



international Student's Guide to Slovakia



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This updated version of publication was produced within the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

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6th (updated) edition

Published by:

SAIA, n. o.

Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovakia

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Graphic design and press:

xpression, s. r. o.

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ISBN 978-80-89521-52-4



hello
ahoj



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1.

ABOUT SLOVAKIA



1. Slovakia in Brief

Official name: Slovak Republic

Capital: Bratislava (422,932 inhabitants)

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

Political system: parliamentary democracy

Administrative organisation: 8 higher territorial units, 8 regions, 79 districts, 2,927 municipalities out of which are 140 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 km²

Population (as of 31 December 2015): 5,426,252 million
(out of them 51.2 % of women)

Density of population: 111/km²

The largest towns – by population (as of 31 December 2015):

Košice (239,200), Prešov (89,959), Žilina (81,114), Banská Bystrica (78,758), Nitra (77,670), Trnava (65,596), Trenčín (55,698), Martin (55,687), Poprad (52,037), Prievidza (47,143), Zvolen (42,868)

Ethnic mix of population (as of 31

December 2011): Slovak (80.7 %), Hungarian (8.5 %), Romany (2 %), Czech (0.6 %), Ruthenian (0.6 %), Ukrainian (0.1 %), German (0.1 %), Moravian (0.1 %), Polish (0.1 %), other (0.2 %) and unknown (7 %)



Religions (as of 31 December 2011): Roman Catholic Church (62 %), Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession (5.9 %), Greek Catholic Church (3.8 %), Reformed Christian Church (1.8 %), Orthodox Church (0.9 %), Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses (0.3 %), United Methodist Church (0.2 %), Apostolic Church (0.1 %), Baptist Union (0.1 %), Christina Corps (0.1 %), Jews (0.1 %), Seventh-day Adventists Church (0.1 %), other (0.5 %), without religion (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 € and 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: corn, forest products, fruit, grains, hops, oat, potatoes, rye, sugar beets, wheat

Breeding: cattle, goats, pigs, poultry, sheep

Main fields of industry: chemical, electro-chemical, automotive, light industry, food processing, back-office support, engineering, building materials, paper and cellulose, wood, mining, metallurgical

Natural resources: bentonite, brown coal, crude oil, dimension and crushed stone, gold, gypsum and anhydrite, kaolin, limestone, magnesite, natural gas, perlite, talc, zeolite

2. Geography

The Slovak Republic is situated in Central Europe, sharing borders with Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine. Mountains, lowlands, valleys, lakes, cave formations, forests and meadows provide many examples of Slovakia's yearround natural beauty.

DID 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.



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 lowlands, an important agricultural areas of Slovakia.

The highest point: Gerlach Peak (*“Gerlachovský štít”*) in the High Tatras (*“Vysoké Tatry”*) 2,654 m above sea level

The lowest point: River Bodrog 94 m above sea level

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 $-2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, but can plummet to $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

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

DO YOU KNOW?

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



3. Political System and State Bodies

The Slovak Republic was established on 1 January 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex, race, colour of the skin, language, creed

and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic origin, property, descent 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 of the Slovak Republic** is the Head of State elected for a 5-year term in a direct two-round elections. The same person can be elected President for a maximum of two consecutive 5-year terms. The current President of the Slovak Republic is Mr. Andrej Kiska (appointed in June 2014).

The **Government of the Slovak Republic** 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 2016). 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 of the Slovak Republic is Mr. Róbert Fico (appointed in March 2016).

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 (78.6 %) speaks Slovak as their mother tongue. The second most widely spoken mother tongue is Hungarian (9.4 %).

The most widely spoken foreign languages are English, German, Russian, Hungarian and French. Young urban population is generally considered to be the most linguistically proficient. Foreign languages are sometimes taught at kindergarten, while foreign language learning – usually English – is compulsory in primary schools (from 3th till 9th grade) and in secondary schools. There are some primary and secondary schools that conduct majority of 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 9th 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, creed and religion will be guaranteed. This right will include the right to change creed or religion.”*

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).

DID YOU KNOW?

The world's highest wooden gothic altar (18.6 m) is to be admired in Levoča, in the St. James Church. It is a work of a well-known medieval wood-carver Master Paul from Levoča. He carved it of lime wood at the beginning of the 16th century. It took him 10 years to finish it.



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

- **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 18th-century synagogue (www.bardejov.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, 16th-century churches, elegant squares and castles. The urban centre blends into the surrounding landscape, which contains vital relics of the mining and metallurgical activities in the past (www.banskastiavnica.sk).



DID YOU KNOW?

“*Spišský hrad*” (Spiš castle) is the largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe. The castle covers an area of more than 40,000 m² large.



- **Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the Associated Cultural Monuments** – “*Spišský hrad*” (Spiš castle) has one of the largest ensembles of 13th- and 14th-century military, political and religious buildings in Eastern Europe, and its Romanesque and Gothic architecture has remained remarkably intact (www.spisskyhrad.sk). The extended site features the addition of the historic town-centre of Levoča founded in the 13th and 14th centuries within fortifications. Most of the site has been preserved and it includes the 14th-century Church of St. James with its ten alters of the 15th and 16th centuries, 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).

- **Vlkolínec** – a Monument Reserve of Folk Architecture, situated in the centre of Slovakia, is a remarkably intact settlement of 55 buildings with the traditional features of a Central European village. It is the region’s most complete group of these kinds of traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas (www.vlkolinec.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 16th and 18th centuries. The property presents good examples of a rich local tradition of religious architecture, marked by the meeting of Latin and Byzantine cultures. Interiors are decorated with paintings on the walls and ceilings and other works of art that enrich the cultural significance of the properties (<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 more than 1,000 caves currently identified make up a typical temperate-zone karstic system. Because they display an extremely rare combination of tropical and glacial climatic effects, they make it possible to study geological history over tens of millions of years. Caves listed in the UNESCO List of the World Heritage open to the public: Dobšinská Ice Cave, Domica Cave, Gombasecká Cave, Jasovská Cave, Krásnohorská Cave, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave (www.ssj.sk/en/jaskyne).

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.



- **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany** – these forests represent examples of on-going post-glacial biological and ecological evolution of terrestrial ecosystems and are indispensable to understanding of spreading of the beech in the Northern Hemisphere across a variety of environments. It is a tri-national property (Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine) comprising fifteen separate components in three countries; six of them are in Slovakia (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>).



Intangible Cultural Heritage

- **Bagpipe culture** – bagpipe culture consists of a wide range of expressions and knowledge associated with bagpipes and their use, including music repertoire, style and ornamentation, songs, dances, instrument-making, folk customs and traditions and special verbal expressions. The bagpipe tradition exists throughout Slovakia, with regional differences concerning technical details, tuning, ornaments and know-how, and corresponding songs and dance repertoire. The main bearers and practitioners of the element are bagpipe makers and players, as well as other musicians, singers and dancers performing in groups with bagpipe players (www.gajdy.sk, in Slovak only).
- **Fujara and its music** – fujara is an extremely long flute with three finger holes traditionally played by Slovak shepherds; it 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, 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, in Slovak only).

More information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk>,
www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/lists

7. Famous Slovaks

Art

Brunovský, Albin
(1935 – 1997)
*painter, graphic
artist, lithographer,
illustrator
and pedagogue*



Considered one of the greatest Slovak painters of the 20th century. He employed imaginative, fantastic themes in his creative work. He was an adherent of fantastical realism (the second surrealist 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 the Slovak national sentiment and its music, and his art traversed the borders of

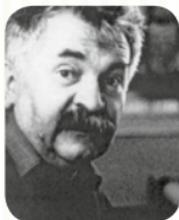
Slovakia. He became a UNESCO Music Prize Laureate in 1979. Works: operas Juro Jánošík (1950 – 1953), Beg Bajazid (1957) and Mr. Scrooge (1963), as well as symphonic compositions and the arrangement of songs for folk groups.

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, illustrator
and pedagogue*



The leading figure in the generation of artists that came of age during the World War II; representative of expressionism.

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, graphic artist and illustrator

One of the most significant 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 beliefs. He worked in the 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, Námestie osloboditeľov 28, Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

Suchoň, Eugen

(1908 – 1993)

composer and pedagogue

Ranks among the most prominent Slovak composers of the 20th century. From the very beginning, the work of the artist has been a representative expression of 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 European music of this century. The success of his first opera “*Krúťňava*” (The Whirlpool) established modern Slovak opera and drew international attention.



Warhol, Andy
(1928 – 1987)

*painter,
graphic artist
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 art, photography and film. He painted everyday objects and film stars, while his films were about time, boredom and repetition. (Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art, Ulica A. Warhola 26, Medzilaborce, Slovakia)



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.



Science and Technology

Alexander, Vojtech
(1857 – 1916)

radiologist

One of the world's greatest radiologists and the founder of radiology

in the Hungarian Kingdom. He described the development of tuberculosis and owned the first X-ray apparatus in Slovakia.



Bel, Matej
(1684 – 1749)

*polyhistor,
pedagogue,
scientist
and evangelical
priest*

He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18th century, 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.

Works: Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus (1723),



Adparatus ad historiam Hungariae (1735–1736) and *Notitia Hungariae novae historic-geographica* (1735–1742). The Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica bears his name.

Blaškovič, Dionýz

(1913–1998)

bacteriologist and virologist

Received international recognition for his research

of pathogenesis, biological and biochemical properties of bacteria, laboratory diagnosis of viral infections, and the ecology of influenza virus and tick-borne encephalitis.



Ilkovič, Dionýz

(1907–1980)

chemist and physicist

A founder of Slovak physics. He played a distinguished part in elaborating the theory of polarography for which his teacher and collaborator Jaroslav Heyrovský was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1959.



Murgaš, Jozef

(1864 – 1929)

priest, painter, architect, botanist, inventor 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. His other patents include the spinning reel (for fishing), wave meter, electric transformer, magnetic detector and an engine producing electromagnetic waves. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison” or “Radio Priest”.

Pajdušáková, Ľudmila

(1916–1979)

astronomer

The first Slovak woman astronomer, a specialist in solar astronomy. She made her name as the discoverer of 5 comets (1 period comet and 4 non-periodic comets). Other examples of her scientific research included the systematic observation of meteors



(among them the Umid meteor shower in 1945) and observations of the Sun. Her facsimile collection published in 1946, which included more than 11,000 meteorites on 10,000 facsimiles, was at that time the second largest in the world after the Harvard collection. A minor planet 3636 Pajdušáková, discovered in 1982, bears her name.

Segner, Ján Andrej

(1704–1777)

*physician,
astronomer,
physicist and
mathematician*



One of the best-known scientists of his age. Designed a reactive water engine known as the Segner wheel, and invented the water turbine principle, which formed the basis for the functioning of modern space rockets. The crater Segner on the Moon bears his name, as does the minor planet 28878 Segner (discovered in 2000).

Stodola, Aurel

(1859 – 1942)

*engineer, physicist,
pedagogue
and inventor*

He graduated in the field

of mechanical engineering



and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland (one of his students was Albert Einstein). 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. In 1915, he constructed a movable artificial arm, known as Stodola's arm. He was awarded the most prestigious engineering awards – the Grashof Medal (1908) and the James Watt Gold Medal (1940). He was also a correspondent member to the French Academy of Sciences.

