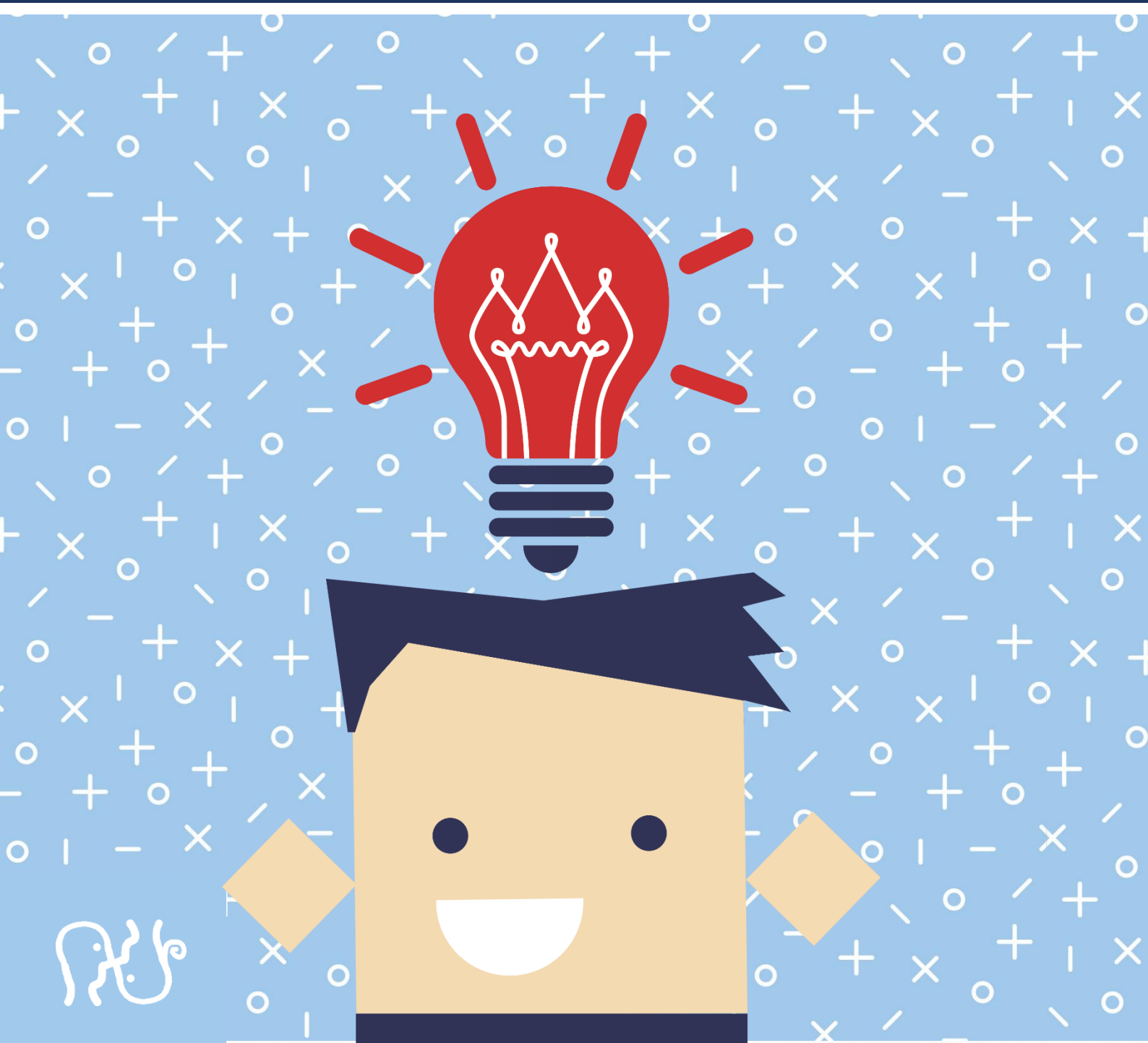


Researcher's Guide to SLOVENIA

2019 | www.euraxess.si



1. COUNTRY ID CARD

Legal name of the country: Republic of Slovenia

Political system: democratic parliamentary republic established on June 25th 1991.
Member of the European Union since May 1st 2004

Capital: Ljubljana

Official Language: Slovenian, (also Italian and Hungarian in nationally mixed border areas)

