition of previous education for pursuing a so-called regulated profession in the Slovak Republic, please, consult the website of the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas.

In case of the **recognition of previous education for academic purposes**, there are 2 different approaches, depending on the field of study, in which the diploma shall be recognised.

### *Recognition by a Slovak Higher Education Institution*

If the applicant would like to recognise his/her previous education of the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> level of higher education of a study programme in the same or related field as offered by one of the higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic, the decision about recognition for academic purposes lies upon the respective higher education institution in the Slovak Republic.

The best is to check the website of the same higher education institution in Slovakia (or to contact it), where the applicant wants to pursue his/her further study, to find out, whether it is offering study in the same or related field at the higher education level that needs to be recognised and thus is able to recognise the diploma from the previous university education. If this is not the case, the applicant can find another higher education institution in Slovakia offering the respective field of study and apply for recognition – to find out the possibilities, the applicant can check the website “Portal of HEIs”, where a list of institutions is published, divided according to the fields of study offered ([www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory](http://www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory)).

For the recognition procedures, the applicants shall officially apply (usually the respective institution has a prescribed application form) and attach the following documents to their application for recognising the education certificate:

- verified copy of a certificate of education obtained abroad (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
- verified copy of a transcript of records or diploma supplement (transcript of the curricula, notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
- document on position of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Centre on Recognition of Diplomas, on the level of foreign education for academic purposes (for information about procedures to obtain the document, consult the website of the Centre [www.minedu.sk/position-on-the-level-of-foreign-education-for-academic-purposes-or-for-pursuit-of-non-regulated-profession-in-sr/](http://www.minedu.sk/position-on-the-level-of-foreign-education-for-academic-purposes-or-for-pursuit-of-non-regulated-profession-in-sr/)).

Apart from the above mentioned documents, the applicant may be required to submit other documents or information, provided these are necessary for assessing the content and extent of the education acquired abroad.

The decision of the higher education institution shall be issued within 2 months since the submission of a complete application.

In case that the study at the foreign institution only partially corresponds to the curricula of the respective HEI, or the applicant did not attach all the required documents, the respective HEI could lay down the obligation for the applicant to take a supplementary examination. The supplementary examination is meant to verify the knowledge and skills of the applicant in subjects, or in their parts, which were not studied by the applicant in a foreign school and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued.

### ***Recognition by the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas***

If the applicant would like to recognise his/her previous education of the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> level of higher education of a study programme in a field that is not offered by any higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, the decision lies upon the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas.

The same procedures apply as when obtaining the document on position of the Ministry on the level of foreign education for academic purposes (see [www.minedu.sk/position-on-the-level-of-foreign-education-for-academic-purposes-or-for-pursuit-of-non-regulated-profession-in-sr/](http://www.minedu.sk/position-on-the-level-of-foreign-education-for-academic-purposes-or-for-pursuit-of-non-regulated-profession-in-sr/)).

The decision of the Ministry shall be issued within 30 days since the submission of a complete application.

The Slovak Republic has signed bilateral agreements on the mutual recognition of documents on education with Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania providing that the recognition by the HEI is done automatically (without any additional examinations).

### ***Recognition of PhD Degree from Another EU/EEA State or from Switzerland***

A PhD degree from an EU/EEA/Swiss HEI is recognised automatically for academic purposes. Filled-in application form is submitted to the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas (application form to download at [www.minedu.sk/automatic-recognition-of-higher-education-of-3rd-degree-from-the-eu-member-states-eea-countries-and-switzerland/](http://www.minedu.sk/automatic-recognition-of-higher-education-of-3rd-degree-from-the-eu-member-states-eea-countries-and-switzerland/) together with the following documents:

- verified copy of a certificate of completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of higher education (notary-certified copy and translation into Slovak by an official sworn translator);
- state examination certificate, i.e. proof of dissertation examination, its parts and result (copy and translation into Slovak);
- certificate of completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of higher education (copy and translation into Slovak).

The decision of the Ministry shall be issued within 30 days since the submission of a complete application.

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Education, Science,  
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic  
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### III.

## ENTERING AND STAYING IN SLOVAKIA – VISA AND RESIDENCE

Aim of this chapter is to provide you – university students or PhD students coming to Slovakia – with an overview of the formalities towards the national authorities related to your stay in Slovakia.

This part will help you to identify the entry and stay procedures and documents you will need in your specific situation. Please, follow the “Navigation” and find the tailor-made guidelines to get through the formalities smoothly.

Please, note that this guide is for your information only. The guide was elaborated on the basis of available and valid information for the year 2014; it does not contain exhaustive information on stay of foreigners in Slovakia in general, and give no right for claims or legitimate expectations of any kind. Full official information is provided in the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners that is available in English at [www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/pravne\\_predpisy/zakony/ACT%20No%20404-2011%20on%20Residence%20of%20Aliens%20and%20Amendment%20and%20Supplementation%20of%20Certain%20Acts.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/pravne_predpisy/zakony/ACT%20No%20404-2011%20on%20Residence%20of%20Aliens%20and%20Amendment%20and%20Supplementation%20of%20Certain%20Acts.pdf).

### 1. Navigation

Please, start with question No. I. and continue as advised in the instructions following the answers to the questions according to your situation:

#### I. Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?

- A. **Yes** – proceed directly to chapter “Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals Coming to Slovakia”, page 42.
- B. **No** – continue with question II.



## II. Is your stay in Slovakia shorter than 90 days?

- A. **Yes** – if you want to study or carry out research in Slovakia, you will not need to apply for a residence permit, but you may need visa to enter Slovakia.

**Do you need visa to enter Slovakia (or Schengen Area in general)?** (you can check it here: [http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa\\_en#novisa](http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa))

1. **Yes** – then apply for visa in case you want to study or carry out research in Slovakia. For detailed information about visa procedures see chapter “*Application for Schengen Visa*”, page 44.
    - After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “*Duties after Arrival to Slovakia*”, page 59.
  2. **No** – in this case, you do not need to make any other administrative steps before your arrival, if you want to study or carry out research in Slovakia.
    - After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “*Duties after Arrival to Slovakia*”, page 59.
- B. **No** – if your stay will last longer than 90 days, you will need to apply for a temporary residence permit; the application procedure may vary depending on where you will apply for the temporary residence permit.

**Do you need visa to enter Slovakia (or Schengen Area in general)?**

1. **Yes – you can obtain the temporary residence permit in 2 ways:**
  - a) you can apply for the temporary residence permit abroad prior to your arrival to Slovakia (to find out details about the temporary residence permit, please, continue with question III.). After issuing the temporary residence permit, the respective Slovak embassy/consulate, on the basis of an application, issues the National visa allowing the entry into Slovakia (for further information on visa application procedure consult the part “*Application for National Visa*”,

page 47). *While planning your stay, please, note that this procedure may last longer due to diplomatic post between the respective Foreign Police Office in Slovakia and the respective Slovak embassy/consulate.*

- After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “Duties after Arrival to Slovakia”, page 59.
- b) in case that from objective reasons it is not possible to apply for temporary residence permit from abroad due to lack of time, and the applicant is considered to be a “credible immigrant” (e.g. scholarship holders coming to Slovakia on the basis of bilateral intergovernmental agreements or programmes approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, or in case of a research stay on the basis of a hosting agreement), you can apply for the National visa abroad (for further information on visa application procedure consult the part “Application for National Visa”, page 47). Afterwards you come to Slovakia and apply for temporary residence permit in Slovakia (to find out details about temporary residence permit, please, continue with question III.). *Do not forget to bring all documents needed for residence permit with you; otherwise you will have to leave Slovakia (Schengen Area) at the latest on the day when your visa expires.*
- After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “Duties after Arrival to Slovakia”, page 59.
- 2. No – you can obtain the temporary residence permit in 2 ways:**
- a) you can apply for the temporary residence permit in Slovakia, if you are legally staying on the territory of the Slovak Republic (to find out details about the temporary residence permit, please, continue with question III.). *Do not forget to bring all documents needed for residence permit with you; otherwise you will have to leave Slovakia (Schengen Area) at the latest on the date when your visa-free period expires.*

**Note:** *The application procedure for temporary residence permits for the purpose of study, research and development and special activity, may take 30 days since the application was accepted by the respective Foreign Police Office. In other cases, the procedure can take up to 90 days. Please, note that you will have to apply and also obtain the residence permit within 90 days since entering Slovakia (Schengen Area); otherwise you will have to leave the territory of Slovakia (Schengen Area). Without visa, you can reside on the territory of Slovakia (Schengen Area) for 90 days in 6 consecutive calendar months since entering Slovakia (Schengen Area). If the cumulative stay, as a result of multiple stays on the territory of Slovakia (Schengen Area), were to exceed 90 days in 6 consecutive calendar months, conditions of your entry to the territory of Slovakia (Schengen Area) would have to be consulted with the respective Slovak representative body abroad.*

- After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “Duties after Arrival to Slovakia”, page 59.
- b) you can apply for the temporary residence permit abroad at the respective Diplomatic Mission of the Slovak Republic prior to your arrival to Slovakia (to find out details about the temporary residence permit, please, continue with question III.). *While planning your stay, please, note that this procedure may last longer due to diplomatic post between the respective Foreign Police Office in Slovakia and the respective Slovak embassy/consulate.*
  - After your arrival to Slovakia, there are some duties you have to fulfil – see chapter “Duties after Arrival to Slovakia”, page 59.

**III. For detailed information about procedures and required documents concerning the temporary residence permit, please, answer the following question: What kind of activity do you plan to do during your stay in Slovakia?**

- A. study at a university** – irrespective of the type of study (full programme study or academic mobility/exchange stays),

you can apply for the **temporary residence permit for the purpose of study** – see chapter “*Purpose of Study in Case of University Students/PhD Students*”, page 48.

## B. carry out research

- **Are you invited by a Slovak university to stay as a PhD student?**
  - a) **Yes** – if you have an invitation letter (letter of acceptance) as a PhD student (i.e. explicitly stating that you are invited as PhD student), proceed as “A. study at a university”, as mentioned above,
  - b) **No** – (irrespective of whether you have an invitation from a university or another research organisation).
- **Have you signed a Hosting Agreement with a university or a research institution in Slovakia?**  
(see chapter “What is a Hosting Agreement”, page 57)
  - a) **Yes** – you can apply for the **temporary residence permit for the purpose of research and development** – see chapter “*Purpose of Research and Development for Researchers with a Hosting Agreement*”, page 54.
  - b) **No** – it is a **stay within an exchange/mobility programme or cooperation scheme** (based on a simple letter of invitation from a research organisation and/or scholarship letter of award) – for further information about the temporary residence permit see chapter “*Purpose of Special Activity in Case of Researchers without a Hosting Agreement*”, page 51.

## 2. Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals Coming to Slovakia

**If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia less than 3 months**, he/she is obliged only **to submit the notice of stay** to a foreign police office **within 10 working days** since his/her arrival to Slovakia. This is usually made by the accommodation provider, if the person stays in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If accommodated in private (e.g. in a private rented flat or at a friend's place), the EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to submit the notice of stay in person directly at the respective foreign police office (list of foreign police offices can be found on page 59).

**If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia longer than 3 months**, he/she is obliged to **submit the notice of stay** to a foreign police office **within 10 days** since his/her arrival to Slovakia (for the usual ways of notifying see the paragraph above). After that he/she can stay in Slovakia without any further obligations for 3 months since entering the Slovak Republic. Within this period of 3 months, the EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to apply for the **registration of residence** in the Slovak Republic.

### *What Do You Need for the Report of Stay?*

If staying in private, come in person to a foreign police office during the office hours and present the following:

- **filled in form “Notice of the stay”** (available in 7 languages to download at [www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka](http://www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka); must be filled in Slovak language),
- **valid ID/passport.**

### *What Do You Need for Registration of Residence for EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals?*

Come in person to a foreign police office during office hours and present the following:

- **filled in form “Application for registration of right of residence of Union Citizen”** (available to download at [www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka](http://www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka); look for a document called “Žiadosť o obnovenie prechodného pobytu, ..., o registráciu práva občana Únie, ...”; must be filled in Slovak language),
- **valid ID/passport,**
- **document proving the purpose of your stay in Slovakia or sufficient financial resources.**

To obtain the **Residence card of an EU citizen**, you must submit the following documents:

- **2 recent photographs 3 × 3.5 cm,**
- **document in Slovak proving provision of accommodation** (e.g. confirmation from your accommodation provider or a rental agreement and the letter of ownership).

**Fee:** 4.50 € for issuing the residence card.

### 3. Duties of Third Country Nationals Coming to Slovakia

#### Visa

When intending to apply for visa, foreign nationals are urged to contact the territorially competent Slovak embassy/consulate general (see page 61) in order to receive a detailed and up-to-date information on visa requirements, since the general information provided below may not fully cover the visa requirements applicable in the respective third country. Before visiting the embassy/consulate in person, please, contact them by telephone or e-mail and arrange an appointment.

**Note:** To find out whether your country is on the list of Visa countries, check the following website: [http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab2.do?subSec=12&language=7\\$en#novisa](http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab2.do?subSec=12&language=7$en#novisa).

You can apply for visa at the earliest 3 months prior to your planned trip. Under the applicable law, the visa application procedure shall not take longer than 15 days, in exceptional cases the decision may take up to 60 days.

Exemptions apply to nationals of the countries, which have signed Community-level visa facilitation agreements (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine). When nationals of these countries apply for visa, the decision should be made within 10 calendar days since the application was filed. Nationals of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia do not need visa to enter Slovakia, if they are holders of biometric passports.

#### *Application for Schengen Visa (Type C – Short Stay)*

Schengen visa is a **short-stay visa** issued by all countries in the Schengen area. It is a visa with which you **can enter the 25 Schengen countries** for one or several visits, the duration of which **cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-day period**.

The date of entry will be the first day of stay on the territory of a Schengen Member State and the day of leaving is the last day of such residence. The duration of stay authorised by the residence permit is not included into the duration of a visa stay. The term “any” is applied using a period of 180 days moving backwards in relation

to each day of stay (day of admission or the day of the inspection) to verify whether the condition of 90/180 days is observed. The absence from the Schengen area for the period of 90 consecutive days enables a new stay for the period of 90 days. In examining the compliance with the rule of 90/180 days under this visa, a stay in countries that are not members of the Schengen area is disregarded (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and United Kingdom). On the contrary, a stay in Schengen countries outside the EU – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, is taken into account. To calculate the period of stay on the territory of Schengen countries under the condition of approved 90/180 days, it is possible to use a Visa calculator.

Territorial validity of visa is specified on a visa sticker in the “*Platné pre/Valid for*” line. Visa may be valid for all Schengen Member States. In that case, “*Valid for: Schengen countries*” is specified on the visa sticker entitling its holder to move freely within the entire Schengen area for the period of visa validity and duration of stay.

In case of visa with limited territorial validity, the following may be specified on the visa sticker: “*Valid for: Slovak Republic*” (i.e. the visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic), or “*Schengen countries – XY*” (i.e. visa is valid for all Schengen countries except XY), or “*Valid for: SK, XY*” (i.e. visa is valid only for the Slovak Republic and XY).

