

Studying in Slovakia

A guide for international students & families — how Slovak higher education works, the study residence permit, FREE tuition if you study in Slovak, affordable English medicine, and work.

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FREE IN SLOVAK, AFFORDABLE IN ENGLISH

Slovakia offers a familiar central-European deal: **full-time study in the Slovak language is free at public universities for any nationality**, while English-taught programs stay affordable — including a popular route into **English-taught medicine and dentistry**. Non-EU students need a **temporary residence permit for study**. Low costs and a central EU location complete the picture. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Slovak rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Slovak embassy, the Foreign Police, and your university**.

Understand Why Students Choose Slovakia

WHAT TO KNOW

Slovakia offers **free Slovak-taught tuition (any nationality), affordable English-taught programs (including medicine), low living costs, and a central EU location** — with EU-recognized degrees and a practical, training-focused emphasis.

BY THE NUMBERS

Free in Slovak

any nationality

Affordable English

incl. medicine

Central EU

+ low costs

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Slovakia's **free Slovak route and affordable English medicine** against learning Slovak for the free option — either way, it's strong central-European value.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **free-if-you-study-in-Slovak** rule applies to *all* nationalities at public universities — a rare and valuable option.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Slovak higher education includes **public and private universities**. Leading names: **Comenius University** (Bratislava; its Jessenius Faculty in Martin teaches medicine), the **Slovak University of Technology**, the **University of Economics**, and **UPJŠ in Košice** (medicine). You apply to a **specific Faculty**, not the university as a whole.

BY THE NUMBERS

Comenius / Slovak Tech

Bratislava

UPJŠ Košice

medicine

Apply to a Faculty

not the whole university

HOW TO HELP

Choose the right **Faculty** (you apply directly to it, not the university), and note the strong medical faculties for English-taught medicine and dentistry.

GOOD TO KNOW

In Slovakia you apply to a **specific Faculty (Fakulta)** — not the university as a whole — so target the exact faculty and program.

Get the Residence Permit for Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students staying over 90 days need a **temporary residence permit for study (Prechodný pobyt za účelom štúdia)**, applied for at a Slovak embassy (or the Foreign Police if already legally in Slovakia). After arrival, **register with the Foreign Police within 3 working days**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Temporary residence

for study

At the embassy

or Foreign Police

Register

within 3 working days

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **temporary residence permit for study** at a Slovak embassy (fee ~€165), with acceptance, funds proof, and insurance — then register with the Foreign Police within 3 days of arrival.

WATCH OUT

You **can't attend classes without the residence permit**, and must register with the Foreign Police within 3 working days — handle both promptly.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to a specific Faculty**. The main September intake opens roughly **April–June**. Some programs (medicine, dentistry, arts) require **entrance exams or interviews**, and your prior qualification may need **nostrification** (recognition).

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply to a Faculty

directly

April–June

for September

Entrance exams

medicine/dentistry

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to your Faculty** by its deadline, prepare for any **entrance exam**, and start **nostrification** (credential recognition) early, as it takes time.

WATCH OUT

The Slovak process is **paperwork-heavy** — a missing stamp can delay enrollment by a year, so prepare documents meticulously.

Understand Tuition (the Free Route)

WHAT TO KNOW

Full-time study in Slovak at public universities is free for everyone (barring cases like exceeding the standard study period). **English-taught** programs charge fees — typically **€1,500–4,000/year** for humanities/business and **€9,000–11,000/year** for medicine/dentistry. Private universities set their own fees.

BY THE NUMBERS

Slovak-taught

FREE (any nationality)

English

~€1,500–4,000/yr

Medicine

~€9k–11k/yr

HOW TO HELP

Decide between the **free Slovak-language route** and an affordable English program (medicine is the pricier outlier), and pursue scholarships to reduce costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you'll study **in Slovak**, public-university tuition is **free regardless of nationality** — a strong reason to learn the language.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the permit you must prove **sufficient funds** for tuition and living — recently benchmarked around **€5,000/year** — plus **health insurance** (commercial if you're not eligible for public cover). Proof of accommodation is also required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€5,000/year

Health insurance

commercial if needed

Accommodation

proof required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount, arrange **health insurance** (commercial providers include Union, Maxima, Axa), and show accommodation — all required for the permit.

GOOD TO KNOW

The funds figure is **set by the authorities and can change** — confirm the current amount before applying.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

For **Slovak-taught** (free) programs you prove Slovak; for **English-taught** programs you prove English (IELTS/TOEFL). Slovak is close to Czech and Polish, and some Slovak helps daily life and (better) part-time work.

BY THE NUMBERS

Slovak-taught

prove Slovak (free)

English-taught

IELTS/TOEFL

Some Slovak

helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Take the **right test for your program's language**, and learn some Slovak — it helps daily life, and the free route requires it.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **free tuition route requires studying in Slovak** — a real incentive to learn the language if budget matters most.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, **register with the Foreign Police within 3 working days, confirm health insurance, and set up banking.** Living costs are low (€300–600/month; dormitories around €100/month), and Bratislava is well-connected to Vienna and Budapest.

BY THE NUMBERS

Register

within 3 days

Low costs

€300–600/mo

Cheap dorms

~€100/mo

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **Foreign Police registration (within 3 days), insurance, banking** — and enjoy Slovakia—s low living costs and central location.

GOOD TO KNOW

Bratislava is **an hour from Vienna** — great for travel and (cross-border) opportunities.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Students with a valid study residence permit may work **up to 20 hours per week** during their studies — useful for experience and income, with studies coming first.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

up to 20 hrs/week

With the permit

for students

Studies first

the priority

HOW TO HELP

You may work **up to 20 hours/week** with your study residence permit — useful for experience, though budget primarily from other sources.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep **studies as your priority** and enrollment in good standing — it protects your residence permit.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, options exist to **extend your residence and work** in Slovakia, and its central location plus EU-recognized degree open opportunities across Austria, Czechia, and the wider EU.

BY THE NUMBERS

Post-study

residence/work options

Central EU

cross-border options

EU degree

portable

HOW TO HELP

Plan for **post-study residence/work options**, use your EU-recognized degree and central location to pursue opportunities across the region, and confirm the current route.

GOOD TO KNOW

Slovakia's **central location** (Vienna, Prague, Budapest all close) widens post-study options — confirm current work-permit conditions.

Studying in Slovakia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Slovak embassy, the Foreign Police, and your university.

The system

Public and private universities (Comenius, Slovak University of Technology, University of Economics, UPJŠ Košice); apply to a specific Faculty; ECTS, EU-recognized degrees.

The permit

Non-EU students staying over 90 days need a temporary residence permit for study (apply at a Slovak embassy or the Foreign Police; fee ~€165); register with the Foreign Police within 3 working days of arrival.

Tuition (the key)

Full-time study in Slovak at public universities is FREE for all nationalities; English-taught programs ~€1,500–4,000/year (medicine/dentistry ~€9,000–11,000); private universities set their own fees.

Money

Prove ~€5,000/year in funds plus health insurance (commercial if not eligible for public cover) and accommodation; living costs are low (€300–600/month; dorms ~€100).

Work & after

Students may work up to 20 hrs/week; post-study residence/work options plus a central EU location support staying to work.

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