

Studying in Slovenia

A guide for international students & families — how Slovenian higher education works, the student visa and residence permit, affordable tuition, English programs, and post-study work.

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AFFORDABLE, GREEN, AND CENTRAL

Slovenia offers **affordable, EU-recognized degrees, a stunning Alpine setting, and a central location** — Ljubljana is within a few hours of Vienna, Venice, and Zagreb. With **150+ English-taught programs, subsidized student meals, and moderate costs**, it's an underrated value pick. Non-EU students need a **Type D student visa and a residence permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Slovenian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Slovenian representation, the Administrative Unit, and your university.**

Understand Why Students Choose Slovenia

WHAT TO KNOW

Slovenia offers **affordable EU degrees**, **150+ English-taught programs**, a **beautiful and safe setting between the Alps and the Adriatic**, **heavily subsidized student meals**, and a **central location** for exploring Europe.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

EU degree

150+ English programs

across fields

Central & scenic

Alps to Adriatic

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Slovenia's **affordability**, **quality of life**, and **central location** against its small scale — it's a quietly excellent, well-connected choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Slovenia's **subsidized student meals (boni)** put three-course campus lunches at just a few euros — a real cost saver.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Slovenia's main institutions are the **University of Ljubljana** (the flagship, and one of Europe's larger universities), the **University of Maribor** (strong engineering — BMW and Airbus recruit its graduates), and the **University of Primorska**. Degrees follow the European (Bologna) structure.

BY THE NUMBERS

Univ of Ljubljana

the flagship

Univ of Maribor

strong engineering

Univ of Primorska

coastal

HOW TO HELP

Choose among Slovenia's **three main universities** by field and city — Ljubljana for breadth, Maribor for engineering, Primorska on the coast.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **University of Ljubljana** is the flagship and hosts most programs and services — a strong, research-driven choice.

Get the Visa & Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students staying over 90 days need a **Type D student visa** (applied for at a Slovenian representation) and then a **residence permit**, obtained at the local **Administrative Unit (Upravna enota)** after arrival (or via the embassy). Biometrics apply; the permit is renewed annually.

BY THE NUMBERS

Type D visa

before travel

Residence permit

Administrative Unit

Renewed

annually

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **Type D visa** with your acceptance, funds proof, insurance, and accommodation, then complete your **residence permit at the Administrative Unit** — apply early, as processing takes weeks to months.

WATCH OUT

Processing can take **several weeks or months** — apply as early as possible after admission.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (each has its own process). Application windows typically run **February–June** for an October start. Programs are increasingly available in English (150+), and some universities waive IELTS for applicants with prior English-medium education.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

to universities

Feb–June

for October start

150+ English programs

IELTS sometimes waived

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to your chosen universities** in the February–June window, and check whether your program waives IELTS for prior English-medium study.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some Slovenian programs **waive IELTS** for students with previous English-language education — check each program's policy.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA students pay **little or nothing** at public universities. Non-EU students pay tuition — typically **€2,000–5,000/year (bachelor's)** and **€2,500–7,500 (master's)**, with **medicine higher**. Scholarships include the **Ad Futura / Public Scholarship Fund** and university awards.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU

low/free at public

Non-EU

~€2,000–7,500/yr

Scholarships

Ad Futura & university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-EU tuition** (medicine is the outlier) plus moderate living costs, and pursue **Ad Futura** and university scholarships — student meals and transport are subsidized.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Ad Futura / Public Scholarship Fund** supports international students (with generous awards for Western Balkans students) — worth applying for.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you must prove funds — recently about **€540/month (Slovenia's minimum guaranteed income)**, **~€4,500–6,500/year** — separate from tuition. Accepted proof: a bank statement, sponsor guarantee, or scholarship. Health insurance is required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€540/month

~€4,500–6,500/yr

living costs

+ insurance

required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount (a bank statement, sponsor letter, or scholarship), plus **health insurance** and accommodation proof — all required for the visa.

WATCH OUT

The funds figure tracks Slovenia's **minimum guaranteed income** and is updated — confirm the current amount before applying.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Slovenian** (low/free for EU) or, increasingly, in **English** (150+ programs; IELTS, sometimes waived). Slovenian is quick to start learning via university courses, and helps daily life and work.

BY THE NUMBERS

Slovenian

low/free (EU)

English

150+ programs

Some Slovenian

helps a lot

HOW TO HELP

Take the **right test for your program's language** (or use an IELTS waiver where offered), and pick up some Slovenian — it helps daily life and the student-work scene.

GOOD TO KNOW

Slovenian is **manageable to start learning**, and universities offer courses — useful for daily life and part-time work.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **residence permit, health insurance, and banking**, and apply **early for dormitory housing** (Ljubljana places are limited and in high demand). Use the **subsidized student meal (boni)** system to cut food costs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Permit + insurance

first steps

Dorms

apply early (limited)

Boni

subsidized meals

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence permit, insurance, banking** — apply for dormitory housing immediately (it—s limited), and use the boni meal subsidy.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ljubljana **dormitory places are limited and in high demand** — apply through your university's housing office right after admission.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Slovenia has a popular **student work system (študentsko delo)** that makes flexible part-time work accessible — a common way for students to earn. Non-EU students work under the terms of their permit; keep studies as the priority.

BY THE NUMBERS

študentsko delo

student work system

Flexible

popular with students

Studies first

the rule

HOW TO HELP

Use Slovenia's **student work system** for flexible part-time jobs (confirm the terms for your permit type) — useful for experience and income, with studies as the priority.

GOOD TO KNOW

Slovenia's **študentsko delo** system makes flexible student jobs unusually accessible — confirm how it applies to your permit.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, you can apply for a **temporary residence permit to seek employment**. Slovenia has a relatively straightforward work-permit process for skilled graduates in **shortage sectors like IT, engineering, and healthcare**, with full Schengen mobility.

BY THE NUMBERS

Post-study permit

to seek work

Shortage sectors

IT, engineering, health

Schengen

full mobility

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **post-study job-search permit**, target Slovenia's shortage sectors (IT, engineering, healthcare), and use Schengen mobility to explore opportunities across Europe.

GOOD TO KNOW

Slovenia offers a **post-study job-search permit** and a straightforward route in shortage sectors — confirm current conditions.

Studying in Slovenia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Slovenian representation, the Administrative Unit, and your university.

The system

University of Ljubljana (flagship), University of Maribor (engineering), and University of Primorska; 150+ English-taught programs; EU-recognized (Bologna) degrees.

Visa & permit

Non-EU students need a Type D student visa (from a Slovenian representation), then a residence permit at the local Administrative Unit (Upravna enota); renewed annually.

Tuition

EU pay little/nothing at public universities; non-EU pay ~€2,000–5,000 (bachelor's) / €2,500–7,500 (master's), medicine higher; Ad Futura and university scholarships.

Money

Prove ~€540/month (~€4,500–6,500/year, tied to minimum guaranteed income), separate from tuition, plus health insurance; subsidized student meals and transport cut costs.

Work & after

A popular student-work system (študentsko delo) makes part-time jobs accessible; a post-study job-search permit and shortage-sector routes support staying to work.

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