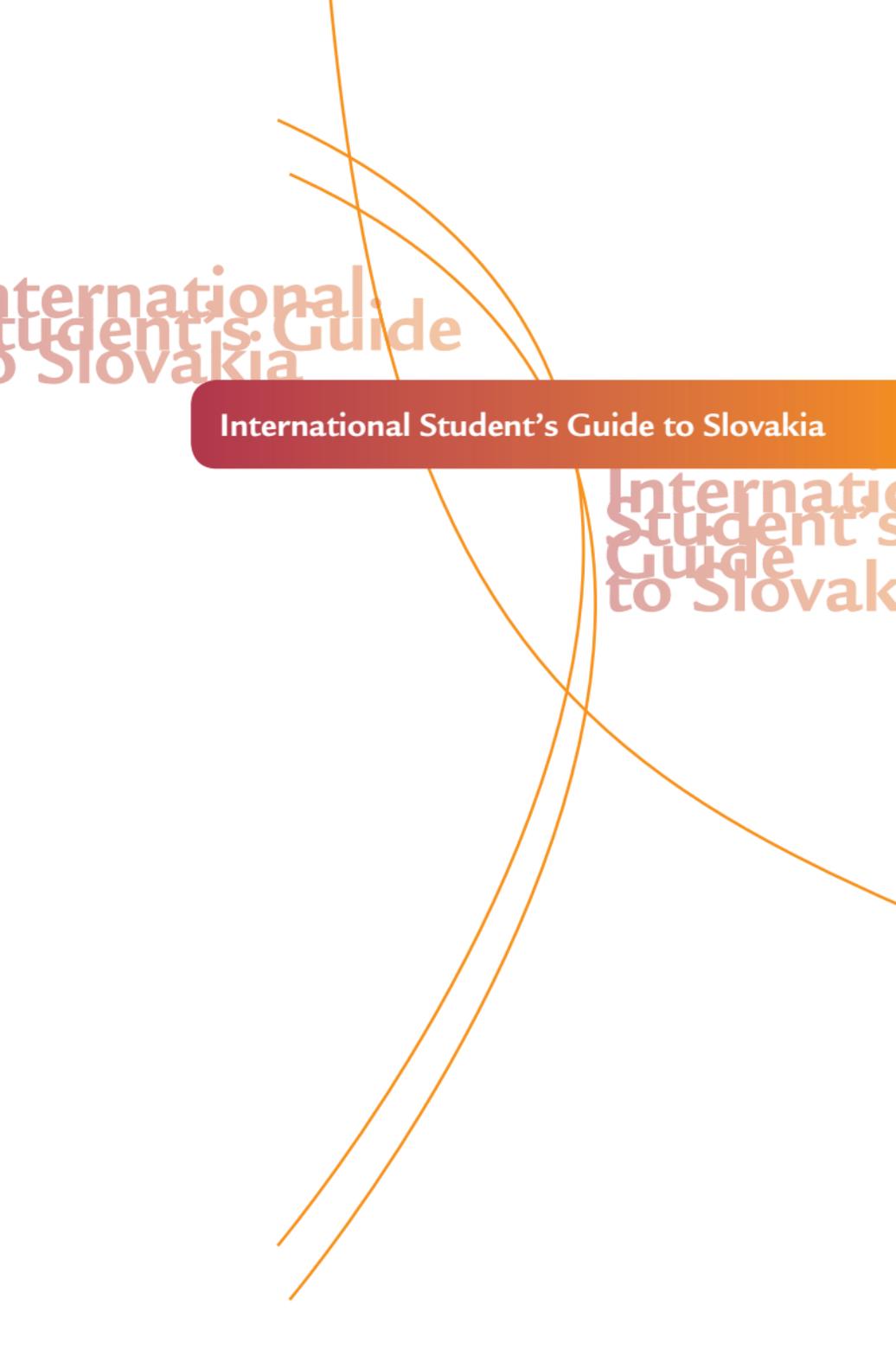


International  
Student's Guide  
to Slovakia

# International Student's Guide to Slovakia

International  
Student's  
Guide  
to Slovakia



The background features several thin, curved orange lines that sweep across the page, creating a sense of movement and design. A dark red horizontal bar is positioned in the middle of the page, containing the title text.

International  
Student's Guide  
to Slovakia

International Student's Guide to Slovakia

International  
Student's  
Guide  
to Slovakia

This publication was produced within the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic and Researcher's Mobility Centre funded by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and within the Lifelong Learning Programme/Erasmus funded by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the European Commission.

## International Student's Guide to Slovakia

Published by:

**SAIA, n. o.** | Námestie slobody 23 | 812 20 Bratislava 1 | Slovakia

**SAAIC** | Staré grunty 52 | 842 44 Bratislava | Slovakia

Prepared by:

Kristína Sallerová in co-operation with:

Viera Farkašová, Michal Fedák, Denisa Filkorňová,  
Katarína Košťálová, Oľga Šubeníková, Karla Zimanová  
Daniel Gurňák (map of the Slovak Republic)

Graphic design and prepress:

Xpression, s. r. o., Bratislava

SAIA, n. o. 2007

ISBN: 978-80-88928-85-0



9788088928850

## ABOUT SLOVAKIA

1. Slovakia in Brief	5
2. Geography	7
3. Political System and State Bodies	9
4. Religion	11
5. Slovak UNESCO Natural and Cultural Heritage	13
6. Famous Slovaks	15

I.

## HIGHER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

1. Oldest Slovak Universities	23
2. Higher Education Institutions	24
3. Organisation and Structure of Studies	32
4. Admission and Tuition Fee	35
5. Recognition of Diplomas and Qualifications	37
6. Slovak Language Courses for International Students	40
7. Student Organisations	42
8. Student Cards	45

II.

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Funding Based on Slovak Sources	47
2. Funding for Bilateral Co-operation	53
3. Multilateral Programmes	56

III.

## FORMALITIES, ENTERING AND STAYING IN SLOVAKIA

1. Entry Conditions – Visa, Registration Procedures and Working	67
2. Health and Medical Care	70
3. Import of Goods	74

IV.

## LIVING IN SLOVAKIA

1. Transport	77
2. Accommodation in the Dormitory	87
3. Banks	88
4. Shopping	91
5. Electrical Appliances and Computers	92
6. Communications and Post Offices	93
7. Sport	96
9. Cuisine	106
10. Libraries	109
11. Language	110
12. Other services	111
13. Public Holidays	112
14. Living Costs	113

V.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS	116
----------------------------	-----

VI.

GLOSSARY	120
----------	-----

VII.

## ABOUT SLOVAKIA

### I. Slovakia in Brief

**Official name:** Slovak Republic

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

**Form of government:** republic  
**Political system:** parliamentary democracy

**Administrative organisation:** 8 higher territorial units, 8 regions, 79 districts, 2,891 municipalities out of which are 138 cities and towns

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

**Official language:** Slovak

**Capital:** Bratislava (425,155 inhabitants)

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

**Area:** 49,035 sq. km

**Population:** 5,384,822 (out of them 51.5 % of women)

**Density of population:** 110 sq. km

**Large towns:** Košice (235, 006), Prešov (91,767), Nitra (85,742), Žilina (85,268) Banská Bystrica (81,704), Trnava (69,140), Martin (59,449), Trenčín (56,850), Poprad (55,404), Prievidza (51,596), Zvolen (43,272)

**Ethnic mix of the population:** Slovaks (85.8 %), Hungarians (9.7 %), Roma (1.7 %), Czechs (0.8 %), Ruthenians (0.4 %), Ukrainians (0.2 %), Germans (0.1 %), Others (0.2 %), Unknown (1.1 %)



**Population and their denominations:** Roman Catholic (68.9 %), Evangelical Lutheran of Augsburg Confession (6.9 %), Greek Catholic (4.1 %), Reformed Christian (2.0 %), Orthodox (0.9 %), Jews (0.04 %), Others (4.1 %), without denomination (13.0 %).

**Growth of GDP:** 9 % (I.Q. 2007)

**Inflation:** 2.45 % (I.Q. 2007)

**Average salary:** 18 511 Sk/month (I.Q. 2007) = 740 USD or 544 EUR

**Currency:** Slovak crown (koruna), 1 Sk = 100 hellers (halier), banknotes in denominations of 5000, 1000, 500, 200, 100, 50 and 20 Sk; coins in denominations of 10, 5, 2, 1 Sk and 50 hal.; National Bank of Slovakia exchange rate ([www.nbs.sk](http://www.nbs.sk)). It is

planned that the Slovak Republic will adopt Euro currency in January 2009.

**Membership in international organisations:** EU, NATO, UN, OECD, OSCE, WHO, INTERPOL etc.

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

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

**Main fields of industry:** automobile industry, chemical industry, iron ore processing, fertilizers, plastics, brown coal mining

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



*Information Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic ([www.mfa.sk](http://www.mfa.sk))*

## 2. Geography



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

**The highest point:** Mount Gerlach in High Tatras 2,655 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 + 2; GMT + 1 from last Sunday in October to last Saturday in March.

**Climate**

The Slovak Republic has a continental climate with 4 seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). Summers are hot; winters are cold, cloudy and humid. The average winter daily temperature is  $-2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can plummet to  $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The average daily temperature in summer is  $21\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but can be as warm as over  $30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The coldest month is January; the hottest month is July. The period from May to July is often considered the best season.

Data concerns Bratislava, the capital of the SR. Weather in northern and mountainous regions could be much colder.

During the winters the sun rises approximately at 7:30 and sets about 16:00. During the summer, sunrise is before 5:00 and sunset is about 21:00.

**Required clothing**

Heavy overcoats and winter shoes or boots for winter, summer clothes for summer. Rainwear is recommended throughout the year.



### 3. Political System and State Bodies



The Slovak Republic has been established on January 1, 1993 as one of the successors to the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. It is a parliamentary democracy, and its Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, religion, race, national origin, social status or political conviction.

**State bodies**

**The National Council of the Slovak Republic** is a unicameral parliament and the country's main legislative body. The National Council has 150 members elected for 4-year terms in direct elections. The electoral system is proportional representation. Parties are allocated seats in the Parliament according to the percentage share of the votes they get in parliamentary elections. Only a party with at least 5% of votes can obtain seats in the Parliament.

**The President** is the Head of State elected for a five-year term in a direct two-round election. The same person can be elected President for a maximum of two consecutive 5-year terms. The current Slovak President is Ivan Gašparovič (2004–2009).

**The Government** is the highest tier of executive power and consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers. The Government is formed on the basis of parliamentary elections (last one held in June 2006). 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 is Róbert Fico (since 2006), the leader of SMER – Social Democracy Party. Besides SMER – Social Democracy the Government has been formed by two other coalition parties: People Party – HZDS and Slovak National Party (SNS).

