

# International Student's Guide to Slovakia



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

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

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ahoj



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## 1.

## ABOUT SLOVAKIA

## 1. Slovakia in Brief

**Official name:** Slovak Republic

**Capital:** Bratislava (429,564 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, 2,933 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 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population (as of 31 December 2017):** 5,443,120 million  
(51.2 % are women)

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

**The largest towns – by population (as of 31 December 2011):**

Košice (239,095), Prešov (91,782), Žilina (81,494), Banská Bystrica (80,003), Nitra (78,916), Trnava (66,358), Martin (57,428), Trenčín (55,877), Poprad (52,862), Prievidza (48,978), Zvolen (43,318)

**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 %), 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, CERN, 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 located 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 year-round natural beauty. The Carpathian Arc, a range of mountains stretching across

### 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 is around 1,200 pieces (at the end of the 1990s, there was only around 200 pieces).



the north, takes up almost a half of the country. Lowlands stretch from south-west through south to east-south parts of the country and are 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  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can plummet to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The average daily temperature in summer is  $21^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can be as warm as over  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The coldest month is January; the hottest month is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season. Data concerns Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Weather in northern and mountainous regions could be much colder.

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest river island in Europe is the Rye Island in southern Slovakia ( $1,326\text{ km}^2$ ) 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. Peter Pellegrini (appointed in March 2018).

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 in kindergartens, while foreign language learning – usually English – is compulsory in primary schools (from 3<sup>rd</sup> till 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> century in Nitra. At present, several legal norms regulate the freedom of conscience and religion, and provide a guarantee for general respect of these fundamental human rights and freedoms. According to the Slovak Constitution, *“Freedom of thought, conscience, 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 the St. James Church in Levoča. It is a work of a well-known medieval wood-carver Master Paul of Levoča. He carved it of lime wood at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It took him 10 years to finish it.



## 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 World Heritage List and the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists (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 18<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue ([www.bardejov.sk](http://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, 16<sup>th</sup>-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](http://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 m<sup>2</sup> large.



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



- **Vlkolínec** – a Monument Reserve of Folk Architecture, located 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](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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 World Heritage List open to the public: Dobšinská Ice Cave, Domica Cave, Gombasecká Cave, Jasovská Cave, Krásnohorská Cave, Ochtinská Aragonite Cave ([www.ssj.sk/en/jaskyne](http://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.



- **Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe** – these forests represent examples of on-going postglacial 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 transboundary property that stretches over 12 countries (<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 (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/bagpipe-culture-01075>).

- **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. The main tube of the flute measures 160–200 cm and is connected to a shorter tube of 50–80 cm (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/fujara-and-its-music-00099>).
- **Multipart singing of Horehronie** – the singing is characterised by a variable solo melody of pre-singing and more static choir answers, either by men or women. The singing culminates in intertwined parallel melodies with rich variations, consisting of two or three parts; each section presents a variation of the initial melodic formula (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/multipart-singing-of-horehronie-01266>).
- **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 (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/music-of-terchova-00877>).
- **Puppetry in Slovakia** – puppetry is not only a popular form of traditional entertainment, but also a way of conveying a vision of the world and an education tool with messages on moral values. Puppets are usually made of wood and animated using various methods (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/puppetry-in-slovakia-and-czechia-01202>).

**More information:** <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk>,  
<https://ich.unesco.org/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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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 eminent Slovak composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 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.

**Banič, Štefan**  
(1870 – 1941)  
*inventor*



He lived in the USA from 1907 to 1921. He constructed a prototype parachute in 1913, which was patented at the United States Patent Office. He was also involved in the improvement of mining production and bridge construction. The parachute has, of course, become a vital part of modern aviation.

**Bel, Matej**  
(1684 – 1749)  
*polyhistor,  
pedagogue,  
scientist  
and evangelical  
priest*



He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 historicgeographica* (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 28 878 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 the 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 Móric

(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 an 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, which is also considered the first technical university in the world.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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



## DID YOU KNOW?

The first technical university in the world was the Mining Academy founded by Maria Theresia in Banská Štiavnica in 1762. The town 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.

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

- **Public higher education institutions** are established by law. They are funded mostly by the government. They are statutory and self-governing institutions. At present, there are 20 public 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 self-governing unit with a higher level of autonomy), institute (*“ústav”*; governed by the respective HEI or faculty, mostly comprising 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](http://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](http://www.umb.sk))

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

### **BRATISLAVA**

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

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

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

#### **Comenius University in Bratislava** ([www.uniba.sk](http://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 Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius
- Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences
- Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The "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).



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

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

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

- Faculty of Applied Languages
- Faculty of Business 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](http://www.ujs.sk); in Slovak and Hungarian only)

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

## **KOŠICE**

### **Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice**

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

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

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

- Faculty of Aeronautics
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies in Prešov
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Materials, Metallurgy and Recycling
- Faculty of Mining, Ecology, Process Control and Geotechnology

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



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

#### **NITRA**

##### **Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra** ([www.ukf.sk](http://www.ukf.sk))

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

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

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

#### **PREŠOV**

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

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



## RUŽOMBEROK

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

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

## TRENČÍN

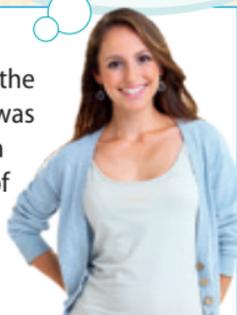
### Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín

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

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

The northernmost 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.

DID YOU KNOW?



## TRNAVA

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

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

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

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

## ZVOLEN

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

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

## ŽILINA

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

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

### *State Higher Education Institutions*

## BRATISLAVA

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

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

- Faculty of Health in Banská Bystrica
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Nursing and Professional Health Studies
- Faculty of Public Health

## LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ

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

### *Private Higher Education Institutions*

## BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA

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

## BRATISLAVA

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

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

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

- Faculty of Economics and Entrepreneurship
- Faculty of Informatics
- Faculty of Law

- Faculty of Media
- Faculty of Psychology

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

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

### **DUBNICA NAD VÁHOM**

**DTI University in Dubnica nad Váhom** ([www.dti.sk](http://www.dti.sk))

### **KOŠICE**

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

### **PREŠOV**

**College of International Business ISM Slovakia in Prešov** ([www.ismpo.sk](http://www.ismpo.sk))

### **SKALICA**

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

### **SLÁDKOVIČOVO**

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

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

### **TRENČÍN**

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

### ***Foreign Higher Education Institutions in Slovakia***

**College of International and Public Relations, Prague, Czech Republic** ([www.vip-vs.sk](http://www.vip-vs.sk), in Slovak only)

**Fresenius University of Applied Sciences, Idstein, Germany** ([www.hs-fresenius.sk](http://www.hs-fresenius.sk), in Slovak only)

**Institut Supérieur Spécialisé de la Mode (MOD'SPE PARIS), Paris, France** ([www.modspeparisce.com](http://www.modspeparisce.com))

**Old Polish University, Kielce, Poland** ([www.stsw.edu.pl](http://www.stsw.edu.pl))

**Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary** ([www.sziu.hu](http://www.sziu.hu))

### 3. Organisation of Study

HEIs provide higher education only in the framework of accredited study programmes. 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:

<b>A</b>	Excellent = 1
<b>B</b>	Very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
<b>C</b>	Good (average achievements) = 2
<b>D</b>	Satisfactory (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
<b>E</b>	Sufficient (achievements meet only the minimum criteria) = 3
<b>FX</b>	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** of higher education are bachelor study programmes.

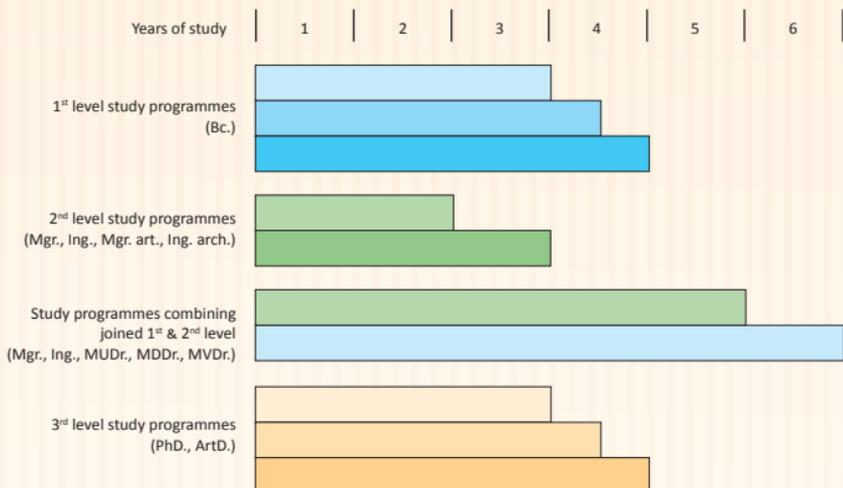
Study programmes of the **second level** of higher education and those of the first two levels of higher education joined into a single whole are:

- master study programmes,
- engineer study programmes,
- doctor study programmes.

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

All study programmes must be accredited in accordance with the law.

### Higher Education System in the Slovak Republic:



In accordance with the level of study, HEIs award the following academic degrees:

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



## 4. Admission and Tuition Fees

### General Principles

The principal requirement for entering a bachelor’s degree programme (3–4 years of full-time study) or a programme combining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level (5–6 years of full-time study) is the completion of a full secondary general education or vocational education with a “maturita” – school-leaving examination. Admission to a follow-up master’s degree programme (2–3 years of full-time study) depends on the completion of a relevant bachelor’s degree programme or its equivalent. Admission to doctoral (PhD) studies depends on the successful completion of a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 submitting 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 32).

International applicants, who do not meet all the requirements for admission, may be required to attend preparatory courses, including Slovak language courses (if they wish to study a programme offered in Slovak language). 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](http://www.cdv.uniba.sk/en)). Courses of Slovak language are also organised by other universities in Slovakia or private language schools (e.g. iCan Language School in Bratislava, [www.icanschool.eu](http://www.icanschool.eu)).

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 downloaded at the SAIA website [www.saia.sk/en](http://www.saia.sk/en).

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

## Tuition Fees

Tuition fees for study programmes offered in foreign languages are set by each HEI/faculty separately. Fees vary from 490 € to 12,200 € per one academic year. Updated information on tuition fees can be obtained from international relations offices of the respective HEIs/faculties.

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](http://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,



doctor, primary school teacher, psychologist, auditor, lawyer, carpenter, etc.).

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

- recognises final documents on education obtained outside Slovakia for pursuing selected regulated professions in the Slovak Republic;
- recognises level of completed education obtained outside Slovakia 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 outside Slovakia for relevant authorities and institutions in the Slovak Republic;
- is responsible for equivalence and conversion of grades obtained at primary and secondary schools outside Slovakia 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](mailto: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](http://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 dozen 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, subject of the application, 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 the leaving certificate or diploma obtained outside Slovakia;
- transcript of completed courses and exams;
- in case of vocational secondary education, a confirmation issued by the secondary school on the scope of practical education;
- evidence of payment of the administrative fee (6.50 €).