In general, when applying for a Schengen visa, foreign nationals have to submit the following:

- **filled-in form “Application for Schengen Visa”**  
([www.mzv.sk/en/consular\\_info/visa](http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/visa)),
  - The application must be signed by the applicant; in case of minors or persons lacking legal capacity, the application must be signed by their legal guardian who is required to attach a copy of the document identifying him/her as applicant’s legal guardian;
- **recent full-face colour photograph** 3 × 3.5 cm;
- **valid travel document**; the travel document must be valid for at least 3 months longer than the expected validity of visa requested and it must have been issued within previous 10 years. The document shall contain at least 2 blank pages;
- **documents demonstrating the purpose and conditions of the planned stay** (letter of invitation, letter of award, hosting agreement, etc.);

- **accommodation-related documents, e.g.:**
  - letter of award or hosting agreement in case they specify accommodation provided,
  - voucher/reservation confirming hotel accommodation and services provided,
  - personal letter of invitation confirming that the applicant will be staying at the inviting person's place,
  - other documents;

- **documents confirming sufficient means of subsistence, e.g.:**

- cash in a freely convertible currency;
- travel cheques;
- a bank account statement confirming that the applicant has had a regular income (salary, pension) in the previous 6–12 months;
- other documents safeguarding funds in a convertible currency,

*(No general amount of funds to cover the costs of living is prescribed, but the funds must be sufficient for the length and purpose of stay and costs of living in the final country of destination or Schengen area countries. At present, Slovak authorities generally operate with 56 €/person/day, hence a foreign national might be requested to proof the corresponding amount respective to the duration of his/her stay as stated in visa at the Slovak border.)*

- **documents enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the territory of the EU** at the latest on the day of the expiry of the visa applied for, e.g. means of transport – a return (not open) plane/bus/train ticket;
- **travel medical insurance** – insurance must cover all costs that may arise in connection with repatriation of the applicant to his/her home country due to health problems, urgent medical treatment, emergency hospital treatment or death. Travel insurance must be valid for all Schengen Member States and for the entire duration of applicant's stay. A minimum insurance coverage of 30,000 € is required. Family members of EU or EEA nationals are exempt from the obligation of submitting travel health insurance;
- **other documents** – for the purposes of visa application procedure, the embassy or consulate general may ask foreign nationals to submit other documents in order to verify the declared purpose of the visit and applicant's intention to return to his/her home country or the country of his/her residence.



**Visa application fees: 60 €** in general or **35 €** for nationals of third countries, which have signed a Visa Facilitation Agreement with the Community:

- Albania,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Georgia,
- Macedonia (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Moldova,
- Montenegro (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Russian Federation,
- Serbia (holders of non-biometric passports),
- Ukraine

Fees are paid in a freely convertible currency or in the national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed, converted using the applicable official exchange rate. No administrative fee is charged for visa application filed by a third country national, who is a family member of an EU or EEA national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

### *Application for National Visa (Type D – Long Stay)*

National (long-stay) visa may be issued in relation to the granted residence permit or in connection with Slovakia's commitments under international treaties or for the benefit of the Slovak Republic. It is issued for a **stay longer than 90 days**, at longest for a period of one year; in connection with the granting of a residence permit in the Slovak Republic is visa issued for a period of 90 days. If the foreigner is allowed to stay longer than for one year, the national visa will be replaced before the day of expiry by a residence permit. It is allowed for long-term visa holders to travel to other Schengen member states (outside the borders of the state, which issued the visa), however, the total amount of days spent in these states cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-days period.

The possibility to apply for National visa depends upon the decision of the respective Slovak embassy/consulate abroad (see part "*Slovak Embassies and Consulates Abroad*", page 61). Therefore, it is necessary to contact the respective embassy/consulate and get information about your specific situation.

National visa is issued under similar conditions as Schengen visa and, in general, it is necessary to submit the same documents for the application (see part "*Application for Schengen Visa*", page 44).

**Visa application fees: 33 € in general;** in case the National visa is issued for the purpose of collection of granted residence permit in the Slovak republic, the fee is **9.50 €**.

The fees are paid in a freely convertible currency or in a national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed, converted using the applicable official exchange rate. No administrative fee is charged for visa application filed by a third country national, who is a family member of an EU or EEA national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

***Note:** National visa is granted only for a period of time necessary for obtaining the temporary residence permit. Therefore, if you are going to apply for the temporary residence permit in Slovakia, it is crucial to have all the required documents for the residence permit application with you (see part “Temporary residence permit” below), so you can obtain your permit in time. Otherwise, you will have to leave the Slovak (Schengen) territory at the latest on the day of expiry of your National visa (there is no possibility of extension).*

## Temporary Residence Permit

There are several relevant types of temporary residence permit to apply for depending on the activity you will be involved in Slovakia (study and/or research):

- temporary residence permit for the purpose of study,
- temporary residence permit for the purpose of special activity,
- temporary residence permit for the purpose of research and development.

To find out which type suits your situation best, please, consult the “*Navigation*”, page 38.

### *Purpose of Study in Case of University Students/PhD Students*

Students from third countries staying in Slovakia longer than 90 days apply for the **temporary residence permit for the purpose of study**. The applicant must apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for his/her country or at the respective foreign police office in Slovakia. Application must be submitted complete; otherwise, it will not be accepted.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **filled-in application form “Application for temporary residence”** (available at [www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/ziadost\\_prva.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/ziadost_prva.pdf) or [www.minv.sk/?dokumenty-na-stiahnutie-1](http://www.minv.sk/?dokumenty-na-stiahnutie-1); must be filled in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm**;
- **valid passport** (you just have to show it, they will not keep it);
- **document in Slovak language demonstrating the purpose of your stay – confirmation on studies** issued by a state authority (the respective ministry) or the host university, or a confirmation from organisation administrating a programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic or European Union programmes concluded between the EU and the respective state authority (letter of award);
- **document in Slovak language valid as a proof of sufficient financial resources** for the stay (e.g. balance statement of a bank account in applicant's name, letter of award stating the amount of your scholarship, confirmation from the statutory body of a legal entity on the financial and material support of the applicant during his/her stay, etc.);
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your home country and every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days within 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with apostille/superlegalisation, it has to be translated by an official sworn translator** or by the **embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic** competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy of the Slovak Republic proving that the translation is identical with the original). If the extract is issued in Czech language, there is no need for it to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators *see chapter “V. Use of Foreign Documents in Slovakia”*, page 67.

None of the documents proving the purpose of stay and financial resources and the extract from the criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of filing the application for the temporary residence.

Embassy of the Slovak Republic, which receives the request, will make an interview with the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of the preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in the state language or another language, understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for temporary residence. The record shall be made in language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak the state language, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses, who must sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

**Fee:** 4.50 € for the residence card.

Foreign police office shall issue its **decision on the received application for the temporary residence permit within 30 days since the delivery of the application**. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, officers will also ask you to provide them with a mobile phone number, where they can send you a text message (in Slovak language) that your residence permit has been issued, usually within 30 days (you can write the number on your application form). The applicant will receive from the officer a confirmation that his/her application was successfully submitted; he/she should keep the confirmation. **The residence permit is issued in a form of a residence card**. The applicant must collect the residence permit at the foreign police office in person or he/she can entitle somebody else with a letter of attorney to collect it for him/her. When applying for the residence permit abroad, via a representative body of the Slovak Republic, it is advised to consult with its workers the way of notification on granting the permit, as well as the collection of the residence card.

After collecting the residence permit, it is necessary to provide the foreign police office with a **medical certificate** that the applicant does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening the public health. The certificate must be submitted within 30 days since the collection of the residence permit. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in some medical centres only and the costs shall be taken into account (see page 62).

The police department will issue the temporary residence for the purpose of study for the expected time of studies, but no longer than 6 years. In order to enable foreigners to search for an employment on the territory of the Slovak Republic, the **temporary residence permit for the purpose of study remains valid for 30 days since the completion of university studies** (completion of university studies according the requirements of the respective study programme, successful final examination). The proof of the completed studies is the university diploma and the state examination certificate. Proceeding on the cancellation of the temporary residence permit will begin after expiration of these 30 days.

An application for renewal of the temporary residence permit has to be filed by the third country student in person on the official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the temporary stay validity. The temporary residence is considered to be eligible on the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for renewal of the temporary residence.

Conditions, under which students and PhD students can **work** alongside with studying, are briefly explained in chapter “IV. Working while Studying” on page 64.

### *Purpose of Special Activity in Case of Researchers without a Hosting Agreement*

PhD students can be seen not only as regular students, but also as junior researchers, therefore, also other types of resident permits may apply for them. Researchers (PhD students) from third countries coming to Slovakia within an official exchange or mobility programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, EU programme or a commitment based on an international agreement binding for the Slovak Republic or upon an invitation of the respective university/education institution to **give lectures/teach**, shall apply for the **residence permit for the purpose of special activity**. However, these nationals cannot be employed in Slovakia under a work contract.

The applicant must apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for his/her country or at the respective foreign police office in Slovakia. Application must be submitted complete; otherwise, it will not be accepted.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **filled-in application at “Application for temporary residence”** (available here [www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/ziadost\\_prva.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/ziadost_prva.pdf); must be filled in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**
- **valid passport** (you just have to show it, they will not keep it);
- **document in Slovak language demonstrating the purpose of your stay** (e.g. letter of award from the mobility programme or confirmation from your host university/research organisation that you will carry out research activities there);
- **document in Slovak language valid as a proof of financial resources** for the stay (e.g. balance statement of a bank account in applicant’s name, letter of award stating the amount of your scholarship);
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your home country and every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days within 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with apostille/superlegalisation, it has to be translated by an official sworn translator or by the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic** competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy of the Slovak Republic proving that the translation is identical with the original). If the extract is issued in Czech language, there is no need for it to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators see chapter “V. Use of Foreign Documents in Slovakia”, page 67;
- official document in Slovak language valid as a **proof of accommodation** (e.g. confirmation from your accommodation provider or a rental agreement and the letter of ownership).

None of the documents proving the purpose of stay, financial resources, accommodation and the extract from the criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of filing the application for the temporary residence permit.

Embassy of the Slovak Republic, which receives the request, will make an interview with the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of the preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in the state language or another language, understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for temporary residence. The record shall be made in language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak the state language, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses, who must sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

**Fees:** 99.50 € for residence permit application,  
4.50 € for the residence card.

Foreign police office shall issue its **decision on the received application for the temporary residence permit within 30 days since the delivery of the application**. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, officers will also ask you to provide them with a mobile phone number, where they can send you a text message (in Slovak language) that your residence permit has been issued, usually within 30 days (you can write the number on your application form). The applicant will receive from the officer a confirmation that his/her application was successfully submitted; he/she should keep the confirmation. **The residence permit is issued in a form of a residence card**. The applicant must collect the residence permit at the foreign police office in person or he/she can entitle somebody else with a letter of attorney to collect it for him/her. When applying for the residence permit abroad, via a representative body of the Slovak Republic, it is advised to consult with its workers the way of notification on granting the permit, as well as the collection of the residence card.

After collecting the residence permit, it is necessary to provide the foreign police office with a medical certificate that the applicant does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening the public health. The certificate must be submitted within 30 days since the collection of the residence permit. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in some medical centres only and the costs shall be taken into account (see page 62). Moreover, the temporary residence

holder must provide the foreign police office with a **health insurance coverage in Slovakia valid for the whole duration of his/her stay**. If the health insurance was issued in other country than Slovakia, it must be transated into Slovak by official sworn translator (if the document is in Czech language, the translation is not required). The health insurance certificate must be submitted within 30 days since the collection of the residence permit. **Health insurance must be obtained within 3 working days since the award of the residence permit.**

The police department will issue the temporary residence for the purpose of special activities for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, but no longer than 2 years.

An application for renewal of the temporary residence permit has to be filed by the third country PhD student in person on the official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the temporary stay validity. The temporary residence is considered to be eligible on the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for renewal of the temporary residence.

If you plan to **work on employment contract** during your stay in Slovakia, consult also the chapter “IV. Working while Studying” on page 64.

### *Purpose of Research and Development for Researchers Including PhD Students with a Hosting Agreement*

Researchers (and to some extent PhD students, as mentioned before) with a Hosting Agreement signed with a research organisation or a university can apply for the **temporary residence permit for the purpose of research and development**.

The applicant must apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for his/her country or at the respective foreign police office in Slovakia. Application must be submitted complete; otherwise, it will not be accepted.



Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **filled-in application form “Application for temporary residence”** (available at [www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyti/ziadost\\_prva.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyti/ziadost_prva.pdf); must be filled in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**
- **valid passport** (you just have to show it, they will not keep it);
- **Hosting Agreement** in Slovak language (as a proof of the purpose of stay and as a proof of financial resources);
- **document in Slovak language valid as a proof of financial resources** for the stay (e.g. Hosting Agreement, balance statement of a bank account in applicant’s name);
- extract from your **criminal record with apostille or superlegalisation** from your home country and every country where you have stayed for more than 90 days within 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with apostille/superlegalisation, it has to be translated by an official sworn translator or by the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic** competent to accept your application for the temporary residence (such a translation must indicate the approval clause of the embassy of the Slovak Republic proving that the translation is identical with the original). If the extract is issued in Czech language, there is no need for it to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators see chapter “V. Use of Foreign Documents in Slovakia”, page 67;
- foreigners applying for the temporary residence permit for the purpose of research and development do not have to submit a confirmation of accommodation. The Hosting Agreement should contain information on applicant’s accommodation during his/her stay in Slovakia.

None of the documents proving the purpose of stay, financial resources, accommodation and the extract from the criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of filing the application for the temporary residence permit.

Embassy of the Slovak Republic, which receives the request, will make an interview with the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of the preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in the state language or another language,

understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for temporary residence. The record shall be made in language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak the state language, he/she may turn to an interpreter at his/her own expenses, who must sign the record.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

**Fee: 4.50 €** for the residence card.

Foreign police office shall issue its **decision on the received application for the temporary residence permit within 30 days since the delivery of the application**. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, officers will also ask you to provide them with a mobile phone number, where they can send you a text message (in Slovak language) that your residence permit has been issued, usually within 30 days (you can write the number on your application form). The applicant will receive from the officer a confirmation that his/her application was successfully submitted; he/she should keep the confirmation. **The residence permit is issued in a form of a residence card**. The applicant must collect the residence permit at the foreign police office in person or he/she can entitle somebody else with a letter of attorney to collect it for him/her. When applying for the residence permit abroad, via a representative body of the Slovak Republic, it is advised to consult with its workers the way of notification on granting the permit, as well as the collection of the residence card.

After collecting the residence permit, it is necessary to provide the foreign police office with a **medical certificate** that the applicant does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening the public health. The certificate must be submitted within 30 days since the collection of the residence permit. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in some medical centres only and the costs shall be taken into account (see page 62). Moreover, the temporary residence holder must provide the foreign police office with a **health insurance coverage in Slovakia valid for the whole duration of his/her stay**. If the health insurance was issued in other country than Slovakia, it must be translated in Slovak by official sworn translator (if the document is in Czech language, the translation is not required). The health insurance

certificate must be submitted within 30 days since the collection of the residence permit. **Health insurance must be obtained within 3 working days since the award of the residence permit.**

The police department will issue the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, but no longer than 2 years.

An application for renewal of the temporary residence permit has to be filed by the third country PhD student in person on the official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the temporary stay validity. The temporary residence is considered to be eligible on the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for renewal of the temporary residence.

If you plan to **work on employment contract** during your stay in Slovakia, consult also the chapter *“IV. Working while Studying”* on page 64.

### *What Is a Hosting Agreement?*

Hosting agreement is a tool facilitating faster and easier entry procedures related to the legal stay of third country researchers, who want to carry out research and development activities in the EU.

Hosting agreement is the main supporting document representing a foundation for the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development, and its concept is built on the European legislation. It is signed by the host research organisation in Slovakia (public or private) and by the third country researcher. Only research organisations approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic to admit third country researchers are eligible to issue a Hosting agreement.