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. Religion

The Slovak Republic is by tradition a religious country; the first Christian bishopric was established in the 9<sup>th</sup> century in Nitra. At present, several legal norms regulate the freedom of conscience and religion and provide a guarantee for general respect of these fundamental human rights and freedoms. According to the Slovak Constitution *“Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief will be guaranteed. This right will include the right to change religion or belief.”*



### Religious Services

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

#### List of registered Churches:

- Roman Catholic Church in the Slovak Republic
- Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Slovakia
- Greek (Byzantine) Catholic Church in the Slovak Republic

- Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia
- Orthodox Church in Slovakia
- Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic
- Religious Society of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Slovak Republic
- Apostolic Church in Slovakia
- Baptist Union in the Slovak Republic
- Church of Seventh Day Adventists, Slovak Association
- Brethren Church in the Slovak Republic
- United Methodist Church, Slovak District
- Christian Corps in Slovakia
- New Apostolic Church in the Slovak Republic
- Old Catholic Church in Slovakia
- Czechoslovak Hussite Church in Slovakia

## 5. Slovak UNESCO Natural and Cultural Heritage



Places included on the UNESCO list of the world cultural and natural heritage:

- The historic town of Banská Štiavnica [www.banskastiavnica.sk](http://www.banskastiavnica.sk) and the Technical monuments in its vicinity – the old medieval mining centre that grew into a town with Renaissance palaces, 16<sup>th</sup>-century churches, elegant squares and castles.
- The village of Vlkolínec [www.liptov.sk/vlkolinec](http://www.liptov.sk/vlkolinec) (only in Slovak) – an intact settlement of 45 traditional log houses, often found in mountainous areas.
- Spišský hrad (castle) and its associated cultural monuments [www.spisskyhrad.sk](http://www.spisskyhrad.sk) – one of the largest ensembles of 13<sup>th</sup>- and 14<sup>th</sup>-century military, political and religious buildings in Central Europe
- The Bardejov town conservation reserve [www.e-bardejov.sk](http://www.e-bardejov.sk) – well-preserved example of a fortified medieval town;

- The area of “Slovenský kras” [www.skonline.sk/npchko.php](http://www.skonline.sk/npchko.php), including Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa (ice cave) <http://www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/najvyznamnejsie/svetove-dedictvo/dobsinska-ladova/> — the greatest karst region in Central Europe displaying a rare combination of tropical and glacial climatic effects, making it possible to study geological history over tens of millions of years.
- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133> — constitute a transnational serial property of ten separate components along a 185 km axis from the mountains in Ukraine to the Bukovské Vrchy and Vihorlat Mountains in Slovakia; an example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and ecological patterns.

More information:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/sk>



## 6. Famous Slovaks

### Art

**Brunovský, Albín** (1935–1997) • *painter, graphic designer, and illustrator*

One of the most important modern Slovak painters. He employed imaginative, fantastic themes in his creative work. He was an adherent of fantastical realism (the second 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*

Continued in the tradition of late romanticism, often employing Slovak folk music. In the 1960s, he turned to modernisation and a rational style of composition. He encouraged the development of a Slovak national sentiment and its music, and his art traversed the borders of Slovakia. He became a UNESCO Music Prize Laureate in 1979. Works: The 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*

Worked in South Africa, Paris, 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 Star Wars sci-fi trilogy. (The Arthur Fleischmann Museum, Biela ulica 6, Bratislava).

**Hložník, Vincent** (1919–1997) • *painter, graphic artist and illustrator*

The leading figure in the generation of artists that came of age during the Second World War. The prevailing ethos of his works is one of humanism and anti-fascism. Typical hallmarks include expressive overstatement, masterly calligraphy and bold imagery. Graphics and illustrations loom large in his output. For his work in these fields he has been the recipient of numerous awards both at home and abroad. He was Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava from 1960 to 1964.

**Popp, Lucia** (1939–1993) • *opera singer*

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

**Sokol, Koloman** (1902–2003) • *painter and graphic designer*

One of the most famous Slovak artists in the world, and the founder of modern Slovak graphic art. His paintings involve the intersection of real experience, dreams, fantasy, personal knowledge, desires and belief. He worked in Prague, Mexico, the USA, and Bratislava. He lived in the USA from 1948, and received many state awards. (The Koloman Sokol Centre, Pongráczovská kúria, Liptovský Mikuláš).

**Suchoň, Eugen** (1908–1993) • *composer*

Ranks among the most prominent representatives of contemporary Slovak music. From the very beginning the work of the artist has been a representative expression of the modern Slovak musical culture. It has acquainted the European musical scene with the typical psychological world of the Slovak man and his national ethics on

the high artistic level, and in spirit of the fundamental tendencies of the European music of this century. The success of his first opera “Krútnava” (“Whirlpool”) established modern Slovak opera, and drew international attention.

**Warhol, Andy** (1928–1987) • *painter, graphic designer, and filmmaker*

Born into a Slovak Ruthenian family that had immigrated to the USA. Warhol was the founder of pop-art and also its most important representative; he was involved in drawing, painting, graphic design, and film. He painted everyday objects and film stars, while his films were about time, boredom, and repetition. (The Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art, Medzilaborce).

## Science and Technology

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

Lived in the USA from 1907–1921. 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*

A polyhistor, a pedagogue, a scientific researcher, and an evangelical priest. He was one of the greatest scientific figures of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and was referred to as the Magnum decus Hungariae — the Great Ornament of Hungary. He made an important contribution to pietism, was a pioneer in the field of collective research into the Hungarian nation, and carried out comprehensive scientific, historical and geographical research. He was the co-author of a unique

account of agriculture in the Hungarian Empire – the works *Hungaria antiquae et novae prodromus* (1723), *Adparatus ad historiam Hungariae* (1735–1736) and *Notitia Hungariae novae historico-geographica*. The University of Banská Bystrica bears his name.

**Murgaš, Jozef** (1864–1929) • *priest and electrical engineer*  
Lived in the USA, where he worked as a priest. He was also involved in electrical engineering, and registered 12 patents in the field of wireless telegraphy. He established different frequencies for the dots and dashes in Morse code, thus accelerating the transmission of messages. He is often referred to as the “Slovak Edison”.

**Stodola, Aurel** (1859–1942) • *engineer, professor, and inventor*  
Graduated in the field of mechanical engineering and worked as a professor at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. He achieved his greatest successes in the area of steam turbines; his calculations and constructions formed a basis for this particular field of mechanical engineering. He received the highest engineering awards – the Grashof Medal and the James Watt Gold Medal. He was also a correspondent member to the French Academy of Sciences.

## Politics

**Benyowsky, Matúš Móric** (1746–1786) • *nobleman and King of Madagascar*

Baron Benyowsky began his career in the Seven Years War. He fled to Poland in 1768, where he fought against the Russian Tsar, was captured and was sent into exile in Kamchatka. He managed to escape by boat in 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) • *politician, diplomat, and statesman*

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, a minister for the unification of laws, agriculture, education, and national edification, and finally the Prime Minister. He immigrated to France in 1939, and then to the USA in 1941. He was active in the foreign resistance movement during the World War II. He created the idea of a federal state in Central Europe, stretching from the Baltic to the Aegean, from Germany to Russia.

**Štefánik, Milan Rastislav** (1880–1919) • *politician, soldier, and astronomer*

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

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

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

The leader of the Slovak national revival in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the author of the Slovak language standard eventually leading to the contemporary Slovak literary language, an organiser of the Slovak volunteer campaigns during the 1848 Revolution in the Kingdom of Hungary, a member of the Diet of the Kingdom of Hungary, politician, Slovak poet, journalist, publisher, teacher, philosopher and linguist.

## HIGHER EDUCATION IN SLOVAKIA

### I. Oldest Slovak Universities



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

The Jesuits founded **Košice University** in 1657. In 1770, the enlightened, absolutist ruler, Maria Theresa, established the first school of mining in the world — **the Mining Academy** in Banská Štiavnica.

## 2. Higher Education Institutions



Higher education institutions (HEIs) are third-level educational, scientific and arts institutions. The major task of HEIs is the provision of higher education and creative scientific research or creative artistic activity.

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

- a) The university type of higher education institutions shall provide education in the study programmes of all the three levels with a significant portion of study programmes of the second level and study programmes of the third level. The study programmes shall be carried out in connection with activities of higher education institutions in the field of science, technology or art, and in compliance with the current state and

development of such fields. The term of "university" may only be used in the name of a university type of higher education institution.

- b) The non-university type of higher education institutions shall provide higher education mostly in the study programmes of the first level.

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

### Public higher education institutions

Public institutions of higher education are established by law. They are financed mostly by the government. They are statutory and self-governing institutions. At present, there are 20 public institutions of higher education, comprising 9 more or less traditional universities, 5 universities of technology, 3 higher education institutions of art and music, 1 university of economics, 1 university of veterinary medicine and 1 agricultural university.

### State higher education institutions

State institutions of higher education (3 HEIs) are military, police and medical schools. They are established by law and governed by state through the corresponding ministries of the government. The state HEIs are fully financed from the state budget.

### Private higher education institutions

Private institutions of higher education (10 HEIs) need to have the state approval issued by the Government of the Slovak Republic. They are established and financed by non-governmental institutions or founders. Most of the

private higher education institutions provide education on bachelor level only, specialised in the fields of economics, business, management, public administration, law, international relations, regional development, medical and social work.

All types of HEIs need to undergo the accreditation process to be authorized to open studies within a respective study programme.

### List of higher education institutions

#### Public higher education institutions

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

*Faculty of Dramatic Arts*

*Faculty of Fine Arts and Design*

*Faculty of Music*

Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava

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

Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava

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

*Faculty of Film and Television*

*Faculty of Music and Dance*

*Faculty of Theatre*

Alexander Dubček University in Trenčín ([www.tnuni.sk](http://www.tnuni.sk))

*Faculty of Industrial Technologies in Púchov*

*Faculty of Mechatronics*

*Faculty of Social and Economic Relations*

*Faculty of Special Technologies*

*Institute of Health Services and Nursing*

*Institute of Natural and Human Sciences*

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

*Faculty of Health*

*Faculty of Arts*

*Faculty of Theology*

*Pedagogical Faculty*

Comenius University in Bratislava ([www.uniba.sk](http://www.uniba.sk))

*Evangelical Theological Faculty*

*Faculty of Education*

*Faculty of Law*

*Faculty of Management*

*Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics*

*Faculty of Medicine*

*Faculty of Natural Sciences*

*Faculty of Pharmacy*

*Faculty of Arts*

*Faculty of Physical Education and Sports*

*Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences*

*Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin*

*Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology of Cyril and Methodius*

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*

Jan Selye University in Komárno ([www.selyeuni.sk](http://www.selyeuni.sk))

*Faculty of Economics*

*Faculty of Education*

*Faculty of Reformed Theology*



Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

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

Faculty of Economics

Faculty of Education

Faculty of Humanities

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Faculty of Political Sciences and International Affairs

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

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

Faculty of Agricultural Engineering

Faculty of Agrobiology and Food Resources

Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Sciences

Faculty of Economics and Management

Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development

Horticulture and Landscape Engineering Faculty

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

Faculty of Architecture

Faculty of Civil Engineering

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology

Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology

Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies

Faculty of Materials Science and Technology in Trnava

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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

Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies

Faculty of Aeronautics

Faculty of Arts

Faculty of Civil Engineering

Faculty of Economics

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Faculty of Metallurgy

Faculty of Mining, Ecology, Process Control and Geotechnology

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

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

Faculty of Business Economics in Košice

Faculty of Business Management

Faculty of Commerce

Faculty of Economic Informatics

Faculty of International Relations

Faculty of National Economy

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

Faculty of Arts

Faculty of Education

Faculty of Greek-Catholic Theology

Faculty of Health Care

Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences

Faculty of Management

Faculty of Orthodox Theology

Faculty of Sports

University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava ([www.ucm.sk](http://www.ucm.sk))  
*Faculty of Mass Media Communications*  
*Faculty of Natural Sciences*  
*Faculty of Arts*

University of Trnava ([www.truni.sk](http://www.truni.sk))  
*Faculty of Education*  
*Faculty of Humanities*  
*Faculty of Law*  
*Faculty of Nursing and Social Care*  
*Theological Faculty (in Bratislava)*

University of Veterinary Medicine in Košice ([www.uvm.sk](http://www.uvm.sk))

University of Žilina ([www.uniza.sk](http://www.uniza.sk))  
*Faculty of Civil Engineering*  
*Faculty of Electrical Engineering*  
*Faculty of Management Science and Informatics*  
*Faculty of Mechanical Engineering*  
*Faculty of Natural Science*  
*Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications*  
*Faculty of Special Engineering*

### State higher education institutions

Gen. Milan Rastislav Štefánik Academy of Military Forces  
 in Liptovský Mikuláš (<http://aos.valm.sk>)

Police Academy in Bratislava (<http://apz.minv.sk>)

Slovak Medical University in Bratislava ([www.szu.sk](http://www.szu.sk))  
*Faculty of Medical Studies in Specialities*  
*Faculty of Nursing and Health Care Professionals Studies*  
*Faculty of Public Health*  
*Faculty of Health Care (in Banská Bystrica)*

### Private higher education institutions

Bratislava College of Law ([www.uninova.sk](http://www.uninova.sk))  
*Faculty of Economics and Business*  
*Faculty of Law*  
*Faculty of Mass Media Communications*

Bratislava International College of Liberal Studies  
 in Bratislava ([www.bisla.sk](http://www.bisla.sk))

Central European College in Skalica ([www.sevs.sk](http://www.sevs.sk))

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

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

College of Management/City University in Trenčín ([www.vsm.sk](http://www.vsm.sk))

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

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

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

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

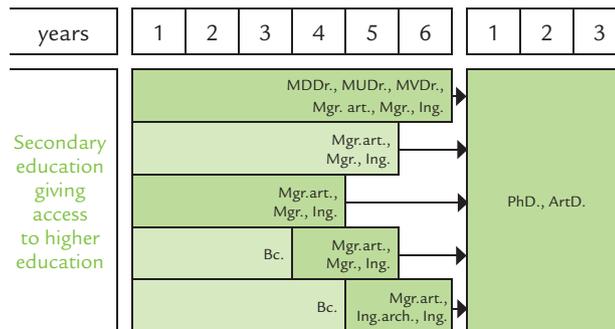
### 3. Organisation and Structure of Studies

Higher education system in Slovakia follows the principles of Bologna Declaration.

Higher education institutions provide study programmes at three levels:

1. The Bachelor's study programme which takes three years at least and four years at most (in the case of architecture, fine art and design).
2. The Master's study programme (the "Magister's", "Engineer's" and "Doctor's" study programme). The study takes one year at least and three years at most, so that the total standard duration of study according to the bachelor study programme and the subsequent master level study programme in the same or related field of study is altogether a minimum of five years. The basic condition for admission to the second level study is graduation from bachelor study.
3. The PhD study programme. The standard length in full-time form is three years at least and four years at most, duration in part-time form and at some faculties of medicine with a specialisation examination is five years. The basic condition for the admission to the PhD study programme is graduation from second level university study.

All study programmes must be accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.



Higher Education System in the Slovak Republic in the chart

#### Academic year

Academic year starts on September 1 of the current year and ends on August 31 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). The organisation of academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the higher education institution.

#### Teaching process and ECTS

The teaching process includes various forms of instruction such as lectures, seminars, exercises, laboratory work, projects, practical training, consultations, etc. The credit system following the rules of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) was introduced in 2002 for all levels and forms of higher education study. The student's standard load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. The institution of higher education determines the total number of credits required for the due completion of the study in its respective stages.

The grading is on a scale of A-FX:

- A — excellent = 1
- B — very good (above-average achievements) = 1.5
- C — good (average achievements) = 2
- D — laudable (acceptable achievements) = 2.5
- E — satisfactory (achievements fulfil only the minimum criteria) = 3
- FX — unsatisfactory — fail (achievements do not fulfil even the minimum criteria) = 4

### Degrees awarded in the SR

Higher education institutions award following academic degrees:

1<sup>st</sup> level (comprising app. 180 credits)

- “bakalár“ (abbr. “Bc.”).

2<sup>nd</sup> level (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 medicíny” (abbr. “MUDr.”) in the field of human medicine
- “doktor stomatológie” (abbr. “MDDr.”) — dentists
- “doktor veterinárskej medicíny” (abbr. “MVDr.”) in the field of veterinary medicine.

3<sup>rd</sup> level

- “philosophiae doctor” (abbr. “PhD.”)
- “artis doctor“ (abbr. “ArtD.”) in the field of art.

## 4. Admission and Tuition Fee

### General principles

The general prerequisite for admission to bachelor study is a secondary school-leaving certificate and demonstration of skills required for the appropriate study in the higher education institution to be verified, as a rule, through admission examinations.

The entrance examinations are diverse, depending on the field of study. They may be written and oral, or just written (tests). In some fields of study, e.g., arts, the so-called talent examinations are also conducted. A decision about admission is usually made on the basis of the previous achievements (average marks from the secondary school certificates, sometimes only the final secondary school-leaving certificate, or only marks achieved in the so-called profile subjects) and the results of the entrance examinations. In some faculties, only the results of the entrance examinations are taken into the consideration.

The basic condition for admission to the second level study is graduation from bachelor study. The basic condition for the admission to the PhD study programme is graduation from second level university study.

### International students

Admission requirements for international students are the same as for Slovak nationals. In justified cases the academic senate of faculty may appropriately adapt them upon the proposal given by the dean. *The holders of International Baccalaureate meet general requirements for admission to higher education institutions in Slovakia.*

Foreign applicants who do not meet all the requirements for admission may be required to attend preparatory courses, including Slovak language courses. Such courses are offered by the Institute for Language and Academic Preparation of Foreign Students, an independent unit of the Comenius University in Bratislava. Courses of Slovak language are also organised by respective universities. Every faculty determines its own criteria for admitting of students. The students should ask for information and apply for admission at the faculty of their choice. Information on the Slovak and English study programmes are available on the web pages or at the international offices of the individual higher education institutions/faculties.

### Tuition

Full-time study at the state and public higher education institutions is available free of charge for the citizens of the Slovak Republic. Citizens of the European Union can study under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic. For third country students the study-related fees for study programmes of any level is determined by the higher education institution. Tuition fees and study-related fees for students studying under international agreements shall comply with the provisions of these agreements. The provisions are not applicable to foreign students with permanent residence at the territory of the Slovak Republic. Fees for study in English or other foreign languages vary from 5 000 € to 8 000 € for one academic year. The exact amount is being determined by the respective institution. Information on fees can be obtained from the international office of individual institutions.

## 5. Recognition of Diplomas and Qualifications

The Slovak Republic has its own legal regulations governing the recognition of educational qualifications awarded abroad. It is also bound by international agreements (especially those of the European Union and European Economic Area) and bilateral agreements to which it has acceded or which it has concluded with regard to qualifications acquired in another state.

The term of recognition of diplomas means recognition of a diploma, issued by a foreign higher education institution or other authorised body according to the regulations of the respective State as equivalent to a diploma issued by a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic.

The key points when arranging recognition of a diploma are the type of activity to be carried out in the SR (academic studies including PhD studies or employment purposes) and the state where the diploma was issued.

### Academic purposes — study

The recognition of degrees of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> level (Bachelor and Master) issued by foreign higher education institutions (of Member states or other states except for the states with which there exist a bilateral treaty)



falls within the competence of the appropriate higher education institution in Slovakia which provides the same or similar study programme. If the contents of the studies are only partly identical, the higher education institution may invite the applicant to take additional examinations or to complete and defend his/her Bachelor thesis, diploma thesis, examina rigorosa or dissertation thesis.

In case that there is no higher education institution to carry out the study programmes identical or related to those stated in the submitted certificate in Slovakia, the recognition of equivalence is issued by the Ministry of Education, Centre for Recognition of Diplomas.

The diplomas issued by a foreign higher education institution or other authorised bodies of the State that has concluded an agreement with the Slovak Republic on mutual recognition of diplomas are equivalent with those issued by a higher education institution in the Slovak Republic, provided that these credentials are covered by the agreement. Decisions on the equivalence of diplomas shall be issued by the Ministry of Education, Centre for Recognition of Diplomas. The decisions made under this Clause refer to the recognition for academic purposes only. (The bilateral treaty has been concluded with the following states: Austria — memorandum, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania.)

In all cases the application is submitted to the Centre for Recognition of Diplomas, which either decides on the recognition of the equivalence itself or issues the recommendation/assessment for the appropriate higher education institution in the SR.

Further information is available on the website of the **Centre for Recognition of Diplomas:** [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) (only in Slovak).

### **Ministry of Education of SR Centre for Recognition of Diplomas**

Postal address:  
Stromová 1  
813 30 Bratislava  
The Slovak Republic

#### *Office:*

Klemensova 14  
811 09 Bratislava  
5<sup>th</sup> floor

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

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday:  
8.30–12.00 and 13.00–14.30

### **Diploma Supplement**

The Diploma Supplement is a document containing details on the completed study programme. Information to be included in the Diploma Supplement shall be provided for by regulations issued by the Ministry. The Diploma Supplement shall be issued by a higher education institution. The graduate shall receive the Diploma Supplement along with his/her diploma.

## 6. Slovak Language Courses for International Students

Foreigners can attend courses of Slovak language at several language schools that provide instruction at all levels of language proficiency: beginner, intermediate, advanced. They offer group instruction 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.

Slovak courses are offered e.g. by the Caledonian School ([www.caledonianschool.sk](http://www.caledonianschool.sk)), Eurolingua ([www.eurolingua.sk](http://www.eurolingua.sk), only in Slovak) or Berlitz ([www.berlitz.com](http://www.berlitz.com)). Some universities and research institutions organise Slovak language courses for their international students/researchers e.g. The Institute for Language and Academic Preparation for Foreign Students of the Comenius University ([www.ujop.sk](http://www.ujop.sk)), Methodical Centre of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica ([www.umb.sk](http://www.umb.sk)), Institute for Foreign Language Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences ([www.inja.sav.sk](http://www.inja.sav.sk), only in Slovak), Centre for Language and Academic Preparation of Bratislava College of Law ([www.uninova.sk/clap](http://www.uninova.sk/clap)).

For more information contact the International Relations Office of the respective higher education institution.

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

Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture – Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) is the oldest summer school of Slovak language and culture and has been taking place in Bratislava since 1965.