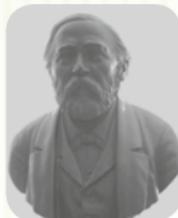
Štúr, Dionýz

(1827–1893)

*geologist,
palaeontologist
and botanist*

Outstanding and world-famous

scientist. He carried out geological research throughout the entire Austro-Hungarian Kingdom and he compiled the first geological map of the Monarchy. Those works were very important for Slovakia and became a milestone for a systematic geological research of the Western Carpathians. He was a director of the Imperial Geological Institute in Vienna (1885–1892). The State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr in Bratislava bears his name.



Thurzo, Viliam

(1912–1984)

oncologist and pedagogue

Founder of cancer research, research of oncogenic viruses and experimental oncology in Slovakia. He discovered a new type of virus called B77, which is still used as a model for research into the genesis of tumours.

Politics

Beňovský,

Matúš Mórič

(1746 – 1786)

*nobleman,
explorer, traveller,
writer, military
officer and King
of Madagascar*



Baron Beňovský began his career as a military officer 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 (Russian Federation). He managed to escape by boat in 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.

Hodža, Milan

(1878 – 1944)

journalist,

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, Minister (Unification of Laws, Agriculture, Education and Foreign Affairs), and finally the Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic.

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 Sea, from Germany to Russia.

Štefánik,
Milan Rastislav
(1880 – 1919)

*politician,
diplomat,
photographer,
astronomer,
military pilot and officer*

Studied astronomy in Prague and Paris. He became acquainted with Tomáš G. Masaryk and Eduard Beneš, with whom he established an anti-Austro-Hungarian resistance movement in France in order to establish an independent Czech and Slovak State. He worked in France as astronomer, became a French Air Force officer during the World



War I, he was one of the leading members of the Czechoslovak National Council, Minister of War and one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Republic. He died in a tragic air accident. The Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš bears his name.

Štúr, Ľudovít
(1815 – 1856)
*national
activist and
linguist*

The leader
of the Slovak
National
Revival in the
19th century,

author of the Slovak language standard eventually leading to the contemporary Slovak literary language. He organised the Slovak Volunteer Campaigns during the 1848 Revolution in the Kingdom of Hungary, a member of the Hungarian Parliament, politician, Slovak poet, journalist, publisher, teacher, philosopher and linguist. Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava bears his name.



II.

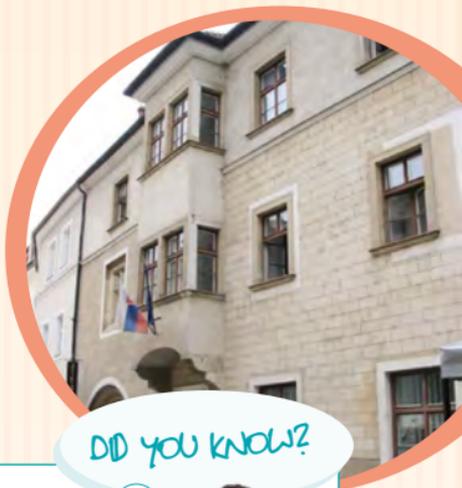
HIGHER EDUCATION

IN SLOVAKIA

1. Oldest Slovak Universities

The first university in 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 **Mining Academy** in Banská Štiavnica – the first school of mining in the world.



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 HEIs 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 HEIs 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 HEI.
- b) The **non-university type** of HEIs 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 selfgoverning institutions. At present, there are 20 public HEIs in Slovakia, comprising 9 more or less traditional universities, 5 universities of technology, 3 HEIs 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** (12 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 HEIs 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 selfgoverning 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 HEIs established and situated in 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 in the territory of Slovakia once they have been granted official approval 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 towns:

Public Higher Education Institutions

BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica (www.aku.sk; in Slovak only)

- Faculty of Dramatic Arts
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Performing Arts

Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (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)

Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava (www.vsmu.sk)

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

Comenius University in Bratislava

(www.uniba.sk)

- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Evangelical Theology
- Faculty of Law



- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmacy
- 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)

- 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 Materials Science and Technology in Trnava
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

University of Economics in Bratislava (www.euba.sk)

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

KOMÁRNO

**J. Selye University
in Komárno**
(www.ujs.sk;
in Slovak and
Hungarian only)

- Faculty of Economics

DID YOU KNOW?

“Bratislava tapestries” exhibited in the Primatial Palace in Bratislava are the world’s most complete collection of tapestries made in English royal manufactory in Mortlake (part of London).



DID YOU KNOW?

- Faculty of Education
- Reformed Theological Faculty

KOŠICE

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (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)

- 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)

NITRA

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (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

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (www.uniag.sk)

- Faculty of Agrobiolgy and Food Resources

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.



- 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)

- 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)

- 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, in Slovak only; www.erasmus.tnuni.sk, English and Spanish version)

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



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)

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Health Sciences 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)

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

ZVOLEN

Technical University in Zvolen (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)

- 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;
in Slovak only)

Slovak Medical University in Bratislava (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)**

Private Higher Education Institutions

BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA

**Ján Albrecht Music and Art Academy in Banská Štiavnica
(www.huaja.org)**

BRATISLAVA

**Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts in Bratislava
(www.bisla.sk)**

**Media Academy, School of Media and Marketing Communication
in Bratislava (www.akademiamedii.sk, in Slovak only)**

Pan-European University in Bratislava (www.paneurouni.com)

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

**School of Economics and Management in Public Administration
in Bratislava (www.vsemvs.sk)**

**St. Elizabeth University of Health Care and Social Work in Bratislava
(www.vssvalzbety.sk, in Slovak only)**

DUBNICA NAD VÁHOM

**Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom
(www.dti.sk)**

KOŠICE

University of Security Management in Košice (www.vsbm.sk)

PREŠOV

College of International Business ISM Slovakia in Prešov
(www.ismpo.sk, in Slovak only)

SKALICA

University of Central Europe in Skalica (www.sevs.sk)

SLÁDKOVIČOVO

Danubius University in Sládkovičovo (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)

Foreign Higher Education Institutions in Slovakia

College of International and Public
Relations, Prague, Czech Republic
(www.vip-vs.sk, in Slovak only)

Fresenius University of Applied Sciences,
Idstein, Germany (www.hs-fresenius.sk,
in Slovak only)

Institut Supérieur Spécialisé de la Mode
(MOD'SPE PARIS), Paris, France (www.modspeparisce.com)

Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic (www.upol.cz)



3. Organisation of Study

HEIs 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 HEI.

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 studies. Student's standard work load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. Every HEI 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:



A	Excellent = 1
B	Very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
C	Good (average achievements) = 2
D	Satisfactory (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
E	Sufficient (achievements meet only the minimum criteria) = 3
FX	Fail (achievements do not meet 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.

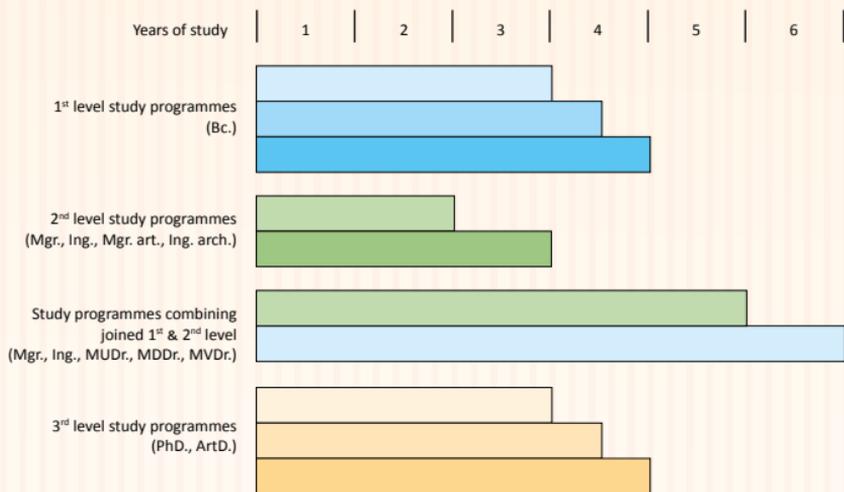
Study programmes of the **second level** and those of the first two levels of higher education joined into a single whole are:

- 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, HEIs award the following academic degrees:

- 1st level – Bachelor (comprising app. 180 credits)
 - “bakalár” (abbr. “Bc.”).
- 2nd 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.
- 3rd 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’s degree programme (3–4 years of full-time study) or a programme combining 1st and 2nd 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’s degree programme or its equivalent. Admission to doctoral studies depends on the successful completion of a 2nd level degree study programme.

Students, who would like to study a full study programme, should apply directly at the respective HEI. Students may apply for several study programmes at various HEIs and faculties. The deadline for submitting applications is set by each HEI; usually, it is 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 HEI. Entrance examinations are usually held between June and September. Examinations at art HEIs 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 HEIs 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 33).

International 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 Preparatory Studies of the Centre for Continuing Education at the Comenius University in Bratislava (www.cdv.uniba.sk/en). Courses of Slovak language are also organised by 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 HEIs/faculties.



Publication “*Study in Slovakia – Study programmes offered in foreign languages*” with a list of study programmes offered in English and other languages by Slovak HEIs can be found at the SAIA website www.saia.sk.

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

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees for study programmes offered in foreign languages are set by each HEI separately. Fees vary from 500 € to 12,000 € per one academic year. Updated information on tuition fees can be obtained from international relations offices of the respective HEIs.

However, students studying full-time in Slovakia without exceeding the standard length of study do not pay tuition fees, if they study a programme offered in Slovak language (more information about study programmes offered in Slovak language can be found at www.portalvs.sk – in Slovak language only).

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 international 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 divides 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 non-regulated profession;
- recognition of previous education for pursuing a 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;
- recognises level of completed education obtained abroad for academic purposes, for pursuing non-regulated professions and for obtaining a “Blue Card” in the Slovak Republic;
- recognises completed education and part of education obtained abroad for relevant authorities and institutions in the Slovak Republic;
- is responsible for equivalence and conversion of grades obtained at primary and 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: sudv@minedu.sk

Tel: +421-2-5937-4623, +421-2-5937-4616

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.

Recognition of Primary and Secondary Education

According to the legislation in force, qualifications obtained outside Slovakia giving access to higher education in Slovakia are recognised by the Department of Education of 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.

Subjects of nostrification (recognition of education) are leaving certificates and diplomas issued by primary or secondary schools outside Slovakia.

The recognition process is initiated after filing the application together with all the required documents.

The application consists of applicant's full name and surname, permanent residence address or address of similar stay, full name and address of applicant's primary or secondary school which issued the document for nostrification, year of the completion of applicant's education and applicant's signature. If the applicant is underage, the application is filed by his/her legal guardian. Together with the application, the following documents must be submitted:

- copy of an identification document;
- certified copy of a leaving certificate or diploma obtained outside Slovakia (leaving certificates and diplomas must have apostille or superlegalisation issued by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued);
- transcript of completed courses and exams;
- in case of vocational secondary education, a confirmation issued by the secondary school about the scope of practical education;
- evidence of payment of the administrative fee (6.50 €).

Apart from the aforementioned documents, the applicant may be requested to submit other additional documents or information, provided these are necessary for assessing the content and extent of the education acquired outside Slovakia.

Submitted documents must be translated by a sworn translator into Slovak language. Documents submitted in Czech language do not require translation.