**List of approved research organisations** is published at [www.vedatechnika.sk](http://www.vedatechnika.sk) (link to the list:

- <https://www.vedatechnika.sk/SK/VedaATechnikaVSR/Stranky/Povolenie-pravnickym-osobam-vykonavajucim-vyskum-a-vyvoj-prijimat-cudzincov.aspx>, then click at “Zoznam právnických osôb vykonávajúcich výskum, vývoj, ktorým bolo povolené prijímať cudzincov”; in Slovak only) or in the register of organisations in the

Information System for Science and Research SK CRIS [www.skcris.sk](http://www.skcris.sk) (CRIS = Current Research Information System); the list is in Slovak and English language. It is recommended to check both resources because of different data updating.

If a research organisation is not listed among the approved institutions, it can apply for the licence at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport. For the application procedure, please, see [www.euraxess.sk/sk/main/euraxess-pre-vyskumne-organizacie-a-priemysel/prijimanie-cudzincov/dohoda-o-hostovani/](http://www.euraxess.sk/sk/main/euraxess-pre-vyskumne-organizacie-a-priemysel/prijimanie-cudzincov/dohoda-o-hostovani/) (in Slovak only).

**Hosting agreement must contain the following:**

- name and contact details of the third country researcher;
- name and contact details of the host research organisation;
- information on researcher's classification and his/her working conditions;
- purpose, duration and professional focus of the research project, and availability of the necessary financial resources for it to be carried out;
- certified copy of researcher's qualification;
- declaration of the host research organisation that in case a researcher remains illegally on the territory of the Slovak republic, the host organisation is responsible for reimbursing the costs related to his/her stay and return incurred by public funds;
- declaration of the host research organisation that during his/her stay, the researcher has sufficient monthly financial resources to cover his/her expenses and return travel costs in the minimum amount of the minimum monthly salary. Usually, the financial resources can come from a granted scholarship or from a concluded employment contract;
- declaration of the host research organisation or of the researcher that during his/her stay, the researcher has a health insurance.

More information and model Hosting Agreements can be found at [www.euraxess.sk/en/main/services-practical-information/entry-conditions-and-legal-stay/third-countries-nationals/hosting-agreement](http://www.euraxess.sk/en/main/services-practical-information/entry-conditions-and-legal-stay/third-countries-nationals/hosting-agreement).

## Duties after Arrival to Slovakia

Besides duties connected with visa and residence permit (for details, please, consult the “*Navigation*”, page 38), each third country national is obliged **to report the stay** to the foreign police office **within 3 working days** since his/her arrival to Slovakia. This is usually made by the accommodation provider, if you are staying in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If accommodated in private (e.g. in private rented flat or at friend’s place), you must submit the “*Notice of the stay*” in person, directly at the respective foreign police office (a list of foreign police offices can be found below).

### What Do You Need for the Report of Stay?

If staying in private, come in person to the foreign police office during the office hours and present the following:

















- **filled-in form “Notice of the stay”** (available in 7 languages to download at [www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka](http://www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka); must be filled in Slovak language),
- **valid ID/passport.**









## 4. Useful Addresses for Visa and Residence Permits

### Foreign Police Offices in Slovakia and Their Territorial Responsibility

#### Office hours of all foreign police offices

Monday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 15.00
Tuesday	7.30 – 12.00 (only valid for Bratislava office – to collect documents and taking biometric data only)	
Wednesday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 17.30
Friday	7.30 – 12.00	

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
<b>Bratislava</b> Hrobákova 44, Bratislava 851 02  +421-9610-36855  +421-9610-36859	Bratislava I. – V.
<b>Dunajská Streda</b> Adorská 34, Dunajská Streda 929 01  +421-96111-3200  +421-96111-3209	Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Senec
<b>Trnava</b> Športová 10, Trnava 917 01  +421-96110-6152(6)  +421-96110-6159	Trnava, Malacky, Pezinok, Piešťany, Senica, Skalica
<b>Nitra</b> Kalvárska 2, Nitra 949 01  +421-96130-3230  +421-96130-3209	Nitra, Hlohovec, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Zlaté Moravce
<b>Nové Zámky</b> Bitúnkova 8, Nové Zámky 949 36  +421-96133-3208  +421-96133-3209	Nové Zámky, Komárno, Levice, Šaľa
<b>Trenčín</b> Jilemnického 2, Trenčín 911 01  +421-96120-3233  +421-96120-3209	Trenčín, Bánovce, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov
<b>Banská Bystrica</b> Štefánikovo nábrežie 7, Banská Bystrica 974 01  +421-96160-3203  +421-96160-3209	Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Brezno, Detva, Krupina, Zvolen, Žarnovica, Žiar nad Hronom
<b>Rimavská Sobota</b> Hviezdoslavova 35, Rimavská Sobota 979 01  +421-96168-3205  +421-96168-3209	Rimavská Sobota, Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
<b>Žilina</b> Kysucké Nové Mesto, ul. Hviezdoslavova 436/6, PŠČ 024 01 (personal contact office for foreigners is in Žilina, Bánovská cesta 8111/1 – in the building of Žilina Fire Department)  +421–96144–3205, +421–96140–3217  +421–96144–3209	Žilina, Bytča, Čadca, Dolný Kubín, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Liptovský Mikuláš, Martin, Námestovo, Ružomberok, Turčianske Teplice, Tvrdošín
<b>Košice</b> Trieda SNP 35, Košice 040 01  +421–9619–31208  +421–9619–31209	Košice I., II., III., IV., Košice – okolie, Gelnica, Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves
<b>Michalovce</b> Štúrova 1, Michalovce 071 01  +421–96172–3220  +421–96172–3209	Michalovce, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Sobrance, Trebišov
<b>Prešov</b> Ľubochňianska 2, Prešov 080 01  +421–96180–3205  +421–96180–3209	Prešov, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Poprad, Sabinov, Stará Ľubovňa, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou

**Note:** The foreign police staff communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, have somebody to go with you. Also, the queuing time at foreign police offices can be very lengthy. People usually come early in the morning to take an appointment number card, and it might happen that later during the day, there will not be any more appointment number cards available, so those without one will have to come back another day. In Bratislava, it is strongly advised and agreed with the foreign police department to take advantage of Wednesday afternoon office hours.

You can check for updates at [www.minv.sk/?ocp-1](http://www.minv.sk/?ocp-1).

## Slovak Embassies and Consulates Abroad

A list of Slovak embassies and consulates general abroad can be found at the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic: [www.mzv.sk/en/ministry/slovak\\_diplomatic\\_missions-diplomatic\\_missions](http://www.mzv.sk/en/ministry/slovak_diplomatic_missions-diplomatic_missions)

## Medical Centres Relevant for Residence Permit

In connection with the temporary residence permit, a third country national shall submit a medical certificate that he/she does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening the public health. The following medical centres can issue such certificate accepted by Slovak foreign police offices:

- Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb, ZAMA s. r. o.,  
Americké námestie 3, **Bratislava**,  
tel.: +421-2-5292-5688, fax: +421-2-5296-2732,  
[info@cudzokrajne.sk](mailto:info@cudzokrajne.sk), [www.cudzokrajne.sk](http://www.cudzokrajne.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o.,  
Teslova 33, **Bratislava**,  
tel.: +421-2-4463-5473, mobil: +421-915-889-054,  
[bakos@inocem.sk](mailto:bakos@inocem.sk), [www.inocem.sk](http://www.inocem.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Univerzitná nemocnica Martin, Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny,  
Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby, Kollárova 2, **Martin**,  
tel.: +421-43-420-3637, tel.: +421-43-420-3386,  
[vozarova@unm.sk](mailto:vozarova@unm.sk), [www.unm.sk](http://www.unm.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura Košice,  
Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny, Rastislavova 43, **Košice**,  
tel.: +421-55-615-2202, fax: +421-55-615-2229,  
[infekcne@unlp.sk](mailto:infekcne@unlp.sk), [www.unlp.sk](http://www.unlp.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o., ŽILPO, s. r. o.,  
Vysokoškolákov 31, **Žilina**,  
tel.: +421-917-131-479,  
[bakos@inocem.sk](mailto:bakos@inocem.sk), [www.inocem.sk](http://www.inocem.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Fakultná nemocnica Nitra, Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby,  
Špitálska 6, 950 01 **Nitra**,  
tel.: +421-37-654-5955,  
[piesecka@fnnitra.sk](mailto:piesecka@fnnitra.sk), [www.fnnitra.sk/fnnitra](http://www.fnnitra.sk/fnnitra) (in Slovak only)
- Ambulancia infektológie a tropickej medicíny  
Spoločnosti INF TROP-MED s. r. o.,  
Nábřežná 5, **Prievidza**,  
tel.: +421-46-511-3311,  
[jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk](mailto:jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk)



**Note:** The medical check and certificate for the purpose of residence permit is a paid service. Prices for the medical certificate vary depending upon the medical centre. Please, contact the respective medical centre for precise information on prices (count with 112–269 €). Also, many times, the ambulance staff communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, have somebody to go with you.

You can check for updates at [www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka](http://www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinka) (in Slovak only).

## IV.

# WORKING WHILE STUDYING

Employment relations in Slovakia are regulated by the Labour Code (Act No. 311/2001 Coll.) and the Act on Employment Services (Act No. 5/2004 Coll.), which can be found in the on-line legislation database <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk> (the website is in Slovak only).

**EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their family members** can be employed on the territory of the Slovak Republic on the same terms as Slovak nationals. The applicant has to meet employer's requirements, e.g. required education, language skills, required work experience, etc. For information related to employment, all mobile workers from EU/EEA/Switzerland can consult the website of EURES (European Information Services – information network facilitating mobility of workers within the Member States of the European Union and the European Free Trade Association) [www.eures.sk](http://www.eures.sk) and <http://ec.europa.eu/eures>.

If you are **not an EU/EEA/Swiss national**, in general, you can work only if you are granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment or the permanent residence permit. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions that apply to students, PhD student, university teachers or researchers (see chapter “When is a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy not required?”).

More detailed information about administrative procedures connected to the employment of a foreigner in Slovakia can be found in the brochure “Entry and stay in Slovakia – guide to administrative duties” published at [www.saia.sk/en](http://www.saia.sk/en).

In connection to the employment of a foreigner in Slovakia (either EU/EEA/Swiss national or non-EU national), the employer has also some obligations to fulfil.

## When is a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy not required?

With regard to the purpose of this book, we select only the most important provisions from the complete list. A work permit or the confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy for a non-EU national is not required in the following cases:

- you have been granted a temporary residence permit for **the purpose of study** and your additional employment will not exceed **20 hours per week**,
- you have **successfully graduated from high school or university** (higher education institution) in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- you will be employed for a certain period in order to increase skills in an employment for a maximum of one year,
- you are younger than 26 years and you will be employed in occasional and time limited jobs within exchanges between schools or within youth and education programmes, in which the Slovak Republic participates,
- you have been granted a temporary residence permit for **the purpose of research and development**, and carry out research or development on the basis of a **Hosting Agreement**,
- you have been granted a temporary residence permit for **the purpose of research and development** and your employment related to **lecturing** will not exceed **50 days** in a calendar year,
- your employment in the territory of the Slovak Republic will not exceed **30 days in a calendar year**, and you are a **pedagogic employee, academic employee at a higher education institution, scientific, research or development worker**, participating in a **professional scientific event** or an artist participating in an artistic event,
- you have been granted a residence permit of a third country national who has a recognised status of a Slovak living abroad,
- you have been granted a temporary residence permit with a status of a person having long-term residence in an EU Member State, after 12 months from the start of the stay in Slovakia,
- you are a family member of an EU national, and you have the right to reside in the territory of the Slovak Republic,

- you are a family member of a non-EU national and you have been granted the residence permit for the purpose of family reunion – in this case you can work after 12 months from the start of continual stay in Slovakia after granting of the residence permit,
- you are a **family member of a non-EU researcher with a Hosting Agreement**, and you have been granted a residence permit for the purpose of family reunion, right after granting of such residence permit,
- you are to be employed on the basis of the commitment of the Slovak Republic to an **international treaty** (published in the Law Code of Slovak Republic) defining that for the employment under this treaty the work permit is not required (e.g. working holidays with Canada, New Zealand, under preparation with ROC – Taiwan, Australia).

## V.

# USE OF FOREIGN

# DOCUMENTS IN SLOVAKIA

For the purposes of visa, residence permit and admission to higher education, foreign students may need to submit to Slovak officials also documents issued by foreign authorities (e.g. diplomas, criminal records, etc.) – mostly also with the requirement to have them officially translated. Documents issued by foreign courts and other foreign authorities, which have the validity of public documents in the country of their issue, are deemed to have evidentiary status of public documents in the Slovak Republic provided that the prescribed certificates have been attached. Exemptions are laid down in multilateral and bilateral agreements binding upon the Slovak Republic.

## 1. Apostille

The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents, the Apostille convention or the Apostille treaty is an international treaty drafted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. It specifies the modalities through which a document issued in one of the signatory states can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states. Such a certification is called an apostille (French: certification). **It is an international certification comparable to a notarisation in domestic law.**

If a State signatory to the **Hague Convention** certifies the document with an **apostille, no further certification of that document is necessary** (find more information on apostille at [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)); the document is submitted to a sworn translator (in Slovakia) in order to be translated into Slovak and is ready to be presented to Slovak authorities.

Updated list of countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention is at [www.hcch.net/index\\_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=41](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=41).

Find your national authority with competence to issue apostille with contact details and price information at [www.hcch.net/index\\_en.php?act=conventions.authorities&cid=41](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.authorities&cid=41).

## 2. Legalisation

In case that an apostille is not applicable, foreign documents, which will be used in the Slovak Republic, are subject to legalisation by a Slovak foreign mission in the respective state. Legalisation of public documents means certification of the authenticity of signatures and official seals or stamps, which they bear against their specimens that are available to the foreign mission. Slovak foreign missions verify the authenticity of previous certificate issued by a Foreign Affairs Ministry of the country of origin of the respective document.

In addition to legalisation of documents, Slovak foreign missions also certify the authenticity of signatures appearing on documents, photocopies of documents and their translations into Slovak; if a translator is available at the foreign mission, the mission may also provide translations of certain documents. Slovak honorary consulates verify the authenticity of signatures duplicates and photocopies, which are then deemed valid in the Slovak Republic with no further authentication needed. Honorary consulates have no authority to legalise documents – i.e. to verify the authenticity of a stamp and signature of a Foreign Affairs Ministry consular department official.

If no Slovak foreign mission exists in the country, which has issued the document, further procedures may be as follows – the document must be certified in the country of its origin, with the last **stamp affixed to it being that of the Foreign Affairs Ministry** of the respective country. The authenticity of the stamp is then certified by a competent foreign mission of that country, accredited for the Slovak Republic, and, subsequently, by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Documents in Arabic, Indian, Chinese or Russian languages shall be translated into English before they are submitted to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

Administrative fee for legalisation by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic is paid in the form of a **20 € duty stamp**. Clients are required to obtain duty stamps in advance (e.g. at the post office).

**Contact details:**

Document authentication department  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic  
Pražská 1, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

**Postal address:**

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic  
Consular Section – legalisation  
Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

**Telephone:**

Foreign and European Affairs Ministry switchboard operator:  
+421-2-5978-1111, +421-2-5978-5978

**Office hours**

Monday	8.00 – 12.00	13.00 – 15.00
Wednesday	8.00 – 12.00	13.00 – 18.00
Thursday	8.00 – 12.00	

### 3. Where to Find an Official Translator

Slovak foreign missions may provide translations of documents, which will be used in the Slovak Republic. No further verification is required in case of documents translated by a Slovak embassy consular department. If you are already in Slovakia, a list of sworn translators is available at the website of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, Slovak regional courts and at <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk>, section “Prekladatelia” (in Slovak only).