Currency: EUR 1 = 100 cents

Country phone code: +386

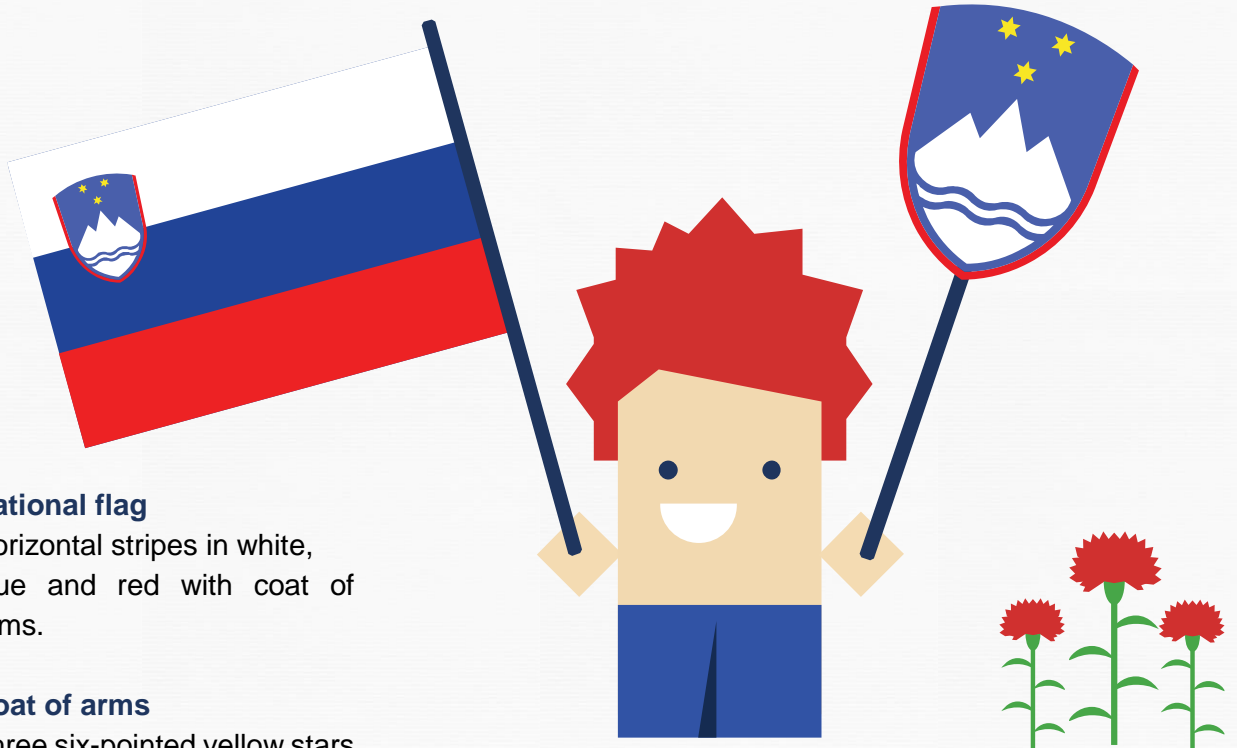
Emergency call (Fire Brigade, Ambulance): 112, police: 113

GDP: €20,815 per capita

Average gross monthly salary: 1,812,00 € (Nov 2018)

Average gross monthly salary in research and development: 2,040,00 € (Nov 2018)

Source: [Statistical Office RS](#)



National flag

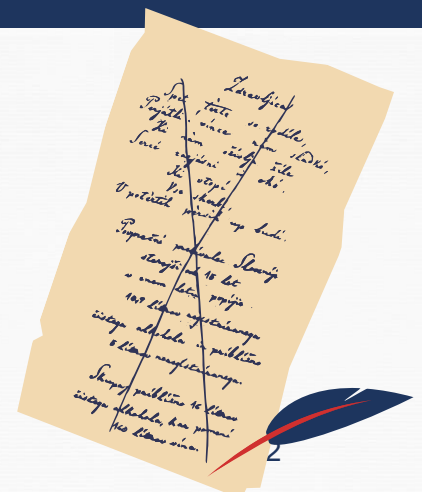
Horizontal stripes in white, blue and red with coat of arms.