After submitting the application with all the required documents, the respective District Office shall decide within two months to:

- recognise the leaving certificate or diploma,
- refuse to recognise the leaving certificate or diploma,
- award a supplementary examination (the 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 school outside Slovakia, and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued).

Contact:

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on Recognition of Diplomas – 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 regulated profession in the Slovak Republic, please, consult the website of the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas.

The recognition of previous education for academic purposes is in the competence of:

- higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Slovak Republic – in case that the respective HEI in Slovakia offers the same or similar study programme as the one completed abroad (at the website www.portalvs.sk/en you can find a list of HEI in Slovakia divided according to the fields of study);
- Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (Centre on Recognition of Diplomas) – in case there is no similar study programme offered by one of the HEIs in Slovakia as the one completed outside Slovakia;
- Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic – in case of higher education completed at a military HEI outside Slovakia;
- Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – in case of higher education completed at a police force HEI outside Slovakia.

The recognition process is initiated after filing the application together with all the required documents.

The application consists of applicant's full name and surname, permanent residence address or address of similar stay, full name and address of applicant's HEI which issued the document for nostrification, year of the completion of applicant's education and applicant's signature. Together with the application, the following documents must be submitted:

- copy of an identification document;
- certified copy of a diploma or degree obtained outside Slovakia (leaving certificates and diplomas must have apostille or superlegalisation issued by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued);
- transcript of completed courses and exams;
- information about previous achieved level of education;
- evidence of payment of the administrative fee (6.50 €).

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

Submitted documents must be translated by a sworn translator into Slovak language. Documents submitted in Czech language do not require translation.

When applying at the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas, the Centre accepts documents issued in Czech and Latin language without requiring a translation into Slovak language. In case of documents issued in English, French, German, Hungarian or Russian languages, the Centre accepts translations of the required documents into Slovak language made by the applicant. In case of doubts related to the translation, the Centre may require a sworn translation of the documents.

After submitting the application with all the required documents, the respective higher education institution or ministry shall decide within two months to:

- recognise the diploma or degree,
- refuse to recognise the diploma or degree,
- award a supplementary examination (the 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 school outside Slovakia, and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued).

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More information is available at the website of the Centre
on Recognition of Diplomas – www.minedu.sk.

Automatic Recognition of Previous Education for Academic Purposes

Leaving certificates and diplomas issued by recognised education institutions from countries which have signed a bilateral agreement on mutual recognition of education with the Slovak Republic (Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine) or higher education institutions from member states of the European Higher Education Area (Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vatican City) are automatically recognised for academic purposes.

The recognition process is initiated after filing the application together with all the required documents.

The application consists of applicant's full name and surname, permanent residence address or address of similar stay, full name and address of applicant's primary or secondary school or higher education institution which issued the document for nostrification, year of the completion of applicant's education and applicant's signature. If the applicant is underage, the application is filed by his/her legal guardian.

Together with the application, the following documents must be submitted:

- copy of an identification document;
- certified copy of a leaving certificate or diploma obtained outside Slovakia (leaving certificates and diplomas must have apostille or superlegalisation issued by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued).

Submitted documents must be translated by a sworn translator into Slovak language. Documents submitted in Czech language do not require translation.

When applying at the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas, the Centre accepts documents issued in Czech and Latin language without requiring a translation into Slovak language. In case of documents issued in English, French, German, Hungarian or Russian languages, the Centre accepts translations of the required documents into Slovak language made by the applicant. In case of doubts related to the translation, the Centre may require a sworn translation of the documents.

After submitting the application with all the required documents, the Centre on Recognition of Diplomas, the respective higher education institution or District Office shall make its decision within 15 days. The decision will contain information with which education document is the submitted document equal in Slovakia.

Contact:

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

Centre on Recognition of Diplomas

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on Recognition of Diplomas – www.minedu.sk.

III.

ENTERING AND STAYING IN SLOVAKIA – VISA AND RESIDENCE

The aim of this chapter is to give you – university students and PhD students coming to Slovakia – 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 text is only informative. It was elaborated on the basis of information available and valid for the year 2016; it does not contain exhaustive information about the stay of foreigners in Slovakia in general, and it gives no right for claims or legitimate expectations of any kind. You can find more detailed information in the Act No. 404/2011 on the Residence of Foreigners that is available in English at www.minv.sk/?pobyt-cudzinca.

1. Navigation

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

- I. **Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?**
 - A. **Yes** – proceed directly to the chapter “*Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals Coming to Slovakia*”, page 44.
 - B. **No** – continue with the question II.

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

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

Do you need visa to enter Slovakia (or the Schengen Area in general)? (Check here, whether or not you are allowed visa-free access to the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa)

1. **Yes** – then apply for a visa. For detailed information about the visa procedures, see the chapter “*Application for Schengen Visa*”, page 46.
 - In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival in Slovakia, see the chapter “*Duties after Arrival in Slovakia*”, page 60.
2. **No** – in this case, you do not need to take any other administrative steps before your arrival, if you want to study or carry out research in Slovakia.
 - In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival in Slovakia, see the chapter “*Duties after Arrival in Slovakia*”, page 60.

B. **No** – if your intended stay is longer than 90 days, you need to apply for a temporary residence; the application procedure may vary depending on where you decide to apply for the temporary residence.

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

1. **Yes – you can obtain the temporary residence in 2 ways:**
 - a) you can apply for the temporary residence from abroad prior to your arrival in Slovakia (to find out more information about the temporary residence, please, continue with the question III.). After issuing the temporary residence, a Slovak embassy/consulate will issue (on the basis of an application) the National visa (type “D”) allowing the entry into Slovakia (for further information on visa application procedure, consult the part “*Application for a National Visa*”, page 49).

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

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival in Slovakia, see the chapter “Duties after Arrival in Slovakia”, page 60.
- b) in case it is not possible to apply for a temporary residence from abroad due to some objective reasons and your stay in Slovakia is authorised (i.e. you are a holder of a Schengen (type “C”) or a National visa (type “D”), you can come to Slovakia and apply for a temporary residence at a police department (to find out more information about the temporary residence, please, continue with the question III.).

Do not forget to bring all the documents necessary for the temporary residence application procedure with you; otherwise, you will have to leave Slovakia (the Schengen Area) before your visa expires.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival in Slovakia, see the chapter “Duties after Arrival in Slovakia”, page 60.

2. No – you can obtain the temporary residence in 2 ways:

- a) you can apply for the temporary residence in Slovakia, if you are legally staying in the territory of the Slovak Republic (to find out more information about the temporary residence, please, continue with the question III.).

Do not forget to bring all documents necessary for the temporary residence application procedure with you; otherwise, you will have to leave Slovakia (the Schengen Area) after 90 days of a cumulative stay within any 180-day period.

Note: *The application procedure for the temporary residence for the purpose of study, research and development, and special activity may take up to 30 days from the day 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 temporary residence within 90 days since entering Slovakia (the Schengen Area); otherwise, you will have to leave this territory. Without visa, you are allowed to reside in the territory of Slovakia (the Schengen Area) for 90 days in 6 consecutive calendar months. If the cumulative stay, as a result of multiple stays in the territory of Slovakia (the Schengen Area), was to exceed 90 days in 6 consecutive calendar months, conditions of your entry in the territory of Slovakia (the Schengen Area) would have to be consulted with the respective Slovak representative body abroad.

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival to Slovakia, see the chapter “Duties after Arrival in Slovakia”, page 60.

- b) you can apply for the temporary residence abroad at the respective Diplomatic Mission of the Slovak Republic prior to your arrival in Slovakia (to find out more information about the temporary residence, please, continue with the question III.).

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

- In order to learn more about the duties you have to fulfil after your arrival to Slovakia, see the chapter “Duties after Arrival in Slovakia”, page 60.

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

- A. study at a university** – irrespective of the type of study (full degree programme or academic mobility/exchange stays), you can apply for the **temporary residence for the purpose of study** – see the chapter “Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Study in Case of University Students/PhD Students”, page 50.

B. carry out research

- **Are you invited by a Slovak university to pursue a PhD?**
 - a) **Yes** – if you have an admission/invitation letter as a PhD student (i.e. explicitly stating that you are invited as a PhD student), proceed as “A. study at a university”, as aforementioned,
 - b) **No** – (irrespective of whether you have an invitation from a university or other 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 59)

 - a) **Yes** – you can apply for the **temporary residence for the purpose of research and development** – see the chapter “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Research and Development for Researchers (Including PhD Students) with a Hosting Agreement*”, page 56.
 - b) **No** – it is a **stay within an exchange/mobility programme or co-operation 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, see the chapter “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Special Activity in Case of Researchers without a Hosting Agreement*”, page 53.

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

If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia for less than 3 months, he/she is only obliged to **submit the notice of stay** to a foreign police office **within 10 working days** from the day of his/her arrival in Slovakia. This is usually made by the accommodation provider, if the person stays in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If accommodated in private accommodation (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 61).

If an EU/EEA/Swiss national intends to stay in Slovakia for longer than 3 months, he/she is first obliged to **submit the notice of stay** to a foreign police office **within 10 days** from the day of his/her arrival in Slovakia (as mentioned in the previous paragraph). After that, he/she can stay in Slovakia without any further obligations for up to 3 months from the entry in the territory of the Slovak Republic. Once this period of 3 months is over, the EU/EEA/Swiss national is obliged to apply for the **registration of residence** in the Slovak Republic within next 30 days.

What Do You Need for the Report of Stay?

If you are staying in private accommodation, 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; must be filled in Slovak language; the forms are also available at local foreign police offices),
- **valid ID/passport.**

What Do You Need for the Registration of Residence of an EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals?

Come in person to a foreign police office during the 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; 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 and/or sufficient financial resources.**

If you are interested in obtaining a **Residence card of an EU citizen**, you are also required to submit the following:

- **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 EU national residence card.

3. Duties of Third Country Nationals Coming to Slovakia

Visa

When intending to apply for a visa, foreign nationals are urged to contact the territorially competent Slovak embassy/consulate general (see page 63) 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 third country. Before visiting the embassy/consulate in person, please, contact them by telephone or e-mail and arrange an appointment.

Note: Check here, whether or not you are allowed visa-free access to the EU: http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa/do-i-need-a-short-stay-visa_en#novisa.

You can apply for a visa 3 months prior to your planned trip at the earliest. 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.

The decision should be issued within 10 calendar days from the delivery of a completed visa application in case of nationals of those countries that have signed Community-level visa facilitation agreements (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine). Nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia do not need visas to enter Slovakia, if they are holders of biometric passports.

Application for Schengen Visa (Type C – Short Stay)

A Schengen visa is a **short-stay visa** issued by any country in the Schengen area. It enables you to **enter the 26 Schengen countries** for one or several visits, the duration of which **cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-day period**.

The date of entry is the first day of stay in the territory of a Schengen Member State and the day of leaving is the last day of such stay. The duration of stay authorised by a temporary residence is not included into the duration of a visa stay. The term “any” (in the expression “any 180-day period”) implies the application of a “moving” 180-day period,

looking backwards at each day of the stay (day of entry or the day of the inspection) in order to verify whether the condition of 90/180 days is observed. The absence from the Schengen area for a 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 the United Kingdom). On the contrary, the stays in Schengen countries outside the EU – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – are taken into account. In order to calculate the period of stay in the territory of Schengen countries and to check the compliance with the 90/180 rules, it is possible to use a Visa calculator.

Territorial validity of the visa is specified on a visa sticker in the “*Platné pre/Valid for*” line. The 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 the visa validity and duration of stay.