SAS is aimed at all those studying Slovak language and culture and towards all Slavists in general. This intensive programme is especially offered to university or college professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, to writers, translators and all others interested in Slovak language and culture. The summer course lasts 3 weeks and takes place in August. Further information is available at <http://www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas>.

### Language courses for Erasmus students

National Agency of the Lifelong Learning Programme in the framework of the Erasmus programme organises Erasmus Intensive Language Course (EILC) for Erasmus students coming to the Slovak Republic. The EILCs, an initiative supported by the European Commission, are intended to enable Erasmus students to function socially and academically in a host country whose language is not widely spoken or taught abroad. The EILCs take place before the start of the winter or the summer term.

Detailed course information is available from university Erasmus coordinators and from the following web sites: [www.saaic.sk](http://www.saaic.sk) or [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/erasmus/eilc/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/erasmus/eilc/index_en.html).

## 7. Student Organisations

In the Slovak Republic, there are several international student organisations associating students from equivalent study fields.

**AIESEC** (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) is an international association of students from the economic and business oriented fields of study. AIESEC is functioning at the following universities: University of Economics in Bratislava (also at its Faculty of Business Economics situated in Košice), Faculty of Management of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, University of Žilina, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and Poprad. ([www.aiesec.org/slovakia](http://www.aiesec.org/slovakia), [www.aiesec.org](http://www.aiesec.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, acting at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Technical Universities of Košice and Zvolen and at the University of Žilina. ([www.iaeste.sk](http://www.iaeste.sk), [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org)).

**BEST** (Board of European Students of Technology) is an international student organisation for students from technical universities. In the Slovak Republic, this organization operates at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and at the Technical University of Košice. ([www.best.stuba.sk](http://www.best.stuba.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 organization associating law students and young lawyers. In the Slovak Republic, ELSA is functioning at the Faculties of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and University of Trnava. ([www.elsa.sk](http://www.elsa.sk), [www.elsa.org](http://www.elsa.org)).

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

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

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

**The Student Higher Education Council** is a supreme representative body of Slovak higher education students ([www.srvs.sk](http://www.srvs.sk)).

**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)).

**ESN** (Erasmus Student Network) is a student organisation founded in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange. In the Slovak Republic, the ESN operates at the University of Economics in Bratislava with aim to provide support to international students.

[www.buddysystem.sk](http://www.buddysystem.sk), [www.esn.sk](http://www.esn.sk)

## 8. 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 world-wide recognised ISIC (International Student Identity Card) and for the teachers, the worldwide-recognised teachers' card ITIC (International Teacher Identity Card). Young people under 26 years can use allowances also with the Youth card EURO<26. The cardholders may buy also health insurance.



More information can be found at: [www.istc.org](http://www.istc.org) and [www.euro26.org](http://www.euro26.org)

The cards can be bought in CKM 2000 TRAVEL (Tel.: 033/591 32 61, Web site: [www.ckm.sk](http://www.ckm.sk)).



## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### I. Funding Based on Slovak Sources

#### Scholarships awarded by the Government of the Slovak Republic for the entire bachelor, master and doctoral study within Official Development Assistance

The Slovak Republic Government annually awards scholarships for bachelor, master and doctoral study to students from the countries eligible for **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. The study can be carried out only at public universities in Slovakia and is held in Slovak. The Slovak Government scholarship also includes a scholarship for a 1-year language preparation in the case that the applicant has not completed the previous education in the Slovak Republic.

Citizens of following countries can apply for the scholarships of the Government of the Slovak republic within the ODA for the academic years 2007–2010: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam (for the scholarships for the entire doctoral study only citizens of Sudan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam are eligible to apply).

The respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country concerned is notified via diplomatic channels of the approved conditions for realising bachelor, master or doctoral study at Slovak public universities in SR together with the number of scholarships. The sending party presents its proposals via its representative office in Slovakia, or the representative office of the Slovak Republic in the respective country to the address specified in the notification letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of SR.

Further information: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk)



### Scholarships awarded by the Government of the Slovak Republic for the entire bachelor, master and doctoral study to Slovak compatriots.

The Slovak Republic Government annually awards scholarships for bachelor, master and doctoral study to Slovak **compatriots**. The study can be carried out only at public universities in SR and is held in Slovak. The Slovak Government scholarship also includes the scholarship for a 1-year language preparation in the case that the applicant has not completed the previous education in the Slovak Republic.

Slovak compatriots from the following countries can apply for the scholarships of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the academic years 2007–2010: Argentina, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the USA (for the scholarships for the entire doctoral study only citizens of Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine are eligible to apply).

The nominations of compatriots are presented by the respective compatriot organisation.

Further information: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk)

### The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers



Establishment of the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is funded by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is intended to support mobility of foreign students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to stay at Slovak universities and research institutions.

Types of scholarships:

- a) Scholarships for foreign university students to take part in Master study over a period of 1 to 2 semesters (from 5 to 10 months) at Slovak universities.

- b) Scholarships for foreign PhD students to take a part of PhD study over a period of 1 to 12 months at Slovak universities or research institutes.
- c) Scholarships for foreign university teachers and researchers over a period of 1 to 12 months to carry out teaching or research at Slovak universities, research institutes or nongovernmental organisations on the basis of an invitation.

Citizens from following countries can apply for scholarships:

- a) European Union member states – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom;
- b) Other countries participating in the Bologna process (listed are only countries that are not stated in item a) – Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine;
- c) Belarus;
- d) Canada, Central American countries, Latin American countries, Mexico, the United States of America;
- e) Australia, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

#### Application procedure

Applications must be submitted on-line at [www.scholarships.sk](http://www.scholarships.sk) and some documents must be sent by post and received by the deadline at SAIA, n. o. The submitted documents must be originals.

The term “university“ used in this programme refers to all higher education institutions.

Applications deadlines:

30 April — for the next academic year

31 October — for summer semester of the current academic year

Address, at which the documents must be received by the deadline:

SAIA, n. o.

Námestie slobody 23

812 20 Bratislava 1

The Slovak Republic

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

Further information:

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



## Scholarships of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic offers scholarships for accredited study/doctoral programmes or academic stay at public universities or academic institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for:

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

Holders of a scholarship of the Ministry of Education of the SR are exempt from administration fees for the granting of a permit and the extension of a permit for temporary stay in the SR pursuant to internal legal regulations of the SR.

Application deadline: 31 May

Address, at which the documents must be received by the deadline:

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic  
International Co-operation Division

Stromová 1

813 30 Bratislava

The Slovak Republic

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

## 2. Funding for Bilateral Co-operation



### Bilateral intergovernmental agreements on educational, research and cultural co-operation

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

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

Citizens of the following countries can apply: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA.

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

### **Action Austria – Slovakia, co-operation in science and education**



This is a bilateral programme the objective of which is to intensify co-operation between Austria and Slovakia in the field of education and research.

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

Via the Programme, financial support is provided to Austrian PhD students for research stays and to students and PhD students for summer language courses in Slovakia.

Electronic submission of applications for scholarships:

[www.scholarships.at](http://www.scholarships.at)

Further information is available at: [www.oead.at](http://www.oead.at) or

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

### **Fulbright Program**



The Fulbright Program provides U. S. citizens with individual grants and awards to the Slovak Republic, and is administered by the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic based on the bilateral agreement between the governments of the USA and SR.

General requirements for grants and awards are the U. S. citizenship at the time of application and high level of academic and professional achievements. Within the program scholarships are offered to U. S. graduate students for up to 10 months research or non degree study stays at Slovak higher education institutions, and U. S. graduate students can also apply for up to 10 months English Teaching Assistantship at Slovak academic institutions.

Further information is available at [www.fulbright.sk](http://www.fulbright.sk), [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org).

## 3. Multilateral Programmes

### Programmes funded by the European Commission

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

- For the co-operation among the EU countries and the countries as EFTA and pre-accession countries on the basis of the separate agreements.
- For the co-operation between the EU countries and third (non-EU) countries.

Since 2004 the Slovak Republic is a member of the EU. Therefore there is no limitation for institutions from Slovakia to participate in any EU programme designed to strengthen co-operations not only among EU member states but also with third countries.

### Programmes for co-operation in education and vocational training among the EU countries

#### Lifelong Learning Programme

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) is the successor to the Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning programmes.

The programme supports learning opportunities from childhood to old age in every single life situation.

*The programme is open since 1 January 2007 for 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey and will run for 7 years (2007–2013).*



Lifelong Learning Programme



The LLP is built on **four sectoral** sub-programmes focusing on:

**School education — Comenius programme** for pupils, teachers, schools and related institutions/organisations (pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education).

**Higher education — Erasmus programme** for students, scholars, professors, universities and related institutions/organisations in higher education, including trans-national student placements in enterprise.

**Vocational education — Leonardo da Vinci programme** for apprentices, workers, employees and related institutions/organisations (vocational education and training).

**Adult education — Grundtvig programme** for adults, teachers and related institutions/organisations active in the field of adult education.

**Transversal programme** targeted on cross-cutting areas: policy co-operation and innovation in lifelong learning, promotion of language learning, development of innovative ICT, dissemination and exploitation of results.

**Jean Monnet programme** supporting teaching, research and reflection around European integration and key European institutions and associations.

More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.html)

(EC website)

Contact: Slovak National Agency for Lifelong Learning Programme:

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation

Staré grunty 52

842 44 Bratislava

The Slovak Republic

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

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



## Programmes for co-operation in education and vocational training among the EU and third countries

### The Tempus Programme

The Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies funds projects between the higher education sector in the EU and its 26 partner countries to facilitate university modernization, mutual learning between regions and peoples and understanding between cultures.

The Tempus partner regions are the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

The Tempus programme, with its strong focus on institution-based university co-operation, will be continued over the period 2007 to 2013. The content and modalities of Tempus IV are currently being developed and will be introduced starting the academic year 2008/2009.

Address of the Tempus National Contact Point:  
SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation  
Staré grunty 52  
842 44 Bratislava  
The Slovak Republic  
[tempus@saaic.sk](mailto:tempus@saaic.sk)  
[www.saaic.sk](http://www.saaic.sk)

Check also for updates at [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/index_en.html)

### Erasmus Mundus

The Erasmus Mundus programme is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. It aims to enhance quality in European higher education and to promote it to the students and professors from the third countries by opening the high quality European Masters Courses in the different field and subject areas.

The European Commission offered the scholarship for the best students and professors who have to apply directly at the European consortia, which offer the European Masters Courses in the frame of the selected projects proposals. The programme will expire in 2008. It is expected that it will continue with the minor changes in 2009/2010 projects (Joint Master and Doctoral Courses).

Address of the Erasmus National Structure:

SAAIC – Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation  
Staré grunty 52  
842 44 Bratislava  
The Slovak Republic  
[mundus@saaic.sk](mailto:mundus@saaic.sk), [www.saaic.sk](http://www.saaic.sk)

More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html) (EC website)

### Erasmus Mundus – External Co-operation Window

The “Erasmus Mundus External Co-operation Window” results from a new initiative launched by the EuropAid Co-operation Office which will be implemented complementary to and in synergy with the Erasmus Mundus Programme. Erasmus Mundus “External Co-operation

Window” is a EU co-operation scheme designed to foster co-operation in the field of higher education between the European Union and third countries through the projects which foster the individual mobility of students and academic staff. This initiative is supposed to become a part of the Erasmus Mundus programme after 2008.