Once authenticated properly (legalisation or Apostille certification), public documents translated into Slovak language by a sworn translator may be presented to institutions in the Slovak Republic. Translations made by a sworn translator in the Slovak Republic do not require any further verification.



# GRANTS

# AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## 1. Funding Based on Slovak Sources

### Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic Awarded for the Full Bachelor, Master or Doctoral Degree Programmes

The Government of the Slovak Republic annually awards scholarships for Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degree programmes to students from countries eligible for the **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. Scholarships offered in the framework of terms and conditions set out by the OECD for implementing the ODA include **also scholarships** of the Government of the Slovak Republic **for Slovak nationals living abroad**. Granting of these scholarships has become a component of the state support for Slovak nationals living abroad.

Studies can be carried out only at public universities in Slovakia and are held in Slovak language. The Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic include a scholarship for a 10-month language preparation in case that the applicant has not completed his/her previous education in the Slovak Republic.

Citizens of the following countries can apply for a scholarship in the framework of the Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic within the ODA: Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia a Herzegovina, Georgia, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia, Palestinian National Authority, Ukraine and Vietnam. This list of eligible countries may vary every year.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic informs Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the respective countries via diplomatic channels about the conditions of Bachelor, Master, Doctoral degree studies at public higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic together with the number of scholarship slots. Every applicant must submit his/her scholarship application on-line at [www.vladnestipendia.sk](http://www.vladnestipendia.sk) before the application deadline (31 May).



The respective sending party presents its nomination of scholarship applicants via the Embassy/Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in the respective country until 31 May. Scholarships are awarded by the Selection Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

More information available at:

[www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), [www.vladnestipendia.sk](http://www.vladnestipendia.sk)

## National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic

The National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of University Students, PhD Students, University Teachers, Researchers and Artists was established by the approval of the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005. The Programme is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and administered by SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency).



The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (NSP) supports study/research/teaching/artistic mobility of foreign students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists at higher education institutions (public, state and private) and research organisations in Slovakia. The Programme supports only short- or mid-term mobility (1 or 2 semesters in case of university students; 1–12 months in case of PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists), not full degree studies at Slovak universities.

Citizens of the following countries are eligible to apply for a scholarship in the framework of the NSP:

- a) Member States of the European Union;
- b) other signatories to the Bologna Process (listed are only countries outside the EU) – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo), Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vatican City;
- c) Belarus, Uzbekistan;
- d) Canada, Mexico, USA, countries of Latin and Central America;
- e) Australia, China (including Taiwan), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam.

Applications must be submitted on-line together with the required documents through the website [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk). Some of the required documents must be submitted to SAIA in Bratislava.

**Application deadlines:** 30 April, 31 October

More information about the Programme: [www.stipendia.sk](http://www.stipendia.sk),  
[www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk), [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk).



## Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic offers scholarships for study/research/teaching stays at public universities in Slovakia or institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for applicants from any country in the world:

- **foreign university students** for 5-month stays (age between 18–26 years);
- **foreign PhD students** for 5-month stays (age between 23–35 years);
- **foreign university teachers/researchers** for 3-month stays (age between 30–50 years).

Applications must be submitted on-line together with the required documents through the website [www.scholarships.studyin.sk](http://www.scholarships.studyin.sk). In case that some of the required documents will be missing, the application will be not accepted by the Ministry.

**Application deadline:** 31 May

More information available at: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), [www.studyin.sk](http://www.studyin.sk),  
[www.scholarships.studyin.sk](http://www.scholarships.studyin.sk)



## Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21 – Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

In the framework of the Modernisation Programme Slovakia 21, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic offers a scholarship to secondary school graduates from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine in the form of:

- a free of charge 10-month language and academic preparation at the Institute of Language and Academic Preparation for Foreigners and Compatriots of the Comenius University in Bratislava ([www.cdvuk.sk](http://www.cdvuk.sk)).

Successful applicants will be receiving a monthly scholarship that should cover their living costs related to their stay in Slovakia. After the completion of language and academic preparation, students shall continue in their full university studies (Bachelor, Master, PhD level) at a public higher education institution in Slovakia within study programmes with technical orientation. Students from the respective countries will be studying in Slovakia in Slovak language under the same conditions as Slovak students, i.e. without paying any tuition fees (if not exceeding the standard length of study). Students must cover living costs during their studies in Slovakia themselves.

**Application deadline:** 31 May

More information is available at: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), [www.mop21edu.sk](http://www.mop21edu.sk)

## 2. Funding for Bilateral Co-operation

### Bilateral Intergovernmental Agreements on Educational, Research and Cultural Co-operation

The Government of the Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral agreements on educational, research and cultural co-operation with several countries in order to support exchange programmes providing scholarships for students and researchers coming to Slovakia to study or conduct research at Slovak universities and research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Scholarships are awarded for study and research stays, as well as language courses. There is no general limitation regarding the field of study. Applicants must be nominated by the respective counterpart institutions. Applicants who would like to study or conduct research in Slovakia should arrange in advance a contact with their Slovak host institution.

Citizens of the following countries are eligible to apply: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA (with Austria and the USA special programmes have been created – see below “Action Austria – Slovakia” and “Fulbright Program”).

For further information (specific instructions, exact application deadlines, etc.) the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country should be consulted.



### Action Austria – Slovakia, Co-operation in Science and Education

A bilateral programme with the objective to intensify co-operation between Austria and Slovakia in the field of education and research.

The Programme is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of Science and Research of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the agreement signed in 1992. The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o.

Following types of **individual scholarships** are offered for students and PhD students:

- scholarships for “Diplomstudierende” or Master students for finishing their Master thesis (1–3 months): scholarship of 800 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October;
- scholarships for research stays of PhD students (3–6 months): scholarship of 940 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October;
- scholarships for short visits (max. 3 days) for researchers (including PhD students): scholarship of 90 €/day; application deadline: application possible throughout the year;
- scholarships for Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture for students and PhD students; application deadline: 30 April.

Except for individual scholarships the Programme supports also joint co-operations of PhD students via **co-operation projects**. Also organisation of joint trainings for PhD Students is possible as a common project.

More information available at:

[www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at), [www.grants.at](http://www.grants.at)  
or [www.aktion.saia.sk](http://www.aktion.saia.sk).

DID YOU KNOW?

Slovakia is after Austria the second country in the Central Europe with the largest amount of forests. Almost 40 % of its territory is covered by forest, while in Austria it is only 6 % more.



## Fulbright Program – J. W Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic



The Fulbright Commission is a bilateral organisation for educational exchange in the Slovak Republic established by executive agreements between the United States and the Slovak Republic, and promoting educational, research and cultural exchanges between the United States and the Slovak Republic through the Fulbright Program. The Commission administers awards for study and research, and provides information and advising on study possibilities for citizens of both countries.

### *Fulbright Programs for U.S. Citizens:*

#### ● **Fulbright U.S. Student Program**

Fellowships for U.S. graduate students, young professionals and artists to study, conduct research or be an English teaching assistant in the Slovak Republic for one academic year. Applications in all fields will be considered.

#### ● **Fulbright Scholar Program for U.S. Faculty and Professionals (Lecturing and/or Research)**

U.S. scholars with academic experience can propose projects in co-operation with a Slovak institution of higher education. Grantees can lecture and conduct research in a wide range of academic and professional fields, although preference is given to subjects related to the United States, and to important economic and social issues important for the Slovak Republic.

#### ● **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)**

Preference is given to candidates with degrees in English, History, American literature, TEFL/Applied Linguistics and/or experience in teaching. Other fields will be seriously considered if combined with teaching experience. The ETAs will be placed in secondary schools; they are required to teach at least 15 hours per week.

#### ● **Fulbright Specialists Program**

Programme designed for U.S. faculty and professionals to collaborate with their professional counterparts in Slovakia on curriculum and faculty development, institutional planning and a variety of other activities. Grants are awarded for projects that must be completed within 2–6 weeks. The programme is open to qualified U.S. scholars and professionals in specified fields.

### ***Fulbright Programs for U.S. Institutions:***

#### **● Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program (S-I-R)**

The programme assists U.S. higher education institutions in expanding programmes of academic exchange. By supporting non-U.S. scholars through grants for teaching at institutions that might not have a strong international component, both the U.S. institution and the scholar grantee benefit.

#### **● Fulbright European Union Scholar-in-Residence Program**

This Programme is a subset of the S-I-R Programme that focuses specifically on strengthening expertise in European Union affairs by bringing scholars and professionals from the European Union to U.S. campuses.

#### **● Fulbright-Hays Program**

These grants are awarded to individual U.S. K-14 pre-teachers, teachers and administrators, pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral faculty, as well as to U.S. institutions and organisations. Funding supports research and training efforts overseas, which focus on non-Western foreign languages and area studies.

The grants and awards are administered in accordance with worldwide regulations guided by principles of bi-national governance, open competition, academic excellence and professional promise.

More information available at: [www.fulbright.sk](http://www.fulbright.sk).

## **3. Multilateral Programmes**

### **Programmes Funded by the European Commission**

European Commission is funding the programmes and other educational initiatives aimed at different educational institutions:

- for the co-operation among the EU countries and the European Free Trade Association countries and pre-accession countries on the basis of the separate agreements,
- for the co-operation between the EU countries and third (non-EU) countries.

### ***Erasmus+ – the EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport***

Erasmus+ is the EU's new programme introduced in 2014 that combines and replaces the existing programmes for education, training, youth and sport. Between 2014 – 2020 the programme will provide opportunities

for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience, and volunteer abroad. The total budget for this period is 14.8 billion €, representing a 40 % increase in EU funding in comparison with the previous programme period.

The main objective of the new programme is to introduce a new EU approach to education and training with regard to the difficult economic period, changing world of labour market and imbalances in the available skills and market demand. The aim is to increase the quality and relevance of qualifications and skills of students, teachers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and people working in grassroots' sport. The single integrated programme is ambitious, easier to implement and strategically seeks for cooperation of education sector and work environment. The programme brings new features such as loan guarantee scheme for Master's students, Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises and Sector Skills Alliances – partnerships between education and training establishments and business. Erasmus+ enables the higher education mobility to the third countries and creating of projects with higher education institutions in these countries.

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall pursue its objectives through the following types of actions:

### 1. Key Action 1: Mobility of Individuals

- **Mobility of learners and staff:** opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;

#### **Student mobility:**

- study period abroad at a partner higher education institution (HEI);
- traineeship (work placement) abroad in an enterprise or any other relevant workplace.

A study period abroad may include a traineeship period as well. To ensure high-quality mobility activities with maximum impact on the students, the mobility activity has to respond to student degree-related learning and personal development needs. The study period abroad must be part of the student's study programme to complete a degree at a short cycle, first cycle (Bachelor or equivalent), second cycle (Master or equivalent) and third or doctoral cycle.

Traineeships abroad at a workplace are also supported during short cycle, first, second, third cycle studies and within a maximum of one year after the student's graduation. Wherever possible, the traineeships should be an integrated part of the student's study programme. Student mobility can be in any subject area/academic discipline.

- **Joint Master Degrees:** high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award full degree scholarships to excellent students worldwide;
- **Master Student Loan Guarantee:** higher education students can get a loan backed up by the Programme to go abroad for a full Master Degree. Students should address themselves to national banks or student loan agencies.

## 2. Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

- **Transnational Strategic Partnerships** aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported, if they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- **Knowledge Alliances** between higher education institutions and enterprises, which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;
- **Sector Skills Alliances** supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies, drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional fields;
- **Capacity Building** projects supported, if with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. Capacity Building projects aim to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation process. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- **IT support platforms**, such as **eTwinning**, **the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPAL)** and **the European Youth Portal**, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practices and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners



in the field of school and adult education, as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

### 3. Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reforms

- Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth;
- Prospective initiatives to stimulate innovative policy development;
- Support to European policy tools;
- Cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity;
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion.

### 4. Jean Monnet Activities

- Academic Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence in order to deepen teaching in European integration studies;
- Policy debate with academic world, supported through Networks and Projects;
- Support to institutions and associations, to organise and carry out statutory activities of associations dealing with EU studies and EU issues;
- Studies and conferences.

### 5. Sport

- Collaborative Partnerships;
- Not-for-profit European sport events.

**More information:** Website of Erasmus+ programme, European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm)

Website of DG for Education and Culture of the European Commission: [www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture](http://www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture)

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation – [www.saaic.sk](http://www.saaic.sk), [www.erasmusplus.sk](http://www.erasmusplus.sk) (in Slovak only)

*Cooperation in Higher Education and Training between the European Union and Australia, the European Union and Japan and the European Union and the Republic of Korea*

**The Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI)** promotes co-operation between the European Union and seventeen industrialised and other high-income countries and territories in North America, the Asia-Pacific region and the Gulf region. One of the supported specific actions promotes “people-to-people links” with the aim to enhance mutual understanding between cultures and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge. The Industrialised Countries Instrument – Education Cooperation Programme is called ICI ECP.

The overall aims are to:

- Promote better relations between European and partner countries' citizens, and improve understanding of cultures, languages and institutions.
- Facilitate the acquisition of skills needed for the global knowledge-based economy.

The following activities are supported:

● **ICI-ECP Joint Mobility projects (JMP)**

For joint mobility projects (JMP) support is provided to enable EU-partner country consortia of postsecondary vocational and training or higher education institutions, to carry out joint study and training programmes and to implement student and faculty mobility.

● **ICI-ECP Joint Degree projects (JDP)**

For joint degree projects (JDP) support is provided to develop and implement dual/double or joint degree programmes.

More information available at: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/bilateral\\_cooperation/eu\\_ici\\_ecp/funding/call\\_2013\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/bilateral_cooperation/eu_ici_ecp/funding/call_2013_en.php)

## Regional Programmes

### *CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Program for University Studies*

CEEPUS programme stimulates university co-operation within university networks in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe by supporting academic mobility, as well as by the development of joint programmes and joint diplomas, student excursions, professional

language courses and summer schools.

The Slovak Republic is engaged in CEEPUS together with the following countries: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia, and with the University of Prishtina in Kosovo.

Programme supports semester-stays for students and PhD students (3–10 months), short-term stays (1–2 months, min. 21 days) for students and PhD students elaborating their final thesis, as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, min. 5 days and 6 lectures). All fields of study are welcome and there are no priority areas.



### Application deadline:

- Applicants within a CEEPUS network
  - 15 June for the winter semester of the following academic year,
  - 31 October for the summer semester of the respective academic year.
- Freemovers
  - Should a home university, host university or both not participate in the network, its students, PhD students and teachers may still apply for a scholarship under the category “freemover”. Deadline for freemover applications is annually 30 November at [www.ceepus.info](http://www.ceepus.info).

The scholarships are paid by the National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia. Travel costs can be reimbursed by the respective National CEEPUS Office of the scholarship holder’s home country.

Scholarship rates for Slovakia:

- University students – 280 €/month,
- PhD students and university teachers – 470 €/month.

More information available at: [www.ceepus.saia.sk](http://www.ceepus.saia.sk)

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.

Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

[www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk)

### *International Visegrad Fund*

The mission of the International Visegrad Fund is to promote development of closer co-operation among the Visegrad Group (V4) countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – and to strengthen the ties among people in the region. The Fund provides funding for common cultural, scientific, research and educational projects, youth exchanges, promotion of tourism and cross-border co-operation. Most of the grant recipients are non-governmental organisations, municipalities and local governments, universities, schools and other public institutions and also individual citizens. The Fund also awards individual scholarships and artist residencies. By the end of 2013, the fund has supported nearly 3,800 grant projects and



awarded over 1,700 scholarships and artist residencies in total worth of nearly 54 million €. The Fund's annual budget of 8 million € consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.

The Fund operates:

- **scholarship schemes under the Visegrad Scholarship Programme:**
  - **Intra-Visegrad Scholarships** – for scholars coming from one of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries who plan to study in any V4 country other than that of their citizenship;
  - **In-Coming Scholarships** – for scholars who wish to study at accredited public or private universities or institutes of the respective national academies of sciences in the Visegrad Group (V4) countries; citizens of the following countries can apply: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. The same rules are applicable to Kosovar scholars;
  - **Out-Going Scholarships** – for current scholars or Master's degree holders from V4 countries to study at accredited public or private universities or institutes of the respective national academies of sciences;
  - **Visegrad-Taiwan Scholarship** – citizens of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland or Slovakia can apply to study or conduct research at selected higher education institutions accredited by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).
  - **Visegrad Scholarships at the Open Society Archives** – research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) at the Central European University in Budapest.
- **artist-in-residence programme – Visegrad Artist Residency Program (VARP) with 4 subprogrammes:**
  - **Visual&Sound Arts** – individual mobility within the V4 region;
  - **Performing Arts** – individual and group mobility programme focused on scenic arts;
  - **Visegrad Literary Residency Program** – individual residencies within the V4 region;
  - **VARP in New York** – individual artist-in-residence programme in Brooklyn, NY.

● **grant programmes:**

- **Small Grants** – short-term projects (up to 6 months); max. budget per project is 6,000 €;
- **Standard Grants** – mid-term projects (up to 12 months); min. budget per project is 6,001 € (on average budgets run around 10,000–15,000 €);
- **Strategic Grants** – long-term projects (up to 36 months) of strategic character; max. budget per project is unlimited (average ca. 40,000 €);  
**Visegrad Strategic Conferences** – programme was established in 2014 as a sub-programme of the Strategic Grants to fund conference-type events of strategic regional relevance. Annual budget for the Strategic Conferences chapter is 370,000 €;
- **University Grants (VUSG)** – support of university courses/degree programmes, supported sums: ca. 10,000 € per course and 40,000 € per degree programme;
- **Visegrad+** – democratisation and transformation know-how transfer to countries in the Western Balkans (separate calls for proposals);
- **Flagship Projects** – providing access to know-how with democratic transformation, integration and regional co-operation;
- **Extended Standard Grants (V4EaP) – Eastern Partnership** – mid-term projects (preferably 12 months, but shall not exceed 18 months); max. budget per project is 70,000 €;
- **Visegrad University Studies Grants – Eastern Partnership** – grant funding to projects developing university courses of degree programmes that will be launched at colleges and universities accredited in the EaP countries (ca. 10,000 € or 40,000 €).

More information available at: [www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org)

Contact:

International Visegrad Fund

Kráľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

[visegradfund@visegradfund.org](mailto:visegradfund@visegradfund.org)

# VII.

# LIFE IN SLOVAKIA

# AND OTHER PRACTICAL

# INFORMATION

## 1. Transport

### Travel by Train

Trains in the Slovak Republic are safe and agreeable way to travel. There are 7 different types of trains:

SC	SuperCity
EC	EuroCity
IC	InterCity
Ex	Express
R	Fast train ("rýchlik")
Zr	Semi-fast train ("zrýchlený vlak")
Os	Passenger train ("osobný vlak")



DID YOU KNOW?

### How to Find a Connection and Buy a Ticket

The websites of the Slovak Railways [www.slovakrail.sk](http://www.slovakrail.sk) or [www.zsr.sk](http://www.zsr.sk)

provide information on time schedule, prices, duration of the journey and whether you have to switch the trains at any point. The websites [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) and [www.vlak-bus.sk](http://www.vlak-bus.sk) provide a complex

The building of the first horse railway in the Kingdom of Hungary (connecting Bratislava with Svätý Jur) is one of the oldest railway buildings in the world.



travel itinerary – here you can choose the means of public transport (bus, train, airplane, town public transport) but also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest journey.

Tickets can be bought at the train station ticket offices or at some train stations in ticket machines. If applicable, the ticket agent may ask what type of train you would prefer: SuperCity train (international), EuroCity train (international), InterCity train, express train, fast train, semi-fast train or passenger train. To guarantee a seat, it is possible to buy a seat reservation (“miestenka”), since the trains may be crowded, especially, on Fridays and Sundays when students travel to and from schools.

International trains run several times a day from several train stations in the country.

For some trains it is also possible to buy a ticket on-line at the website [www.slovakrail.sk](http://www.slovakrail.sk) and [www.regiojet.sk](http://www.regiojet.sk).

It is only possible to travel by historic train on narrow gauge forest railway in the Museum of Kysuce village in Vychylovka. That is namely the only preserved and today still operating railway of this type in Europe.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



## Travel by Coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct, therefore it is a faster way to travel; they connect most of the towns and villages in Slovakia, and are reliable and satisfactory. The first thing is to check out the website [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) or [www.vlak-bus.sk](http://www.vlak-bus.sk) where you can find some useful information (time schedule, duration of the journey, prices).

For international bus travel you can buy tickets at the ticket office or travel agency. Eurolines is the biggest provider operating 8 regular international lines together with its domestic branch Slovak Lines ([www.slovaklines.sk](http://www.slovaklines.sk)). For international lines operated by Eurolines it is possible to buy/book a ticket on-line at [www.eurolines.sk](http://www.eurolines.sk). A company “Student Agency” also provides several international lines with special prices for students (tickets can be bought on-line at [www.studentagency.sk](http://www.studentagency.sk)).

## *How to Buy a Ticket*

When travelling by coach within Slovakia, tickets can be bought when boarding. It is possible to buy a ticket with a seat reservation (“miestenska”) for long distance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station or on-line, in some cases ([www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk)).

## **Travel by Plane**

There are airlines that provide connections within Slovakia and to foreign countries, such as Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)), Czech Airlines ([www.csa.cz](http://www.csa.cz)) and Austrian Airlines ([www.austrian.com](http://www.austrian.com)).

There are 3 international airports in Slovakia – in Bratislava (“Letisko M. R. Štefánika” [www.airportbratislava.sk](http://www.airportbratislava.sk)), in Košice (“Medzinárodné letisko v Košiciach” [www.airportkosice.sk](http://www.airportkosice.sk)) and in Poprad (“Medzinárodné letisko Poprad-Tatry” [www.letiskopoprad.sk](http://www.letiskopoprad.sk), in Slovak only).

There are also very close international airports in neighbouring countries that can be taken into consideration when arriving to Slovakia – e.g. Vienna Airport/Austria (only 50 km from Bratislava) or Budapest Airport/Hungary (250 km from Košice).

## *Transportation between International Airports and Principal Slovak Towns*

### **Bratislava International Airport**

M. R. Štefánik International Airport is located 15 km from the Bratislava Old Town. A taxi into the town costs about 8–10 €, depending on where in the centre you want to go. By bus, take the line No. 61 to “Hlavná železničná stanica” (Main Railway Station).



### **Košice International Airport**

Košice International Airport is located 8 km from the Košice Old Town. The official airport taxi into the town costs from 10 €, depending on where in the centre you want to go. There is also a public bus line between the airport and the city No. 23, connecting the airport with the main railway station and bus station (Staničné námestie).



## Vienna International Airport (Austria)

Thanks to the short distance between Vienna and Bratislava (60 kilometres) it is also possible to use the Schwechat International Airport in Vienna ([www.viennaairport.com](http://www.viennaairport.com)), which is larger than the M. R. Štefánik International Airport in Bratislava and then take a bus or a taxi to Bratislava. Just in front of the arrival gate at Vienna airport you will find the platform for departure of buses leaving to Bratislava where you can change to bus/train to other Slovak principal towns, e.g. Košice, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Žilina, Trenčín, Piešťany, etc. Most of the buses terminate at the Main Bus Station in Bratislava ("Hlavná autobusová stanica") called "Mlynské Nivy".

### DID YOU KNOW?

Bratislava and Vienna are two closest located capitals in Europe. There is only less than 60 km between them.



Standard one-way ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs 7.70 €, return ticket costs 14.30 €, plus 1 € per a piece of luggage. For the bus schedule browse [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) or [www.vlak-bus.sk](http://www.vlak-bus.sk). Moreover, there is a special bus connection between the M. R. Štefánik International Airport in Bratislava, Bratislava city centre ("Most SNP" – Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising), the Schwechat International Airport in Vienna and the Vienna city operated by Blaguss Slovakia. Standard one-way ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs 7.20 € and return ticket costs 12 €. For the time schedule and prices, please, visit the website [www.blaguss.sk](http://www.blaguss.sk).

## Local Transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport – usually buses and trolleybuses (in Bratislava and Košice also a network of trams) covers most of the towns. Operating hours are from 5:00 to 23:00. After 23:00 there are a few night-bus lines. Every town is responsible for running its own public transport ("mestská hromadná doprava", abbr. MHD).



## Common Features

Public transport is the most widely used means of transportation in towns. Schedules can be found at every bus/tram stop and in public transport stands.

Tickets are usually not sold on buses. They can be bought at newsstands, ticket machines, some bus stations or public transport kiosks. However, it depends on the respective town, check it upon arrival.

Tickets vary from town to town. There are time-tickets (you can change means of transport within a given period of time) or single-use tickets (every time you change means of transport, you shall use a new ticket). Fare depends also on tariff zones given by the town area. There are usually also tickets valid for several days upon validation after entering the vehicle. You shall also have a ticket for large pieces of luggage and animals.

If you are staying longer in a certain town and you are sure to use public transport more often than once a day, it is advisable to buy travel pass, for example 30-, 90- or 365-day pass. To get a pass (30-, 90- or 365-day pass) you need an up-to-date photograph (3 × 3.5 cm), your ID card and a completed application form. It is always helpful to consult with local people. Children, students and pensioners travel for reduced fares (ask for details, as conditions may vary from town to town).

## Useful Glossary

- Autobus – bus
- Električka – tram
- Trolejbus – trolleybus
- Zastávka – a bus/tram stop
- Cestovný poriadok – schedule
- Cestovný lístok – single (one-time) ticket
- Mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok, električenka – a monthly travel pass
- Zastávka na znamenie – request stop



Information on the routes and schedules in Bratislava can be found at [www.dpb.sk](http://www.dpb.sk), [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk). Information on public transport in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Žilina and other towns is available at [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk). Connection search for public transport of a larger number of principal towns is available at [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) (under MHD), it is necessary to be familiar with names of stops though.

## Travel by Car

### Driving Licence

A driving licence issued in another state authorises the holder, when in the Slovak Republic, to drive motor vehicles of the categories indicated in it, provided that the driving licence meets the conditions given in the **International Convention on Road Traffic** (Article 2, Article 41, and Appendix 6 of the Convention on Road Traffic, Vienna 1968). If a driving licence issued in another state does not meet these requirements, the foreign national may only drive a motor vehicle if he/she is the holder of a **valid international driving licence**.



Everyone riding a moped must be at least 15 years old and must hold a driving licence, even if such a licence is not required in his/her country of permanent residence. Everyone riding a motorcycle over 50 cm<sup>3</sup> must be at least 17 years old, and everyone driving a car or lorry at least 18 years old.

### Traffic Regulations

The current traffic regulations are the same as in other European countries. Seat belts are compulsory. The use of a mobile phone is forbidden while driving. All accidents should be reported to the police. It is prohibited to drink any amount of alcohol before or while driving. No level of alcohol in blood is tolerated. A car must have the appropriate lights on during the whole year.

### Speed Limits

- On a motorway: max. 130 km/h (80 mph), min. 80 km/h (50 mph)
- On a motorway in built-up area: max. 90 km/h (55 mph), min. 65 km/h (40 mph)
- On an open road: max. 90 km/h (55 mph)
- In built-up area: max. 50 km/h (30 mph)

### Motorway Stickers

For the motorways, your car must have a motorway sticker valid in the running calendar year. It is possible to buy them at border crossings, petrol stations and post offices. The sticker must be placed on





DID YOU KNOW?

The Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising across the Danube River in Bratislava is unique in Europe. Its steel construction hanging on one pylon weighs more than 7,000 tons. The bridge was awarded the prize "The building of the 20<sup>th</sup> century". However, the price for this success was destruction of a large part of historical extramural settlement.



the right-hand side of windscreen and you must always have the second part of the sticker with you and show it to a police officer upon request. Any sticker not fixed on the windscreen is not valid. It is possible to buy a motorway sticker for one calendar year or valid for 30 or 10 days. Motor-bikers do not need toll stickers on motorways.

### *Petrol Stations*

Petrol stations are located throughout the whole territory of Slovakia. They are usually open 24 hours a day and easy to find. Most of these are operated by Europe's largest petroleum companies and are well-stocked. They sell diesel and non-leaded petrol, Super 95 Natural, Natural 98, Normal 21, V-Power, V-power Racing, EVO Benzin, etc. For older vehicles the non-leaded petrol with special additives replacing lead is available. There is a network of petrol stations providing also LPG ([www.doauta.sk/index.php?option=com\\_fabrik&Itemid=42&lang=sk](http://www.doauta.sk/index.php?option=com_fabrik&Itemid=42&lang=sk), in Slovak only). Almost all petrol stations sell also drinks and snacks. Toilet facilities tend to be quite acceptable, and larger stations offer showers. In all big petrol stations you can pay with credit cards.

## Parking



Parking in cities is well marked by international traffic signs. Parking in forbidden places can result in being fined, towed or wheel-clamped. In bigger cities, some parking places are specified for parking with a parking card, which can be bought from newspaper kiosks. Other parking places require the use of automatic parking meters. Parking on the side-walks is prohibited unless there is at least 1.5 m space on the side-walk for walking.

It is necessary to use an appropriate area code in front of the phone number. The services are commercial and operate 24 hours a day.

## Car Rental

In Slovakia, there are many car rental companies. Prices depend on the period over which the car is rented and the type of the car. Contact phone numbers are available on the website of the Yellow Pages [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk) (in Slovak only) and the Green Pages <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk> (section “Automotive”, subsection “Car Rental”).

## Breakdown Service

ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o.	18 112
Automobile Club of the Slovak Republic	16 066
SATC – Slovak Automotive Tourist Club	18 124

## Taxi

There are many taxi companies, although cruising taxis are seldom available. Taxi stands are located throughout the towns. Taxis ordered by phone have cheaper fares (usually 50 % cheaper). The fare is flexible and varies from company to company. When taking a taxi, look for one with the company's name on the car.

To find out contact numbers on taxi services in the respective town, please, search the Yellow Pages at [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk) (in Slovak only) or the Green Pages <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk> (section “Automotive”, subsection Taxi).



## 2. Import of Goods

### Import – General Information

**Within the EU/EEA/Switzerland** import and export of goods is not limited in any way, which also applies to goods for private purposes. It is therefore possible to import an unlimited amount of goods for private purposes from other EU Member States to Slovakia. There is no obligation to pay tax in Slovakia, as the VAT and excise tax on goods (where applicable) purchased for private purposes has already been included in the purchasing price in the respective country.