In the case of a 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. the visa is valid for all Schengen countries except XY), or “*Valid for: SK, XY*” (i.e. the 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/web/en/consular_info),
 - 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 duration 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 prove the corresponding amount respective to the duration of his/her stay as stated in the visa at the Slovak border.)

- **documents enabling an assessment of the applicant's intention to leave the Schengen territory** before 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 the 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/EEA nationals are exempt from the obligation of submitting travel health insurance;
- **other documents** – for the purposes of the 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 those third countries that have signed the Visa Facilitation Agreement with the European Union:

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

The fees shall be 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 a visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU/EEA national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

Application for National Visa (Type D – Long Stay)

National (long-stay, type D) visa may be issued in relation to the granted residence 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**, for a period of maximum one year. In relation to the granted residence in the Slovak Republic, the visa is 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 by the temporary residence before the day of its expiry. The long-term visa holders are allowed to travel to other Schengen member states (outside the borders of the state which issued the visa), however, these stays 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 the part "*Slovak Embassies and Consulates Abroad*", page 63). Therefore, it is necessary to contact the embassy/consulate and get information about your specific situation.

The national visa is issued under similar conditions as the Schengen visa and, in general, it is necessary to enclose the same documents to the application (see part “*Application for Schengen Visa*”, page 46).

Visa application fees: 33 € in general; in case the national visa is issued for the purpose of collection of a granted temporary residence in the Slovak Republic, the fee is **9.50 €**.

The fees shall be 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 a visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU/EEA national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

***Note:** The national visa is granted only for a period of time necessary for obtaining the temporary residence. Therefore, if you are going to apply for the temporary residence in Slovakia, it is crucial to have all the required documents for the temporary residence application with you (see the part “*Temporary residence*” below), so you can obtain your temporary residence 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

Depending on the activity you are going to pursue in Slovakia and the way it will be carried out, you may apply for one of the several types of temporary residence:

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

To find out which type suits your situation best, please, consult the “*Navigation*”, page 40.

Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Study in Case of University Students/PhD Students

Students from third countries staying in Slovakia for longer than 90 days shall apply for the **temporary residence for the purpose of study**.

The applicant must apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate

competent for his/her country or at the foreign police office in Slovakia. It is necessary to submit a complete application; 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/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and must be filled in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**
- **valid passport;**
- **document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak) – a confirmation on studies** issued by a state authority (the respective ministry) or the host university, or a confirmation from an organisation administering a programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic or an European Union programme under a contract with the competent state authority (letter of award);
- **document proving sufficient financial resources for the stay (in Slovak)** – e.g. a balance statement of a bank account in the applicant’s name, a letter of award stating the amount of your scholarship, a confirmation of the financial and material support of the applicant during the state from the statutory body of a legal entity, 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 during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with an apostille/ superlegalisation, it has to be translated into Slovak language by an official sworn translator** (list of official sworn translators is available at <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk> – section “Prekladatelia”, in Slovak only) 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 proving the conformity with the original). Extracts issued in Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators *see the chapter “V. Authentication of Documents”, page 68.*

None of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources and no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for the temporary residence.

The embassy of the Slovak Republic which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for the temporary residence. The record shall be made in the language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak Slovak, 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 the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

Fee: 4.50 € for issuing the residence card.

Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak language when your residence card is ready at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). The applicant will receive a confirmation from the officer that his/her application was successfully submitted; he/she should keep the confirmation. You have to collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for the temporary residence from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

Once you are granted the temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. Health insurance contracts in other language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated into Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a **health insurance**

covering your stay in Slovakia, you have to **obtain it within 3 working days from collecting your residence card**. Moreover, you have to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from collecting your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 63) and a fee will be charged.

Police department shall grant the temporary residence for the purpose of study for the expected period of studies, for a maximum of 6 years. The temporary residence for the purpose of study remains valid for up to 30 days after the completion of university studies for the purpose of job-searching. The university diploma and the state examination certificate serve as a proof of the completed studies.

Application for renewal of the temporary residence has to be filed by the third country student in person using an official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the current temporary residence validity. The temporary residence is deemed valid in the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of the temporary residence.

Conditions under which students and PhD students can **work** during their studies are briefly explained in the chapter “*IV. Working while Studying*” on page 65.

Temporary Residence for the 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, other types of temporary residence may apply to them as well. Researchers (PhD students) from third countries coming to Slovakia within an official exchange or mobility programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, an EU programme or a programme resulting from an international agreement binding on the Slovak Republic or upon an invitation from a university/education institution to **give lectures/teach**, shall apply for the temporary **residence for the purpose of special activity**. However, these nationals cannot be employed in Slovakia under a work contract.

The applicant has to apply in person at the Slovak embassy/consulate competent for his/her country or at the foreign police office in Slovakia. It is necessary to submit a complete application; otherwise, it will not be accepted.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **filled-in application form “Application for temporary residence”** (available to download at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and must be filled in Slovak language);
- **recent fullface colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**
- **valid passport;**
- **document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak)** – e.g. letter of award confirming the participation in the mobility programme or confirmation from your host university/research organisation that you will carry out research activities there;
- **document proving sufficient financial resources for the stay (in Slovak)** – e.g. balance statement of a bank account in the 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 during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with an apostille/superlegalisation, it has to be translated by an official sworn translator** (list of official sworn translators is available at <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk> – section “Prekladatelia”, in Slovak only) 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 proving the conformity with the original). Extracts issued in Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators see the chapter “V. Authentication of Documents”, page 68;
- **document proving the accommodation (in Slovak)** – e.g. confirmation from your accommodation provider or a rental agreement **and** the letter of ownership.

None of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources, accommodation and no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for the temporary residence.

The embassy of the Slovak Republic which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for the temporary residence. The record shall be made in the language in which the interview was held, and it must be signed by the applicant. (If the applicant does not speak Slovak, 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 the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

Fees: 99.50 € for the temporary residence application,
4.50 € for issuing the residence card.

Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak language when your residence card is ready at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). You have to collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for the temporary residence from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

Once you are granted the temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from the collection of your residence card. Health insurance contracts in other language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated into Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to **obtain it within 3 working days from**

collecting your residence card. Moreover, you have to submit a medical certificate confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from collecting your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 63) and a fee will be charged.

The police department shall issue the temporary residence for the purpose of special activity for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, but for a maximum of 2 years.

Application for the renewal of the temporary residence has to be filed by the third country researcher (PhD student) in person using an official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the current temporary residence validity. The temporary residence is deemed valid in the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of the temporary residence.

If you plan to **work under an employment contract** during your stay in Slovakia, consult the chapter “*IV. Working while Studying*” on page 65.

Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Research and Development for Researchers (Including PhD Students) with a Hosting Agreement

Researchers (and to some extent PhD students, as aforementioned) who signed a hosting agreement with a research organisation or a university can apply for the **temporary residence 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 foreign police office in Slovakia. It is necessary to submit a complete application; otherwise, it will not be accepted.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **filled-in application form “Application for temporary residence”** (available to download at www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziahosti/pobyt/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf; the forms are also available at local foreign police departments and must be filled in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**

- **valid passport;**
- **hosting agreement** in Slovak language (as a proof of the purpose of stay and as a proof of financial resources);
- **document proving sufficient financial resources for the stay (in Slovak)** – e.g. hosting agreement, balance statement of a bank account in the 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 during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). **After certifying the document with an apostille/superlegalisation, it has to be translated by an official sworn translator** (list of official sworn translators is available at <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk> – section “Prekladatelia”, in Slovak only) **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 proving the conformity with the original). Extracts issued in Czech language do not need to be translated into Slovak. For more details about apostille, superlegalisation and official translators see the chapter “V. Authentication of Documents”, page 68;
- foreigners applying for the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation. However, the hosting agreement should contain a clause regarding the accommodation.

None of the documents proving the purpose of stay, financial resources or no criminal record can be older than 90 days on the day of submitting the application for the temporary residence.

Embassy of the Slovak Republic which receives the application will interview the applicant for the temporary residence for the purpose of a preliminary assessment of the application. The interview will be conducted in Slovak or another language understandable to both parties. The embassy will prepare a written record of the interview and attach it to the application for the temporary residence. The record shall be made in the 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 the temporary residence to the police department along with the record and its translation.

Fee: 4.50 € for issuing the residence card.

Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application, the foreign police office shall either issue a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence. If applying for the temporary residence directly at a foreign police office in Slovakia, the officers will ask you to provide a mobile phone number (you can write the number on your application form). You will be notified by a text message in Slovak language when your residence card is ready at the foreign police office (typically within 30 days). You have to collect the residence card at the foreign police office in person or you can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for you. When applying for the temporary residence from abroad via a representative body, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

Once you are granted the temporary residence, you are obliged to submit a document proving your **health insurance** within 30 days from collecting your residence card. Health insurance contracts in other language than Slovak (except for Czech) must be translated into Slovak by a sworn translator. In case you do not have a **health insurance covering your stay in Slovakia**, you have to obtain it **within 3 working days from collecting your residence card**. Moreover, you have to submit a **medical certificate** confirming that you do not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health within 30 days from collecting your residence card. The certificate cannot be older than 30 days. It can be obtained in **specific medical centres** only (see page 63) and a fee will be charged.

Police department shall issue the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, but for a maximum of 2 years.

Application for renewal of the temporary residence has to be filed by the third country researcher (PhD student) in person using an official form and must be submitted to the foreign police office no later than on the last day of the current temporary residence validity. The temporary residence is deemed valid in the territory of the Slovak Republic after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal of the temporary residence.

If you plan to **work under an employment contract** during your stay in Slovakia, consult the chapter “*IV. Working while Studying*” on page 65.

What Is a Hosting Agreement?

A 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.

The 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 a host research organisation in Slovakia (public or private) and by the third country researcher. Only research organisations authorised to hire third country researchers (this authorisation is issued by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic) are eligible to issue a hosting agreement.

List of authorised research organisations is published at www.vedatechnika.sk (link to the list www.vedatechnika.sk/SK/VedaATechnikaVSR/Stranky/Povolenie-pravnickym-osobam-vykonavajucim-vyskum-a-vyvoj-prijimat-cudzincov.aspx, click at “Zoznam právnických osôb vykonávajúcich výskum a 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 (CRIS = Current Research Information System; in both Slovak and English). It is recommended to check both resources because of different data updating.

If a research organisation is not listed among the authorised institutions, it can apply for the licence at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport. For information about the application procedure, please, see 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;
- specification of the researcher’s work 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 the researcher's qualification;
- declaration of the host research organisation stating that in case a researcher remains illegally in the territory of the Slovak Republic, the host organisation will reimburse the costs related to his/her stay and return incurred by public funds;
- declaration of the host research organisation stating that during his/her stay, the researcher is provided with sufficient monthly financial resources, at least in the amount of the minimum salary, to cover his/her expenses during the stay and return travel costs. Typically, the financial resources can be provided in a form of a granted scholarship or a salary 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 are available at www.euraxess.sk/en/main/services-practical-information/entry-conditions-and-legal-stay/third-countries-nationals/hosting-agreement.

Duties after Arrival in Slovakia

Besides duties connected with visa and temporary residence (for details, please, consult the *“Navigation”*, page 40), each third country national is obliged **to report his/her stay** to the foreign police office **within 3 working days** since his/her arrival in Slovakia. This is usually done by the accommodation provider if you are staying in a hotel, hostel or dormitory. If you are staying in private accommodation (e.g. in a private rented flat or at a 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 at page 61).