Countries involved in the programme:

European Countries:

- The 27 EU Member States
- The 3 EEA-EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)

Third countries:

- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, West Bank Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Applicants shall be: universities, higher education institutions and networks or association of universities settled in the European countries and having subscribed an Erasmus Charter by the application form (no individual grants).

### The EU-US Co-operation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (2006–2013) – Atlantis

The programme is funded and managed jointly by the European Commission and by the US Department of Education. It aims primarily at promoting understanding between the peoples of the European Union and the United States of America and improving the quality of their human resource development.

More information and current calls for proposals:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html)

### The EU-Canada Co-operation Programme in Higher Education, Training and Youth (2006–2013)

The programme aims primarily at promoting understanding between the peoples of the European Union and Canada and improving the quality of their human resource development.

More information and current calls for proposals:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index_en.html)

### Co-operation in education and culture between EU and other industrialised countries (Asia-Pacific region – Japan, Australia, New Zealand)

Check for changes and updates of currently running programmes in the following period at

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu\\_others/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu_others/index_en.html)

## Regional programmes

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

The Slovak Republic is engaged in CEEPUS together with the following countries:

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.



University co-operation is focused on the preparation of joint programmes and joint diplomas, mobility of university students, PhD students and university teachers,

student excursions, professional language courses and summer schools. As part of mobility activities, in particular one-term stays for university students and short-term stays (1–2 months, minimum 21 days) for PhD students are supported (related to PhD thesis elaboration) as well as stays for guest university lecturers (1 month, minimum 5 days and 6 lectures). Students and PhD students shall not be older than 35 years of age. All fields of study are welcomed and there are no priority areas.

Should a public school not participate in the Programme, its students and PhD students may still apply for scholarship under the category “freemover“.

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

Further information is available at [www.ceepus.info](http://www.ceepus.info)

National CEEPUS Office in Slovakia:

SAIA, n. o.

Námestie slobody 23

812 20 Bratislava 1

The Slovak Republic

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

### International Visegrad Fund

International Visegrad Fund (IVF)

provides support to promote regional co-operation among the

Visegrad countries (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) in the field of:

- cultural co-operation;
- scientific exchanges and research;



- education;
- exchange between young people;
- cross-border cooperation;
- promotion of tourism.

### Visegrad Post-Graduate Scholarships (VPSP)

Visegrad Post-Graduate Scholarships are provided for study/research projects to applicants who have successfully finished their Master's studies. The length of supported period of study/research project must be 10 or 5 months. The level of studies supported must be doctoral studies (PhD programme) or other Post-Master studies.

- *Intra-Visegrad scholarships* — to scholars coming from one of the V4 countries who plan to study one or two semesters in another V4 country.
- *Out-Going scholarships* — for outstanding students from V4 countries for study at acknowledged universities in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.
- *In-Coming scholarships* — for scholars coming from one of the following countries: Belarus, Croatia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.
- *Scholarship Programme for Ukrainian Students* — for scholars coming to V4 countries from Ukraine.

Note: The IVF provides also **Visegrad Master Scholarships** to applicants who have successfully finished at least 4 semesters of Bachelor studies at their sending universities.

### Visegrad Artist Residency Programme (VARP)

is designed for artistic projects. The length of supported period is 3 months.

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

International Visegrad Fund

Kráľovské údolie 8

811 02 Bratislava

The Slovak Republic

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

# IV. FORMALITIES, ENTERING AND STAYING IN SLOVAKIA

## 1. *Entry Conditions — Visa, Registration Procedures and Working*

The legal regulations are different for nationals of the European Union/European Economic Area/Switzerland and for third countries nationals.

### **Nationals of the European Union, European Economic Area Member States and Switzerland**

Citizens of the European Union/European Economic Area and Switzerland do not need a visa for entering the Slovak Republic. They are required to prove their identity at the border with a valid travel document (passport/ID card). Within 10 days upon their arrival in the Slovak Republic they should notify a police station of the date of commencement of their stay in the Slovak Republic, unless this duty lies on the provider of accommodation.



Citizens of the European Union/European Economic Area and Switzerland are recommended to apply for the permanent residence permit. The application is to be submitted in person, on an official form at the respective Foreign police station in Slovakia.

### Third countries nationals

#### Obtaining visa

Nationals of third countries must in general apply for a visa at the representative office/foreign mission of the Slovak Republic in his/her country. The appropriate representative office of the Slovak Republic will decide on the application within **30 days** of receipt.

Visa conditions for various countries are stated on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic ([www.mfa.sk](http://www.mfa.sk)), see the section “Ministry”, “Travel advice”, “Passports and visa”. **Visa and residence applications** are available in the section “Ministry”, “Travel advice”, “Visa application” of the same website.



List of representative offices of the SR can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic ([www.mfa.sk](http://www.mfa.sk)) only in Slovak, see the section “Zastupiteľské úrady”, “Slovenské zastupiteľstvá”. (Embassy – Veľvyslanectvo – in Slovak).

#### The Temporary Residence Permit

Third countries nationals who wish to study in Slovakia need a temporary residence permit for study purposes. The application has to be submitted in person, abroad, at the representative office of the Slovak Republic. If a visa is not required an alien may apply for a temporary residence permit also at the respective Foreign police office in Slovakia.

The police section decides on the application within 30 days following the receipt of the application. Temporary residence permit may be issued for the period necessary for achieving the purpose, but at maximum for two years. This may be extended prior to its termination on the basis of an application submitted to the police.

Within 30 days upon entering the Slovak Republic or upon the granting of the temporary residence permit, a confirmation on health insurance and a document confirming that he/she does not suffer from an infectious disease the spreading of which is punishable must be submitted to the Foreign police station in Slovakia. Permit for temporary stay for the purpose of study is not required, if the stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 90 days in one half-year.

### Working while studying

Citizens of European Union/European Economic Area and Switzerland can work in Slovakia without restrictions (under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic). A work permit is not required in the case of nationals of third countries who have been granted a temporary residence permit for the purpose of study and whose employment on the territory of the Slovak Republic does not exceed 10 hours in a week or the corresponding number of days or months in a year.

## 2. Health and Medical Care



The healthcare system in Slovakia falls under the competence of the Ministry of Health. 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 GP who usually provides basic health care and can refer a patient to an appropriate specialist for further medical examination.

There are two types of health insurance: public health insurance (statutory or voluntary) and individual health insurance. Public health insurance covers the following benefits in full or to a partial extent, depending on specific conditions: diagnostics, treatment and preventative care, outpatient and inpatient care including rehabilitation, compulsory vaccination, provision of drugs, medical aid and dietetic food, spa treatment can be provided upon the recommendation of a doctor, where such care is an inevitable component of the treatment procedure.

### Health insurance and coverage

EU/EEA and Swiss nationals are entitled to health care under the same conditions as the nationals of the Slovak Republic.

#### European Health Insurance Card

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

#### International students (also PhD students)

An international student, coming to Slovakia to study within a programme arising from an international treaty that is binding for the SR is subject to statutory health insurance, the SR being the payer of such insurance.

The student shall submit the necessary documents certifying his/her study at a higher education institution in the SR, its international status — proved by the Ministry of Education of the SR.

### Additional individual health insurance

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

## Obtaining health care

### Doctors

General practitioners and specialists have their consulting rooms in hospitals or in health 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 there is either a private or state dental practice (“zubár”, “stomatológ” in Slovak language). Upon arrival you should ask for details of the chosen dentist.

*Notice:* It is usually essential to book an appointment with a dentist in advance.



### Hospitals

In every university town there is a hospital (“nemocnica” in Slovak) with an Accident and Emergency department (“pohotovost” in Slovak) and many specialised clinics.

More information:

1. [www.health.gov.sk](http://www.health.gov.sk)
2. [www.zzz.sk](http://www.zzz.sk)
3. [www.uniadent.sk/stomatologia.htm](http://www.uniadent.sk/stomatologia.htm)

### Emergency

If you need emergency services (“pohotovost” in Slovak), dial telephone number “112”. Ambulances are well staffed and equipped with life-sustaining apparatus needed to safely transport patients to hospital. Hospitals provide 24 hour emergency services. Some emergency health care providers can be found at [www.zzz.sk/?page=pohotovost](http://www.zzz.sk/?page=pohotovost) (only in Slovak).

### Pharmacies

You can buy medicaments only at pharmacies (“lekáreň” in Slovak), located in every town and in most villages (they are marked with a green cross). Every town has to have at least one emergency pharmacy (“pohotovostná lekáreň” in Slovak) 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 are obtainable only with a prescription from a physician. For a list of pharmacies see: [www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne](http://www.zzz.sk/?page=lekarne) (only in Slovak).



Useful links for different types of insurance (e.g. life insurance, household insurance, car insurance, etc.):  
 Slovak Association of Insurance companies: [www.slaspo.sk](http://www.slaspo.sk)  
 Slovak Insurer's Bureau: [www.skp.sk](http://www.skp.sk)  
 Insurance agencies portal: [www.poistovne.sk](http://www.poistovne.sk)  
 On these websites you can find a list of insurance companies with their contact data.

### 3. Import of Goods

#### Import – general information

Since May 1, 2004 the SR has become a part of the common market without internal tax and customs borders among EU Member states. Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital is ensured. There are no limits on what you can buy and take with you when you travel between EU countries, as long as it is for personal use and not for resale.

Taxes (VAT and excise) are included in the price you pay and no further payment of tax can be due in any other EU country.

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.

However, taxation of imported goods is applied towards non-EU states. Import of goods that are not subject to excise or VAT are permitted to bring for personal use within the limits set out below.

Tobacco products: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco.

Alcoholic drinks: 1 litre of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 litres of fortified wine or sparkling wine or 2 litres of still wine  
 Perfume: 50 grams  
 Eau de toilette: 250 ml

Other goods: Up to a value of 175 €. However, the limit is 90 € for travellers under 15 years old.

Import of meat, meat products, milk and dairy products are forbidden unless provided with veterinary documentation. These rules were introduced to prevent the spread of serious animal diseases. You are, however, allowed to bring in powdered infant milk, infant food and foods required for medical reasons.

#### 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 normally prepared by the seller although, as the scheme is voluntary, not all merchants participate.

Further information is available at:  
[http://europa.eu/abc/travel/shop/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/travel/shop/index_en.htm)

# V LIVING IN SLOVAKIA

## I. Transport

### Travel by train

Trains in the Slovak Republic are safe and agreeable way to travel. There exist basically 6 different types of train:

- Os** Passenger train (“osobný vlak” in Slovak)
- Zr** Accelerated train (“zrýchlený vlak” in Slovak)
- R** Fast train (“rýchlik” in Slovak)
- Ex** Express
- IC** Intercity
- EC** Eurocity



### 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 and whether you have to switch the trains at any point. The websites [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) and [www.vlak-bus.cz](http://www.vlak-bus.cz) provide a complex travel itinerary. Here you can choose the means of public transport (bus, train, airplane, town public transport) but also search for optimal combination of them to find the shortest journey.