Coat of arms

Three six-pointed yellow stars are symbols of the Counts of Celje, with Triglav as a symbol of Slovenian statehood and underlying two wavy lines symbolizing Slovenian rivers and the sea.

Anthem

The seventh stanza of 'Zdravljica', a poem by France Prešeren, set to music by Stanko Premrl.



Size: 20,273 km²

Population: 2,070,000

Length of coastline: 46.6 km

Neighbouring states: Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia

Largest towns: Ljubljana (288,300), Maribor (108,600),
Kranj (39,400), Celje (38,400)

Highest mountain: Triglav 2,864 m

Longest river: Sava **221 km**

Landscape: four basic types of landscape - Alpine in the north, Mediterranean in the south-west, Dinaric in the south and Pannonian in the east.

Climate: there are three different types of climate in Slovenia: continental in the central part, Alpine in the north-west and sub-Mediterranean along the coast and its hinterland.

Electricity: 220 V / 50Hz (plug is CEE 7/16 Euro plug),

Decimal measurement system

Time: Central European Time, Daylight saving time

More on-line information available on [State portal of the Republic of Slovenia](#).

2. EURAXESS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MOBILE RESEARCHERS

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is a European-wide network offering support to mobile researchers. The Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes (CMEPIUS) was established in October 2003 and has the primary task of providing support for the activities carried out within European communities' education and training programmes. It is also active in other areas, one of which is the European Research Area (ERA), where it has multifaceted role in the EURAXESS network. CMEPIUS acts as a Bridgehead Organisation (BHO), manages the local EURAXESS portal (www.euraxess.si) and offers services to researchers as a EURAXESS Service Centre.

By supporting the mobility of researchers, EURAXESS assists in establishing Europe as an area of excellence in scientific research. The European Research Area provides potentially unprecedented opportunities, not only for researchers looking to advance their career in another European country, but also for scientific organisations in search of international talents. The EURAXESS network offers different services.

EURAXESS Jobs and Funding

EURAXESS Jobs is a recruitment tool where as a researcher, you will find a wealth of constantly updated information on job vacancies, funding opportunities and fellowships throughout Europe. Posting your CV will allow recruiters to find you. As a company or

research institute, you can post vacancies free of charge and search for CVs of top-notch international researchers.

EURAXESS Information and Assistance

EURAXESS Services is a network of more than two hundred centres located in 40 European countries. These centres assist you and your family in planning and organising your stay in a foreign country. This free personalised service will help you tackle issues such as accommodation, visas and work permits, language lessons, schools for your children, social security and medical care. A team of well-informed staff is at your service.

EURAXESS Career Development

This section offers tools and resources both for researchers, research organizations and people dealing with researchers.

EURAXESS Worldwide

EURAXESS Worldwide offers you the chance to interact on a global scale. It is a networking tool supporting researchers working outside of Europe who wish to connect or stay connected with Europe. Through networking, researchers can strengthen European research and scientific cooperation with the world.

EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist you: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, North America (US and Canada). Additionally, a EURAXESS information website for Australia and New Zealand went online in June 2018 and in July 2018, the new EURAXESS Korea network was officially launched in Seoul.

EURAXESS Rights

EURAXESS Rights provides all information regarding the European [Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct](#) for the Recruitment of Researchers. The Charter sets out the rights and duties of researchers, as well as research and funding institutions. The Code aims at ensuring the equal treatment of all researchers in Europe and increases transparency in their recruitment. A large number of leading research institutions have already undersigned the Code and Charter: find who they are in the Signatories section.

The EURAXESS network in Slovenia prepared “Researcher’s Guide to SLOVENIA” to facilitate the arrival of foreign researchers to Slovenia by compiling information on different aspects of relocation to and living in Slovenia. For more detailed and up-to-date information please check our web portal www.euraxess.si.

In the “Researcher’s Guide to SLOVENIA” you will find information related to:

- Science and research in Slovenia
- Entry conditions (visas and residence permits)
- Work permits
- Social and health insurance

- Retirement saving and disability insurance
- Taxation
- Education system in Slovenia
- Basic data about Slovenia
- Living in Slovenia

3. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Residents of what is now the Republic of Slovenia made their first internationally relevant research achievements nearly five hundred years ago. Slovenian researchers started joining distinguished scientific associations as early as in the 17th century. The development of science, medicine and technology was particularly stimulated by the discovery of mercury in Idrija in 1490. In 1693, the first scientific organisation was founded in Ljubljana, the Academia Operosorum Labacensium.