What Do You Need to Report Your Stay?

If you are staying in private accommodation, 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; 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 the Foreign Police Office in Bratislava

Monday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 17.30
Tuesday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 15.00
Wednesday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 17.30
Friday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 15.00

Office hours of the rest of the Foreign Police Offices

Monday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 15.00
Wednesday	7.30 – 12.00	12.30 – 17.30
Friday	7.30 – 12.00	

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
Banská Bystrica Sládkovičova 4343/25, Banská Bystrica 974 05 ☎ +421-96160-3203 ✉ ocppzb@minv.sk	Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Brezno, Detva, Krupina, Zvolen, Žarnovica, Žiar nad Hronom
Bratislava Hrobákova 44, Bratislava 851 02 ☎ +421-9610-36855 ✉ ocppzba@minv.sk	Bratislava I. – V.
Dunajská Streda Adorská 34, Dunajská Streda 929 01 ☎ +421-96111-3200 ✉ ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk	Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Senec
Košice Trieda SNP 35, Košice 040 01 ☎ +421-9619-31208 ✉ kosicec@minv.sk	Košice I. – IV., Košice – okolie, Gelnica, Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves
Michalovce Štúrova 1, Michalovce 071 01 ☎ +421-96172-3220 ✉ michaloc@minv.sk	Michalovce, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Sobrance, Trebišov

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
Nitra Kalvárska 2, Nitra 949 01 ☎ +421-96130-3230 ✉ ocp.nitra@minv.sk	Nitra, Hlohovec, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Zlaté Moravce
Nové Zámky Bitúnkova 8, Nové Zámky 949 36 ☎ +421-96133-3208 ✉ ocp.novezamky@minv.sk	Nové Zámky, Komárno, Levice, Šaľa
Prešov Ľubochnianska 2, Prešov 080 01 ☎ +421-96180-3205 ✉ presovc@minv.sk	Prešov, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Poprad, Sabinov, Stará Ľubovňa, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou
Rimavská Sobota Hviezdoslavova 35, Rimavská Sobota 979 01 ☎ +421-96168-3205 ✉ ocppzrs@minv.sk	Rimavská Sobota, Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš
Trenčín Jilemnického 2, Trenčín 911 01 ☎ +421-96120-3234 ✉ ocpptn@minv.sk	Trenčín, Bánovce, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov
Trnava Paulínska 13, Trnava 917 01 ☎ +421-96110-6152 ✉ ocppz.trnava@minv.sk	Trnava, Malacky, Pezinok, Piešťany, Senica, Skalica
Žilina Bánovská cesta 8111/1, Žilina 010 01 ☎ +421-96144-3205, +421-96140-3216 ✉ xxxxxxxx	Žilina, Bytča, Čadca, Dolný Kubín, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Liptovský Mikuláš, Martin, Námestovo, Ružomberok, Turčianske Teplice, Tvrdošín

Note: The foreign police staff communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, you are strongly advised to ask somebody to accompany you. Also, the queuing time at foreign police offices can be very lengthy. People usually come early in the morning to take a numbered ticket which enables you to get to one of the counters that are processing the applications. It is possible that later during the day there will not be any tickets available and those without one will have to come back another day.

You can check for updates at www.minv.sk/?ocp-1 (in Slovak only).

Slovak Embassies and Consulates Abroad

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/cestovanie_a_konzularne_info/slovenske_zastupitelstva/vsetky_zastupitelstva (in Slovak only).

Medical Centres Relevant for Residence Permit

In relation to the temporary residence, a third country national has to submit a medical certificate confirming that he/she does not suffer from any exotic disease threatening public health. Only 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,
[info@cudzokrajne.sk](mailto:info@ cudzokrajne.sk), www.cudzokrajne.sk
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o.,
Teslova 33, **Bratislava**,
Tel: +421-2-4463-5473, Mob: +421-915-889-054,
bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk (in Slovak only)
- Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura Košice,
Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny
Centrum pre cudzokrajné choroby a cestovnú medicínu,
Rastislavova 43, **Košice**,
Tel: +421-55-615-2204
occh@unlp.sk, www.unlp.sk (in Slovak only)
- Univerzitná nemocnica Martin, Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny,
Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby,
Kollárova 2, **Martin**,
Tel: +421-43-420-3637, +421-43-420-3386,
kiacm@unm.sk, www.unm.sk (in Slovak only)
- Fakultná nemocnica Nitra, Infekčná klinika,
Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby,
Špitálska 6, 950 01 **Nitra**,
Tel: +421-37-654-5955,
cudzokrajna.ambulancia@fnnitra.sk, www.fnnitra.sk (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
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o., ŽILPO, s. r. o.,
Vysokoškolákov 31, **Žilina**,
Tel: +421-915-889-054,
bakos@inocem.sk, www.inocem.sk (in Slovak only)

Note: *The medical check for the purpose of the temporary residence is a paid service. The costs of the certificate vary (from 130 to 270 €) depending upon the medical centre. Please, contact the respective centre in advance for precise information on prices. Be aware of the fact that the staff in the ambulances often communicates in Slovak only, so if you think that you will not be able to communicate with them, ask somebody to accompany you.*

You can check for updates at www.minv.sk/?vizova-info-typy-viz-1
(in Slovak only).

IV.

WORKING WHILE STUDYING

Employment relations in Slovakia are regulated by the Labour Code (Act No. 311/2001) and the Act on Employment Services (Act No. 5/2004), which can be found in the online legislative and information portal www.slov-lex.sk/domov (in Slovak only).

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their family members can be employed in 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 the employment, all mobile workers from the 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 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 for the purpose of employment or a permanent residence. Nevertheless, there are some exceptions that apply to students, PhD students, university teachers or researchers (see the chapter “When is a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position not required?” page 66).

More detailed information about administrative procedures related to the employment of a foreigner in Slovakia can be found in the brochure “Entry, stay and employment in Slovakia – guide to administrative duties” available to download at www.saia.sk/en.

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

When is a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position not required?

With regard to the purpose of this book, we have selected only the most important provisions from the complete list. A work permit or the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position for a third country national is not required in the following cases:

- you have been granted a temporary residence for **the purpose of study** at a university and your employment will not exceed **20 hours per week**;
- you have **successfully graduated from a high school or university** (higher education institution) in the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- you will be employed for a maximum of one year in order to increase your qualification;
- 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 for **the purpose of research and development**, and you carry out research or development on the basis of a **hosting agreement**;
- you have been granted a temporary residence 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, a scientific, research or development worker**, participating in a **professional scientific event** or an artist participating in an artistic event;
- you have been granted a temporary residence of a third country national who has a recognised status of a Slovak living abroad;
- you have been granted a temporary residence and you have a long-term residency status in another EU Member State, after 12 months from the start of the stay in Slovakia;

- you are a family member of an EU national with the right to reside in the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, after 12 months from the start of a continuous residence in Slovakia
- you are a **family member of a non-EU researcher with a hosting agreement** and you have been granted a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification right after being granted such a residence,
- you are to be employed upon a commitment of the Slovak Republic under an **international treaty** defining that the work permit is not required for this type of employment (e.g. working holidays with Canada, New Zealand, ROC – Taiwan, Australia, Japan).



AUTHENTICATION

OF DOCUMENTS

For the purposes of visa, temporary residence and admission to higher education, international students may need to submit to Slovak officials also documents issued by authorities outside Slovakia (e.g. diplomas, criminal records, etc.). Documents issued by courts and other authorities outside Slovakia which are considered to be public documents in the country of their issue are deemed to have a 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 of 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 (in French: certification). **It is an international certification comparable to a notarisation in domestic law.**

If a state which is a signatory to the **Hague Convention** certifies a document with an **apostille, no further certification of that document is necessary** for its use in other signatory states (find more information on apostille at www.hcch.net). Once the document is submitted to a sworn translator and translated into Slovak, it is ready to be presented to Slovak authorities.

An updated list of countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention is available at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.status&cid=41.

Find your national authority competent to issue apostille with contact details and price information at www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.authorities&cid=41.

2. Legalisation

In case a foreign document is issued in a state which is not a signatory to the Apostille convention, it must be legalised by a Slovak foreign mission in that state for the use in Slovakia. Legalisation of public documents means the 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.

The administrative fee for the legalisation by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic is paid in the form of a **20 € electronic 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
Tel: +421-2-5978-1111, +421-2-5978-5978

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 <http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk>, section “Prekladatelia” (in Slovak only).

Once authenticated (legalised or apostilled), public documents translated into Slovak language by a sworn translator do not require any further verification and may be presented to institutions in the Slovak Republic.

VI.

GRANTS

AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Funding Based on Slovak Sources

Scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic Supporting 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 under OECD-defined terms and conditions for implementing the ODA include **also scholarships for persons with Slovak Living Abroad status**. Awarding such scholarships has become a part of state policy supporting Slovaks 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 course 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, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kenya, Kosovo, Moldova, Mongolia, Palestinian National Authority, Ukraine and Vietnam. List of eligible countries may vary every year.

Applications are submitted online at www.vladnestipendia.sk; application deadline: 30 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, www.vladnestipendia.sk

National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic



The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (NSP) supports study/research/teaching/artistic mobility of international students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists at higher education institutions (public, state and private) and in research organisations in Slovakia. The Programme supports only short- or medium-term mobility (1 or 2 semesters in case of university students; 1–10 months in case of PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists), not full degree studies at Slovak universities.

Citizens of any country in the world (except the citizens of Slovakia) can apply for a scholarship in Slovakia in the framework of the NSP.

Scholarships offered by the NSP should cover scholarship holders' living costs (i.e. food, accommodation, etc.) during their study, research, artistic or teaching stay in Slovakia.

a) university student	350 €/month
b) PhD student	580 €/month
c) university teacher, researcher or artist	
– without PhD and less than 4 years of work experience	580 €/month
– with PhD and less than 10 years of work experience	850 €/month
– with PhD and more than 10 years of work experience	1,000 €/month

Students and PhD students can apply also for a travel allowance. Amount of the travel allowance depends on the distance between applicant's place of residence and the place of his/her stay in Slovakia.

Applications must be submitted online together with the required documents at www.scholarships.sk. Some of the required documents must be submitted as originals in paper form to SAIA office in Bratislava.

Application deadlines: 30 April, 31 October

The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the establishment of the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic in 2005.

The Programme is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, and it is administered by SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency).

More information available at: www.stipendia.sk,
www.scholarships.sk, 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 and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for applicants from any country in the world:

- **university students** – 5-month study stays (age between 18–26 years);
- **PhD students** – 5-month study and/or research stays (age between 23–35 years);
- **university teachers/researchers** – 3-month research and/or teaching stays (age between 30–50 years).