Tickets can be bought at the train station ticket office reading KVC (“Komplexné vybavenie cestujúcich” in Slovak). If applicable, the teller may ask what type of train you would prefer: EC — Eurocity train (international), IC — Intercity train, fast train or passenger train. To guarantee a seat, it is possible to buy a seat reservation (“miestenka” in Slovak), since the trains may be crowded especially on Friday and Sunday, when students travel to and from schools.

International trains run several times a day from several train stations in the country and international tickets can be bought at the KVC window or at the international ticket office (“medzinárodná pokladňa” in Slovak). It is also possible to buy tickets on-line at the website [www.slovakrail.sk](http://www.slovakrail.sk).

### Travel by coach

While the trains are more comfortable, coaches are sometimes more direct, they connect most of the towns and villages, and are reliable and satisfactory. The first thing is to check out the website at [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) or [www.vlak-bus.cz](http://www.vlak-bus.cz).

#### 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” in Slovak) for long-distance coaches at the ticket office of any main bus station.



For international bus travel you can buy tickets at the ticket office, travel agency or from Eurolines which provide passage to several European cities

(operates 8 regular international lines, acts as a partner in 6 regular international lines). For the lines operated by Eurolines (or its domestic branch Slovaklines) it is possible to buy/book a ticket on-line at [www.eurolines.sk](http://www.eurolines.sk).



### Travel by plane

Travel by plane within the country is also rather comfortable. There are airlines that provide connections within Slovakia and to foreign countries, such as Slovak Airlines [www.slovakairlines.sk](http://www.slovakairlines.sk), and SkyEurope Airlines [www.skyeurope.sk](http://www.skyeurope.sk).

There are 6 airports in Slovakia. The biggest are in **Bratislava** (“Letisko M. R. Štefánika” [www.letiskobratislava.sk](http://www.letiskobratislava.sk), [www.airportbratislava.sk](http://www.airportbratislava.sk)), in **Košice** (“Medzinárodné letisko v Košiciach” [www.airportkosice.sk](http://www.airportkosice.sk)) and in **Poprad** (“Medzinárodné letisko Poprad-Tatry” [www.airport-poprad.sk](http://www.airport-poprad.sk)).

## 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 town costs about 200 to 300 Sk (6–9 EUR), depending on where in the centre you want to go. By bus, take No. 61 to Hlavná železničná stanica (Main Railway Station).



### Vienna International Airport (Austria)

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

For the bus schedule browse [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) or [www.vlak-bus.cz](http://www.vlak-bus.cz). (The ticket from the Vienna Airport to Bratislava bus station costs ca. 8 EUR plus 0.80 EUR per a piece of luggage.)

Moreover, there is a special bus connection between Bratislava M. R. Štefánik International Airport, Bratislava city centre (Nový Most) and Vienna's Schwechat International Airport, Vienna city operated by Blaguss Slovakia. For the time schedule and prices see the website [www.blaguss.sk/ba\\_wien.php](http://www.blaguss.sk/ba_wien.php).

## Local Transport

The public transport system in towns is quite reliable. A network of public transport — usually buses (in Bratislava and Košice also a network of trams and trolleybuses) 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” in Slovak, abbr. MHD).

### Common features

- Public transport is the most widely used means of transportation in towns.
- Schedules can be found at every stop and in Public transport stands.
- Tickets are usually not sold on buses. In such cases they can be bought at newsstands, automatic ticket dispensers, some bus stations or public transport kiosks. However, it is dependent on the particular town, check it upon arrival.
- Tickets vary from town to town. There are time-tickets (you can change means of transport within a given period) or single-use tickets (every time you change means of transport, you 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 must also have a ticket for large pieces of luggage and animals.



- If you stay longer in a certain town and you are sure to use public transport more often than once a day, it is advisable to buy travel pass, for example 1, 3, 6 or 12-month passes.
- To get a pass (1, 3, 6 or 12-month passes) you need a recent photograph (ca 3 × 3.5 cm), your ID card and a completed application form. It is always helpful to consult with local people.
- Children and students travel for reduced fares (ask for details as conditions may vary from town to town).

### Useful glossary

*Autobus* — bus

*Električka* — tram

*Trolejbus* — trolleybus

*Zastávka* — stop

*Cestovný poriadok* — schedule

*Cestovný lístok* — single (one-time) ticket

*Mesačník, predplatný cestovný lístok, električenka* — a monthly travel pass

*Zastávka na znamenie* — request stop

Information on the routes and schedules in Bratislava can be found at [www.dpb.sk](http://www.dpb.sk), [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk). Information on public transport in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Nitra, Prešov, Žilina is at [www.imhd.sk](http://www.imhd.sk) (in Slovak; look for “cestovné poriadky” — time schedule, “mapy a schémy” — maps and schemes of routes). Connection search for public transport of a larger number of principal towns is available at [www.cp.sk](http://www.cp.sk) (under MHD), though it is necessary to be familiar with names of stops.

### Travel by car

#### Driving Licence

A driving licence issued in another state authorises the holder, when in the Slovak Republic, to drive motor vehicles of the categories indicated in it, provided that the



driving licence meets the conditions given in the International Convention on Road Traffic (Article 2, Article 41, and Appendix 6 of the Convention on Road Traffic, Vienna 1968). If a driving licence issued in another state does not meet these requirements, the foreign national may only drive a motor vehicle if he/she is the holder of a valid international driving licence.

All foreign national driving licences are recognised in Slovakia. Visitors riding mopeds must be at least 15 years old and must hold a driving licence even if such a licence is not required in their country of permanent residence. Visitors riding motorcycles over 50 ccm must be at least 17 years old and visitors driving cars or lorries 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 must be reported to the police. It is prohibited to drink any amount of alcohol before or while driving. No level of alcohol in blood is tolerated. A car must have the appropriate lights from 15 October till 15 March.

### Speed limits

On a motorway: 130 km/h (80 mph)

On a motorway in built-up area: 80 km/h (49 mph)

On an open road: 90 km/h (55 mph)

In built-up area: 60 km/h (30 mph)

### Motorway stickers

For the motorways, your automobile must have a motorway sticker valid in the given calendar year. They are available at border crossings, petrol stations and post offices. The sticker must be placed

on the right-hand side of windscreen and you must always have the second part of the sticker with you and show it to a police officer upon request. Any sticker not fixed is not valid. Motor-bikers don't need toll stickers on motorways.



### Petrol stations

Petrol stations are located throughout the whole territory of Slovakia. They are usually open 24 hours daily, and easy to find except in the most remote areas. Most of these are operated by Europe's largest petroleum companies and are well-stocked. They sell diesel and non-leaded petrol, Super

Plus 98, Super 95-Natural, Normal 21, Tempo Plus 98, Tempo Plus 95, V-Power, V-power Racing, EVO Benzin, etc. For older vehicles the non-leaded petrol with special additives replacing lead are available, Super 98 VS, Super 95 VS, Tempo Plus 95 UNI are of this type. Almost all petrol stations also sell drinks and snacks. Toilet facilities tend to be quite acceptable, and larger stations offer showers. In all big petrol stations you can pay with credit cards.



### Parking

Parking in cities is well marked by international traffic signs. Parking in forbidden places can result in being fined, towed or wheel-clamped. In bigger cities, some parking places are specified for parking with a parking card, which can be bought from newspaper kiosks. Other parking places require the use of automatic parking meters.

### Breakdown service

ASA – Autoklub Slovakia Assistance, s. r. o.	– 18 120, 18 112
NAMK (National automotive club of the SR) – section of road services	– 18 123, 18 154
SATC (Slovak automotive tourist club)	– 18 124

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

## Taxi

There are many taxi companies, although cruising taxis are seldom available. Taxi stands are located throughout the towns. Taxis ordered by phone have cheaper fares (usually 50 % cheaper). The fare is flexible and varies from company to company. When taking a taxi, look for one with company's name on the car. For a tip, just round up to the nearest 10 Sk figure.



To find out contact numbers on taxi services in the particular town search Yellow pages at [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk) (it is possible to enter free text, or select Yellow pages categories; Industry, Transport & Agriculture; Transportation).

## 2. Accommodation in the Dormitory



Most institutions of higher education offer housing in dormitories. The standard of these may differ. Usually rooms housing 2–3 students are standard, but rooms for a single student are also available. The rooms are furnished with beds, tables, and wardrobes. Bathrooms are generally shared between two rooms, or between all the rooms on each floor. Each dormitory has its own dining hall or buffet, where meals are available for low prices and generally provided throughout the academic year. Lunch or dinner generally costs around € 1.5. Some halls have their own gymnasiums, swimming pools, fitness centres, etc. The price of accommodation in a dormitory varies from € 20 to € 60 per month.

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 of residence, due to the limited capacity of individual dorms.

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

### Another Possibilities of Housing

Easiest way (except for staying in a hotel) is to rent a privately owned apartment. In such cases, it is recommended to sign a lease with your future landlord defining precisely the terms and conditions of the stay in the apartment. The apartments should be provided with basic pots, dishes, linens, etc. Most apartments have washing machines, but automatic dryers are not used.

## 3. Banks

There are many banks, usually members of international corporations offering ordinary banking services such as current accounts and sub-accounts, domestic and foreign payments, electronic banking, debit and credit cards, cheques, deposit products, securities, private banking, unit trusts, mortgage financing, loans, exchange and even insurance services.



Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday (8:00–17:00/18:00). Some branches remain open for longer, and some are open on Saturdays and in some cases on Sundays (only in shopping centres). You should consult the website of the appropriate bank.

### How to open an account

#### What you need:

- ID or passport
- The fee could vary depending on whether your current account will be in Sk or in foreign currency. Although the fee for opening the account could be zero, the bank could set a fixed amount account balance ranging from 0 Sk to 500 Sk (15 €).

#### Note!

If you have a current account in Sk, a debit card is mostly issued within a service package. A credit card is issued independently of an account.

### Credit & debit cards

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 automatic dispensers (ATM) as well as for payments in hotels, restaurants, shops and petrol stations. Credit cards can also be used to obtain currency. For further information on commercial acceptability and other services consult your card issuer.



### Travellers' cheques

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

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

### Exchange rate

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

## 4. Shopping



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

### Shopping hours

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

### On-line shopping

There is also a possibility of on-line shopping, however, the relevant websites are only in Slovak.

**Clothes, shoes, electronics, home equipment**

[www.quelle.sk](http://www.quelle.sk) (only in Slovak)

[www.neckermann.sk](http://www.neckermann.sk) (only in Slovak)

**Books, videos, DVDs and CDs**

[www.alterego.sk](http://www.alterego.sk) (only in Slovak)

[www.dunaj.sk](http://www.dunaj.sk) (only in Slovak)

**Computer accessories**

[www.exeshop.sk](http://www.exeshop.sk) (only in Slovak)

[www.pc-shop.sk](http://www.pc-shop.sk) (only in Slovak)

**Stationery and drugstore**

[www.regina.sk](http://www.regina.sk) (only in Slovak)



## 5. Electrical Appliances and Computers

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

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

## 6. Communications and Post Offices



Computers, scanners, printers, hand-helds etc. are widespread and easily purchased anywhere in the country in specialized shops, hypermarkets or shopping centres.