In 1879, **Jožef Stefan** (1835-1893) discovered the law of light radiation, which is now called Stefan's Law. He also perfected the quantitative measuring of electricity and thus laid the foundations for precise measurements in electrotechnics.

The mathematician and ballistics expert **Jurij Vega** (1754-1802) was the author of the logarithmic tables, which were used worldwide until electronic calculators prevailed. The 17th century was marked by the works of the polymath **Janez Vajkard Valvasor** (1641-1693), who in 1689 published an encyclopaedia of Slovenia in 14 volumes entitled *Slava vojvodine Kranjske* (Glory of the Duchy of Carniola). On the basis of his research work into the intermittent Cerknica Lake, in 1687 Valvasor became a member of the Royal Society in London.

The first map of the territory of Slovenia, including marked ethnic borders, was created in 1853 by the Slovenian geographer, jurist and politician **Peter Kozler** (1824-1879).

In 1909, **Edvard Rusjan** (1886-1911) became the first Slovenian to achieve motor-powered flight, in an aeroplane, which was constructed by him.

In 1929, **Herman Potočnik-Noordung**, a Slovenian rocket engineer and officer in the Austrian army, published a book entitled "Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums" (The Problem of Space Travel) that is considered one of the key pioneering works on space technology. His original and far-sighted ideas include plans for space travel and research of the future.

In 1923 the chemist **Friderik Pregl** became the first, and so far only, Slovenian to receive a Nobel Prize, which was awarded for laying the foundations of organic microanalysis.

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN SLOVENIA

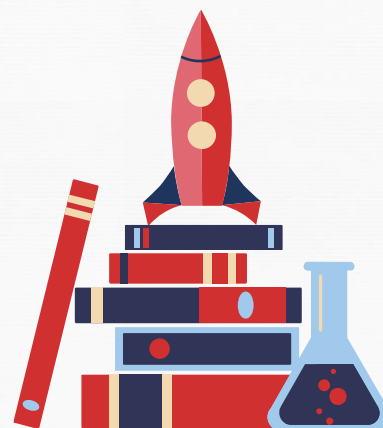
A list of all research organisations in Slovenia is available at SICRIS - Slovenian Current Research Information System.

Some of the larger organisations include:

- [The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#)
- [Jožef Stefan Institute](#)
- [National Institute of Chemistry](#)
- [ZAG – Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute](#)
- [Agricultural Institute of Slovenia](#)
- [National Institute of Biology](#)
- [Geological Survey of Slovenia](#)
- [Slovenian Forestry Institute](#)
- [Institute of Metals and Technology](#)
- [Educational Research Institute](#)
- [Institute of Ethnic Studies](#)
- [Urban Planning Institute](#)
- [Institute of Contemporary History](#)
- [Institute for Economic Research](#)
- [Institute for Hydraulic Research](#)

Universities are also important Slovenian research organisations:

- [University of Ljubljana](#)
- [University of Maribor](#)
- [University of Primorska / Università del Litorale](#)
- [University of Nova Gorica](#)



FINANCING RESEARCH IN SLOVENIA

In 2017 gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) in Slovenia decreased compared with the previous year. According to provisional data, GERD amounted to EUR 801.1 million, which is 1.3% less than in 2016. The share of GERD in GDP¹ also decreased; in 2017 it was 1.9%, in 2016 2.0%.

Most funds on R&D contributed and spent by the business sector

According to provisional data, the share of the business sector, which spends most of the funds on R&D, in GERD in 2017 amounted to 74.7%, followed by the government and higher education sectors with 13.8% and 11.2%, respectively. The share of the private non-profit sector in GERD in 2017 was 0.3%. On the other hand, the business sector is also the largest source of funds on R&D. In 2017 business enterprises contributed the most funds on R&D, namely 63.0%. Government provided additional 23.0%, 13.1% of funds came from abroad, while the remaining percent was contributed by higher education and private non-profit organizations together.