Signatures and seals at the documents issued by primary or secondary schools outside Slovakia must be certified (apostille or superlegalisation) by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued, unless an international agreement states otherwise.

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 (list of sworn translators is available at

<https://obcan.justice.sk>, section “Prekladatelia” – in Slovak only).  
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 the school outside Slovakia, and which have a direct relation to the applicant’s profile or the field of study pursued).

**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](mailto: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](http://www.minedu.sk).

### Recognition of Diplomas (Tertiary Education)

Due to the character of this publication, we will concentrate on the recognition of previous education only for the academic purposes (i.e. recognition of previous education in order to continue in education in the Slovak Republic). In case that you would like to find out more about the recognition of previous education for pursuing a 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 outside Slovakia (at the website

[www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory](http://www.portalvs.sk/en/studijne-odbory) 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, subject of the application, 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 the diploma or degree obtained outside Slovakia;
- transcript of completed courses and exams;
- information about previous achieved level of education (i.e. education achieved prior to the education which is the subject of the application);
- evidence of payment of the administrative fee (6.50 €).

Signatures and seals at the documents issued by secondary schools or HEIs outside Slovakia must be certified (apostille or superlegalisation) by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued, unless an international agreement states otherwise.

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 (list of sworn translators is available at <https://obcan.justice.sk>, section "Prekladatelía" – in Slovak only).

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 of the documents, the Centre may require a sworn translation of the documents.



After submitting the application with all the required documents, the respective HEI 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 the school outside Slovakia, and which have a direct relation to the applicant's profile or the field of study pursued).

**Contact:**

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport  
of the Slovak Republic  
Centre on Recognition of Diplomas  
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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
from 9:00 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 14:00

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

## 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 HEIs 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, subject of application, 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 the leaving certificate or diploma obtained outside Slovakia.

Signatures and seals at the documents issued by schools outside Slovakia must be certified (apostille or superlegalisation) by the competent body of the country, where the documents were issued, unless an international agreement states otherwise.

Submitted documents must be translated by a sworn translator into Slovak language (list of sworn translators is available at <https://obcan.justice.sk>, section “Prekladatelia” – in Slovak only). 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 of the documents, 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 HEI 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:**

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### 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. In order to get a customised information, you can also access an online click-through navigation application at [www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/guide-administrative-duties](http://www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/guide-administrative-duties).

Please, note that this text is only informative. It was elaborated on the basis of information available and valid for the year 2018; 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/?residence-of-an-foreigner](http://www.minv.sk/?residence-of-an-foreigner).

## 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.

**Note:** Regardless of whether or not you need a visa and/or a temporary residence to enter and stay in Slovakia, you must fulfil certain administrative duties upon arrival – you can find more information thereof in the section *“Duties after Arrival in Slovakia”* (page 65).

- I. **Are you an EU/EEA/Swiss national?**
- A. **No** – proceed with the question No. II.
  - B. **Yes** – proceed directly to the chapter *“Duties of EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals Coming to Slovakia”*, page 45.
- II. **Is your planned stay in Slovakia a short-time one, i.e. shorter than 90 days?**
- A. **No** – your planned stay is longer than 90 days; proceed with the question No. III.
  - B. **Yes. What kind of activity do you plan to perform in Slovakia?**
    - 1. **Study at a university – it is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out, if you need a visa in the section *“Visa requirement”* (page 42).
    - 2. **Carry out research and development based on a Hosting Agreement** – (see section *“What is a Hosting Agreement”*, page 64) – **it is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out, if you need a visa in the section *“Visa requirement”* (page 42).
    - 3. **Undertake an internship as a part of your studies pursued outside Slovakia or within two years of completing such studies** (based on a certificate of internship) – **it is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out, if you need a visa in the section *“Visa requirement”* (page 42).
    - 4. **Perform an activity resulting from a programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, an EU programme or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on the Slovak Republic** (based on an invitation letter and/or a scholarship award letter, usually without an employment contract) – **it is not necessary to apply for a temporary residence.** Find out, if you need a visa in the section *“Visa requirement”* (page 42).

## VISA REQUIREMENT

**Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area)?** Check on the website of the European Commission whether your home country is among those whose nationals need visas:

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply\\_for\\_a\\_visa\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en)

- i. **No** – in this case, you do not need to make any administrative steps before your arrival to Slovakia.
- ii. **Yes** – then apply for visa. For detailed information about visa procedures see chapter “**Schengen Visa**”, (page 47).

**III. Do you have a valid residence permit from another EU Member State for the purpose of university studies or research and are you coming in Slovakia for a study/research mobility in the duration of up to 360 days (students) or 1 year (researchers)?**

- A. **No** – you need to **apply for a temporary residence**; proceed with the question No. IV.
- B. **Yes** – if you fulfil the **mobility conditions** (see page 43), **you do not need to apply for a temporary residence**.

**IV. You need to apply for a temporary residence. What kind of activity do you plan to perform during your stay in Slovakia longer than 90 days?**

- A. **Study at a university** – irrespective of the type of study (full degree programme or academic mobility/exchange stays), you can apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of studies**; see sections “*Visa Requirement and Application for a Temporary Residence*” (page 43) and “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Studies in Case of University Students and PhD students*” (page 54).
- B. **Carry out research and development.**
  - **Are you accepted by a Slovak university to pursue a PhD or invited for a doctoral research stay?**
    - a) **Yes** – if you have an invitation letter/letter of acceptance as a PhD student, follow instructions in point “*IV. 1. Study at a university*”.
    - b) **No** – irrespective of whether you have an invitation from a university or other research organisation, proceed with the next question.

- **Have you signed a Hosting Agreement with a university or a research/development institution in Slovakia?**  
(see section “*What is a Hosting Agreement*”, page 64)
  - a) **Yes** – you can apply for a **temporary residence for the purpose of research and development**; see sections “*Visa Requirement and Application for a Temporary Residence*” (page 43) and “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Research and Development for Researchers (Including PhD Students) with a Hosting Agreement*” (page 61).
  - b) **No** – Will you carry out research within an **exchange/mobility programme** of the Slovak Republic or the EU, or a programme arising from an international treaty binding on the Slovak Republic? In that case, you can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of special activity**; see sections “*Visa Requirement and Application for a Temporary Residence*” (page 43) and “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Special Activity in Case of Researchers (Including PhD Students) without a Hosting Agreement*” (page 57).
- C. **Undertake an internship as a part of studies pursued outside Slovakia or within two years of completing those studies** (based on a certificate of internship) – you can apply for a temporary residence for the **purpose of special activity**; see sections “*Visa Requirement and Application for a Temporary Residence*” (page 43) and “*Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Special Activity in Case of Researchers (Including PhD Students) without a Hosting Agreement*” (page 57).

#### VISA REQUIREMENT AND APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Administrative procedures related to the submission of your application for a temporary residence will differ depending on *where* you apply.

**Do you need a visa to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area)?** Check on the website of the European Commission whether your home country is among those whose nationals need visas: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply\\_for\\_a\\_visa\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en)

**i. Yes. You can obtain a temporary residence in two ways:**

- a) Essentially, you should **apply for a temporary residence abroad, before your arrival in Slovakia** (for more information about types of temporary residence, see the question No. IV). After being granted a temporary residence and upon your application, the Slovak embassy/consulate will issue a **national visa** (type “D”) for you to enter Slovakia (for more information about the visa procedure, see section “**National Visa**”, page 50).

***Note:** When planning your stay, keep in mind that this process may take longer, due to the fact that documents are sent to Slovakia by diplomatic mail.*

- b) In case it is impossible to obtain a temporary residence from abroad before the planned commencement of your activity in Slovakia, you can apply for a **national visa** (type “D”) abroad, come to Slovakia (for more information about the visa procedure, see section “**National Visa**”, page 50) and **apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia** (for more information about types of temporary residence, see the question No. IV).

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

**ii. No. You can obtain a temporary residence in two ways:**

- a) You can **apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia**. For more information about types of temporary residence, see the question No. IV.

*If you do not need a visa to enter the Schengen Area, you can stay in Slovakia for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period (unless you are granted a temporary residence). If you plan to apply for a temporary residence in Slovakia, do not forget to bring all the documents necessary for the application procedure with you. In case you are not granted the temporary residence within these 90 days, you will have to leave Slovakia (Schengen Area). The decision-making process about your application may take up to 30 or 90 days, depending on the type of your temporary residence.*

- b) You can **apply for a temporary residence before your arrival in Slovakia** at the Slovak embassy/consulate **abroad**. For more information about types of temporary residence, see the question No. IV.

**Note:** *When planning your stay, keep in mind that this process may take longer, due to the fact that documents are sent to Slovakia by diplomatic mail.*

## 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 66).

**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:

- **completed form “Notice of the stay”** (available in 7 languages to download at [www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1](http://www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1); must be completed 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:

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

The confirmation of registration of the residence is issued immediately upon the submission of a complete application. If you wish to obtain an **EU national residence card**, you are also required to submit the following:

- **2 recent photographs 3 × 3.5 cm;**
- **proof of accommodation** (e.g. confirmation from the accommodation facility or a lease agreement or an affidavit of the owner of the apartment, the document must be in Slovak and the **signatures on agreement/affidavit must be notarised**).

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

Although the Act on the Residence of Foreigners gives you only a possibility (does not impose an obligation) to apply for the issue of an EU national residence card, you should know that this document makes a foreigner’s life significantly easier, especially when dealing with authorities – banks, insurance companies, etc.

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

### Visa

Depending on your nationality, you might (or might not) be obliged to apply for a visa before travelling to Slovakia. The type of visa you need depends on the purpose and length of your stay. **Before submitting your application, we recommend you to contact the territorially**

**competent Slovak embassy/consulate general** (see page 68), which will provide you with detailed and up-to-date information regarding the visa requirements. Before visiting the embassy/consulate in person, we recommend to contact them by telephone or e-mail and arrange an appointment.

**Note:** A list of countries the citizens of which do not need visas to enter Slovakia (Schengen Area) is available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply\\_for\\_a\\_visa\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en).

### *Schengen Visa*

A Schengen visa (type “C”) is a **short-stay visa** issued by any country in the Schengen Area. It enables you to **enter the territory of Schengen countries** for one or several visits, the duration of which **cannot exceed 90 days in any 180-day period**. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania recognise Schengen visas (valid for two or multiple entries) as equal to their national visas for the purpose of transit or a planned stay not exceeding 90 days within 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** in the duration of a visa stay. The term “any” (in the expression “within any 180-day period”) implies that a 180-day period, looking backward, is considered on any day of your stay (the day of entry or the day of the inspection), in order to verify, whether your stay in the Schengen Area did not exceed 90 days in those 180 days. The absence from the Schengen area for a period of 90 consecutive days enables a new stay for the period of 90 days. When examining the compliance with the rule of 90/180 days under this visa, a stay in the countries that are not members of the Schengen area is disregarded (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom). On the contrary, 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 rule, it is possible to use a Visa calculator ([https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/visa-calculator\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/visa-calculator_en)).