### Getting the internet connected

There are two easy ways to be connected at home. Either you can use your phone wire (ISDN) or a cable connection. For the former, contact Slovak Telecom ([www.st.sk](http://www.st.sk)) and for the latter, The Chello Company ([www.chello.sk](http://www.chello.sk), only in Slovak). In the office there is a wider range of options. Slovak Higher Education Institutions are connected through SANET (Slovak Academic Network [www.sanet.sk](http://www.sanet.sk)). Companies and individuals can also use private service providers.

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

## General Phone Numbers:

### Emergency calls:

General Emergency	– 112
Ambulance	– 155
Fire	– 150
Police	– 158
Town police	– 159

### Enquiry services:

Directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers in Slovakia	– 1181
International directory enquiries – information about telephone numbers abroad	– 12 149
Info Assistant – Practical information for everyday use	– 12 111
Exact time	– 12 110
Wake-up calls	– 12 125
National calls mediated by an operator	– 12 102
International calls mediated by an operator	– 12 131

## Postal services

At a Slovak post office (“Slovenská pošta” [www.posta.sk](http://www.posta.sk)) you can pay your utility bills, receive cash on delivery consignments, buy lottery tickets, get film developed, receive payments, make phone calls, buy phone and mobile phone cards, and, of course, send telegrams, faxes and mail. Poste Restante services are also available. For incoming packages and money orders you must bring your passport with you.

At the website [www.posta.sk](http://www.posta.sk), you can search also for local postcodes (“PSČ” – “Poštové smerové číslo” in Slovak), after entering town and street.

## Shipping and packing

Personal belongings can be sent by air, which is fairly expensive, or surface. Surface costs are lower, but can take from 6–8 weeks. Contact your local post office about requirements and procedures. Customs officials will open, inspect and hold the shipment at the post office nearest to where you are staying. You will be notified when your belongings arrive. Your shipments can be opened, inspected, and re-secured before you arrive to collect them.



## 7. 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 Hornád, and Domaša at the River Ondava along with artificial lakes like the Slnečné jazerá near Senec and Zlaté piesky in Bratislava



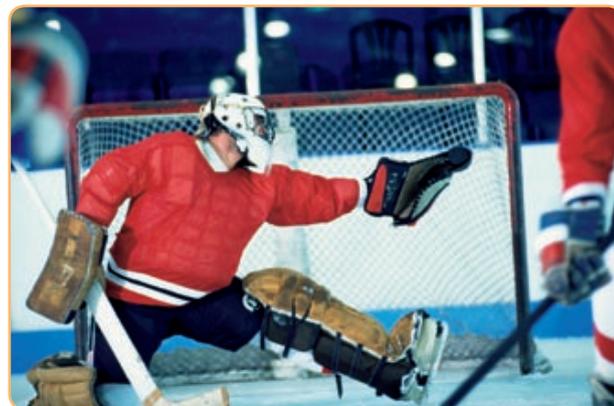
offer visitors a chance to enjoy water sports. Many Slovak rivers are navigable and canoeing is very popular amongst young people. **Horse riding** is becoming more popular, with stables for public existing in many towns. **Mountaineering, hill-walking, white water rafting, adrenaline sports, and paragliding** are only some of the ways to spend a weekend in the mountains. Another very popular activity is camping or renting cottages, and **hiking** (trekking) in the mountains. For those who prefer green lawns and white sport dress there are many possibilities to play **tennis** at tennis clubs, at public courts or **golf** in clubs.

More information:

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

### Winter Sports

Thanks to its mountainous nature, the country 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” and “Vysoké Tatry”. In these high mountain regions, there is snow on the ground for 130 days each year. **Ice hockey and ice-skating** are very popular sports that can be practised in closed stadiums, as well as outdoors.



### Mountain Rescue Service Insurance

As of July 1, 2006 tourists bear the cost of search and rescue operations they require the Mountain Rescue Service (HZS) to conduct, excluding the costs covered by health insurance. Also, anyone who disobeys HZS commands could face fines up to 100,000 Sk (3,000 €). In response, insurance companies started offering products that cover the potential risk. Please consult a commercial insurance company.

More information:

[www.ski.sk](http://www.ski.sk), [www.yeti.sk](http://www.yeti.sk), [www.holidayinfo.sk](http://www.holidayinfo.sk)

Mountain Rescue Service (“Horská záchranná služba”)

[www.hzs.sk](http://www.hzs.sk) (only in Slovak)

### Indoor Sports

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

More information:

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

General information about Slovakia

[www.slovensko.com](http://www.slovensko.com), [www.cestovanie-info.sk](http://www.cestovanie-info.sk)

## 8. Culture and Media



### Theatre, Opera, Ballet

The theatre network consists of four state funded professional theatres in Bratislava, Košice and Banská Bystrica, 20 theatres under the competence of self-governing regions and municipalities in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Nitra, Komárno, Zvolen, Martin, Žilina, Košice, Prešov, Spišská Nová Ves and Rožňava. Moreover there are about 19 independent theatres established by private owners/legal entities throughout the territory of the SR. The list of theatres with addresses can be found at [www.theatre.sk](http://www.theatre.sk) (or directly <http://www.theatre.sk/sk/download/Divadlo-na-Slovensku/Divadla.pdf>, only in Slovak).

The oldest professional theatre is **The Slovak National Theatre** (“Slovenské národné divadlo” – SND) in Bratislava ([www.snd.sk](http://www.snd.sk)). It comprises drama, opera and

ballet sections, each with a permanent professional company, with a central theatrical stockist providing sets for all productions. The SND is a repertory company with a season running from the beginning of September to the end of June. Performances are staged every day except Sunday (opera and ballet) or Monday (drama). In April 2007 new building on the bank of the Danube became the seat of SND in addition to the historic building

Other state institutions are **The State Theatre** (“Štátne divadlo”) in Košice ([www.sdke.box.sk](http://www.sdke.box.sk), only in Slovak)

**The State Opera and Ballet** (“Štátna opera a balet”) in Banská Bystrica ([www.stateopera.sk](http://www.stateopera.sk)) and **Nová scéna** (New Stage) in Bratislava specialising in musical repertory ([www.nova-scena.sk](http://www.nova-scena.sk)).

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

Theatre performances usually begin at 19.00 and whilst tickets can be bought an hour before the start, it is advisable to reserve them several days before at the ticket office of the respective theatre. There is also the possibility to buy a season ticket. Tickets may be also reserved on-line at [www.ticketportal.sk](http://www.ticketportal.sk).

## Music

### Classical Music

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a national musical tradition began to develop around Slovakia’s impressive folk heritage. Romantic as well as modern Slovak music has drawn from both classical and traditional folk styles. Among romantic composers, the most important are the

compositions of Ján Levoslav Bella, Viliam Figuš-Bystrý who layed the foundations of the first Slovak opera, and those of Mikuláš Schneider-Trnavský and Mikuláš Moyzes who had merit in lyric songs and ballads creation. Well-known works from the 20<sup>th</sup> century include the symphonic compositions of Alexander Moyzes, and the operas of Eugen Suchoň (1<sup>st</sup> Slovak national opera “Krútnava” (The Whirlpool)) and Ján Cikker.

Today, music is one of the most significant aspects of Slovak culture. Some of the most renowned orchestras are **The Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra of Bratislava** (“Slovenský filharmonický orchester mesta Bratislavy”, [www.filharm.sk](http://www.filharm.sk)) and **Košice** ([www.sfk.sk](http://www.sfk.sk)), **The Symphonic Orchestra of Bratislava Broadcast** (“Symfonický orchester Slovenského rozhlasu”) ([www.slovakradio.sk/sosr](http://www.slovakradio.sk/sosr)) and **The Bohdan Warchal Slovak Chamber Orchestra** (“Slovenský komorný orchester Bohdana Warchala”) ([www.filharm.sk](http://www.filharm.sk)).

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

### 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), only in Slovak) and **Lúčnica** ([www.lucnica.sk](http://www.lucnica.sk)). Most towns have their own folk festivals with dancing, local costumes and food. These tend to be held throughout summer until the end of September. The biggest one takes place in Východná ([www.nocka.sk/utk/](http://www.nocka.sk/utk/), only in Slovak) in July each year.



### Modern Music

**The Music Center** (“Hudobné centrum”, [www.hc.sk](http://www.hc.sk)) provides information on classical and modern music. A search for various music events can be run on: [www.kultura.sk](http://www.kultura.sk) (only in Slovak). At [www.ticketportal.sk](http://www.ticketportal.sk) (only in Slovak) you can find information on concerts and buy tickets. If you prefer the club scene with live performances there are many options within different genres.

### Traditional Folk Art

Folk art and crafts, which include woodcarving, fabric weaving, glass blowing and painting, pottery, ceramics production, blacksmithing, have a long tradition. The tradition of folk art and crafts has been handed down through the generations and is nowadays supported mainly by ÚĽUV, The Centre for Folk Art Production. The Centre sells traditional products but also organises exhibitions, artistic



workshops – “The ÚĽUV Crafts school” both for youth and adults, some of which are officially accredited by the Ministry of Education of the SR. ([www.uluv.sk/en](http://www.uluv.sk/en))

Slovakia became famous for “majolika” pottery already in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (especially the town of Modra). Modra’s ceramic tradition was heavily influenced by the influx of Haban craftsman 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 Modra’s majolika factory is a direct descendant of this tradition. ([www.spectacularslovakia.sk](http://www.spectacularslovakia.sk) see the section Crafts, [www.modra-ceramics.sk](http://www.modra-ceramics.sk), [www.majolika.sk/indexenglish.html](http://www.majolika.sk/indexenglish.html))

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 (**The Museum of the**

**Slovak Village** — “Múzeum slovenskej dediny”), Bardejov Spa, Zuberec, Výchylovka in Nová Bystrica, and Pribylina. If you are interested in “living museums” (folk architecture reservations), you should visit villages like Čičmany, Vlkolínec, Špania dolina, Ždiar, Podbiel, or Sebechleby.

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

More information:

[www.museum.sk](http://www.museum.sk), [www.muzeum.sk/dostol/defaulte.php](http://www.muzeum.sk/dostol/defaulte.php)  
[www.geocities.com/woodchurch99](http://www.geocities.com/woodchurch99), [www.remesla.lawit.sk](http://www.remesla.lawit.sk)

## Cinema

Cinemas (“kino” in Slovak) can be found in every town. Film clubs are popular and can be found in all university towns. In Bratislava, there are also multiplex cinemas in the Aupark and Polus shopping centres (Palace cinemas — [www.palacecinemas.sk](http://www.palacecinemas.sk), Istropolis Cinema Center — [www.istropoliscinamacenter.sk](http://www.istropoliscinamacenter.sk)). There used to be a 3D IMAX Cinema in Bratislava, but it is closed at present (check the status at [www.kinoimax.sk](http://www.kinoimax.sk)). Most films bear the original soundtrack with subtitles; some films have Slovak dubbing. Cinema programmes are published on towns’ websites and in newspapers.