When certain goods that are subject to excise tax are purchased (alcohol, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products), it is the purchaser who has the obligation to transport the products purchased in another EU Member State. It is not allowed to have the goods shipped, and no other person is allowed to transport the goods. It is also forbidden to provide the goods for further sale. To determine whether tobacco and alcohol are for personal use, each country can set guide levels. In other words, if a person carries a larger quantity of these goods, he/she may be asked to prove that they are intended for personal use and to justify their purchase. The guide levels may not be lower than: 800 cigarettes, 200 cigars, 1 kg of tobacco, 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of fortified wine (such as port or sherry), 90 litres of wine (of which, a maximum of 60 litres of sparkling wine), 110 litres of beer.

**Outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland** it is possible to import or export duty-free the following quantities:

- 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco;
- 1 litre of spirit/alcohol over 22 % vol. or 2 litres of alcoholised vine or sparkling wine;
- 2 litres of non-sparkling wine;
- Perfume – 50 grams;
- Eau de toilette – 250 ml;
- Other up to the value 175 € (the limitations are lowered to 90 € for travellers under 15 years of age).

Transport of pets is permitted only with the respective veterinary certificate.

Weapons can be exported only with firearms certificate.



For **exporting goods** basically the same limits are valid as for import. Art objects and objects of historical value underlie/are liable to licence and custom duty.

### VAT Export Refund Scheme

Visitors from outside the EU are entitled to a VAT refund on goods they have bought during their stay in the EU, if the goods are shown to customs on departure within three months of their purchase together with the VAT refund documents. These are usually prepared by the seller, although, as the scheme is voluntary, not all merchants participate. Some countries set a minimum value of purchases to qualify for a refund.

More information available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/common/travellers/leave\\_eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/travellers/leave_eu/index_en.htm)

## 3. Accommodation

### Dormitories

Most higher education institutions offer housing in dormitories. Their standards may differ. There are usually 2–3 students accommodated in one room, but rooms for a single student are also available. The rooms are furnished with beds, tables and wardrobes. Bathrooms are usually shared between two rooms, or there is a common bathroom for the whole floor. Each dormitory has its own dining hall or buffet, where meals are available for lower prices and usually working throughout the academic year. Lunch or dinner generally costs around 1.60 €. Some dorms have their own gyms, swimming pools, fitness centres, etc. The price of accommodation in a dormitory vary from dormitory to dormitory (from 67 € per month). Majority of the rooms have an internet access.

There are also self-service laundries in dormitories in Slovakia ([www.cent.sk](http://www.cent.sk), in Slovak only; [www.pramako.sk/samoobslužne-pracovne](http://www.pramako.sk/samoobslužne-pracovne), in Slovak only; [www.flipperwash.sk](http://www.flipperwash.sk)).



Students who wish to study in the Slovak Republic outside the framework of bilateral agreements or exchange programmes cannot be guaranteed a place in a dormitory, due to the limited capacity of individual dorms.

If the student is interested in living in a dormitory, he/she should contact the university at least 3 months before commencing his/her studies or before the start of the given academic year. Many universities provide information about their dormitories on their websites.



### Other Possibilities of Housing

The easiest way (except for staying in a hotel) is to rent a private apartment. In such cases, it is recommended to sign a lease with your future landlord defining precisely the terms and conditions of your stay in the apartment. The apartments should be provided with basic pots, dishes, linens, etc. Most apartments have washing machines, but automatic dryers are usually not used. You can also find a shared room or flat ([www.roommates.sk](http://www.roommates.sk), [www.spolubyvanie.sk](http://www.spolubyvanie.sk) – both website in Slovak only).



## 4. Health and Medical Care

The healthcare system in Slovakia falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. In Slovakia, there are state and private health care providers. An initial medical examination is provided by state or private general practitioners. Everybody can choose a general practitioner who usually provides basic health care and can refer a patient to an appropriate specialist for further medical examination.



If a foreign national has health insurance, the health care provided is paid for by the insurance company. Depending on the type of service provided, the health insurance company will pay for this service either in full or partially. If the health insurance company pays for the service only partially, the rest is paid by the foreigner directly to the health care provider. If a foreign national does not have health insurance, he/she must pay the full amount for health care provided.

## Health Insurance and Coverage

### *European Health Insurance Card*

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals are entitled to health care under the same conditions as the nationals of the Slovak Republic. For entitlement to medical treatment on the basis of **health insurance in another Member State** (EU, EEA, Switzerland), an EU/EEA/Swiss national must present a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** to the health care provider (EHIC will be issued at your request by a health insurance company to which you pay health insurance premiums). In such case, the treatment of an EU/EEA/Swiss national will be covered by a Slovak health insurance company to the same amount as a Slovak national, provided the relevant physician has concluded a contract with at least one health insurance company.

### *International Students (Including PhD Students)*

International student coming to Slovakia to study within a programme arising from an international treaty (and that treaty is binding for the Slovak Republic) is subject to statutory health insurance, the Slovak Republic being the payer of such insurance. The student shall submit the necessary documents certifying his/her study at a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, its international status – proved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Other international students must be insured privately.

### *Additional Individual Health Insurance*

Foreigners who are not duly insured can take out contractual health insurance on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Health insurance companies in the Slovak Republic:

[www.vszp.sk](http://www.vszp.sk), [www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk) (in Slovak only),  
<http://m.union.sk/information-for-foreigners.html>

## Obtaining Health Care

Under the Slovak Constitution every individual – a citizen or a foreigner – staying in Slovakia has the right to be provided with the necessary health care. Everyone has the right to choose his/her own health care provider.

### Doctors

General practitioners and specialists have their consulting rooms in hospitals or in medical centres. Upon your arrival you should ask for details of a local doctor, who will be able to provide information on the standards.

### Dentists

In every town is either a private or state dental practice (“zubár”, “stomatológ”). Upon arrival you should ask for details of the chosen dentist. Note that it is usually essential to book an appointment with a dentist in advance.

### Hospitals

Every university town has a hospital (“nemocnica”) with an Accident and Emergency department (“pohotovost”) and many specialised clinics.

More information available at:

- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic: [www.health.gov.sk](http://www.health.gov.sk) (most of the information in Slovak only)
- List of medical facilities and doctors: [www.zzz.sk](http://www.zzz.sk) (in Slovak only)
- List of dentists: [www.zoznamzubarov.sk](http://www.zoznamzubarov.sk) (in Slovak only)

### Emergency

If you need emergency services (“pohotovost”), dial telephone number “112”. Ambulances are well staffed and equipped with life-sustaining apparatus needed to safely transport patients to hospital. Hospitals provide 24 hour emergency services. Some emergency health care providers can be found at:



- [http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/vismo/dokumenty2.asp?id\\_org=700014&id=1183&p1=1565](http://visit.bratislava.sk/en/vismo/dokumenty2.asp?id_org=700014&id=1183&p1=1565)  
(list of emergency medical care providers in Bratislava)
- [www.zzz.sk/?page=pohotovost](http://www.zzz.sk/?page=pohotovost) (list of emergency medical care providers in Slovakia, in Slovak only)

### *Pharmacies*

You can buy medicine in pharmacies (“lekáreň”) only; they are located in every town and in some villages (they are marked with a green cross). Every town has to have at least one emergency pharmacy (“pohotovostná lekáreň”) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – for further details consult the information posted on the door of every pharmacy. If you require treatment at night, look for the sign “nočná služba”. Pharmacies sell domestic and foreign medical products. Certain medicines can be obtained only with a prescription from a physician. For a list of pharmacies, please, visit: [www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne](http://www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne) (in Slovak only).



## 5. Language Courses for International Students

Some universities and research institutions organise Slovak language courses for their international students/researchers, e.g. the **Institute for Language and Academic Preparation for Foreigners and Compatriots of the Comenius University** ([www.cdvuk.sk](http://www.cdvuk.sk)) and the **Methodical Centre of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** ([www.umb.sk](http://www.umb.sk)). For more information, please, contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

Nationals of countries outside the European Union/European Economic Area/Switzerland can attend a free of charge “Open Course of Slovak Language for Foreigners” organised in Bratislava and Košice by **IOM Migration Information Centre**. More information can be found at <http://mic.iom.sk/en>.

Foreigners can also attend courses of the Slovak language at several **private language schools** that provide education at all levels of language proficiency: beginner, intermediate, advanced. They offer group tuition or individual courses tailored to the clients’ individual needs. The courses are aimed at mastering all four language skills:

speaking, listening, reading and writing. The courses are usually held twice a week, 2 standard lessons (90 min. in total) per day. Private language schools offering courses of Slovak are, for example, Academy of Education ([www.akademiavzdelavania.sk](http://www.akademiavzdelavania.sk), in Slovak only), Eurolingua ([www.eurolingua.sk](http://www.eurolingua.sk)), Berlitz ([www.berlitz.sk](http://www.berlitz.sk)) or other smaller private language schools.

### **Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture – Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS)**

The summer school SAS is aimed at all those studying Slovak language and culture and towards all Slavists in general. The intensive programme is suitable especially for university or college professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, to writers, translators and all others interested in Slovak language and culture. The summer course lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August.

Bilateral intergovernmental agreements often offer scholarships for participation in this oldest Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture in Slovakia, organised by Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) – The Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language.

More information available at: [www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas](http://www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas).

## **6. Student Organisations**

In the Slovak Republic, there are several international and national student organisations associating students.

**The Student Higher Education Council** (ŠRVŠ; [www.srvs.sk](http://www.srvs.sk)) is – in accordance with the Higher Education Act – the supreme representative body of Slovak students enrolled at higher education institutions. Students of each university in Slovakia elect their representatives to the Council. The Council is a member of the European Students' Union ([www.esu-online.org](http://www.esu-online.org)).



**ADS** (Slovak PhD Students' Association) is an organisation uniting PhD students and young scientists (up to the age of 35) in Slovakia ([www.ads.sk](http://www.ads.sk)). ADS is a member of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers – EURODOC ([www.eurodoc.net](http://www.eurodoc.net)).



**ESN** (Erasmus Student Network) is a student organisation founded in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange. In the Slovak Republic, the ESN operates at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Comenius University in Bratislava, Pan-European University in Bratislava, School of Economics and Management in Public Administration in Bratislava, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, University of Žilina in Žilina, University of Prešov in Prešov, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Technical University of Košice and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice with the aim to provide support to international students ([www.esn.sk](http://www.esn.sk)).

**AIESEC** (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) is an international association of students from the economic and business oriented fields of study. AIESEC is operating at the following universities: University of Economics in Bratislava (also at its Faculty of Business Economics situated in Košice), Faculty of Management of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, University of Prešov in Prešov, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava ([www.aiesec.sk](http://www.aiesec.sk), [www.aiesec.org](http://www.aiesec.org)).

**BEST** (Board of European Students of Technology) is an international student organisation for students from technical universities. In the Slovak Republic, this organisation operates at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and at the Technical University of Košice ([www.best-bratislava.sk](http://www.best-bratislava.sk), [www.best.tuke.sk](http://www.best.tuke.sk), [www.best.eu.org](http://www.best.eu.org)).



**ELSA** (The European Law Students' Association) is an international organisation associating law students and young lawyers. In the Slovak Republic, ELSA is operating at the Faculties of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, University of Trnava in Trnava and the Pan-European University in Bratislava ([www.elsa.sk](http://www.elsa.sk), [www.elsa.org](http://www.elsa.org)).

**IAAS** (International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences) is an international association of agricultural students.

In the Slovak Republic, the IAAS operates at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra ([www.iaasworld.org](http://www.iaasworld.org)).

**IAESTE Slovakia** (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) is an international association for exchange of students from technical fields of study for specialised experience, operating at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín, Technical Universities of Košice, Technical University in Zvolen and at the University of Žilina in Žilina ([www.iaeste.sk](http://www.iaeste.sk), [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org)).

**IFSA** (International Forestry Students' Association) is the worldwide organisation of local and national association of forestry students. In the Slovak Republic, the IFSA operates at the Technical University in Zvolen ([www.ifsa.net](http://www.ifsa.net)).

**SloMSA** (Slovak Medical Students' Association) is a member of the International Medical Students Association (IFMSA). SloMSA operates at the 2 medical faculties of the Comenius University (in Bratislava and in Martin) and at the Faculty of Medicine of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice ([www.slomsa.webnode.sk](http://www.slomsa.webnode.sk), [www.ifmsa.org](http://www.ifmsa.org)).

**The Youth Council of Slovakia** is the basic organisation associated with other children and youth institutions and is recognised as a reference to organisations established to provide various activities for youngsters ([www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk)).

## 7. Student Cards

Several international cards can be used in the Slovak Republic. These cards enable students to be eligible for discounts on transport, accommodation, restaurants, cinemas, concerts, museums and exhibitions. For students, the most advantageous is the worldwide recognised students' card ISIC (International Student Identity Card) and for teachers, the worldwide recognised teachers' card ITIC (International Teacher Identity Card). Anyone aged under 26 can get IYTC (International Youth Travel Card) or EURO<26 (European Youth Card) giving youth various discounts on anything from plane tickets to cinema tickets. The cardholders may buy also health insurance.



More information available at: [www.isic.org](http://www.isic.org) and [www.euro26.org](http://www.euro26.org)

The cards can be bought in the offices of CKM 2000 TRAVEL ([www.ckm.sk](http://www.ckm.sk)).

## 8. Banks

There are many banks in Slovakia, usually members of international corporations offering ordinary banking services such as current accounts and sub accounts, domestic and foreign payments, electronic banking, debit and credit cards, cheques, deposit products, securities, private banking, unit trusts, mortgage financing, loans, exchange and even insurance services ([www.sbaonline.sk/en/banking-sector/banks-in-slovakia](http://www.sbaonline.sk/en/banking-sector/banks-in-slovakia)).

Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday (from 8:00 to 17:00/18:00). Some branches remain open even longer, and some are open on Saturdays and in some cases on Sundays (mostly in shopping centres only). For more details, please, visit the website of the respective bank.



### How to Open a Bank Account

To open a bank account you need ID or passport. The opening of the account is for free. The fee per month

for the maintenance of the account varies from bank to bank, and depends on whether it is in Euros or in foreign currency. Foreign students can open a student account for free (they are exempt of monthly fee for maintenance and they can get a debit card for free). Closing of the bank account is for free, but the bank can set a fixed amount account balance up to 7 €.

### Credit & Debit Cards

If you have a current account in Euro, a debit card is mostly issued

within a service package. A credit card is issued independently of an account. Major credit cards (American Express, Diners' Club, Visa, Eurocard/MasterCard) and debit cards (Maestro, Cirrus, Eurocheque cards and Visa Electron, Eurocard/MasterCard) may be used for cash withdrawal from cash dispensers (ATM), as well as for payments in hotels, restaurants, shops and petrol stations. Credit cards can also be used to obtain currency. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services, please, consult your card issuer.

### Travellers' Cheques

Thomas Cook, American Express, Visa, Swiss Bankers, Citibank travellers' cheques are accepted in banks and at exchange offices. Exchange rate charges are at least 1 % of the nominal cheque value. To avoid additional charges, travellers are recommended to take travellers' cheques in Euro, US Dollars or Pounds Sterling.

You can also use the services of Western Union, operating in the Slovak Post Office throughout the Slovak Republic.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Kremnica mint is the oldest enterprise in the world which operates without any break. The coins have been made here since 1328 and – for instance – the Slovak Euro-coins have been punched here as well.





## Exchange Rate

The website of the National Bank of Slovakia (“Národná banka Slovenska” [www.nbs.sk](http://www.nbs.sk)) offers up-to-date information on exchange and interest rates, and other financial data. Note that the exchange rate of a commercial bank may vary slightly.



## 9. Shopping

Souvenirs include pottery, porcelain, wooden carvings, hand-embroidered clothing and straw figures, and food items. There is a number of excellent shops specialising in glass and crystal goods, while various associations of regional artists and craftsmen run their own boutiques.