Applications must be submitted online together with the required documents at 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, www.studyin.sk,
www.scholarships.studyin.sk

2. Funding Based on 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 in research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Scholarships are awarded for study and/or 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, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and 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, Research and Economy of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the agreement signed in 1992. The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)

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

- scholarships for “Diplomstudierende” or master students for completing their master’s thesis (1–3 months); scholarship: 800 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October;
- scholarships for research stays of PhD students (3–6 months); scholarship: 940 €/month; application deadline: 15 March and 15 October;

- scholarships for short visits (max. 3 days) for researchers (including PhD students); scholarship: 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-operation of PhD students via **co-operation projects**:

- co-operation projects of young researchers (including PhD students); application deadline: 15 March, 15 May and 15 October;
- co-supervised doctoral studies; application deadline: 15 March, 15 May and 15 October;
- organisation of Slovak-Austrian trainings for PhD students on enhancement of professional skills and soft skills; application deadline: 15 March;
- organisation of Slovak-Austrian language summer schools; application deadline: 15 October;
- lecture series of excellent researchers (including PhD students); application deadline: 15 March, 15 May and 15 October.

Applications for individual scholarships and co-operation projects are submitted online at www.scholarships.at.

More information available at: www.oead.at, www.grants.at, 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 logo consists of the word "FULBRIGHT" in a bold, blue, serif font. Below the text is a stylized globe with latitude and longitude lines, also in blue. The entire logo is enclosed within a red, curved, oval-like shape that is open on the right side.

The J. W. Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic is an autonomous, non-profit, non-partisan, binational organisation established by executive agreements between the United States and the Slovak Republic to promote educational, research and cultural exchanges between the United States and the Slovak Republic through the Fulbright Program. The Commission administers awards of grants, and provides information and advising on study possibilities for citizens of both countries.

General requirements for grants and awards are the U.S. citizenship at the time of application and high level of academic and professional achievements. In the Slovak Republic, the Program is administered by the J. W. Fulbright Commission in Bratislava (www.fulbright.sk).

Fulbright Programs for U.S. Citizens:

● **Fulbright U.S. Student Program**

Fellowships for U.S. graduate students, young professionals and artists to study or conduct research in the Slovak Republic for one academic year (October – June). Advanced graduate students interested in studying or independent research are preferred. For independent research or study in fields such as Slovak history, literature, anthropology and political science there is substantial knowledge of Slovak language required. Applications in all fields will be considered.

● **Fulbright Scholar Program**

U.S. scholars with considerable academic experience can propose projects in co-operation with a Slovak institution (usually a university or post/secondary university level institution, research institution or other placement, if necessary). 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)**

Candidates interested in ETA in the Slovak Republic must have minimally completed BA degree. 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 assistants 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 Program 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 postdoctoral 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 binational governance, open competition, academic excellence and professional promise.

More information available at: www.fulbright.sk

3. Multilateral Programmes

Programmes Funded by the European Commission

The European Commission is funding 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 supporting activities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. During the programme period 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 14.7 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 co-operation 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 higher education mobility to the non-EU countries and creating 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 students and staff:** opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for lecturers, 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;
- 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 a 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 cycle (doctoral/PhD or equivalent).

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.

- **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees:** high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award scholarships for full master studies to excellent students worldwide;
- **Master Student Loan Guarantee:** university students from participating countries may apply for loans with favourable pay-back terms that will help them to fund their master studies in an Erasmus+ Programme country. To apply, students should address themselves to participating national banks or student loan agencies.

2. Key Action 2: Co-operation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

- **Transnational Strategic Partnerships** are designed to develop initiatives aimed to one or more fields of education, professional training and youth; they are designed to promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types

of organisations involved in education, professional training and youth, or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported, if they will contribute to achieve the project objectives;

- **Knowledge Alliances** between higher education institutions and enterprises designed to support innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;
- **Sector Skills Alliances** aim at tackling skills gaps, enhancing the responsiveness of initial and continuing vocational education and training systems to sector-specific labour market needs and demand for new skills with regard to one or more occupational profiles;
- **Capacity Building** projects supporting co-operation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth; their aim is to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation process. Certain mobility activities are supported, if they will contribute to achieve the project objectives;
- **IT support platforms**, such as **eTwinning**, the **European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE)** and the **European Youth Portal**, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practices and other online services for teachers, trainers and professionals from practise 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 field of education, professional training and youth;
- initiatives for innovative policy;
- support of European policy tools;
- co-operation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity;
- stakeholders' dialogue, policy and programme support.

4. Jean Monnet Activities

- Academic Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence in order to deepen teaching in European integration studies embodied in an official curriculum of a higher education institution;
- 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 with the purpose of providing policy-makers with new insights and concrete suggestions via critical independent academic views, and to reflect on current issues of the EU.

5. Sport

- Collaborative Partnerships supporting sport integrity;
- not-profit European sport events.

More information: Website of Erasmus+ programme, European Commission: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Website of DG for Education and Culture of the European Commission: www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation – www.saaic.sk, www.erasmusplus.sk (in Slovak only)

IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute – www.iuventa.sk

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 Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and with the universities in Kosovo.

CEEPUS 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 the CEEPUS network
 - 15 June for the winter semester of the following academic year,
 - 31 October for the summer semester of the current 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 30 November at www.ceepus.info.

The scholarships are paid out 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:

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

More information available at: www.ceepus.saia.sk

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.

Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

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. The Fund also awards individual scholarships and artist residencies. By the end of 2015, the Fund has supported more than 4,500 grant projects and awarded nearly 1,900 scholarships and artist residencies in total worth of nearly

62 million €. The Fund's annual budget of 8 million € consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.

The Fund operates:

● **scholarship programmes:**

▪ **Visegrad Scholarship Programme**

- **Intra-Visegrad Scholarships** – applicants from V4 countries can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in V4 countries. The programme supports mobility of masters and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Application deadline: 31 January; scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution;
- **In-Coming Scholarships** – applicants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in V4 countries. The programme supports mobility of masters (applicants in this category may apply for up to 4-semester stays) and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Application deadline: 31 January; scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution;
- **Out-Going Scholarships** – applicants from V4 countries can apply for 1- or 2-semester study/research stays at higher education institutions in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine. The programme supports mobility of masters and post-masters (PhD students/postdocs). Application deadline: 31 January; scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution;
- **Visegrad-Taiwan Scholarship** – the aim of the programme is to facilitate academic exchanges by providing support to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from V4 countries who intend to conduct research in Taiwan. The reciprocal part of the programme supporting mobility of Taiwanese researchers to the V4 region is administered by the Taiwanese side. It is possible to apply for max. 10-month research stays with the possibility to re-apply once. Application deadline: March; scholarship: 750 €/month for PhD students and 1,000 €/month for postdocs; travel grant: 800 €;

- **Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives** – research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) at the Central European University in Budapest. The fellowships are given on a competitive basis to scholars, artists or journalists who wish to conduct research at OSA, and whose current research projects are relevant to the holdings and the given research priorities of the fund and OSA. It is possible to apply for max. 2-month research stays. Application deadline: January, April, October; scholarship: 2,000 €.
- **Visegrad Artist Residency Programmes:**
 - **Visual & Sound Arts** – the programme facilitates mobility and exchange of V4 citizens in the fields of visual and sound arts. The artist-in-residence projects must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the applicant’s citizenship/residence. Supported period of each residency is 3 months. Application deadline: 10 September; scholarship: 2,250 € for the artist and 2,250 € for the host institution;
 - **Performing Arts** – the programme provides opportunities to host performing artists or companies from/in all V4 countries, to support concerted work to create a platform for information exchange, and to support contemporary theatre and dance in Central Europe. Emphasis is given to innovation, experiment and creativity in performing arts – new drama, contemporary dance, new circus, physical theatre, visual theatre, alternative theatre, performance art, etc. As such, the programme is not suitable for stone theatres, already developed performances or theatre festivals. Residences are intended as 3-month projects with a minimum 2-week stay at the respective host institution. Application deadline: 1 October; scholarship: individual residency (1–2 artists) – 2,500 € for the artist and 1,500 € for the host institution; group residency (3 artists and more) – 5,500 € for the artists and 2,500 € for the host institution;
 - **Visegrad Literary Residency Program** – the programme provides stays and literary events addressed to writers of fiction and non-fiction, poets, essayists, critics, as well as literary translators, publicists and journalists from V4 countries. The programme supports the work and mobility of talented literary residents, and aims at creating a platform for literary exchanges and supports the development of promotion of V4 literature. The programme supports 6-week projects (1 May – 12 June;

scholarship of 1,125 €/project) and 3-month projects (1 September – 30 November; scholarship of 2,250 €/project).
Application deadline: winter, TBA;

- **Residencies in New York** – the programme facilitates artist residencies for visual artists from V4 countries in New York City. Application deadline: autumn/winter, TBA; scholarship: 4,000 €/project.

● **grant programmes:**

- **Visegrad Grants** – any original proposal could be granted support provided it links individuals or institutions from at least three V4 countries and develops project activities in the fields of culture, science and research, education, youth exchanges, cross-border co-operation and tourism promotion. The projects can last max. 12 months. Application deadlines: 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December;
- **Strategic Grants** – the programme is designed for projects with longer duration (12–36 months); it offers higher financial support (ca. 40,000 € on average per project) and is recommended for more experienced grantees. Entities from all four V4 countries must be actively involved in each proposed project. Application deadline: 15 April;
- **Visegrad Strategic Conferences** – the aim of the programme is to fund conference-type events of strategic regional relevance;
- **Visegrad University Studies Grants** – the programme targets accredited higher education institutions worldwide with the aim to promote and support the development and launching of outstanding university courses or degree programmes that deal with specific phenomena explicitly related to V4 countries. On average, the grants amount to ca. 10,000 € per course and 40,000 € per degree programme. Application deadline: 1 December;
- **Visegrad+** – the programme administers and funds projects which contribute to the democratisation and transformation processes in selected counties and regions, especially non-EU member states in the Western Balkans. The programme supports medium- and long-term projects (12–36 months);
- **Flagship Projects – Eastern Partnership** – the programme supports long-term projects (18–36 months) of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access to the unique experience and know-how of V4 countries with democratic transformation and integration, EU accession and regional

co-operation. The projects are meant to support reform processes, political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen institutional capacities, contribute to the development of civil society and the overall transformation of the Eastern Partnership countries;

- **Extended Standard Grants – Eastern Partnership** – the programme supports medium-term projects (18 months) of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access to the unique experience and know-how of V4 countries with democratic transformation and integration, EU accession and regional co-operation. The projects are meant to support reform processes, political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen institutional capacities, contribute to the development of civil society and the overall transformation of the Eastern Partnership countries;
- **Visegrad University Studies Grants – Eastern Partnership** – the programme targets higher education institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries in funding projects developing university courses or degree programmes which focus on sharing specific V4 experience with democratisation and transformation processes, regional co-operation and the EU accession process. On average, the grants amount to ca. 10,000 € per course and 40,000 € per degree programme. Application deadline: 1 December.

More information available at: www.visegradfund.org

Contact:

International Visegrad Fund
Kráľovské údolie 8, 811 02 Bratislava
Slovak Republic
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 or 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 and 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, 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 online at the website www.slovakrail.sk.

Zero-fare Public Rail Transport Services in Slovakia

Full-time students under 26 years of age with the EU/EEA/Switzerland citizenship or residence are entitled for zero-fare transport services. Eligible passengers are required to register at the Slovak Railways cash desks or via internet. Upon registration, they will obtain their rail customer cards that will allow them to travel for free. Students from the countries outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland can also get a zero-fare ticket once they have submitted a confirmation of enrolment for the current academic year at a HEI institution in Slovakia together with an official translation to Slovak language and their ID card or passport.