You can apply for a visa **3 months prior to your planned trip at the earliest**. The decision-making procedure shall not take longer than **15 calendar days** from submitting your application, however, in exceptional cases, it may take up to 60 days. The decision should be issued within **10 calendar days** (or a maximum 30 days) in case of nationals of those countries that have signed visa facilitation agreements with the European Union (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine). Nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine do not need visas, if they are holders of biometric passports. The decision should be issued within 10 days also when the applicant is a family member of a Union citizen.

The validity of the granted visa or of the duration of stay may be extended, if the visa holder proves serious personal reasons. The applicant shall pay a fee of 30 € for the extension. The visa validity can be extended for free, if the holder proves force majeure or humanitarian reasons, preventing him from leaving the country before the expiry of the visa or the authorised duration of stay. The visa extension shall take the form of a visa sticker. Visa may not be extended to more than 90 days. Therefore, if you were granted a visa for 90 days, it is basically not possible to extend its validity.

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

- **completed form “Application for Schengen Visa”** (available to download at [www.mzv.sk/cestovanie\\_a\\_konzularne\\_info/cestovne\\_doklady\\_a\\_viza-vizove\\_formulare](http://www.mzv.sk/cestovanie_a_konzularne_info/cestovne_doklady_a_viza-vizove_formulare) or [www.minv.sk/?ziadost-o-udelenie-schengenskeho-viza](http://www.minv.sk/?ziadost-o-udelenie-schengenskeho-viza)),
  - 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 (passport)**, which must be valid for at least 3 months longer than the expected day of leaving the Schengen Area, it must have been issued within the previous 10 years and it must contain at least 2 blank pages;

- **documents demonstrating the purpose of the planned stay** (e.g. confirmation on acceptance for studies, invitation letter, letter of award, hosting agreement, etc.);
- **proof of accommodation**, e.g.:
  - letter of award or hosting agreement in case they specify accommodation provided,
  - voucher/reservation confirming hotel accommodation,
  - 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;
  - bank account statement confirming regular income (salary, pension);
  - other documents safeguarding funds in a convertible currency,

***Note:** No general amount of funds to cover the costs of living is prescribed at the European level, 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, you might be requested to prove the financial resources in the amount of 56 €/person/day for the duration of your 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. a return 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. The minimum insurance coverage of 30,000 € is required;
- **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.

**Family members** of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals shall only submit a completed application form, a valid travel document (passport), a document confirming their family relationship with the Union citizen and a document proving their dependency, if necessary.

### **Visa application fee: 60 €**

The application fee of **35 €** applies to the nationals of those third countries that have signed the Visa Facilitation Agreement with the European Union:

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

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.

No administrative fees are 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.

### *National Visa*

A national (long-stay) visa (type “D”) can be granted:

- if it is necessary for **granting a residence in Slovakia**;
- for **language education** in a language school (the applicant must be at least 15 years old and the tuition must take at least 25 hours weekly);
- if it is necessary **to fulfil Slovakia’s commitments under international treaties**;
- if it is for the **benefit of the Slovak Republic**.

The visa is issued for **stays longer than 90 days**, for a maximum of one year. If it is issued for granting a residence in Slovakia, it is issued for 90 days. In case of the language education, its validity is limited to 31 July of the respective academic year. If the foreigner is allowed to stay longer than for a year, the national visa will be replaced by a temporary residence before the day of its expiry. The long-term visa holders are allowed to travel to other Schengen member states (outside the border of the state which issued the visa); however, the number of days spent in those states cannot exceed 90 in any 180-days period.

When applying for a national visa, the applicant must submit the following documents:

- **completed form “Application for National Visa”** (available to download at [www.mzv.sk/cestovanie\\_a\\_konzularne\\_info/cestovne\\_doklady\\_a\\_viza-vizove\\_formulare](http://www.mzv.sk/cestovanie_a_konzularne_info/cestovne_doklady_a_viza-vizove_formulare) or [www.minv.sk/?ziadost-o-udelenie-narodneho-viza](http://www.minv.sk/?ziadost-o-udelenie-narodneho-viza));
- **valid travel document (passport);**
- **recent full-face colour photograph** 3 × 3,5 cm,
- **document demonstrating the purpose of the planned stay** (e.g. confirmation of acceptance for language education, confirmation on acceptance for studies, invitation letter, letter of award, hosting agreement, etc.);
- **proof of medical insurance;**
- **other documents** may be requested by the embassy/consulate only in case the documents submitted are not sufficient for granting a national visa.

### **Visa application fee: 33 €**

In case of applying for a national visa in order to collect an already granted temporary residence in Slovakia, the fee is charged in the amount of **9.50 €**.

The fee shall be paid in the freely convertible currency or in the national currency of the third country, in which the application has been filed.

No administrative fees are charged for a visa application filed by a third country national who is a family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss national and exercises his/her right of free movement.

**Note:** In case of applying for a national visa in order to apply for a temporary residence, keep in mind to bring all the documents necessary for the residence application to Slovakia with you (see section “Temporary Residence”, page 53). If you are not granted the temporary residence within the period of your visa validity, you will need to leave Slovakia (Schengen Area) before the visa expires.

### Invitation

Visa applicants may be asked to enclose an official **invitation verified by a police authority** to their Schengen visa application. It is necessary to check this obligation with the Slovak embassy/consulate in your home country. The invitation **can be replaced by a Hosting Agreement** in the case of a research stay (see page 61).

**Note:** Invitation in the Schengen visa granting procedure **is not the same document as an invitation letter (acceptance letter)**, in which a hosting institution agrees with carrying out of a fellowship/research stay or an invitation to an education/research event.

The request to verify an invitation must be submitted by an inviting person:

- Slovak citizen with a permanent residence in Slovakia or a foreigner with a permanent or temporary residence in Slovakia;
- organisation/company with its seat in Slovakia.

A request must be submitted using an official form, at a Foreign Police department corresponding to the inviting person’s place of residence or to the seat of the inviting organisation. The inviting person has to submit:

- **completed “Application for Verification of an Invitation”** (available to download at [www.minv.sk/?pozvanie-cudzinka](http://www.minv.sk/?pozvanie-cudzinka));
- **valid ID;**
- document declaring the **purpose of the invitation** – e.g. being a relative of the invited person; business licence of the inviting person; business or other labour relationships; organisation of a cultural, sportive or scientific event (invitation from an organisation or an organiser, programme of the event); study or other form of education; provision of health care, etc.;
- document proving the **ability of the inviting person to cover all expenses related to the stay and travel of the invited person**. A bank account balance statement of the inviting person, issued by a bank,

shall prove the financial capacity. The account balance must be at least 12-times the subsistence minimum (205.07 € in 2018) and 56 € for each day of the invited person's stay. If the inviting person invites more people, he/she shall demonstrate the ability to cover 12-times the subsistence minimum only once (only on behalf of himself/herself), and the amount of 56 € for each invited person;

- document proving the **provision of accommodation** for the invitee.

Documents submitted with the application cannot be older than 90 days (except for a document proving a family relationship). The police officer in charge will carry out an interview with the inviting person concerning the relation with the invited person, the purpose of his/her stay, etc.

### **Fee for the request to verify an invitation: 33 €**

The Foreign Police department issues a confirmation upon submission of the request and verifies the invitation within 15 days. The verified invitation is valid for 90 days.

## **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 studies,
- 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.

You must **apply in person** at the Slovak **embassy/consulate** competent for your home country/country of residence or at a **Foreign Police department in Slovakia**. Your application will be accepted at the Foreign Police in Slovakia only if you are:

- granted an EU residence permit,
- granted a tolerated residence,
- holder of a national visa (see section *“National Visa”*, page 50),
- third-country national who does not need a visa to enter, or
- Slovak living abroad.

Usually, it is necessary to submit a complete application with all the requested attachments, otherwise, it will not be accepted. If the

embassy or the police department **refuses to accept** your application, they will **notify you in writing of the documents you need to enclose so that it can be accepted**. Once your temporary residence is granted, the police department will send you a written notice thereof, stating the effective and the expiry date of your residence. The time validity of a travel document is not regarded when deciding on the duration of a granted temporary residence, but it is taken into account when the residence card is issued. It is issued for a period 90 days shorter than the expiry date of your travel document.

You must file the application for the **renewal of a temporary residence** in person at the Foreign Police department, using an official form, no later than the last day of the current temporary residence validity. Your temporary residence is deemed valid in the territory of Slovakia even after its expiration until the decision on the application for the renewal is made.

### *Temporary Residence for the Purpose of Studies in Case of University Students/PhD Students*

Students from third countries who are planning to stay in Slovakia for longer than 90 days shall apply for the **temporary residence for the purpose of studies**.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **completed application form “Application for temporary residence”** (available to download at [www.minv.sk/swift\\_data/source/policia/hranicna\\_a\\_cudzinecka\\_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobytu/udelenie\\_prechodneho\\_pobytu\\_2016.pdf](http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/hranicna_a_cudzinecka_policia/ocp/ziadosti/pobytu/udelenie_prechodneho_pobytu_2016.pdf); the forms are also available at local Foreign Police departments and must be completed in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm;
- **valid passport** (police officer will make a copy of it);
- **document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak) – confirmation on studies** issued by a state authority (the respective ministry) or the host university, or a confirmation from an organisation administering a scholarship/mobility programme approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic or a 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. applicant’s bank account balance statement, letter

of award stating the amount of applicant's scholarship, confirmation of the financial coverage, or an affidavit issued by another person about the provision of financial resources together with that person's bank account balance statement;

- **criminal record extract (apostilled or superlegalised)** from applicant's home country **and** every country where the applicant has stayed for more than 90 days during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any). High school students are exempted from this obligation.

Students do not have to enclose a confirmation on accommodation in Slovakia.

Each document issued in a language other than Slovak (except for documents issued in Czech) has to be **translated to Slovak by a sworn translator**. A list of sworn translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk> (section "Prekladatelia" – in Slovak only). In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak embassy/consulate.

**None** of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources and criminal record extract **can be older than 90 days** on the day of submitting the application for a 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 his/her 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 and the interpreter must sign the record, too.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the Foreign Police department along with the record and its translation.

In the case of applying for a **renewal of a temporary residence**, it is not necessary to submit the criminal record extract.

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

The police officer in charge will confirm a receipt of your application (last page of the application form; the applicant should keep the receipt). **Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application**, the Foreign Police office shall issue either a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence.