64.0% of persons involved in R&D were researchers

In 2017, 21,941 persons were involved in R&D in Slovenia. Most of them worked in the business sector, namely 61.7%, followed by higher education (23.8%), government (14.1%) and private non-profit (0.5%) sectors. Among persons involved in R&D in 2017, 14,035 or 64.0% were researchers, followed by technicians (25.5%) and other supporting staff (10.6%). More than a half, namely 52.8%, of the researchers involved in R&D in 2017 worked in the business sector, followed by higher education (31.2%), government (15.5%) and private non-profit (0.6%) sectors. The share of researchers was the highest in the higher education sector, where they represented 83.9% of total R&D personnel. (Source: [Statistical Office RS](#)).

Public funds for research and development are managed by [The Slovenian Research Agency](#). The Slovenian Research Agency carries out professional, development and executive tasks relating to the National Research and Development Programme at every level, as well as other work to promote research and development activities. The Agency carries out its legally determined duties in the public interest, providing permanent, professional and independent decision-making on the selection of programmes and projects financed from the state budget and other financial sources. The Agency is an indirect user of the state budget in terms of the legal provisions that govern public finances and public agencies.

4. ENTRY PROCEDURES

Entry into the Republic of Slovenia is allowed to anyone who has valid identity card or passport and entry permit. An entry permit can be a **visa** or **residence permit**. Visa procedures are different for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and for citizens of all other countries. In order to work in Slovenia, a foreign researcher from non-EU and EEA countries also has to have work permit (a visa or residence permit alone do not grant the right to employment or work).

VISAS

A visa is a permit issued by a relevant diplomatic mission or consular post of the Republic of Slovenia to a foreign citizen prior to arrival in the country. Visa allows foreign citizen to enter and stay in the Republic of Slovenia for a period determined by visa. Visas are not automatically granted – applicants have to comply with visa requirements.

There are 3 types of visas:

- Category A Visa - airport transit visa
- Category C Visa – short-term visa (maximum stay 90 days within the period of 6 months)
- Category D Visa – long-term visa (stay longer than 90 days, but not longer than one year)

Category D visa is limited to specific cases (only relevant causes are listed):

- Wish to unite with family if another family member is an EU or Slovenian citizen;
- Wish to participate in education or training courses that do not require a residence permit (acceptance letter and paid course invoice is needed);
- Are the subject of particular cultural, economic, scientific or research interest of the Republic of Slovenia (confirmation from relevant ministry is needed).

A visa may only be issued to a person that has a valid travel document, whose date of expiry is at least 3 months longer than visa period.

Please note that any foreign citizen, if he or she is not staying in a hotel or similar facility, has to register his or her residence at the nearest police station within 3 days after entering the country.

As a visa holder you may reside in the Schengen area in accordance with the purpose for which the visa was issued to you, but you must leave the Schengen area before the expiry date of the visa.

If you are not required to hold a visa to enter or stay in Slovenia, you may enter and stay in the country for up to 90 days without any formal procedures. If you wish to stay longer than 90 days, you have to obtain residence registration certificate at the nearest administrative unit (upravna enota). If you are a holder of a visa issued by another

Contracting State of the Schengen Agreement, you may, during the validity period of the visa, enter and reside in the Republic of Slovenia for period that does not exceed a total of 90 days within a period of 180 days for residing in any Schengen country except the one that issued visa.

For more information see [EURAXESS portal](#).

RESIDENCE PERMIT

If foreign citizen wishes to stay in the Republic of Slovenia for a period or reason other than is allowed by a visa, he or she needs a **residence permit**. There are two types of residence permits:

- a temporary residence permit
- a permanent residence permit

The main difference between them is that a temporary residence permit is issued for a limited time and for specific purpose, while permanent residence permit has no such limitations. A residence permit has to be obtained before arrival in the Republic of Slovenia. It can be obtained at diplomatic or consular missions of the Republic of Slovenia or at the competent administrative unit in Slovenia (if a foreign citizen already legally resides in the Republic of Slovenia). The application is normally started by the foreign citizen him or herself, but it can be started by authorised natural or legal entity in the Republic of Slovenia.

A temporary residence permit may be issued for purpose of:

- Employment or work (including research work);
- Reuniting families;
- Study, education, specialisation or advanced professional training, placements, cooperation or participation in international volunteer exchange programmes;
- Other legitimate reasons justified by law, international acts or international principles and practices or special interest of the Republic of Slovenia.

A temporary residence permit is issued for up to one year and it can be renewed.