More information:

[www.kultura.sk](http://www.kultura.sk) (only in Slovak)

## Slovak newspaper in English

The Slovak Spectator ([www.slovakspectator.sk](http://www.slovakspectator.sk)), an independent English language newspaper, is published every week. It includes information on politics, the economy, business, daily life, and cultural events, as well as advertisements. There are many varieties of local newspapers and journals. You can also buy or subscribe to foreign newspapers and journals or buy them at newsstands.

General and rather comprehensive information on the Slovak history and culture: [www.cometoslovakia.com](http://www.cometoslovakia.com).



## 9. Cuisine

### Food

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

### Cuisine

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

Lunch is the main meal and Slovaks are more used to eating out for lunch than for dinner. Most restaurants in town centres have special lunch offers (“denné menu” in Slovak, usually consisting 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, and also in small towns restaurants usually stay open later. 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. Five to ten percent is a standard tip in a restaurant with waiter service. Waiters usually give

the customer the total of the bill and the customer, as he hands over the money, says how much he is paying inclusive of tip. In restaurants and bars it is usual to round up the price, the tip being roughly 10 %.

More information and lists of catering places can be found at [www.menu.sk](http://www.menu.sk), [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk), [www.gurmania.sk](http://www.gurmania.sk) (only in Slovak), [www.obedovat.sk](http://www.obedovat.sk) (only in Slovak), [www.greenpages.sk](http://www.greenpages.sk).

### Traditional cuisine

The main ingredients that have shaped traditional Slovak cuisine are potatoes, sauerkraut, pork, poultry, “bryndza” (a cheese made from sheep’s 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 carrots and parsley. Sometimes, smoked pork is added. Most traditional national dish served as main course is “bryndzové halušky”, i.e., gnocchi/dumplings topped with “bryndza” and fried bacon. It is usually the least expensive menu item and sometimes it is listed in the dessert section. Another traditional dish is “strapačky s kapustou”, dumplings with



cabbage and sometimes bacon. As the most common dessert one can always have sweet pancakes with jam, farmers' cheese and raisins and whipped cream or chocolate.

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

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



More information

<http://slovakia.eunet.sk/slovakia/cuisine/bonappetit/>

## 10. Libraries

There are several state scientific libraries, libraries affiliated to universities and higher education institutions, and public libraries. Websites of the libraries are mostly in Slovak only. The list of libraries can be found on: [www.culture.gov.sk/files/files/kniznice/zk.xls](http://www.culture.gov.sk/files/files/kniznice/zk.xls) (950 entries in Slovak).

**The University Library in Bratislava** ([www.ulib.sk](http://www.ulib.sk)), one of the oldest and mostly visited libraries in the country, contains more than 2.4 million volumes.

**The Slovak National Library** ([www.snk.sk](http://www.snk.sk)), located in Martin, looks after a collection of materials related to Slovak culture and history almost 190 years.



## 11. Language



Slovak is the official language 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 (86 %) speaks Slovak as their mother tongue. The second most widely spoken mother tongue is Hungarian.

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

## 12. Other services

### Car rental

In Slovakia there are many car hire firms. Prices depend on the period over which the car is hired, and the type of car. Contact phone numbers are available on the website of the Yellow Pages [www.zlatestranky.sk](http://www.zlatestranky.sk), section “automobiles – hire” (automobily – požičovne) and Green Pages [www.greenpages.sk](http://www.greenpages.sk), section “car hire” (autopožičovne).



### Laundry and dry cleaning service

There are almost no laundrettes in Slovakia (the first one was open only recently in Bratislava – [www.flipperwash.sk](http://www.flipperwash.sk)). You can either use home laundry facilities or commercial laundries that wash and iron clothing and linen for their clients. However, there are many dry cleaning services or even fast dry cleaners (nearly in every shopping centre). Some of them also provide leather/suede/fur cleaning and dyeing.

### Beauty salons and hairdressers'

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

## 13. Public Holidays

The following days are official public holidays:

- 1 January (Slovak Republic Day)
- 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 (End of World War II)
- 5 July (St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day)
- 29 August (Slovak National Uprising Day)
- 1 September (Slovak Constitution Day),
- 15 September (Day of the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows)
- 1 November (All Saints Day)
- 17 November (Day of Fight for Democracy and Freedom)
- 24 December (Christmas Eve)
- 25 December (Christmas Day)
- 26 December (St. Stephen's Day)

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

## 14. Living Costs

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

### Example prices

#### Rent

- a guest room at a students' dormitory: from 400 Sk per night (11.8 €)
- 1 bedroom flat: from 8,000 Sk per month (235 €) including utilities (in larger towns the prices are higher, especially in town centres)
- 2 bedroom flat: from 10,000 Sk per month (294 €) including utilities

#### Food

- lunch at a canteen: from 60 Sk (1.8 €)
- restaurant meal: from 250 Sk (7.4 €)
- a pizza in a pizzeria: from 140 Sk (4 €)
- 1 litre of milk: 25 Sk (0.7 €)
- 1 litre of mineral water: 15 Sk (0.4 €)
- a loaf of bread: 25 Sk (0.7 €)
- 400 g spaghetti: 25 Sk (0.7 €)
- 400 g of margarine: 40 Sk (1.2 €)

#### Transportation

- Local transport, basic ticket (single): from 10 Sk to 25 Sk (0.3–0.7 €) (depending on a town)
- Local transport, monthly ticket/travel pass: from 400 Sk to 750 Sk (11.8–22 €)

- Coaches:
  - Bratislava – Košice, 445 km, from. 560 Sk (16.5 €)
  - Bratislava – Žilina, 203 km, from. 260 Sk (7.6 €)
  - Bratislava – Nitra, 89 km, from. 100 Sk (2.9 €)
  - Bratislava – Banská Bystrica, 242 km, from 280 Sk (8.2 €)
- Trains
  - Bratislava – Košice: from 520 Sk (15.3 €)
  - Bratislava – Žilina: from 270 Sk (7,9 €)
- Taxi within Bratislava: app. 20 Sk per km (0.6 €)
- Petrol per litre: from 40 Sk (1.2 €)
- Diesel per litre: from 40 Sk (1.2 €)

### Having fun

- Movie ticket: 70–250 Sk (2.1–7.4 €)
- Museum ticket: from 40 Sk (1.2 €)
- Theatre ticket – drama: from 80 Sk (2.4 €)
- Theatre ticket – musical: from 300 Sk (8.8 €)
- Theatre ticket – opera and ballet: 50–1,100 Sk (1.5–32 €)
- Fitness centre ticket: from 70 Sk (2.1 €)
- Swimming pool ticket: from 50 Sk (1.5 €)
- Rent a bike: from 300 Sk per day (8.8 €)

Exchange rate has recently been rapidly changing.  
 (For the calculation of prices in this chapter, the exchange rate of 34 Sk to 1 € was used – approximately valid as of June 2007.)

## VI. USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS

### VI. USEFUL ADDRESSES AND LINKS

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

##### **(Slovak Academic Information Agency)**

Námestie slobody 23

812 20 Bratislava 1

Tel.: +421–2–54 41 14 64, 14 84

Fax: +421–2–54 41 14 29

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

#### **SAAIC — Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation**

Staré grunty 52

842 44 Bratislava 4

Tel.: +421–2–65 42 43 83

Fax: +421–2–65 42 44 83

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

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

#### **The Fulbright Commission**

Levická 3

821 08 Bratislava

Tel: +421–2–55 42 56 06

Fax: +421–2–55 57 74 91

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

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

#### **International Visegrad Fund**

Kraľovské údolie 8

811 02 Bratislava

Tel: +421–2–59 20 38 11

Fax: +421–2–59 20 38 05

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

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

**Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic**

Department of Foreign Relations

Stromová 1

813 30 Bratislava

Tel: +421–2–59 10 96 17

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

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic**

Hlboká cesta 2

833 36 Bratislava 37

Tel: + 421–2–59 78 11 11

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

**SRK — Slovak Rectors' Conference**

Vazovova 5

812 43 Bratislava

Tel: +421–2–57 29 45 21

Fax: +421–2–57 29 45 22

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

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

**ŠRVŠ — The Student Higher Education Council**

Ústav informácií a prognóz školstva

Staré grunty 52

842 44 Bratislava 4

Tel.: +421–903 94 67 47

Fax: +421–2–65 41 18 80

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

**Presidium of Slovak Academy of Sciences**

Štefánikova 49

814 38 Bratislava 1

Tel: +421–2–52 49 27 51–9

Fax: +421–2–52 49 43 91

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

**Parliament**

The National Council of the Slovak Republic

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

**Ministries**

A list of ministries can be found

at [www.vlada.gov.sk/english/others\\_sites.html](http://www.vlada.gov.sk/english/others_sites.html)

**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 Affairs of the SR ([www.mfa.sk](http://www.mfa.sk)).

# VII. GLOSSARY

## VII. GLOSSARY

### Some words to know in Slovak:

I don't speak Slovak/ I don't understand	- Nehovorím po slovensky/ 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, six, seven, eight, nine, ten	- jeden, dva, tri, štyri, päť, šesť, sedem, osem, deväť, desať
twenty, fifty, a hundred, a 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

### On-line dictionaries

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

<http://slovník.zoznam.sk>

(English, German, French, Spanish)

<http://babel.redbox.sk/>

(English, German, Spanish, Hungarian)

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

(English, German, Russian, Hungarian)

<http://slovník.cyberspace.sk/>

(English, German, Russian)

<http://frcatel.fri.utc.sk/slovník.html>

(English, German, French)

<http://www.slovník.sk/>

(English, German)

<http://slovník.agx.sk/>

(Hungarian)

<http://www.slovník.org/>

(Russian)

<http://www.somvprahe.sk/slovník>

(Czech)



**SAIA, n. o.** is an NGO established in 1990 which through its programmes and services assists in developing internationalisation of education and research in Slovakia. SAIA provides information about studying and researching abroad and in Slovakia, organises selection of scholarship holders, seminars for Slovak HEIs, produces publications. SAIA administers the bilateral programme Action Austria – Slovakia, the multilateral programme CEEPUS and is host of the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO). In 2006 SAIA started with management of new programmes approved by the Slovak Government – the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers, and Milan Rastislav Stefanik Fellowship. SAIA is also a part of the European Researcher's Mobility Centres Network ERA-MORE represented in 32 countries of Europe. Since 2007 is an intermediary of the NIL-Slovakia Fund for Internationalisation of Education supported by the Governments of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein within the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and by the Government of the Slovak Republic.



**SAAIC** – Slovak Academic Association for International Co-operation is a voluntary association of natural persons and legal entities. It is registered at the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as a non-governmental, non-profit organization since 1992. Its objective is to support and coordinate international co-operation of Slovak universities and other institutions, especially with the European Union countries within the framework of educational and other programmes. The Association is working as an information and publicity center assembling and distributing information for universities and other institutions concerning the possibilities of participating in educational and research activities through international programmes. Since 1996 the Association has been managing the European Community action programmes Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci – the new Lifelong Learning programme (2007–2013). Starting 2004 SAAIC has established National structure for the programme Erasmus Mundus and National Contact Point for Tempus programme. The role of both offices is to inform the higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic about the possibilities to participate in the programmes and to give the consultation by preparing the projects.

## Map of Slovakia

indicating towns which are seats of higher education institutions and/or research institutes