If applying for a 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. The applicant can collect the residence card at the Foreign Police office in person or he/she can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for him/her. When applying for a temporary residence from abroad via an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the Foreign Police decides on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the Foreign Police will set the starting date of your temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the Foreign Police on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence will be the same as the date of the decision.

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 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 68) and a fee will be charged.

Police department shall grant the temporary residence for **the purpose of studies** for the expected period of studies, but for a **maximum of**

**6 years.** The temporary residence for the purpose of studies remains valid for up to 30 days after the completion of university studies.

The university diploma and the state examination certificate serve as a proof of the completed studies.

Students who completed their **university education** in Slovakia (full degree studies) can apply for the renewal of their temporary residence after the completion of their studies, for the purpose of **job seeking** or **starting a business**. In this case, it can be prolonged for **9 months**.

Conditions under which students and PhD students can **work** during their studies are briefly explained in section “*IV. Working while Studying*” on page 71.

### *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.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **completed 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](http://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 completed in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm;
- **valid passport** (police officer will make a copy of it);
- **document proving the purpose of your stay (in Slovak):**
  - **lecturers: confirmation** from applicant’s host university/education institution that he/she will carry out the **activities of a university teacher/lecturer** (e.g. invitation letter for a lecture stay),

- participants in **governmental/EU programmes: confirmation from a state authority** (the competent ministry) in charge of a programme **or a confirmation from an organisation administering such a programme** under a contract with a competent state authority (e.g. scholarship award letter, confirmation on lecturing/ research activity within a governmental/EU programme),
- participants in a **programme arising from an international agreement: international agreement** or a **confirmation from a state authority** (the competent ministry) in charge of a programme **or a confirmation from an organisation administering such a programme** under a contract with a competent state authority (e.g. scholarship award letter, confirmation on lecturing/ research activity within an international programme),
- **interns: certificate of internship** containing a description of the training programme, including the training objective, duration of the training, conditions of placement and supervision of the traineeship, internship working time and legal relationship between the intern and the receiving organisation;
- **document proving sufficient financial resources for the stay (in Slovak)** – e.g. applicant’s bank account balance statement, confirmation of the financial coverage, or, in case of participants in governmental/EU programmes, a document proving the purpose of the stay, if it contains information about the financial coverage provided;
- **criminal record extract (apostilled or superlegalised)** from applicant’s home country **and** every country where the applicant has stayed for more than 90 days during 6 consecutive months within the last 3 years (if any);
- **document proving the accommodation (in Slovak)** for at least six months of the temporary residence; in the case of a shorter stay, it is necessary to provide a proof of accommodation for the whole stay – e.g. confirmation from the accommodation facility, rental agreement (with notarised signatures) or an affidavit on the provision of accommodation (with notarised signature);
- interns also: declaration of the receiving organisation to cover the costs associated with the potential administrative expulsion;
- interns also: either a university diploma not older than two years at the time of applying for a temporary residence, together with a decision on a recognition of the diploma or a certificate of

current studies issued by the higher education institution, whereby the traineeship must correspond to the achieved/current higher education.

A proof of accommodation is **not required** in case the purpose of applicant's stay is participation in a governmental/EU programme, the fulfilment of a commitment of the Slovak Republic under an international treaty or an internship.

Each document issued in a language other than Slovak (except for documents issued in Czech) has to be **translated to Slovak by a sworn translator**. A list of sworn translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk> (section "Prekladatelia" – in Slovak only). In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak embassy/consulate.

**None** of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources and criminal record extract **can be older than 90 days** on the day of submitting the application for a 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 his/her 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 and the interpreter must sign the record, too.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the Foreign Police department along with the record and its translation.

In the case of applying for a **renewal of a temporary residence**, it is not necessary to submit the criminal record extract. It is, however, necessary to submit a confirmation of health insurance on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

**Fees:** **99.50 €** for the temporary residence application (100 € in case of application submitted at the embassy/consulate of the Slovak Republic),  
**33 €** for the application for a renewal of the temporary residence,  
**4.50 €** for issuing the residence card.

- applicants for a temporary residence for the purpose of a special activity who are participating in a governmental/EU programme, as well as those whose activity in Slovakia is resulting from an international agreement are exempted from the obligation to pay the application and the renewal fee;
- interns who are receiving a scholarship of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic or a scholarship under an international agreement, as well as the foreign language lecturers coming to Slovak schools within programmes arising from international agreements are also exempted from the obligation to pay the fee;
- applicants who are pedagogic staff or university teachers are also exempted from the obligation to pay the application and the renewal fee.

The police officer in charge will confirm a receipt of your application (last page of the application form; the applicant should keep the receipt). **Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application**, the Foreign Police office shall issue either a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence.

If applying for a 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. The applicant can collect the residence card at the Foreign Police office in person or he/she can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for him/her. When applying for a temporary residence from abroad via an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the Foreign Police decides on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the Foreign Police will set

the starting date of your temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the Foreign Police on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence will be the same as the date of the decision.

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 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 68) and a fee will be charged.

Police department shall grant the temporary residence for **the purpose of special activity** for the time necessary to achieve its purpose, but for a **maximum of 2 years**.

### *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 a **temporary residence for the purpose of research and development**.

Complete application consists of the following documents:

- **completed 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](http://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 completed in Slovak language);
- **2 recent full-face colour photographs** 3 × 3.5 cm;
- **valid passport** (police officer will make a copy of it);
- **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, applicant's bank account balance statement or a confirmation of financial coverage;
- **criminal record extract (apostilled or superlegalised)** from the country, where the applicant **has resided the longest during the last 10 years**.

Foreigners applying for the temporary residence for the purpose of research and development do not have to enclose a confirmation of accommodation in Slovakia. However, the hosting agreement should contain a clause regarding the accommodation.

Each document issued in a language other than Slovak (except for documents issued in Czech) has to be **translated to Slovak by a sworn translator**. A list of sworn translators can be found at <https://obcan.justice.sk> (section "Prekladatelia" – in Slovak only). In case the translation is done abroad, the competence of the translator must be attested by the Slovak embassy/consulate.

**None** of the documents proving the purpose of your stay, financial resources and criminal record extract **can be older than 90 days** on the day of submitting the application for a 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 his/her 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 and the interpreter must sign the record, too.) The embassy will send its position on granting of the temporary residence to the Foreign Police department along with the record and its translation.

In the case of applying for a **renewal of a temporary residence**, it is not necessary to submit the criminal record extract. It is, however, necessary to submit a confirmation of health insurance on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

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

The police officer in charge will confirm a receipt of your application (last page of the application form; the applicant should keep the receipt). **Within 30 days from the day of submitting a complete application**, the Foreign Police office shall issue either a negative decision or a notification of granting the temporary residence.

If applying for a 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. The applicant can collect the residence card at the Foreign Police office in person or he/she can appoint somebody else with a power of attorney to do it for him/her. When applying for a temporary residence from abroad via an embassy/consulate, it is advised to consult with them the way of notification on granting the residence, as well as the collection of the residence card.

If you apply for a temporary residence longer in advance and the Foreign Police decides on your application earlier than 30 days prior to starting your planned activity (the purpose of stay), the Foreign Police will set the starting date of your temporary residence exactly 30 days before the starting date of your planned activity (the purpose of stay). If the time between the decision of the Foreign Police on granting the temporary residence and the commencement of your planned activity (the purpose of stay) is shorter than 30 days, the day of commencement of the granted temporary residence will be the same as the date of the decision.

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 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 68) and a fee will be charged.

Police department shall grant the temporary residence for **the purpose of research and development** for the period of validity of the hosting agreement, but for a **maximum of 2 years**.

Researchers who carried out their **research** in Slovakia can apply for the renewal of their temporary residence after the completion of their research activities, for the purpose of **job seeking** or **starting a business**. In this case, it can be prolonged for **9 months**.

### *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** 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](http://www.vedatechnika.sk) (link to the list [www.vedatechnika.sk/SK/VedaATechnikaVSR/Stranky/Povolenie-pravnickym-osobam-vykonavajucim-vyskum-a-vyvoj-prijimat-cudzincov.aspx](http://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](http://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.

**An organisation that wants to obtain such authorisation** must apply for the licence at the Science and Technology Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. For information about the application procedure, please, see [www.euraxess.sk/sk/main/prakticke-info/pre-organizacie/prijimanie-cudzincov/dohoda-o-hostovani-a-povolenie-prijimat-cudzincov](http://www.euraxess.sk/sk/main/prakticke-info/pre-organizacie/prijimanie-cudzincov/dohoda-o-hostovani-a-povolenie-prijimat-cudzincov) (in Slovak only).

### Hosting Agreement must contain the following:

- name and surname of the third country researcher;
- identification 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 it will reimburse the costs related to the researcher's stay and return incurred by public funds in case he/she remains illegally in the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- declaration about sufficient financial coverage of researcher's stay;
- declaration of researcher's health insurance;
- information about the foreseen carrying of a part of research in another state.

More information and model Hosting Agreements are available at [www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/entry/third-countries/hosting-agreement](http://www.euraxess.sk/en/main/info/living/entry/third-countries/hosting-agreement).

### Duties after Arrival in Slovakia

Besides duties related to 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 **within 3 working days since his/her arrival in Slovakia**. If you are granted a Schengen/national visa or if you are not required to obtain a visa to enter Slovakia, you must report the beginning, place and foreseen duration of stay. If you were granted a residence, you need to report the beginning of your stay.

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 rented flat or at a friend's place), you must submit the **"Notice of the stay"** in person directly at the respective Foreign Police department (list of Foreign Police departments can be found at page 66).

As a third country national residing in Slovakia, you are obliged to report any **change** regarding the place of your residence, name, surname, personal status, nationality and data in your passport **within 5 working days** from the day when the change occurred.

## 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:

- **completed form “Notice of the stay”** (available in 7 languages to download at [www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1](http://www.minv.sk/?hlasenie-pobytu-1); must be completed in Slovak language; the forms are also available at local Foreign Police offices);
- **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 – 15.00
Tuesday	7.30 – 15.00
Wednesday	7.30 – 17.00
Thursday	7.30 – 15.00
Friday	7.30 – 14.00

#### 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

☎ +421–96160–3230

✉ [ocppzbb@minv.sk](mailto:ocppzbb@minv.sk)

Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Brezno, Detva, Krupina, Zvolen, Žarnovica, Žiar nad Hronom

##### **Bratislava**

Regrútska 4, Bratislava 831 07

☎ +421–9610–36999

✉ [ocppzba@minv.sk](mailto:ocppzba@minv.sk)

Bratislava I. – V.