Conditions for acquiring residence permits for first residence:

- a valid travel document (passport) with a period of validity exceeding the period of time planned to reside in the Republic of Slovenia by at least three months;
- appropriate health insurance coverage;
- proof of sufficient means of subsistence;
- a justified reason for intended stay in the Republic of Slovenia;
- data (a certificate) from the criminal records of the country of origin that is not older than three months (provided that your country of origin issues such data).

Please be aware that the procedure for acquiring a first residence permit can last up to 60 days or even longer. Even in the case where the application is started by another

natural or legal person (e.g. research organisation), the permit will be handed personally to you or your legal representative at the diplomatic or consular post of the Republic of Slovenia abroad.

Extension of the validity of the residence permit

If you are in possession of a permit for temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia for reasons of employment or work and you wish to continue to reside in Slovenia for the same reasons after the expiry of such a permit you may file an application for the extension of the validity of the permit.

A permit for temporary residence may be extended under the same conditions under which it was issued and the completed application must include evidence of meeting the requirements in the same manner as for the acquisition of the first residence permit.

You should start an application for the extension of a permit at the nearest administrative unit before the expiry of the current residence permit (at least 10 days before). As with the first permit for temporary residence, another person acting on your behalf may file for the extension (employer, research organisation or a representative of one of the contracting parties).

Permanent residence permit

A permanent residence permit may be granted to you if you reside in the Republic of Slovenia uninterruptedly for a period of five years on the basis of a temporary residence permit and you also fulfil other conditions for being issued a residence permit.

Researchers and higher education teachers need a hosting agreement with the Slovenian organisation where they will do their work.

Temporary residence permit for highly qualified employment (Blue card EU)

A temporary residence permit for highly qualified employment (EU Blue Card) can be issued to foreign citizen who will have highly qualified employment in Slovenia. An EU Blue Card is issued for a maximum period of two years. The main condition is highly qualified employment – this is employment of a foreign citizen who has completed at least higher education. The basic requirements of the EU Blue Card are a valid travel document, sufficient health insurance and an employment contract with an employer in Slovenia.

Temporary residence permit for study purposes

A temporary residence permit for study purposes can be issued to foreign citizens who are matriculated in a study programme, placement or are taking part in a study exchange programme in the Republic of Slovenia. The applicant has to provide a matriculation certificate (or equivalent document) and proof sufficient means for living. This residence permit also allows its holder to work and be employed in the Republic of Slovenia.

Family reunion

As a general rule, family reunion is possible after a temporary residence permit holder has resided in the Republic of Slovenia for one year. However, for holders of temporary residence permits for a purpose of doing a research work or teaching at a higher education institution and for EU Blue Card holders, this limitation does not apply. A temporary residence permit for a family member is issued for the same period as for the original holder. The original holder has to prove sufficient funds for every family member.



For more information see [EURAXESS portal](#).

5. WORK PERMIT

UNIFIED RESIDENCE AND WORK PERMIT

A unified residence and work permit is a combined residence permit and work permit. It can be issued to a foreign citizen who wishes to reside and work or be employed in the Republic of Slovenia. A unified residence and work permit is issued for specific work or employment – if a foreign citizen changes employer or position at the same employer, he or she has to obtain specific permission to do so. The unified residence and work permit can be obtained at diplomatic or consular missions or at administrative units in the Republic of Slovenia. The application can be started by foreign citizens themselves (in this case the relevant institution is a diplomatic or consular mission) or by his or her employer (in this case, the relevant institution is an administrative unit). The permit is usually obtained by the employer. Foreign researchers with a hosting agreement with a research organisation Slovenia do not need such a permit (although they still might need a residence permit).