Zero-fare tickets are passenger specific and apply to the trains of all categories operated by the Slovak Railways (it does not apply to the private train transit, e.g. Regiojet). Eligible passengers are required to secure a one-off zero-fare ticket for each journey. For EuroCity/InterCity trains transit

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?



there is surcharge of 1 € for a seat reservation. When travelling outside Slovakia, the zero-fare transport is available only to the last train station in the territory of the Slovak Republic before crossing a border. Detail information is available at www.slovakrail.sk/en/zero-fare.html.

You can also travel by private rail carriers such as Regiojet. Tickets can be purchased at the Regiojet cash desks or online via www.regiojet.sk.

Travel by Coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct; 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 or 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). For international lines operated by Eurolines it is possible to buy/book a ticket online at www.eurolines.sk.

A company “Student Agency” also provides several international and domestic lines with special prices for students (tickets can be bought online at www.studentagency.sk or www.regiojet.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 (“miestenka”) for long distance coaches at the ticket office of any bus station or in some cases online.

Travel by Plane

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



There are 3 international airports in Slovakia – in Bratislava (“*Letisko M. R. Štefánika*” www.bts.aero), in Košice (“*Letisko Košice*” www.airportkosice.sk) and in Poprad (“*Letisko Poprad Tatry*” www.letiskopoprad.sk, in Slovak only).

DID YOU KNOW?

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



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), 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”*.

A one-way ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs from 4 € to 7.70 €, plus charging from 0.50 € to 1 € per a piece of luggage. For the bus schedule browse www.cp.sk, www.regiojet.sk or 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. A standard oneway ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs 7.50 €. For the time schedule and prices, please, visit www.blaguss.sk.

Local Transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport – usually buses and trolleybuses (also a network of trams in Bratislava and Košice) 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 know that you will be using public transport more often than once a day, it is recommended to buy a travel pass, for example 30-, 90-, 365-day pass. To get a pass (30-, 90-, 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). In Bratislava and Košice, you can also use your ISIC card as a travel pass and electronic wallet.

Useful Glossary

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

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

Travel by Car

Driving Licence

If you have a driving licence issued in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you can drive motor vehicles of the categories indicated in it when in Slovakia, regardless of the type of





DID YOU KNOW?

The Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising across the river Danube 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 20th century". However, the price for this success was destruction of a large part of historical extramural settlement.



stay in the country. In case you are granted a temporary or permanent residence in Slovakia, you may apply for replacement of the driving licence after 185 days from being granted the temporary residence.

In case you are from a country outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland, residing permanently in a country that has signed the Geneva or Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (done in 1968 and in 1949), you may drive a motor vehicle in Slovakia only if you have a driving licence issued by the country of residence together with a valid international driving licence.

If such person is granted a temporary or permanent residence in Slovakia, he/she can use both documents only up to further 185 days. Within 60 days after this period, it is necessary to apply for replacement of the former driving licence at the respective police authority.

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 cm³ 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 Electronic Vignettes

As of 1 January 2016, a paper form of motorway sticker has been replaced by an electronic vignette valid during the current calendar year. They are purchased online at www.eznamka.sk. It is possible to buy an electronic vignette valid for a period of 10 or 30 days, or one calendar year. Motor-bikers do not need electronic vignettes 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, Natural 95, Natural 98, Normal 95, 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, 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.

In Slovakia, you can also find charging stations for electric vehicles (www.kdenabijat.sk, in Slovak only)

Parking

Parking in towns is well marked by international traffic signs. Parking in forbidden places can result in being fined, towed or wheel-clamped. In bigger towns, 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 pavements is prohibited unless there is at least 1.5 m space on the pavement for walking.



It is also possible to pay your parking fee by sending an SMS in a pre-defined format from your cell phone to 2200 and receive a virtual permit via SMS. The service operates 24 hours a day. Detailed information is available at www.bps.sk or www.m-parking.sk (both websites in Slovak only).

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 details of car rental companies are available at www.rentalcars.com 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 in Slovakia, 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 (in Slovak only) or the Green Pages <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk> (section “Automotive”, subsection “Taxi”).

In Bratislava, you can use “taxi service” provided by UBER. It is a mobile application, which allows smartphone users to submit a trip request, which the software programme then automatically sends to the UBER driver nearest to the consumer, alerting the driver to the location of the consumer. UBER drivers use their own personal cars. More information about the service and application to download is available at www.uber.com.

Cyclists

By Slovakia’s law, bicycles are considered vehicles and as such, people riding bicycles must obey all general road rules.

Cyclists should use the right shoulder of the road and wear an approved, correctly fitted and fastened bike helmet outside built-up areas. Those under age of 15 must wear the helmet at all times.

If you ride at night or in weather conditions with reduced visibility, you are obligated to wear reflective jacket and use a flashing or steady light on the front of your bicycle and another light on the rear side of your bicycle visible for at least 200 m.

The bicycle should also have reflectors placed on pedals or wheels visible for at least 50 m when a vehicle’s headlights reflect it when riding on roads in Slovakia.

Make sure your bicycle is in good technical condition. Never ride a bicycle after drinking alcohol and try to keep on the right shoulder of the road, especially in curves. Never ride next to another cyclist, as it can endanger your life.



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. Therefore, it is 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.

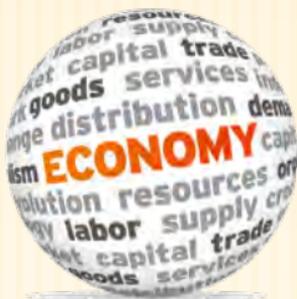
When certain goods that are subject to excise tax are purchased (alcohol, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products), it is the purchaser who has the obligation to transport the products purchased in another EU Member State. It is not allowed to have the goods shipped, and no other person is allowed to 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;
- a total of 1 litre of alcohol/alcoholic beverages exceeding 22 % vol.
or a total of 2 litres of alcoholic beverages not exceeding 22 % vol.;
- a total of 4 litres of still wine;
- other goods (including perfume, coffee, tea, electronic devices, etc.)
up to the value of 430 € for air and sea travellers and up the value of 300 € for other travellers (Member States may reduce these limits to 150 € 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 issued 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/individuals/travelling/travellers-leaving-eu_en

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. 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 they are working throughout the academic year. Lunch or dinner costs around 1.60 €. Some dormitories 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, in Slovak only; www.pramako.sk/samoobsluzne-pracovne, in Slovak only; 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 each dormitory. 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 respective 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 equipped with 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, 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)

An 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 and its international status – proved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Other international students must be insured privately (commercial health insurance).

Additional Individual Health Insurance

Foreigners who are not duly insured can conclude commercial health insurance in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Health insurance companies in the Slovak Republic:

www.vszp.sk, www.dovera.sk (in Slovak only),
www.union.sk/health-insurance-for-foreigners

Obtaining Health Care

Under the Slovak Constitution, every individual – a citizen of Slovakia 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 (“*pohotovosť*”) and many specialised clinics.

More information available at:

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

Emergency

If you need emergency services (“*pohotovosť*”), 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. List of emergency medical care providers in Slovakia is available at www.zzz.sk/lokality/pohotovost (in Slovak only).



Pharmacies

You can buy medicine in pharmacies (“*lekárň*”) 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 lekárň*”) 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. List of pharmacies in Slovakia is available at www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/lekaren (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 Preparatory Studies of the Centre for Continuing Education at the Comenius University in Bratislava** (www.cdv.uniba.sk/en) or the **Methodical Centre of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** (www.umb.sk). For more information, please, contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

Nationals of countries outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland can attend a free of charge “Open Course of Slovak Language for Foreigners” organised by **IOM Migration Information Centre in Bratislava and Košice**. More information is available at www.mic.iom.sk/en.



Foreigners can also attend Slovak language courses at several **state and 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 and take 2 standard lessons (90 min. in total) per session. State language schools are located in bigger towns, e.g. Bratislava (www.1sjs.sk), Žilina (www.jszilina.sk, in Slovak only), Košice (www.sjs.sk, in Slovak only). Private language schools offering courses of Slovak are, for example, Academy of Education (www.akademiazdelavania.sk, in Slovak only), Eurolingua (www.eurolingua.sk), Berlitz (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 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 the Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture in Slovakia, organised by Studia Academica Slovaca – the Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language.

More information available at: www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas

6. Student Organisations

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

The Student Council for Higher Education (www.srvs.sk, in Slovak only) 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).



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, in Slovak only). ADS is a member of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers – EURODOC (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 Ss. 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).

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 has its branches at the universities in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Trnava and Trenčín (www.aiesec.sk, in Slovak only www.aiesec.org).

BEST (Board of European Students of Technology) is an international student organisation for students from technical universities. In the Slovak Republic, BEST operates at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and at the Technical University of Košice (www.best-bratislava.sk, www.best.tuke.sk, 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 operates 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, in Slovak only www.elsa.org).

IAAS (International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences) is an international association of agricultural students. In the Slovak Republic, IAAS operates at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (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. In the Slovak Republic, IAESTE operates 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, www.iaeste.org).

IFSA (International Forestry Students' Association) is a worldwide organisation of local and national association of forestry students. In the Slovak Republic, IFSA operates at the Technical University in Zvolen (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, 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, in Slovak only).

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 30 (or 26, depending on the country or region) can



get IYTC (International Youth Travel Card) or the European Youth Card offering their holders' various discounts on anything from plane tickets to cinema tickets. The cardholders may also buy health insurance for more favourable prices.

More information available at: www.isic.org and www.eyca.org

The cards can be bought in the offices of CKM 2000 TRAVEL (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 subaccounts, domestic and international payments, electronic banking, debit and credit cards, cheques, deposit products, securities, private banking, unit trusts, mortgage financing, loans, exchange and even insurance services (list of banks in Slovakia: 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 euro or in a foreign currency. International 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 usually issued within a service package. A credit card is issued independently of an account. Major credit



DID YOU KNOW?

The mint in Kremnica is the oldest enterprise in the world which operates without any break. The coins have been made here since 1328 and, for example, the Slovak euro coins are punched here as well.



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 pound sterling.

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



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.



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.

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 online 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) stepdown transformer is necessary for US computers, monitors and printers. Even with the most expensive transformers, one should always monitor the electrical supply.

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, in Slovak only) – the major telecommunication company in Slovakia,
- Orange Slovensko (www.orange.sk, in Slovak only)
- SWAN (www.swan.sk)
- UPC (www.upc.sk, in Slovak only) and others.

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

Mobile operators have various mobile internet offers, too.

Phone Calls & Services

There are 4 mobile operators in the territory of the Slovak Republic – Orange (www.orange.sk, in Slovak only), Slovak Telekom (www.telekom.sk, in Slovak only), Telefónica O2 (www.o2.sk, in Slovak only) and 4ka (www.4ka.sk, in Slovak only). They offer either prepaid card services or phone contracts paid on monthly basis. Slovakia is well covered by mobile phone networks, which enable calls even from some peaks of Tatras. Only very distant areas are without signal.

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

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



International country code of the Slovak Republic:
+421

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 2nd class costs 0.45 €, sent by 1st class costs 0.65 € and registered mail costs 1.35 €. The postage for sending a 50 g letter by 2nd class from Slovakia to the Czech Republic costs 0.80 €, while sending a 50 g letter by the same class to other European countries or outside Europe costs from 0.90 € to 1 €. The price list is available at the website of the Slovak Post Office (www.posta.sk), where you can also find postal codes of all the towns in Slovakia and information on other services provided at the post office, e.g. you can pay your utility bills, receive cash on delivery consignments, buy lottery tickets, receive payments, make phone calls, buy phone and mobile phone cards, and, of course, send postcards and letters.