Foreign Police Office contact	Territory covered (districts):
<p><b>Dunajská Streda</b>            Adorská 34, Dunajská Streda 929 01   +421-96111-3200   <a href="mailto:ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk">ocppz.dunajskastreda@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Senec</p>
<p><b>Košice</b>            Trieda SNP 35, Košice 040 01   +421-9619-31208   <a href="mailto:kosicec@minv.sk">kosicec@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Košice I. – IV., Košice – okolie, Gelnica, Rožňava, Spišská Nová Ves</p>
<p><b>Michalovce</b>            Štúrova 1, Michalovce 071 01   +421-96172-3220   <a href="mailto:michaloc@minv.sk">michaloc@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Michalovce, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Sobrance, Trebišov</p>
<p><b>Nitra</b>            Kalvárska 2, Nitra 949 01   +421-96130-3230   <a href="mailto:ocp.nitra@minv.sk">ocp.nitra@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Nitra, Hlohovec, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Zlaté Moravce</p>
<p><b>Nové Zámky</b>            Bitúnkova 8, Nové Zámky 949 36   +421-96133-3208   <a href="mailto:ocp.novezamky@minv.sk">ocp.novezamky@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Nové Zámky, Komárno, Levice, Šaľa</p>
<p><b>Prešov</b>            Ľubochnianska 2, Prešov 080 01   +421-96180-3205   <a href="mailto:presovc@minv.sk">presovc@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Prešov, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Levoča, Poprad, Sabinov, Stará Ľubovňa, Stropkov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou</p>
<p><b>Rimavská Sobota</b>            Hviezdoslavova 35, Rimavská Sobota 979 01   +421-96168-3205   <a href="mailto:ocppzrs@minv.sk">ocppzrs@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Rimavská Sobota, Lučenec, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš</p>
<p><b>Trenčín</b>            Jilemnického 2, Trenčín 911 01   +421-96120-3234   <a href="mailto:ocpptn@minv.sk">ocpptn@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Trenčín, Bánovce nad Bebravou, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov</p>
<p><b>Trnava</b>            Paulínska 13, Trnava 917 01   +421-96110-6153   <a href="mailto:ocppz.trnava@minv.sk">ocppz.trnava@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Trnava, Malacky, Pezinok, Piešťany, Senica, Skalica</p>
<p><b>Žilina</b>            Bánovská cesta 8111/1, Žilina 010 01   +421-96144-3205   <a href="mailto:ocpza@minv.sk">ocpza@minv.sk</a></p>	<p>Žilina, Bytča, Čadca, Dolný Kubín, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Liptovský Mikuláš, Martin, Námestovo, Ružomberok, Turčianske Teplice, Tvrdošín</p>

**Note:** Some Foreign Police officers communicate in Slovak only. 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 the Foreign Police departments 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 related to contact details at [www.minv.sk/?ocp-1](http://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/ministerstvo/slovenske\\_zastupitelstva-vsetky\\_zastupitelstva](http://www.mzv.sk/ministerstvo/slovenske_zastupitelstva-vsetky_zastupitelstva) (in Slovak only).

## Medical Centres Relevant for the Temporary Residence

Once granted a temporary residence in Slovakia, a third country national has to submit a medical certificate confirming that he/she does not suffer from any disease threatening public health. Only the following medical centres can issue such certificate accepted by Slovak Foreign Police:

### Bratislava region

- 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](http://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](mailto:bakos@inocem.sk), [www.inocem.sk](http://www.inocem.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Mediconet Slovakia,  
Heydukova 14, **Bratislava**,  
Tel: +421-2-3217-1211,  
[info@mediconet.sk](mailto:info@mediconet.sk), [www.mediconet.sk](http://www.mediconet.sk)

## Nitra region

- Infekčná klinika, Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby  
Fakultnej nemocnice Nitra,  
Špitálska 6, 950 01 **Nitra**,  
Tel: +421-37-654-5955,  
[cudzokrajna.ambulancia@fnnitra.sk](mailto:cudzokrajna.ambulancia@fnnitra.sk), [www.fnnitra.sk](http://www.fnnitra.sk) (in Slovak only)

## Trenčín region

- Ambulancia infektológie a tropickej medicíny Spoločnosti  
INF TROP-MED, s. r. o.,  
Nábřežná 5, **Prievidza**,  
Tel: +421-46-511-3311,  
[jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk](mailto:jpetrickova@uniklinika.sk)

## Žilina region

- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o., ŽILPO, s. r. o.,  
Vysokoškolákov 31, **Žilina**,  
Tel: +421-915-889-054,  
[bakos@inocem.sk](mailto:bakos@inocem.sk), [www.inocem.sk](http://www.inocem.sk) (in Slovak only)
- Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby a cestovnú medicínu,  
Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny  
Univerzitnej nemocnice Martin,  
Kollárova 2, **Martin**,  
Tel: +421-43-420-3637, +421-43-420-3386,  
[kiacm@unm.sk](mailto:kiacm@unm.sk), [www.unm.sk](http://www.unm.sk) (in Slovak only)

## Banská Bystrica region

- Ambulancia pre cudzokrajné choroby a cestovnú medicínu,  
Oddelenie infektológie Fakultnej nemocnice s poliklinikou  
F. D. Roosevelta Banská Bystrica,  
Cesta k nemocnici 1, **Banská Bystrica**,  
Tel: +421-48-433-5315,  
[dvolosinova@nspbb.sk](mailto:dvolosinova@nspbb.sk), [www.fnsfdr.sk](http://www.fnsfdr.sk) (in Slovak only)

## Košice region

- Centrum pre cudzokrajné choroby a cestovnú medicínu,  
Klinika infektológie a cestovnej medicíny Univerzitnej nemocnice  
L. Pasteura Košice,  
Rastislavova 43, **Košice**,  
Tel: +421-55-615-2204  
[occh@unlp.sk](mailto:occh@unlp.sk), [www.unlp.sk](http://www.unlp.sk) (in Slovak only)

- Stredisko cestovnej medicíny – Infektologická ambulancia, LV-Medical, s. r. o., Gemerská 3, **Košice**, Tel: +421–55–6250–555, Mob: +421–949–554–187, [ladislav.virag@lv-medical.sk](mailto:ladislav.virag@lv-medical.sk), [www.lv-medical.sk](http://www.lv-medical.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 280 €) 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 consult any of the aforementioned medical centres; it does not have to be the one closest to your place of residence.*

Updated list of relevant medical centres is available at [www.minv.sk/?vizova-info-typy-viz-1](http://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](http://www.slov-lex.sk) (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](http://www.eures.sk) and <http://ec.europa.eu/eures>.

If you are **not an EU/EEA/Swiss national**, in general, you can work only if you are granted a temporary residence 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 *“Who does not need a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position?”* page 72).

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](http://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.

## Who does not need a work permit or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacant position?

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 is not required in case a third country national is:

- a **university student** with a granted temporary residence for the purpose of studies, or carrying out a study mobility in Slovakia whose employment does not exceed **20 hours per week**;
- granted a temporary residence for the purpose of **research and development** and carries out research or development on the basis of a Hosting Agreement concluded with a research organisation;
- granted a temporary residence for the purpose of **research and development** and his/her **employment related to lecturing** will not exceed 50 days in a calendar year;
- carrying out **research** in Slovakia **within the intra-EU mobility scheme**;
- a **graduate** of a high school or higher education institution (university) in Slovakia;
- aged less than 26 years and will be employed in occasional and time-limited jobs within exchanges between schools or within youth and education programmes, in which Slovakia participates;
- granted a temporary residence in Slovakia as a person with the long-term residency status in another EU member state, after 12 months of stay in Slovakia;
- granted a permanent residence in Slovakia;
- granted a temporary residence of a third country national who has a recognised status of a Slovak living abroad;
- **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 and New Zealand).

## V.

# 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 notarisatioin 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](http://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](http://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/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?cid=41](http://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/authorities1/?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 <https://obcan.justice.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, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Moldova, Mongolia, Palestinian National Authority, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Vietnam. List of eligible countries may vary every year.

Applications are submitted online at [www.vladnestipendia.sk](http://www.vladnestipendia.sk); application deadline: 30 May. Scholarships are awarded by the Assessment Committee of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

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

## National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic



The National Scholarship Programme 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 (linear) distance between applicant's place of residence and the place of his/her stay in Slovakia:

- up to 750 km – 0 €,
- from 751 km to 1,500 km – 100 €,
- from 1,501 km to 5,000 km – 300 €,
- more than 5,000 km – 700 €.

Applications must be submitted online together with the required documents at [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk). The online application system is opened at least 6 weeks before the application deadline. Some of the required documents must be submitted as originals in paper form to SAIA office in Bratislava.

**Application deadlines:**

- 30 April by 16:00 CEST – scholarship stays during the following academic year,
- 31 October by 16:00 CET – scholarship stays during the summer semester of the current academic year.

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](http://www.stipendia.sk), [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk), [www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.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, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland,

Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine and USA (with Austria and the USA special programmes have been created – see below “Action Austria – Slovakia” and “Fulbright Program”).

Scholarship (if not specified otherwise in the bilateral agreement):

- students (bachelor/master level) – 280 €/month,
- PhD students – 330 €/month,
- university teachers/researchers – 550 €/month.

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 Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the agreement signed in 1992. The Programme is administered by SAIA, n. o. (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: 1,050 €/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**:

- **target projects** – organisation of Slovak-Austrian language summer schools, organisation of Slovak-Austrian trainings, co-supervised doctoral studies; grant: max. 60,000 €/project; duration: max. 36 months; application deadline: 15 October;
- **initiative projects** – e.g. co-operation of young researchers, lecture series of excellent researchers; grant: max. 6,000 €/project; duration: max. 12 months; application deadline: 15 March, 15 May and 15 October.

Applications for individual scholarships and co-operation projects are submitted online at [www.scholarships.at](http://www.scholarships.at).

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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



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

FULBRIGHT

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](http://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. Application deadline: depends on the U.S. institution the student attends and on IIE (The Power of International Education organisation).

### **● 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 economic and social issues important for the Slovak Republic. Application deadline: 1 August.

### **● 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. Application deadline: depends on the U.S. institution the student attends and on IIE (The Power of International Education organisation).

### **● 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 preteachers, 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](http://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 preaccession 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 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 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 introduces 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: Learning 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;
- **Erasmus+ Master Loans:** 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

KA2 makes it possible for organisations from different participating countries to work together, to develop, share and transfer best practices and innovative approaches in the field of education, training and youth. It supports the following actions:

- **capacity building in the field of youth** projects cover a range of activities that encourage co-operation between organisations active in youth, education, training and other socio-economic sectors in Programme and Partner Countries from different regions of the world;
- **capacity building in the field of higher education** projects in the field of higher education support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in Partner Countries;

- **knowledge alliances** are transnational and result-driven activities between higher education institutions and businesses;
- **sector skills alliances** aim at tackling skills gaps with regard to one or more occupational profiles in a specific sector. They do so by identifying existing and emerging sector-specific labour market needs (demand side), and by enhancing the responsiveness of initial and continuing vocational education and training systems, at all levels, to the labour market needs (supply side).