6. SOCIAL SECURITY

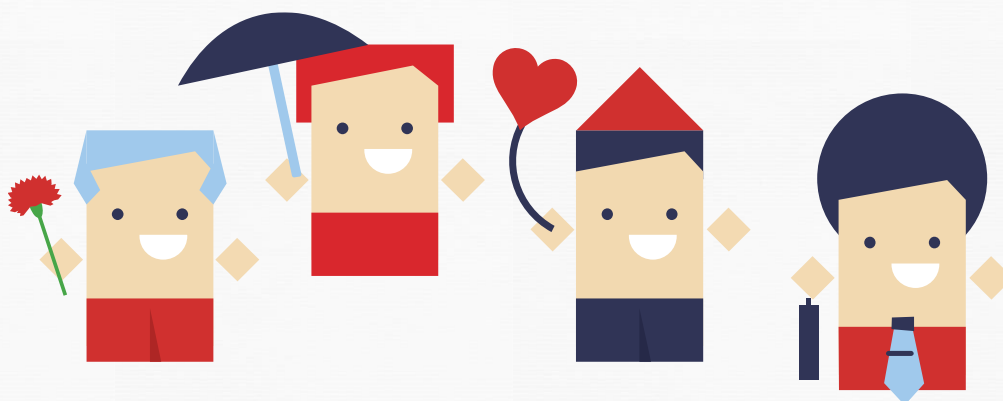
The system of social security in Slovenia is based on contribution payments from employers and employees. For every employee in Slovenia, contributions for health insurance, pension and disability insurance, maternity leave, unemployment insurance, accidents at work and occupational disease insurance are obligatory.

There are four types of contributions paid to two social security schemes and to the state budget, as follows:

- for pension and disability insurance, paid to the Pension Fund;
- for medical care and sick leave, paid to the Health Fund;

- for unemployment insurance, paid to the state budget; and
- for maternity leave, paid to the state budget.

Research fellowships can be exempt from compulsory social security payments, with the exception of health insurance, which even fellows must pay. It depends on the type of fellowship.



The employer is obliged to register every employee for compulsory pension, disability and health insurance, and unemployment insurance.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance provides adequate health and social security in times of illness or injury as it covers the cost of risk in cases when you get sick, injured or have any other medical needs. Its basic characteristic is that the rights of each individual or of dependant family members are related to the application for the insurance and the payment of the appropriate contribution. There are two types of health insurance payments: **compulsory** and **voluntary**.

Compulsory health insurance does not cover all the expenses that occur during treatment. Full coverage of costs is provided only for children, pupils and students who attend school regularly and for certain diseases and conditions. In other services it assures only a certain percentage of the cost. You can arrange your health insurance at the [Department of Health Insurance of the Republic of Slovenia](#).

Voluntary health insurance covers the difference between the full price and the part that is covered by the compulsory health insurance. You have to cover the insurance premium for supplementary health insurance by yourself and you can arrange your insurance at a health insurance company.

Options of the health insurance companies that offer voluntary health insurance:

- [Adriatic Slovenia](#)
- [Triglav, Zdravstvena Zavarovalnica](#)
- [Vzajemna](#)

Prior to your arrival to Slovenia, in your home country make sure to arrange the European health insurance card or other corresponding documents enabling you to access medical services in Slovenia. With employment in Slovenia, your inclusion into the compulsory health insurance system will be based upon contributions paid out of your salary.

Foreign citizens, who are not insured under the Republic of Slovenia's health insurance system, have the right to urgent or necessary medical services. Payment for those services is provided in accordance with European Law, international agreements or from the state budget.

Once insured through the compulsory Slovenian health insurance, you will receive a health insurance card, which you will need to use to identify yourself at healthcare institutions when in need of medical attention. All health insurance data is stored in the health insurance card. Usually, you need to make an appointment to see a doctor. As a rule, you visit the health centre closest to your residence.

Additional information on compulsory health insurance is available on The [Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia](#) website.

PENSION AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

The pension and disability insurance system in the Republic of Slovenia covers:

- compulsory pension and disability insurance based on intergenerational solidarity
- compulsory and voluntary supplementary pension and disability insurance
- pension and disability insurance on the basis of personal pension savings accounts.

The right to an old-age pension is based upon the insurance, and depends on the completed insurance period as well as reaching a certain age. If you have been working (and been insured) in more than one EU country, you are entitled to receive pension from each country in which your insurance period was longer than one year. Pensions will correspond to the insurance period completed in each country, allowing periods from different countries to be combined.

Portable pensions: you can take your pension and health care rights with you when you move to another EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland.

The right to disability pension is based upon the insurance and stated disability. The right to disability pension is also granted to an insured person with no occupational rehabilitation assured.

The Pension and Disability Insurance Act provides for two types of supplementary insurance, namely:

- compulsory supplementary pension insurance and
- voluntary supplementary pension insurance.

Additional information

- [Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia](#)
- [Information on pensions in the EU](#)
- [EURAXESS portal](#)

MATERNITY LEAVE

Maternity leave lasts 105 days and must be used in a single block of time in the form of complete absence from work. The mother receives maternity compensation calculated on the average salary paid during the previous twelve-month period.