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 or at public courts, or **golf** in clubs or resorts.

More information available at: www.holidayinfo.sk, <http://rivers.raft.cz/slovensko/>, www.golf.sk, www.panorama.sk

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. Please, note that children under 15 years are obliged to wear a helmet while skiing or snowboarding. **Ice hockey and ice-skating** are also 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*”) to conduct, excluding the costs covered by health insurance. Insurance companies offer products that cover the potential risks. You can conduct the insurance online or via SMS. For more information, please, consult a commercial insurance company.

More information available at: www.hzs.sk – Mountain Rescue Service (in Slovak only), www.onthesnow.sk (in Slovak only), 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 primary or secondary schools, or universities/faculties.

More information available at: www.sportslovakia.sk

13. Culture and Media

Theatre, Opera, Ballet

The theatre network in Slovakia consists of 4 state funded professional theatres, 22 theatres under the competence of self-governing regions and municipalities (4 of which are minority language theatres) and more than 50 independent theatres established by private owners/legal entities throughout 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



The oldest professional theatre in Slovakia is the **Slovak National Theatre** (“Slovenské národné divadlo” – SND) in Bratislava (www.snd.sk). It comprises drama, opera and ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company. 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 river Danube became the seat of the SND in addition to the historic building located in the Old Town of Bratislava.

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

Private theatre offering different types of performances is the **Aréna Theatre** in Bratislava (www.divadloarena.sk, in Slovak only).

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 online at www.ticketportal.sk or www.navstevnik.sk. There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket. List of theatre programmes can be found at www.festigo.sk (in Slovak only).

Music

Classical Music

In the first half of the 19th 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 20th century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1st 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** (“*Slovenská filharmónia*”, www.filharmonia.sk) in Bratislava, the **Slovak State Philharmonic in Košice** (“*Štátna filharmónia Košice*”, www.sfk.sk), the **Symphonic Orchestra of Slovak Radio** (“*Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu*”, www.sosr.rtvs.sk) in Bratislava and the **Slovak Chamber Orchestra** (“*Slovenský komorný orchester*”, www.filharmonia.sk) in Bratislava.



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 online at www.ticketportal.sk or www.navstevnik.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, in Slovak only) and **Lúčnica – Slovak National Folklore Dance Ensemble** (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).

Modern Music

The **Music Centre Slovakia** (“*Hudobné centrum*”, www.hc.sk) provides information on classical and modern music. List of various events all around Slovakia is available at www.podujatia.sk, (in Slovak only). At 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.

Summer Music Festivals

The biggest music and art event in Slovakia is the open-air festival Pohoda. The festival is organised annually since 1998, and it features alternative music, rock, pop, dance music, world music, house, techno, drum and bass, hip hop, but also theatre, discussions, chamber music, dance and literature workshops. Pohoda takes places near Trenčín (airport) during the second weekend of July (www.pohodafestival.sk). Other big summer festivals worth visiting are Grape (www.grapefestival.sk) and Topfest (www.topfest.sk).

Traditional Folk Art

Folk art and crafts, which include woodcarving, fabric weaving, glass blowing and painting, pottery, ceramics production, blacksmithing, have a long tradition in Slovakia. 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). The Centre sells traditional products and organises exhibitions, artistic workshops “ÚĽUV Craftschool”, “Craftsmen Days ÚĽUV”, 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 14th century (especially in the town of Modra). Ceramic tradition of Modra was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsmen in the 16th 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-r.sk/majolika.php.

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 17th and 18th century. One of the oldest churches is the Roman-Catholic wooden church in Hervartovo near Bardejov dating back to the 15th 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, www.ludoveremesla.org (both websites in Slovak only), 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). Cheaper options are film clubs like cinema “Lumiére”, “Mladosť”, “Nostalgia” or “Kino Film Europa” in Bratislava. In shopping centres in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Dunajská Streda, Košice, Nitra, Poprad, Prešov, Skalica, Trenčín, Trnava and Žilina, you can find multiplex cinemas, too (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 their own websites, towns’ websites (www.kamdomesta.sk, www.citylife.sk – both websites in Slovak only) and in newspapers.

Museums and Galleries

Slovakia has over 100 museums and galleries. You can visit various museums in Slovakia, for example, the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava (www.snm.sk) comprising of 18 specialised museums (e.g. the Natural History Museum, balneological, mining, agricultural or archaeological museums, national music, coin, clock, furniture, folk costumes and military museums, or museums with historical expositions, and many more).

There are galleries to be found in almost every bigger town. Some of them have permanent expositions with artworks of famous painters of the past, but many offer inspiring contemporary art. The most precious art collections of



old and modern masters are to be seen in the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava (www.sng.sk), with artworks of Slovak and world painters and sculptors. The art institution worth spending your free time on is the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum near Bratislava. It is one of the most romantic museums of modern art in Europe. A place where the freedom of the water surface area showcases the creative ideas of contemporary authors (www.danubiana.sk). There are also other interesting galleries. To search for a museum or gallery by topic, visit www.slovakia.travel (section “Things to see and do”, subsection “Culture and sights”).

Scientific Events and Public Lectures

Since 2007, science festival the **European Researchers’ Night** has been organised annually throughout Europe. The event is held in 5 Slovak towns – Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Žilina, Košice a Tatranská Lomnica and features more than 1,000 researchers from all scientific disciplines and is attended by more than 150,000 visitors per year (www.nocvyskumnikov.sk).

Also other science-related events are regularly organised: e.g. Week of Science and Technology focused on popularisation of science (www.tyzdenvedy.sk), Science Café for Young People providing students an opportunity to discuss current R&D topics with respected Slovak and international scientists (www.cvtisr.sk, section “Activities”, subsection “Popularisation of Science”), as well as the Bratislava Open Lectures given by invited renown international experts from various fields of science among others Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize laureates. Those lectures are streamed also online (www.nadaciatatrabanky.sk, in Slovak only).

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest Celtic oppidum in the Central 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 (www.spectator.sme.sk), an independent English language newspaper, is published every week. It includes information on politics, economy, business, daily life and cultural events, as well as advertisements.

Did you know?

The first newspaper in the territory of Slovakia was Prešporské Newspaper in Prešporok (Bratislava), first issued in July 1783.



News portal www.thedaily.sk offers daily news for Slovakia in English for all foreigners living, working or just visiting Slovakia.

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.

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 towns 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 of the day 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-stop”.

Unless the menu states that service is included, tipping is expected. 5–10 % 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 (in Slovak only), www.zlatestranky.sk (in Slovak only), www.gurmania.sk (in Slovak only), www.zomato.com/sk (in Slovak only).

Traditional Cuisine

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, *“bryndza”* (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/



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.



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, cottage cheese and raisins, topped with whipped cream and chocolate. From the Slovak region “*Záhorie*” comes an interesting pastry called “*Skalický trdelník*” shaped as a roll with a hole inside



Cheese and cheese products are other typical Slovak specialties. Besides already mentioned “*bryndza*”, the most popular are “*korbáčik*” (sheep’s cheese strings interwoven into fine braids), “*parenica*” (steamed sheep’s cheese strips woven into snail-like curls) and “*oštiepok*” (smoked sheep’s 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*” (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*” (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, Urpiner, Topvar, Šariš.



More information available at:
www.panorama.sk/bonappetit, www.slovakia.travel
(section “Things to see and do”, subsection “Traditions and gastronomy”)

15. Libraries

There is 1 National Library, 8 scientific libraries, 52 academic libraries, 2,697 public libraries, 492 special libraries and 39 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.

A portal to catalogues and collections of Slovak libraries is available at www.kis3g.sk/en.

A database of Slovak libraries is available at www.infolib.sk (in Slovak only); some of them (national and scientific libraries) can be consulted through their websites:

- Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava
www.uk.sav.sk
- Comenius University Medical Faculty Library, Bratislava
www.fmed.uniba.sk/en/departments/library
- Mikuláš Kováč Public Library, Banská Bystrica
www.vkmmk.sk
- National Library of Slovakia, Martin
www.snk.sk
- Old City Library, Bratislava
www.starlib.sk/en
- Slovak Agricultural Library, Nitra
www.slpk.sk
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava
www.cvtisr.sk
- Slovak Library of Economics of the University of Economics in Bratislava
www.euba.sk

DID YOU KNOW?

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



- Slovak Library of Forestry and Wood Sciences at the Technical University, Zvolen
www.tuzvo.sk
- Slovak Medical Library, Bratislava
www.slk.sk
- Slovak Pedagogic Library, Bratislava
www.spgk.sk (in Slovak only)
- State Scientific Library, Banská Bystrica
www.svkbb.eu (in Slovak only)
- State Scientific Library, Košice
www.svkk.sk
- State Scientific Library, Prešov
www.svkpo.sk
- University Library in Bratislava
www.ulib.sk/english
- University Library of the Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra
www.uk.ukf.sk/en
- University Library of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice
www.upjs.sk
- University Library of the Technical University, Košice
www.lib.tuke.sk (in Slovak only)
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, Košice
www.uvlf.sk (in Slovak only)



16. Other Services

Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service

At present, there are several laundrettes in Slovakia (www.cent.sk, in Slovak only; www.pramako.sk, in Slovak only; 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.

Insurance

Here are some 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 Insurance Companies Association: www.slaspo.sk
- Slovak Insurer's Bureau: www.skp.sk
- Insurance agencies portal: www.poistovne.sk (in Slovak only)

17. Public Holidays

The following days are official public holidays in Slovakia:

- **1 January** – Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic
- **6 January** – 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
- **8 May** – Day of Victory over Fascism – End of World War II in Europe
- **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, healthcare providers outpatient rooms are closed; some public transport offers a reduced service (esp. buses and trains). Some large supermarket chains or shopping centres might be open though.

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:** 0.80 €
- **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 1.20 €
- **Diesel per litre:** from 1 €

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) 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 river Danube 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

URL: 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, info@studyin.sk

URL: www.minedu.sk, 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

E-mail: info@mzv.sk

URL: www.mzv.sk, www.foreign.gov.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,

URL: www.saia.sk, www.scholarships.sk, www.euraxess.sk

Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation (SAAIC)

Svoradova 1, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-2092-2201

Fax: +421-2-2092-2209

E-mail: llp@saaic.sk, erasmus@saaic.sk

URL: www.saaic.sk

Slovak Academy of Sciences (Presidium)

Štefánikova 49, 814 38 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-5751-0111

Fax: +421-2-5751-0608

E-mail: admin@up.upsav.sk

URL: www.sav.sk, www.psav.sav.sk

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

Lamačská cesta 8/A, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-6925-3102

E-mail: cvti@cvtisr.sk

URL: www.cvtisr.sk

Slovak Rectors' Conference

Konventná 1, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-903-232-351

Fax: +421-2-5413-1238

E-mail: srk@srk.sk

URL: www.srk.sk

Student Council for Higher Education

Staré grunty 52, 842 44 Bratislava 4, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-917-733-514

E-mail: svs@svs.sk

URL: www.svs.sk

The Fulbright Commission

Levická 3, 821 08 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-911-415-001

E-mail: office@fulbright.gov.sk

URL: 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).

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?	– Kofko 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

Online 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

(Hungarian)

www.slovník.org

(Russian)





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 selections 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.

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).