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

KA3 provides grants for a wide variety of actions aimed at stimulating innovative policy development, policy dialogue and implementation, and the exchange of knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth. It supports the following actions:

- **studies and surveys** with the aim to increase the knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth through the collection of evidence and analysis;
- **European policy tools** improving the recognition of skills, qualifications and diplomas by facilitating the transfer of credits, and supporting skills management and guidance, the Bologna process and the quality assurance, etc.;
- **co-operation with international organisations** to foster policy dialogue with partner countries, to promote international attractiveness of European Higher Education in the world of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU;
- **stakeholders' dialogue, policy and programme promotion** to raise the awareness about EU policies by supporting dialogue and policy promotion with public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth.

### 4. Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet Activities are designed to promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of EU studies worldwide. The activities also foster the dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, in particular with the aim of enhancing governance of EU policies. It supports the following activities:

- teaching and research;
- support to associations;
- policy debate with the academic world.

## 5. Sport

- Collaborative partnerships;
- not-for-profit European sport events;
- national events.

**More information:** Website of Erasmus+ programme, European Commission: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en)

Website of DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission: [www.ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture\\_en](http://www.ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture_en)

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

IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute – [www.iuventa.sk](http://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 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](http://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](http://www.ceepus.saia.sk)

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.

Sasinkova 10, 812 20 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

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

### *International Visegrad Fund*



The International Visegrad Fund is an international organisation based in Bratislava founded by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and

Slovakia – in 2000. The mission of the Fund is to facilitate and promote the development of closer co-operation among citizens and institutions of the V4 region, as well as between V4 region and other countries, especially the Central and Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and South Caucasus. The Fund does so through grant support of common cultural, scientific, research and educational projects, youth exchanges, promotion of tourism and cross-border co-operation, and through individual mobility programmes (scholarships, residencies). Non-

governmental organisations, civil society organisations, municipalities and local or regional governments, universities and schools, but also other public institutions and private companies or individual citizens are eligible for grant support provided that their projects deal with the region and further develop co-operation among project partners based in the region. The Fund's annual budget of 8 million € consists of equal contributions from the V4 governments.

The Fund operates the following programmes:

● **Mobility programmes:**

■ **Visegrad Scholarship Program**

- Master and post-master scholars and researchers who are citizens of the Visegrad countries can apply for a scholarship to study at any accredited university/institute within V4 countries and in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine;
- Master and post-master scholars and researchers who are citizens of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Ukraine can apply for a scholarship to study in the Visegrad countries.

Scholarship: 2,300 €/semester for the scholar and 1,500 €/semester for the host institution; duration: 1–4 semesters in case of master students; 1–2 semesters in case of post-master scholars and researchers; application deadline: 15 March;

- **Visegrad Scholarships at Open Society Archives** – research fellowships at the Open Society Archives (OSA) in Budapest (Hungary). The fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to scholars, artists or journalist from V4 and non-V4 countries 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. Scholarship: 2,000 € in case of a 2-month stay (scholarships for shorter periods are pro-rated); application deadline: 10 January, 15 March, 15 October;
- **Visual & Sound Arts Residency** – the programme facilitates mobility and artistic exchange of V4 citizens in the fields of visual and sound arts, including design, music, video and film, new media

and mixed media. The residency must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the applicant's citizenship/residence. The period of support is 3 months; scholarship: 750 €/month for resident and 750 €/month for the host institution; application deadline: 15 February;

- **Performing Arts Residency** – the programme supports contemporary theatre and dance in Central Europe by providing opportunities to host artists and companies from/in V4 countries. The programme supports innovation, experiment and creativity in performing arts – new drama, contemporary dance, new circus, physical theatre, visual theatre, alternative theatre, performance art, etc. It is not suitable for stone theatres, already developed performances or theatre festivals. The place of residency must be different than the applicant's citizenship and residence. The length of support is 3 months with a minimum 2-week stay in the respective host institution. 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 group and 2,500 € for the host institution; application deadline: 15 February;
- **Literary Residency Program** – the programme is intended to develop and promote V4 literature by providing support to the work and mobility of talented writers of fiction and non-fiction, poets, essayists, critics, as well as literary translators, publicists and journalists from V4 countries by creating a platform for literary exchanges. 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: 31 January;
- **Residencies in New York** – the programme artist mobility for visual artists from V4 countries in New York City. Applicants cannot be students. The residency period is approximately 3 months; scholarship: 4,000 €; application deadline: 15 March.

● **Grant programmes:**

- **Visegrad Grants** – projects must develop meaningful co-operation and active participation of organisations from at least three V4 countries. Cross-border co-operation of at least 2 organisations from 2 neighbouring V4 countries also qualify for the support with projects taking place within a 40-km radius from the border.

Maximum duration of the project implementation is 18 months. Projects must address at least one of the seven objectives: Culture and Common Identity; Education and Capacity Building; Innovation, R&D, Entrepreneurship; Democratic Values and the Media; Public Policy and Institutional Partnership; Regional Development, Environment and Tourism; Social Development. Application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October;

- **Visegrad+ Grants** – the programme supports projects which contribute to the democratisation and transformation processes in selected countries and regions, especially non-EU member states in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. Projects must develop meaningful co-operation and ensure active involvement of least three V4 countries and one entity from the EaP region or the Western Balkans countries at minimum. Maximum duration of the project implementation is 18 months. Projects must address at least one of the seven objectives: Culture and Common Identity; Education and Capacity Building; Innovation, R&D, Entrepreneurship; Democratic Values and the Media; Public Policy and Institutional Partnership; Regional Development, Environment and Tourism; Social Development. Application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October;
- **Strategic Grants** – the programme supports projects addressing annual strategic priorities of the Visegrad Group. Strategic priorities are announced annually by the V4 country holding the rotating presidency over the group. Projects must develop meaningful co-operation and ensure active participation of organisations from all V4 countries. The programme supports projects that last from 12 to 36 months. Application deadlines: 1 February, 1 June, 1 October.

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

Contact:

International Visegrad Fund

Hviezdoslavovo námestie 9, 811 02 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

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

# VII.

## LIFE IN SLOVAKIA

## AND OTHER PRACTICAL

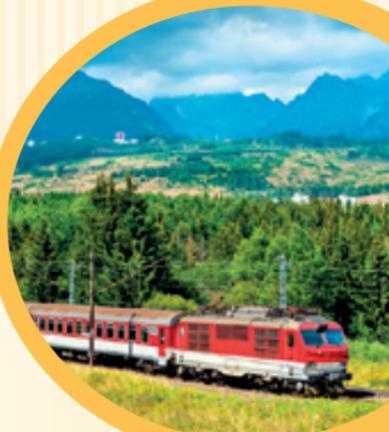
## INFORMATION

### 1. Transport

#### Travel by Train

Trains in the Slovak Republic are safe and agreeable way to travel. There are 10 different types of trains:

<b>RJX</b>	Railjet xpress
<b>IC</b>	InterCity
<b>SC</b>	SuperCity
<b>EC</b>	EuroCity
<b>EN</b>	EuroNight
<b>Ex</b>	Express train
<b>R</b>	Fast train ("rýchlik")
<b>RR</b>	Regional fast train ("regionálny rýchlik")
<b>REX</b>	Regional express train ("regionálny expres")
<b>Os</b>	Passenger train ("osobný vlak")



Did you know?

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

The websites of the Slovak Railways

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

or [www.zsr.sk](http://www.zsr.sk) provide

information on time schedule, prices, duration of the journey and whether you have to switch the trains at any point. The website [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) provide a complex travel itinerary – here you can choose the means of public transport (bus, train, town public transport), but also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest route.

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.



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 (see page 91). 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. In most of them, a seat reservation is mandatory.

For some trains it is also possible to buy a ticket online at the website [www.slovakrail.sk](http://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 public rail transport services. Eligible passengers are required to register at the Slovak Railways ticket 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 (apart from InterCity and private trains, e.g. Regiojet). Eligible passengers are required to secure one zero-fare ticket for each journey. For EuroCity/InterCity trains transit 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 the border. Detail information is available at [www.slovakrail.sk/en/zero-fare.html](http://www.slovakrail.sk/en/zero-fare.html).

*DID YOU KNOW?*

The only place, where you can travel by a historic train on narrow gauge is a forest railway in the Museum of Kysuce village in Vychylovka. It is the only preserved and today still operating railway of this type in Europe.



You can also travel by private rail carriers such as Regiojet. Tickets can be purchased at the Regiojet ticket desks or online via [www.regiojet.sk](http://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](http://www.cp.sk), where you can find some useful information (time schedule, duration of the route, prices).

For international bus travel you can buy tickets at the ticket office or travel agency. Eurolines is the biggest provider operating 8 regular international lines together with its domestic branch Slovak Lines ([www.slovaklines.sk](http://www.slovaklines.sk)). For international lines operated by Eurolines it is possible to buy/book a ticket online at [www.eurolines.sk](http://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](http://www.studentagency.sk) or [www.regiojet.sk](http://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 abroad, such as Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)), Czech Airlines ([www.csa.cz](http://www.csa.cz)), Wizz Air ([www.wizzair.com](http://www.wizzair.com)) and other airlines.

There are 3 international airports in Slovakia – in Bratislava (“*Letisko M. R. Štefánika*” [www.bts.aero](http://www.bts.aero)), in Košice (“*Letisko Košice*” [www.airportkosice.sk](http://www.airportkosice.sk)) and in Poprad (“*Letisko Poprad – Tatry*” [www.airport-poprad.sk](http://www.airport-poprad.sk)).



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).

### DID YOU KNOW?

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



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

#### **Bratislava International Airport**

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

#### **Košice International Airport**

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

#### **Vienna International Airport (Austria)**

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

A one-way ticket from the Vienna Airport to the Bratislava Central 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](http://www.cp.sk), [www.regiojet.sk](http://www.regiojet.sk) or [www.slovaklines.sk](http://www.slovaklines.sk). If you manage to buy your ticket online early, you can even get your one-way travel ticket for 1 €. If you have heavy luggage you can buy a ticket comprising of a bus ticket and one-way taxi service for a total of 10 €. For details, please, visit [www.slovaklines.sk](http://www.slovaklines.sk). There is also a 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 one-way ticket on route the Vienna Airport – Bratislava bus station costs 7.50 €. For the time schedule and prices, please, visit [www.blaguss.sk](http://www.blaguss.sk).

## Local Transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport – usually buses and trolleybuses (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 transport 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. In principal cities, electronic SMS tickets are also available. The SMS ticket can be bought only from a telephone number assigned by a Slovak mobile operator.

To buy an electronic SMS ticket send an empty SMS message or an SMS with one character to one of the following telephone numbers:

<b>Bratislava</b>	1140 (40 min journey) or 1100 (70 min journey)
<b>Banská Bystrica</b>	1133
<b>Košice</b>	1166
<b>Nitra</b>	1177
<b>Prešov</b>	1144
<b>Trnava</b>	1122
<b>Žilina</b>	1155

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).