DID YOU KNOW?

“Tatranská Madonna” was the biggest mosaic in the world created from the circulating coins. This work of art was in order to remember the Slovak currency before Slovakia has entered the common European currency.



Most shops are open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 18:00, till noon on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays. However, there are no strict regulations and many shops are open longer and some for 7 days a week, esp. supermarkets, hypermarkets and shopping centres. There is a possibility of on-line shopping, too.

## 10. Electrical Appliances and Computers

In Slovakia, 230 V/50 Hz electrical system is used and appliances are designed for a round pin plug and receptacle (socket) with male grounding pin. For safety and to avoid damage to electrical appliances, it is important to bring equipment designed for the mentioned frequency and voltage, use dual voltage equipment or voltage converters/transformers. Moreover, plug adapter will also be needed if your device is constructed for other standards. For those



bringing US standard equipment, an earthed (grounded) step-down transformer is necessary for US computers, monitors and printers. Even with the most expensive transformers, one should always monitor the electrical supply. Most printers will need an adapter but not all adapters are recommended for printers.

## 11. Communications and Post Offices

### Internet Connection

Slovakia currently has a large number of full-area ISP's that offer wired broadband internet connections, for example:

- Slovak Telekom ([www.telekom.sk](http://www.telekom.sk)) – the major telecommunication company in Slovakia,
- Orange Slovensko ([www.orange.sk](http://www.orange.sk)),
- UPC ([www.upc.sk](http://www.upc.sk)), and others.

They offer a range of connections, from ADSL/ADSL2+ to “Fibernet”. ADSL or ADSL2+ is available in almost every town in Slovakia.

Also mobile operators have various mobile internet offers.

Internet Cafes (“internetová kaviareň”) are widespread and not confined to large towns. For more information you can either browse the internet or visit the Yellow Pages ([www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk)).

### Phone Calls & Services

There are 3 mobile operators on the area of the Slovak Republic

– Orange ([www.orange.sk](http://www.orange.sk)),  
Slovak Telekom ([www.telekom.sk](http://www.telekom.sk)),  
Telefónica O2 ([www.o2.sk](http://www.o2.sk)). They offer either pre-paid card services or phone contracts paid on monthly basis rate. Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls even from some peaks of Tatras. Only very distant areas are without signal.



There are also various providers for public telephone network. In towns, it is possible to use public phone booths, which accept coins or phone cards. The cards can be purchased in post offices or some newspaper stands.



### *How to Make Phone Calls*

#### **City codes in Slovakia:**

Banská Bystrica	048
Bardejov	054
Bratislava	02
Dunajská Streda	031
Humenné	057
Košice	055
Levice	036
Liptovský Mikuláš	044
Lučenec	047
Martin	043
Michalovce	056
Nitra	037
Nové Zámky	035
Poprad	052
Považská Bystrica	042
Prešov	051
Prievidza	046
Rožňava	058
Senica	034
Spišská Nová Ves	053
Topoľčany	038
Trenčín	032
Trnava	033
Zvolen	045
Žilina	041

**International  
country code of the  
Slovak Republic:**  
**+421**

#### **Emergency calls:**

General Emergency	112
Ambulance	155
Firemen	150
Police	158
Town police	159

#### **Enquiry services (usually paid):**

Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia	11 81
International directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers abroad	12 111
Exact time	12 110
Wake up calls	12 125

## Post Offices

Post offices are at your service in all towns and villages. Post offices are open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 18:00 and on Saturday until 13:00. The main post offices in larger towns or shopping centres are open daily until 20:00. It is possible to buy post stamps for post cards and letters directly in the post offices or in some newspaper stands.



A 50 g letter sent within Slovakia by 2<sup>nd</sup> class costs 0.40 €, sent by 1<sup>st</sup> class and registered mail costs 1.30 €. The postage for sending a 50 g letter by 2<sup>nd</sup> class from Slovakia to the Czech Republic costs 0.80 €, while sending a 50 g letter by the same class to the rest of the European countries costs 0.90 €. Sending a 50 g letter to the rest of the world costs 1 €.

At the website of the Slovak Post Office [www.posta.sk/en](http://www.posta.sk/en) you can find ZIP codes of Slovak towns and information (including pricelists) about other services provided at the post office, e.g. you can pay your utility bills, receive cash on delivery consignments, buy lottery tickets, get film developed, receive payments, make phone calls, buy phone and mobile phone cards, and, of course, send telegrams, faxes and mail.

## 12. Sport

### Summer Sports

In Slovakia, there is a wide range of facilities for summer sports. The most popular are **cycling, water sports and hiking**. Large reservoirs such as Zemplínska šírava, Oravská priehrada, Liptovská Mara, Sĺňava near Piešťany, Ružín at the River Hornád, and Domaša at the River Ondava along with artificial lakes like Slnéčné jazerá near Senec and Zlaté piesky in Bratislava offer visitors a chance to enjoy water sports. Many Slovak rivers are navigable and **canoeing** is very popular among young people. **Horse riding** is becoming more popular, with stables for public existing in many towns. **Mountaineering**,



**hill-walking, white water rafting, adrenaline sports and paragliding** are only some of the ways to spend a weekend in the mountains. Another very popular activity is **camping or renting cottages**, and **hiking** (trekking) in the mountains. For those who prefer green lawns and white sport dress, there are many possibilities to play **tennis** at tennis clubs, at public courts or **golf** in clubs.

More information available at: [www.holidayinfo.sk](http://www.holidayinfo.sk), <http://rivers.raft.cz/slovensko/>, [www.panorama.sk/index.asp?kam=/go/clanky/430.asp&lang=en&sv=2](http://www.panorama.sk/index.asp?kam=/go/clanky/430.asp&lang=en&sv=2)

## Winter Sports

Thanks to its mountainous nature, Slovakia offers great opportunities for **downhill and cross-country skiing, as well as snowboarding**. The mountains enjoy over 80 days of snow per year which often reaches a level of 2 m in the “Nízke Tatry” and “Vysoké Tatry” (Low and High Tatras). In these high mountain regions, there is snow on the ground for 130 days each year. **Ice hockey and ice-skating** are very popular sports that can be practised in closed stadiums, as well as outdoors.

## Mountain Rescue Service Insurance

As of 1 July 2006, tourists bear the cost of search and rescue operations that require the Mountain Rescue

Service (“Horská záchranná služba” – HZS) to conduct, excluding the costs covered by health insurance. Insurance companies offer products that cover the potential risks. You can conduct the insurance on-line or via SMS. For more information, please, consult a commercial insurance company.

More information available at: [www.hzs.sk](http://www.hzs.sk) – Mountain Rescue Service (in Slovak only), [www.onthesnow.sk](http://www.onthesnow.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.holidayinfo.sk](http://www.holidayinfo.sk)



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2000, Slovak national team won the golden medal in the Ice-Hockey World Championship in Goeteborg, Sweden.



## Indoor Sports

Sports centres offer opportunities for fitness, aerobics and sometimes squash. These centres are often equipped with saunas, solaria and masseurs, and many also offer body care services, such as cosmetic and pedicure facilities. Some towns also have indoor swimming pools that provide opportunities for swimming, saunas and massages. You can also rent a gym-hall to play squash, indoor football, volleyball, basketball, handball, etc. These gyms are mostly associated with a primary or secondary school, or a university/faculty.

More information available at: [www.sportslovakia.sk](http://www.sportslovakia.sk)

## 13. Culture and Media

### Theatre, Opera, Ballet

The theatre network consists of 4 state funded professional theatres, 22 theatres under the competence of self-governing regions and municipalities, more than 40 independent theatres established by private owners/legal entities and 4 minority language theatres throughout the Slovakia (Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Komárno, Košice, Martin, Nitra, Prešov, Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves, Trnava, Zvolen, Žilina, etc.). A list of all the theatres in Slovakia can be found at [www.theatre.sk](http://www.theatre.sk) (website of the Theatre Institute).



The oldest professional theatre in Slovakia is the **Slovak National Theatre** ("Slovenské národné divadlo" – SND) in Bratislava ([www.snd.sk](http://www.snd.sk)). It comprises drama, opera and ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company, with a central theatrical stockist providing sets for all productions. The SND is a repertory company with a season running from the beginning of September to the end of June. Performances are staged every day except Sundays (opera and ballet) or Mondays (drama). In April 2007, new building on the bank of the Danube River became the seat of the SND in addition to the historic building.

Other state institutions are the **State Theatre** (“Štátne divadlo”) in Košice ([www.sdke.sk](http://www.sdke.sk)), the **State Opera and Ballet** (“Štátna opera a balet”) in Banská Bystrica ([www.stateopera.sk](http://www.stateopera.sk)) and the **Nová scéna** (New Stage) in Bratislava specialising in musical repertory ([www.nova-scena.sk](http://www.nova-scena.sk)).

Theatre also offering different types of performances during the summer break is the **Aréna Theatre** in Bratislava ([www.divadloarena.sk](http://www.divadloarena.sk)).

Theatre performance usually begins at 19:00 (at 18:00 on Sundays) and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the beginning of the performance, it is advisable to reserve them several days before the performance at the ticket office of the respective theatre or on-line at [www.ticketportal.sk](http://www.ticketportal.sk). There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket.

## Music

### *Classical Music*

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a national musical tradition began to develop around Slovakia's impressive folk heritage. Romantic as well as modern Slovak music has drawn from both classical and traditional folk styles. Among romantic composers, the most important are the compositions of Ján Levoslav Bella, Viliam Figuš-Bystrý who laid the foundations of the first Slovak opera, and those of Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský and Mikuláš Moyzes who had merit in lyric songs and ballads creation. Well-known works from the 20<sup>th</sup> century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1<sup>st</sup> Slovak national opera “Krútnava” (The Whirlpool)) and Ján Cikker.

Today, music is one of the most significant aspects of the Slovak culture. Some of the most renowned orchestras are the **Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra** (“Slovenská filharmónia”, [www.filharm.sk](http://www.filharm.sk)), the **Slovak State Philharmonic in Košice** (“Štátna filharmónia Košice”, [www.sfk.sk](http://www.sfk.sk)), the **Symphonic Orchestra of Slovak Radio** (“Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu”, [www.rtv.slovensko.sk](http://www.rtv.slovensko.sk)) and the **Bohdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra** (“Slovenský komorný orchester Bohdana Warchala”, [www.filharm.sk](http://www.filharm.sk)).

Musical performances usually begin at 19:00 and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the beginning of the concert, it is advisable to reserve tickets several days before at the ticket office of the respective orchestra. Tickets can be also booked on-line at [www.ticketportal.sk](http://www.ticketportal.sk).



### *Traditional Folk Music*

The most impressive ensembles performing traditional dance and music are the **Slovak Folk Ensemble** (“Slovenský ľudový umelecký kolektív” – SĽUK, [www.sluk.sk](http://www.sluk.sk)) and **Lúčnica – the Slovak National Folklore Ballet** ([www.lucnica.sk](http://www.lucnica.sk)). Most towns have

their own folk festivals with dances, local costumes and food. These tend to be held throughout summer until the end of

September. The biggest one takes place in Východná in July every year ([www.festivalvychodna.sk/en](http://www.festivalvychodna.sk/en), [www.nocka.sk/en](http://www.nocka.sk/en)).

### *Modern Music*

**The Music Centre Slovakia** (“Hudobné centrum”, [www.hc.sk](http://www.hc.sk)) provides information on classical and modern music. At [www.ticketportal.sk](http://www.ticketportal.sk) you can find information on concerts and buy tickets. If you prefer the club scene with live performances, there are many options within different genres.

### *Traditional Folk Art*

Folk art and crafts, which include woodcarving, fabric weaving, glass blowing and painting, pottery, ceramics production, blacksmithing, have a long tradition. The tradition of folk art and crafts has been handed down through the generations and is nowadays supported mainly by **ÚĽUV – Centre for Folk Art Production** ([www.uluv.sk/en](http://www.uluv.sk/en)). The Centre sells traditional products but also organises exhibitions, artistic workshops “The ÚĽUV Craftschool”, both for youth and adults, some of which are officially accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Slovakia became famous for **Majolic pottery** (“majolika”) already in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (especially in the town of Modra). Ceramic tradition of Modra was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsmen in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Habans, also known as Anabaptists, were a religious sect that arose during the Reformation. The pottery is characterised by gentle curves and





bright colours, particularly blue and yellow. Contemporary Majolic factory of Modra is a direct descendant of this tradition. You can also order Majolic through the website [www.majolika.sk](http://www.majolika.sk) (in Slovak only).

Examples of folk architecture, such as wooden churches and brightly painted houses, are to be found throughout the country. Interesting open air museums presenting folk architecture can be found in Martin (**Museum of the Slovak Village** – “Múzeum slovenskej dediny”), Bardejov Spa, Zuberec, Vychylovka in Nová Bystrica, and Pribylina. If you are interested in “**living museums**” (folk architecture reservations), you should visit villages like Čičmany, Vlkolínec, Špania dolina, Ždiar, Podbiel or Sebechleby.

**Wooden churches architecture** is unique, especially by its construction and interior design. All parts had to be made of wood and no nails were allowed. In the north-east of the country you may find mostly churches of Greek Catholic or Orthodox denomination. Most of them date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. One of the oldest churches is the Roman-Catholic wooden church in Hervartovo near Bardejov dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Wooden churches and towers in the centre of the country were mostly of Roman-Catholic and Evangelical denominations.



More information available at: [www.museum.sk](http://www.museum.sk), [www.remesla.lawit.sk](http://www.remesla.lawit.sk)

### *Cinema*

Cinemas (“kino”) can be found in every town. Film clubs are popular and can be found in all university towns. In Bratislava, multiplex cinemas can be found in the Aupark, Eurovea and Polus shopping centres ([www.cinemacity.sk](http://www.cinemacity.sk)). Cheaper options are film clubs like cinema “Lumiére”, “Mladost”, “Nostalgia” or “Kino Film Europa” in Bratislava. In shopping centres in Banská Bystrica, Dunajská Streda, Košice, Nitra, Poprad, Prešov, Skalica, Trenčín, Trnava and Žilina you can find multiplex cinema, too ([www.cine-max.sk](http://www.cine-max.sk), in Slovak only). Most films bear the original soundtrack with subtitles; some films have Slovak dubbing (mostly films for children). Cinema programmes are published on towns’ websites ([www.kamdomesta.sk](http://www.kamdomesta.sk), [www.citylife.sk](http://www.citylife.sk) – both websites in Slovak only) and in newspapers.



*DID YOU KNOW?*

The largest Celtic oppidum in the middle Europe used to be located on the Bratislava castle hill and reached to the today's Old Town till the Liberty Square ("Námestie slobody"). The medieval Bratislava would suit on this area 3 times.



### *Slovak Newspaper in English*

The Slovak Spectator (<http://spectator.sme.sk>), an independent English language newspaper, is published every week. It includes information on politics, the economy, business, daily life and cultural events, as well

as advertisements. There are many varieties of local newspapers and journals. You can also buy or subscribe to foreign newspapers and journals or buy them at newsstands.

*DID YOU KNOW?*

In Slovak territory, the first newspaper was Prešporské Newspaper, at Prešporok (Bratislava) in July 1783.



## **14. Cuisine**

### **Food**

Slovak food is made using a variety of traditional and European products and ingredients. In shops, supermarkets or hypermarkets you can buy all kinds of vegetables and fruit in season, meat, milk products, pastry, bread, mineral and spring water, and sweets. You can also buy fresh home-grown fruit and vegetables, and some other products at open-air markets.