### *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](http://www.dpb.sk), [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk). Information on public transport in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Žilina and other towns is available at [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk). Connection search for public transport of a larger number of principal towns is available at [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) (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 stay in the country. In case you are granted a temporary or permanent residence in Slovakia, you may apply for a 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 respectively), 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 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 a 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 cm<sup>3</sup> must be at least 17 years old, and everyone driving a car or lorry at least 18 years old.

## Traffic Regulations

The current traffic regulations are the same as in other European countries. Seat belts are compulsory. The use of a mobile phone is forbidden while driving. All accidents should be reported to the police. It is prohibited to drink any amount of alcohol before or while driving. No level of alcohol in blood is tolerated. It is obligatory to have car lights on all 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](http://www.eznamka.sk). It is possible to buy an electronic vignette valid for a period of 10 or 30 days, or one calendar year. Motorbikers 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](http://www.doauta.sk/index.php?option=com_fabrik&Itemid=42&lang=sk), in Slovak only). Almost all petrol stations sell also drinks and snacks. Toilet facilities are available and larger stations also offer showers. In all big petrol stations, you can pay with credit or debit cards.

In Slovakia, you can also find charging stations for electric vehicles ([www.kdenabijat.sk](http://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 or parking machines. 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 left for walking.

It is also possible to pay your parking fee by sending an SMS in a pre-defined format from your mobile 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](http://www.bps.sk) or [www.m-parking.sk](http://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](http://www.rentalcars.com) and the Green Pages <http://greenpages.spectator.sme.sk> (section "Car Rental").

## Breakdown Service

<b>ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o.</b>	18 112
<b>Automobile Club of the Slovak Republic</b>	16 066
<b>SATC – Slovak Automotive Tourist Club</b>	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 (sometimes significantly). 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.

Although the Uber service stopped operating in Bratislava in March 2018 due to court ruling, you can still use other taxi services operating based on an app – Hopin, Taxify (operating in Bratislava

and Košice) and Liftago (operating only in Bratislava). The service allows smartphone users to submit a trip request, which the software programme then automatically sends to a driver nearest to the consumer, alerting the driver about the location of the consumer. Hopin and Liftago drivers are licenced taxi drivers, while Taxify operates on very similar principles like Uber. More information is available at [www.hopintaxi.com](http://www.hopintaxi.com), [www.taxify.eu](http://www.taxify.eu) and [www.liftago.com](http://www.liftago.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 approved, correctly fitted and fastened bike helmet outside builtup 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 a 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.



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 20<sup>th</sup> century". However, the price for this success was destruction of a large part of historical extramural settlement.



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 to 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](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 2–4 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](http://www.cent.sk), in Slovak only; [www.pramako.sk/samooobsluzne-pracovne](http://www.pramako.sk/samooobsluzne-pracovne), in Slovak only; [www.flipperwash.sk](http://www.flipperwash.sk)).

Students who wish to study in the Slovak Republic outside the framework of bilateral agreements or exchange programmes cannot be guaranteed a place in a dormitory due to the limited capacity of each dormitory. If a 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 via social networks or via [www.flatmates.sk](http://www.flatmates.sk), [www.spolubyvanie.sk](http://www.spolubyvanie.sk) – both websites 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 for 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](http://www.vszp.sk), [www.dovera.sk](http://www.dovera.sk) (in Slovak only),  
[www.union.sk/health-insurance-for-foreigners](http://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” or “poliklinika”*) with an Accident and Emergency department (*“pohotovosť” or “urgentný príjem”*) and many specialised clinics.

More information is available at:

- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic: [www.health.gov.sk](http://www.health.gov.sk) (most of the information in Slovak only).
- List of medical facilities and doctors: [www.zzz.sk](http://www.zzz.sk) (in Slovak only) or use mobile Google maps hospital search.

## Emergency

If you need emergency services (“záchranná služba”), 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](http://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](http://www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/lekaren) (in Slovak only).

## 5. Language Courses for International Students

There are two possibilities to learn Slovak language. Either in person in Slovakia, or online via various courses and tools.

### Learning Slovak online

There are several websites offering Slovak language courses on various levels. Some of them offer only courses for autodidacts, other offer also tutoring or guidance. Here several options:

- [www.slovak.ee/en](http://www.slovak.ee/en) – free online course for mastering language levels A1–B2;
- [www.e-slovak.sk](http://www.e-slovak.sk) – free online course for mastering language levels A1–A2 with a guidance of tutors (check the website for enrolment terms);
- [www.myslovak.sk](http://www.myslovak.sk) – free online course (currently only for beginners – A1 level);
- [www.memrise.com/courses/english/slovak/](http://www.memrise.com/courses/english/slovak/) – variety of courses focusing on various aspects of language usage.

The levels of language proficiency used here are identified in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (more information and self-assessment is available at <https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>).

## Learning Slovak in Slovakia

Foreigners can attend Slovak language courses at universities or at several state and private language schools.

### *Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) – Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language at the Comenius University*

Courses of Slovak as a foreign language are offered by the Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) – Centre for Slovak as a Foreign Language to international students, scholarship holders, host students and others, who are interested. Also bilateral agreements between governments or ministries of education often offer scholarships for participation in Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture organised by the SAS which lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August. More information is available at [www.fphil.uniba.sk/katedry-a-odborne-pracoviska/sas/studium-courses](http://www.fphil.uniba.sk/katedry-a-odborne-pracoviska/sas/studium-courses).

### *Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies for Foreigners and Compatriots at the Comenius University*

The Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies for Foreigners and Compatriots (ILPS) of the Centre for Continuing Education at Comenius University in Bratislava provides tuition of Slovak as a foreign language and prepares its students for various degree programmes at Slovak universities. In addition, the institute produces learning materials, and organises many cultural and educational activities, e.g. Summer University of Slovak Language and Culture. More information available at [www.cdv.uniba.sk/en/about-cce](http://www.cdv.uniba.sk/en/about-cce).

### *Other possibilities to learn Slovak in Slovakia*

Other **universities** may also organise Slovak language courses for their international students/researchers – for more information, please, contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

Courses of Slovak language for the purpose of university study are also organised by private language schools, e.g. **iCan Language School in Bratislava** ([www.icanschool.eu](http://www.icanschool.eu)).

Foreigners can also attend general Slovak language courses at **several state and private language schools**. They offer group tuition or individual courses tailored to the clients' individual needs. The courses are aimed at mastering all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The courses are usually held twice a week – 2 standard lessons (90 min. in total) per day. State language schools can be found in larger towns in Slovakia, e.g. Bratislava ([www.1sjs.sk](http://www.1sjs.sk)) or Košice ([www.sjs.sk/foreigners](http://www.sjs.sk/foreigners)). Private language schools offering courses of Slovak are, for example, Eurolingua ([www.eurolingua.sk](http://www.eurolingua.sk)) or other smaller private language schools.

Nationals of countries outside the European Union/European Economic Area/Switzerland can attend a free of charge “Open Course of Slovak Language for Foreigners” organised by the **IOM Migration Information Centre in Bratislava and Košice**. More information available at [www.mic.iom.sk/en](http://www.mic.iom.sk/en) (however this course is oriented more on daily use of Slovak).

## 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](http://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](http://www.esu-online.org)).

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

**ESN** (Erasmus Student Network) is a non-profit international student organisation founded in 1990 supporting and developing student exchange. In the Slovak Republic, the ESN operates at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Comenius University 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](http://www.esn.sk)).

**AIESEC** (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) is an international association of students from the economic and business oriented fields of study. AIESEC has its branches at the universities in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Nitra, and Trnava ([www.aiesec.sk](http://www.aiesec.sk), in Slovak only or [www.aiesec.org](http://www.aiesec.org)).

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

**ELSA** (The European Law Students' Association) is an international organisation associating law students and young lawyers. In the Slovak Republic, ELSA 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](http://www.elsa.sk), in Slovak only or [www.elsa.org](http://www.elsa.org)).

**IAAS** (International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences) is an international association of agricultural students. In the Slovak Republic, IAAS operates at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra ([www.iaasworld.org](http://www.iaasworld.org)).

**IAESTE Slovakia** (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) is an international association for exchange of students from technical fields of study for specialised

experience. 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](http://www.iaeste.sk), [www.iaeste.org](http://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](http://www.ifsa.net)).

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

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

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



DID YOU KNOW?

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



## 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.banky.sk/zoznam-bank-na-slovensku](http://www.banky.sk/zoznam-bank-na-slovensku), in Slovak only).

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 Sundays (mostly in shopping centres only). For more details, please, visit the website of the respective bank.

DID YOU KNOW?

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





## 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 usually for free too.

## 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 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 cash. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services, please, consult your card issuer.

## 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. most of the souvenir shops, 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 has a large number of fullarea ISP's that offer wired broadband internet connections, for example:

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

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

Mobile operators have various mobile internet offers, too.

Wi-Fi spots are available throughout the city centres, shopping centres and even in some buses and trains. Almost every coffee shop and restaurant offers free Wi-Fi connection or hotspots for their customers. You can find even free Wi-Fi connection in bookshops around the cities.

### Phone Calls & Services

There are 4 mobile operators in the territory of the Slovak Republic – Orange ([www.orange.sk](http://www.orange.sk), in Slovak only), Slovak Telekom ([www.telekom.sk](http://www.telekom.sk), in Slovak only), Telefónica O2 ([www.o2.sk](http://www.o2.sk), in Slovak

only) and 4ka ([www.4ka.sk](http://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.

### *Roaming in the EU*

The EU “**roam like at home**” rules enable holders of the EU/EEA countries SIM card to use their mobile phones while **travelling** in any EU country without **any additional roaming charges**. The rules cover voice services (to mobile telephones and fixed phone lines), sending text messages (SMS) and using data services while abroad. These rules also apply when receiving calls or texts while roaming, even if the person you are calling is using a different service provider.

More information available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/end-roaming-charges-travellers-eu-2017>.

The easiest solution to benefit from the EU “roam like at home” rule is to buy a prepaid SIM card. For its purchase, the Slovak legislation requires verification of personal data. Therefore, cards are not sold as freely as in some other countries.

Sellers will ask buyers for their passport or identity card if from European Union, or residence permit in Slovakia, on the basis of which they will verify buyer’s identity. The minimum age limit for buying a SIM card is 15.

### *How to Make Phone Calls*

#### **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

### 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



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> class costs 0.50 €, sent by 1<sup>st</sup> class costs 0.70 € and registered mail costs 1.45 €. The postage for sending a 50 g letter by 2<sup>nd</sup> class from Slovakia to the Czech Republic costs 0.95 €, while sending a 50 g letter by the same class to other European countries or outside Europe costs 1.10 €. The price list is available at the website of the Slovak Post Office ([www.posta.sk](http://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, 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 Slnčné jazera 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://www.holidayinfo.sk),  
<http://rivers.raft.cz/slovensko/>, [www.golf.sk](http://www.golf.sk), [www.panorama.sk](http://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. You can also download a mobile rescue app allowing calls to be made to the emergency call number 18 300 of the Mountain Rescue Service and emergency SMSs sent, using the current GPS position to quickly locate the caller in the mountain environment. Using the application, you get up-to-date information on avalanche danger and alerts in individual mountains in Slovakia.