## Cuisine

There are many restaurants in Slovakia ranging from cheap to expensive. For a drink, it is more usual to go to a pub, where you can also have a meal. Larger cities usually have restaurants with national and international cuisine, the most common being Italian, Chinese, Balkan, Czech and Hungarian. Beer and wine (domestic and foreign) are good and usually consumed with both lunch and dinner.

Lunch is the main meal and Slovaks are more used to eating out for lunch than for dinner. Most restaurants in town centres have special lunch offers ("denné menu", usually consisting of a bowl of soup and a main course), which are cheaper than other meals served there.

Restaurants are open from Monday to Sunday from morning till night. Stores and restaurants open 24 hours a day have a sign reading "non-top".

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. Five to ten percent is a standard tip in a restaurant with waiter service. Waiters usually give a customer the total of the bill and the customer, as he/she hands over the money, says how much he/she is paying including the tip. In restaurants and bars it is usual to round up the price, the tip being roughly 10 %.

More information and lists of catering places can be found at [www.menu.atlas.sk](http://www.menu.atlas.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.gurmania.sk](http://www.gurmania.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.zomato.com/sk](http://www.zomato.com/sk) (in Slovak only), <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk>.



DID YOU KNOW?

The sweet speciality from Záhorie known as "Skalický trdelník" is the first to have won the protection of geographical indication for a Slovak product registered by the European Commission.



## Traditional Cuisine

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, “bryndza” (a cheese made from sheep milk) and pulses. The number one national soup is sauerkraut soup (hearty cabbage soup with smoked pork sausage that often contains mushrooms, and sometimes plums, especially at Christmastime). Another typical Slovak soup is made of beans and root vegetables such as carrot and parsley. Sometimes, smoked pork is added.

The most traditional national dish served as a main course is “bryndzové halušky” (gnocchi/dumplings topped with “bryndza” and fried bacon). Another traditional dish is “strapačky s kapustou” (dumplings with cabbage and, sometimes, with fried bacon). As the most common dessert one can always have sweet pancakes with jam, farmers’ cheese and raisins, and whipped cream or chocolate.

Cheese and cheese products are other typical Slovak specialties. Besides already mentioned “bryndza”, the most popular are “korbáčik” (sheep cheese strings interwoven into fine braids), “parenica” (steamed sheep cheese strips woven into snail-like curls) and “oštiepok” (smoked sheep cheese shaped in wooden moulds).

The most popular wines are those from the Tokaj, Small Carpathians, Nitra, Topoľčany and Záhorie regions. In winter, try the mulled wine. Young wine (“burčiak”) is available in the first half of September, and is usually the subject of harvest festivals. Hubert, the Slovak sparkling wine and “Karpatské Brandy Špeciál” (the Carpathian Brandy Special) are also highly rated. Typical Slovak liqueurs are Demänovka, Horec and Tatranský čaj from the region of the High Tatras. “Slivovica” (plum brandy) and “borovička” (the juniper berry brandy, gin) are popular Slovak aperitifs. To the uninitiated, these drinks will appear quite strong. Let us not forget that Slovakia also produces excellent beer. The most popular brands are Zlatý Bažant, Corgoň, Smädny mních, Martiner, Topvar, Šariš, Gemer.

More information available at:

[www.panorama.sk/bonappetit](http://www.panorama.sk/bonappetit)



## 15. Libraries

There is 1 National Library, 8 scientific libraries, 33 academic libraries, 2,598 public libraries, 357 special libraries, and 4,554 school libraries in Slovakia. The University Library in Bratislava, founded in 1919, contains more than 2 million volumes and

is the country's most important library. The Slovak National Library (founded in 1863), located in Martin, includes a collection of materials relating to Slovak culture.

Did you know?

The first book, printed on the territory of the Slovak Republic, was the Latin textbook by Lucas Fabinus printed in Prešov in 1573.



Slovak libraries on the web:

- Comenius University Medical Faculty Library, Bratislava  
[www.fmed.uniba.sk/index.php?id=1764](http://www.fmed.uniba.sk/index.php?id=1764)
- Mikuláš Kováč Public Library, Banská Bystrica  
[www.vkmk.sk](http://www.vkmk.sk)
- National Library of Slovakia, Martin  
[www.snk.sk](http://www.snk.sk)
- Old City Library, Bratislava  
[www.starlib.sk/en](http://www.starlib.sk/en)
- Slovak Agricultural Library, Nitra  
[www.slpk.sk](http://www.slpk.sk)
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava  
[www.cvtisr.sk](http://www.cvtisr.sk)
- Slovak Library of Forestry and Wood Sciences at the Technical University, Zvolen  
[www.tuzvo.sk/en/sldk/homepage.html](http://www.tuzvo.sk/en/sldk/homepage.html)
- Slovak Medical Library, Bratislava  
[www.sllk.sk](http://www.sllk.sk)
- Slovak Pedagogic Library, Bratislava  
[www.spgk.sk](http://www.spgk.sk) (in Slovak only)
- University Library in Bratislava  
[www.ulib.sk/english](http://www.ulib.sk/english)

- University Library of the Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra  
[www.ukf.sk/en](http://www.ukf.sk/en)
- University Library of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice  
[www.upjs.sk/en/departments/university-library](http://www.upjs.sk/en/departments/university-library)
- University Library of the Technical University, Košice  
[www.lib.tuke.sk](http://www.lib.tuke.sk) (in Slovak only)
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice  
[www.uvm.sk/sk/kniznica](http://www.uvm.sk/sk/kniznica) (in Slovak only)

## 16. Other Services

### Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service

At present, there are several laundrettes in Slovakia ([www.cent.sk](http://www.cent.sk), in Slovak only; [www.pramako.sk](http://www.pramako.sk), in Slovak only; [www.flipperwash.sk](http://www.flipperwash.sk)). You can also use home laundry facilities or commercial laundries that wash and iron clothing and linen for their clients. However, there are many dry cleaning services or even fast dry cleaners (nearly in every shopping centre). Some of them also provide leather/suede/fur cleaning and dyeing.

### Beauty Salons and Hairdressers'

There are many beauty salons providing high quality service at a good price using modern techniques of cosmetology and skin care. Most of them provide also nail design. There is also a lot of hairdressers providing hair expert advice upon request.

### Insurance

Useful links for different types of insurance (life insurance, household insurance, car insurance, etc.) where you can find a list of insurance companies with their contact data:

- Slovak Association of Insurance companies: [www.slaspo.sk/en/](http://www.slaspo.sk/en/)
- Slovak Insurer's Bureau: [www.skp.sk](http://www.skp.sk)
- Insurance agencies portal: [www.poistovne.sk](http://www.poistovne.sk) (in Slovak only)

## 17. Public Holidays

National, public and religious holidays are days off in Slovakia.

- **1 January** – Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic of the Slovak Republic
- **6 January** – Catholic Epiphany
- **March/April** – Good Friday, Easter Monday, set according to the Christian Calendar, check the concrete dates of the respective year after arrival
- **1 May** – Labour Day/May Day
- **8 May** – Day of Victory over Fascism – End of World War II
- **5 July** – St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day
- **29 August** – Slovak National Uprising Anniversary
- **1 September** – Day of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic
- **15 September** – Day of the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows
- **1 November** – All Saints' Day
- **17 November** – Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day
- **24 December** – Christmas Eve
- **25 December** – Christmas Day
- **26 December** – St. Stephen's Day

People usually do not work on these days; banks, post offices, shops, ambulances are closed; some public transport offers a reduced service (esp. buses and trains).

## 18. Living Costs

Prices provided below give an idea of how much living in Slovakia costs. These costs are just approximate and they are a subject to change.

### *Rent*

- **Guest room at a students' dormitory:** from 11.80 € per night
- **1 bedroom flat:** from 300 € per month including utilities  
(in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)
- **2 bedroom flat:** from 400 € per month including utilities

### *Food*

- **Lunch at a canteen:** from 1.60 €
- **Restaurant meal:** from 5 €
- **Pizza in a pizzeria:** from 4 €
- **1 litre of milk:** 0.80 €
- **1 litre of mineral water:** 0.40 €
- **Loaf of bread:** 0.70 €
- **400 g spaghetti:** 0.80 €
- **Beer:** 1 €

### *Transportation*

- **Local transport, basic ticket (single):** from 0.50 to 1.40 €
- **Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass:** from 20 €

### **Coaches:**

- Bratislava – Košice, 445 km: from 21 €
- Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km: from 9.50 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 230 km: from 10 €

### **Trains**

- Bratislava – Košice: from 18,50 €
- Bratislava – Žilina: from 10 €
- Bratislava – Banská Bystrica: from 10 €

**Taxi within Bratislava:** app. 0.60 € per km

- **Petrol per litre:** from 1.45 €
- **Diesel per litre:** from 1.35 €



## Having Fun

- **Movie ticket:** 3–8 €
- **Museum ticket:** from 1 €
- **Theatre ticket:** 2.50–20 € for drama, 4–35 € for opera and ballet
- **Fitness centre ticket:** from 3 €
- **Swimming pool ticket:** from 1.50 €
- **Rent a bike:** from 8.80 € per day

More information about Slovakia, its nature, holiday ideas, services and practical information can be found on the Slovakia.travel, the official national tourism portal of Slovakia ([www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel)) operated by the Slovak Tourist Board. There are interactive maps, tourism destinations, UNESCO sites, city guides from all over Slovakia, travel and transport information, as well as accommodation facilities and lots of practical travel advice.

### DID YOU KNOW?



The Janko Král' Park ("Sad Janka Kráľa") on the right side of the Danube River in Petržalka (part of Bratislava) is the oldest public park in Europe. Founded in 1776, it is still a popular place to meet and relax.





## USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS

### **International Visegrad Fund**

Kraľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-5920-3811

Fax: +421-2-5920-3805

E-mail: [visegradfund@visegradfund.org](mailto:visegradfund@visegradfund.org)

URL: [www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org)

### **Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic**

Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-5937-4111

E-mail: [info@minedu.sk](mailto:info@minedu.sk), [info@studyin.sk](mailto:info@studyin.sk)

URL: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk), [www.studyin.sk](http://www.studyin.sk)

### **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic**

Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava 37, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-5978-1111

Fax: +421-2-5978-3333

URL: [www.mzv.sk](http://www.mzv.sk), [www.foreign.gov.sk](http://www.foreign.gov.sk)

E-mail: [info@mzv.sk](mailto:info@mzv.sk)

### **SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)**

Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-5930-4700, 5930-4711

Fax: +421-2-5930-4701

E-mail: [saia@saia.sk](mailto:saia@saia.sk),

URL: [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk), [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk), [www.euraxess.sk](http://www.euraxess.sk)

### **Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation (SAAIC)**

Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421-2-2092-2201

Fax: +421-2-2092-2209

E-mail: [llp@saaic.sk](mailto:llp@saaic.sk), [erasmus@saaic.sk](mailto:erasmus@saaic.sk)

URL: [www.saaic.sk](http://www.saaic.sk)

**Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV, Presidium)**

Štefánikova 49, 814 38 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421–2–5751–0111

Fax: +421–2–5751–0608

E-mail: [mackova@up.upsav.sk](mailto:mackova@up.upsav.sk)

URL: [www.sav.sk](http://www.sav.sk), [www.psav.sav.sk](http://www.psav.sav.sk)

**Slovak Rectors' Conference (SRK)**

Konventná 1, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421–903–232–351

Fax: +421–2–5413–1238

E-mail: [srk@srk.sk](mailto:srk@srk.sk)

URL: [www.srk.sk](http://www.srk.sk)

**Student Higher Education Council (ŠRVŠ)**

Ústav informácií a prognóz školstva

Staré grunty 52, 842 44 Bratislava 4, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421–949–855–958

Fax: +421–2–6541–1880

E-mail: [srvs@srvs.sk](mailto:srvs@srvs.sk)

URL: [www.srvs.sk](http://www.srvs.sk)

**The Fulbright Commission**

Levická 3, 821 08 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel.: +421–2–5937–4639

Fax: +421–2–5937–4640

E-mail: [office@fulbright.gov.sk](mailto:office@fulbright.gov.sk)

URL: [www.fulbright.sk](http://www.fulbright.sk)

**Embassies**

The contact addresses and phone numbers of the consulates and embassies of the Slovak Republic abroad, as well as foreign embassies in Slovakia can be found at the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic ([www.mzv.sk](http://www.mzv.sk)).

**Some Words to Know in Slovak:**

I don't speak Slovak	– Nehovorím po slovensky
I don't understand	– Nerozumiem.
Do you speak English (French, German)?	– Hovoríte po anglicky (francúzsky, nemecky)?
My name is...	– Volám sa...
Yes/No	– Áno/Nie
Thank you!	– Ďakujem!
I am sorry!	– Prepáčte
Where is...?	– Kde je...?
One, two, three, four, five	– jeden, dva, tri, štyri, päť
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten	– šesť, sedem, osem, deväť, desať
Twenty, fifty,	– dvadsať, päťdesiat,
Hundred, thousand	– sto, tisíc
Good morning	– dobré ráno
Good day	– dobrý deň
Good evening	– dobrý večer
Good night	– dobrú noc
Good bye	– dovidenia
Hi!	– ahoj, čau
Ambulance	– sanitka
Doctor	– lekár
Pharmacy	– lekáreň
Police	– polícia
Exit	– východ
Emergency exit	– únikový východ
Entrance	– vstup
Departure/arrival	– odchod/príchod
Open/closed	– otvorené/zatvorené
Restaurant	– reštaurácia
Café	– kaviareň
Meals	– jedlá
Drinks	– nápoje
Price	– cena

How much is it?	– Koľko to stojí?
I would like the bill, please.	– Účet, prosím.
Store	– obchod
Grocery	– potraviny
Water	– voda
Bread	– chlieb
Milk	– mlieko
Wine	– víno
Beer	– pivo
Vegetable	– zelenina
Fruit	– ovocie

## On-line Dictionaries

Here are some useful links where you can find translation dictionaries from and to Slovak. Available languages for translation are stated in brackets.

<http://slovníky.lingea.sk>

(Albanian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese)

<http://webslovník.zoznam.sk>

(English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish)

<http://korpus.juls.savba.sk/~garabik/slovník>

(English, German, Russian, Hungarian)

<http://slovník.azet.sk>

(English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish)

[www.qnell.com/dictionary/dict/hu-sk](http://www.qnell.com/dictionary/dict/hu-sk)

(Hungarian)

[www.slovník.org](http://www.slovník.org)

(Russian)

[www.somvprahe.sk/slovník](http://www.somvprahe.sk/slovník)

(Czech)





### **SAIA, n. o.**

(Slovak Academic Information Agency) is an NGO established in 1990 which through its programmes and services assists in enhancing of civil society and in internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia.

SAIA provides information about study and research abroad and in Slovakia, organises selection of scholarship holders based mostly on bilateral intergovernmental agreements, seminars for Slovak HEIs, and produces publications. SAIA administers also the bilateral programme Action Austria – Slovakia, Co-operation in Science and Education, and the multilateral programme CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies).

Since 2006, SAIA has managed the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (supporting the mobility of students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists), approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Since 2010, it is a Coordination Body for the Sciex-NMS<sup>ch</sup> – Scientific Exchange Programme funded from the Swiss contribution to the enlarged European Union. Since 2013, SAIA is the Programme Operator of the EEA Scholarship Programme Slovakia, aimed at the upper-secondary schools and higher education institutions.

SAIA has also a role of the EURAXESS Services Centre for researchers as part of the European EURAXESS Services Network located in 40 European countries.

At present, SAIA provides its services in 5 university towns in Slovakia (besides Bratislava, in Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica and Košice).