More information available at:

[www.slovakia.travel/en/mountain-rescue-service](http://www.slovakia.travel/en/mountain-rescue-service) – Mountain Rescue Service app, [www.hzs.sk](http://www.hzs.sk) – Mountain Rescue Service (in Slovak only), [www.onthesnow.sk](http://www.onthesnow.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.holidayinfo.sk](http://www.holidayinfo.sk)

### 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



DO YOU KNOW?

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



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](http://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](http://www.theatre.sk).



The oldest professional theatre in Slovakia is the **Slovak National Theatre** (“Slovenské národné divadlo” – SND) in Bratislava ([www.snd.sk](http://www.snd.sk)). It comprises drama, opera and ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company. 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](http://www.sdke.sk)), the **State Opera and Ballet** (“Štátna opera a balet”) in Banská Bystrica ([www.stateopera.sk](http://www.stateopera.sk), in Slovak only) and the **New Stage** (“Nová scéna”) in Bratislava specialising in musical repertory ([www.novascena.sk](http://www.novascena.sk), in Slovak only).

Private theatre offering different types of performances is the **Aréna Theatre** in Bratislava ([www.divadloarena.sk](http://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](http://www.ticketportal.sk) or [www.navstevnik.sk](http://www.navstevnik.sk). There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket.

## Music

### *Classical Music*

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a national musical tradition began to develop around Slovakia's impressive folk heritage. Romantic as well as modern Slovak music has drawn from both classical and traditional folk styles. Among romantic composers, the most important are the compositions of Ján Levoslav Bella and 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 of the 20<sup>th</sup> century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1<sup>st</sup> Slovak national opera "*Krútnava*" [The Whirlpool]) and Ján Cikker.

Today, music is one of the most significant aspects of the Slovak culture. Some of the most renowned orchestras are the **Slovak Philharmonic** ("*Slovenská filharmónia*", [www.filharmonia.sk](http://www.filharmonia.sk)) in Bratislava, the **Slovak State Philharmonic in Košice** ("*Štátna filharmónia Košice*", [www.sfk.sk](http://www.sfk.sk)), the **Symphonic Orchestra of Slovak Radio** ("*Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu*", [www.sosr.rtv.s.sk](http://www.sosr.rtv.s.sk)) in Bratislava and the **Slovak Chamber Orchestra** ("*Slovenský komorný orchester*", [www.filharmonia.sk](http://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](http://www.ticketportal.sk) or [www.navstevnik.sk](http://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](http://www.sluk.sk), in Slovak only) and **Lúčnica – Slovak National Folklore Dance Ensemble** ([www.lucnica.sk](http://www.lucnica.sk)). Most towns have their own folk festivals with dances, local costumes and food. These tend to be held throughout summer until the end of September. The biggest one takes place in Východná in July every year ([www.festivalvychodna.sk](http://www.festivalvychodna.sk)).

### *Modern Music*

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

### *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 place near Trenčín (airport) during the second weekend of July ([www.pohodafestival.sk](http://www.pohodafestival.sk)). Other big summer festivals worth visiting in Slovakia are Grape ([www.grapefestival.sk](http://www.grapefestival.sk)) and Topfest ([www.topfest.sk](http://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](http://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** (*“majolica”*) already in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (especially in the town of Modra). Ceramic tradition of Modra was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsmen in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Habans, also known as Anabaptists, were a religious sect that arose during the Reformation. The pottery is characterised by gentle curves and bright colours, particularly blue and yellow. Contemporary Majolic factory of Modra is a direct descendant of this tradition. You can also order Majolic through the website [www.majolika-r.sk/majolika.php](http://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, Vlkoš, Špania dolina, Ždiar, Podbiel or Sebechleby.

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

More information available at: [www.museum.sk](http://www.museum.sk), [www.ludoveremesla.org](http://www.ludoveremesla.org) (both websites in Slovak only), [www.remesla.lawit.sk](http://www.remesla.lawit.sk)

## *Cinema*

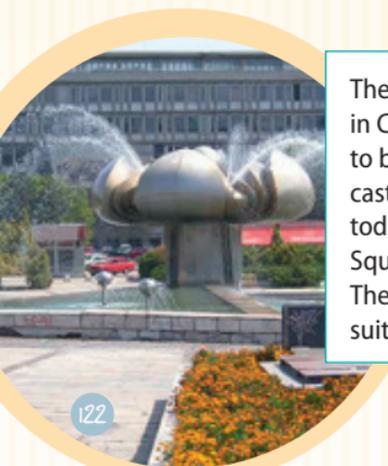
Cinemas (*“kino”*) can be found in every town. Film clubs are popular and can be found in all university towns. In Bratislava, multiplex cinemas can be found in the Aupark, Eurovea, Bory Mall and Polus shopping centres ([www.cinematicity.sk](http://www.cinematicity.sk) and [www.cine-max.sk](http://www.cine-max.sk), in Slovak only). Cheaper options are film clubs like cinemas *“Lumiére”*, *“Mladost”*, *“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](http://www.cine-max.sk), in Slovak only). Most films bear the original soundtrack with subtitles; some films have Slovak dubbing (mostly films for children). Cinema programmes are published on their own websites, towns' websites ([www.kamdomesta.sk](http://www.kamdomesta.sk), [www.citylife.sk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.danubiana.sk)). There are also other interesting galleries. To search for a museum or gallery by topic, visit [www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel) (section “Things to see and do”, subsection “Culture and sights”).



### *DID YOU KNOW?*

The largest Celtic oppidum in 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.



### *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](http://www.nocvyskumnikov.sk)).

Also other sciencerelated events are regularly organised: e.g. Week of Science and Technology focused on popularisation of science ([www.tyzdenvedy.sk](http://www.tyzdenvedy.sk)), 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](http://www.nadaciatatrabanky.sk), in Slovak only).

### *Slovak Newspaper in English*

The Slovak Spectator ([www.spectator.sme.sk](http://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.

News portal [www.thedaily.sk](http://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. Most of the newspapers have also an online version. You can also buy their print version at newsstands.

*DID YOU KNOW?*

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



## 14. Cuisine

### Food

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

### Cuisine

There are many restaurants in Slovakia ranging from cheap to expensive. For a drink, it is more usual to go to a pub, where you can also have a meal. Larger towns usually have restaurants with national and international cuisine, the most common being Italian, Asian, Balkan, Czech and Hungarian. Beer and wine (domestic and imported) 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.menucka.sk](http://www.menucka.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk) (in Slovak only), [www.zomato.com/sk](http://www.zomato.com/sk) (in Slovak only). You can also use a variety of dining and restaurant apps (e.g. Zomato, Restaurant Finder or use Google maps restaurant search).

## 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/dumplings topped with “bryndza” and fried bacon). Another

traditional dish is “strapáčky 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 (Slovak sparkling

wine) and “Karpatské Brandy Špeciál” (Carpathian Brandy Special)



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.



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, Urpiner, Topvar and Šariš. Microbreweries (craft breweries) are becoming very popular ([www.malepivovary.sk](http://www.malepivovary.sk)).

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

DO YOU KNOW?

## 15. Libraries

There is 1 National Library, 5 scientific libraries, 63 academic libraries and a large number of public, special and 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 in Martin, founded in 1863, includes a collection of materials related to Slovak culture.

A portal to catalogues and collections of Slovak libraries is available at [www.kis3g.sk/en](http://www.kis3g.sk/en) and a database of Slovak libraries is available at [www.infolib.sk](http://www.infolib.sk) (in Slovak only).

The most important libraries in Slovakia are:

- National Library of Slovakia, Martin [www.snk.sk](http://www.snk.sk)
- Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava [www.uk.sav.sk](http://www.uk.sav.sk)
- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, Bratislava [www.cvtisr.sk](http://www.cvtisr.sk)
- State Scientific Library, Banská Bystrica [www.svkbb.eu](http://www.svkbb.eu) (in Slovak only)
- State Scientific Library, Košice [www.svkk.sk](http://www.svkk.sk)
- State Scientific Library, Prešov [www.svkpo.sk](http://www.svkpo.sk)
- University Library in Bratislava [www.ulib.sk](http://www.ulib.sk)

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



## 16. Other Services

### Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service

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

### 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](http://www.slaspo.sk)
- Slovak Insurers' Bureau: [www.skp.sk](http://www.skp.sk)
- Insurance companies portal: <https://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; public transport offers a reduced service (esp. buses and trains). Some restaurants or cafés 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 12 € per night
- **1 bedroom flat:** from 350 € per month including utilities  
(in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)
- **2 bedroom flat:** from 450 € 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:** 1 €
- **1 litre of mineral water:** 0.40 €
- **Loaf of bread:** 0.90 €
- **400 g spaghetti:** 0.80 €
- **Beer:** 1.20 €

### *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 1.30 €
- **Diesel per litre:** from 1.20 €

### *Having Fun*

- **Movie ticket:** 3–8 €
- **Museum ticket:** from 2 €
- **Theatre ticket:** 3.50–20 € for drama, 4–35 € for opera and ballet
- **Fitness centre ticket:** from 3 €
- **Swimming pool ticket:** from 1.50 €
- **Rent a bike:** from 8.80 € per day

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

### *DID YOU KNOW?*



The Janko Král' Park ("Sad Janka Kráľa") on the right side of the 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.



## VIII.

# USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS

### **International Visegrad Fund**

Hviezdoslavovo námestie 9, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-5920-3811

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

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

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

Stromová 1, 813 30 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-5937-4111

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

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

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

Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava 37, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-5978-1111

Fax: +421-2-5978-3333

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

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

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

### **Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation (SAAIC)**

Križkova 9, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-2-2092-2201

Fax: +421-2-2092-2209

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

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

### **Slovak Academy of Sciences (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](mailto:admin@up.upsav.sk)

URL: [www.sav.sk](http://www.sav.sk), [www.psav.sav.sk](http://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](mailto:cvti@cvtisr.sk)

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

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

### **Student Council for Higher Education**

Staré grunty 52, 842 44 Bratislava 4, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-917-733-514

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

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

### **J. W. Fulbright Commission**

Konventná 1, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421-911-415-001

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

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

### **Embassies**

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

**Some Words to Know in Slovak:**

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

I would like the bill, please.	– Účet, prosím.
Store	– obchod
Grocery	– potraviny
Water	– voda
Bread	– chlieb
Milk	– mlieko
Wine	– víno
Beer	– pivo
Vegetable	– zelenina
Fruit	– ovocie

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

(Hungarian)

[www.slovník.org](http://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).