Fathers have a right to paternity leave up to 90 days. One of the parents has a right to child care leave in order to look after or care for a child for a period of 260 days immediately upon expiry of maternity leave.

Mothers or fathers entitled to parental compensation, who ceased employment during the duration of parental leave, are covered by compulsory pension and disability insurance, compulsory health insurance and insurance against unemployment and for parental protection. The contribution of the insured person is paid by the recipient and the employer's contribution by the Republic of Slovenia.

You can find additional information [here](#).

7. TAXES

Personal income tax is a tax from the income of natural persons.

A taxpayer is any natural person with residence in the Republic of Slovenia (resident) receiving in its territory, in individual calendar years, income for which the law expressly stipulates that it is subject to the payment of income tax.

A taxpayer is also any natural person who is not a resident of the Republic of Slovenia, but has resided in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia for at least 6 months and was receiving in its territory income that is subject to income taxation under the law.

The tax system consists of three main categories of taxes:

- direct taxes on income,
- direct taxes on property, and
- indirect taxes.

The Ministry of Finance published the document 'Taxation in Slovenia', where you can find information related to taxation.



CHARGES ON LABOUR

Personal income tax applies to your individual income. There are six categories of income and one of them is income from employment (salary). You are obliged to pay this tax if you receive a salary or other income on the basis of a labour contract, etc. All persons liable for tax have their own tax number.

Besides personal income tax, you must pay compulsory social contributions. Both your employer and you must pay contributions, with the contributions withheld by the employer.

For additional information, see the [Ministry of Finance](#) website.

The annual active income tax liability of you as a resident is computed in such a manner that the taxable bases of different sources of income earned in a calendar year are computed separately and then aggregated.

The annual taxable base is computed after compulsory social security contributions and certain allowances are deducted. Net active income is taxed according to a progressive tax rate.

There are four tax brackets in the personal income tax. Taxation categories for year 2018 are:

Tax base		Tax rate	
From (in €)	To (in €)	Lump sum	Additional percentage
0.00 €	8.021,34 €	0,00 €	16 %
8.021.34 €	20.400,00 €	1.283,41 €	+ 27 % above
20.400.00 €	48.000,00 €	4.625,65 €	+ 34 % above
48.000,00 €	70.907,20 €	14.009,65€	+ 39% above
70.907,20 €		22.943,46 €	+ 50 % of the amount above

Advance tax payments paid during the tax period are deductible from the final tax liability, and any difference is collected upon receipt of an assessment from the tax authorities. When the total sum of advance payments exceeds the tax payable, a refund is provided.

VALUE ADDED TAXATION

There are two VAT rates in Slovenia: the standard rate of 22% and a reduced rate of 9.5%. The reduced rate applies to the food stuffs for human and animal consumption (including food services in restaurants) and for some other categories.

Additional information on taxation (including the form/application for entry of the individual into the tax register and detailed explanation of tax numbers) is available on the [Tax Administration](#) of the Republic of Slovenia website.

8. RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

In most cases, the recognition of education is related to access to further education (enabling a person that completed education in another country to enrol in an education programme in the Republic of Slovenia). The procedure of recognition is carried out by the educational institution where a foreign citizen wishes to study. The best source of information is the school itself.

For every case of recognition procedure, the applicant will have to provide:

- The original or duplicate of the certificate or diploma;
- A photocopy of the certificate or diploma;
- A certified Slovenian translation of the certificate or diploma
- Annual report cards, transcripts, a diploma supplement or some other evidence on the contents and duration of education and the requirements fulfilled during the educational programme
- A short chronological description of the entire education prepared by the applicant

Additional supporting documents may be requested.

More information related to the recognition of education and qualifications is available on the website of the [Ministry of Education, Science and Sport](#).

More information on the recognition of professional qualifications can also be found on the website of the [Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs](#).

9. EDUCATION

Education in Slovenia is carried out by public and private organisations. The teaching language is Slovenian (Italian and Hungarian are possible where either of ethnic minorities is present). A detailed description of the education system in Slovenia is available on the website of [Eurydice network](#).

The basic stages of Slovenian education are:

- pre-school education,
- primary education (single structure of primary and lower secondary education),
- (upper) secondary education:
 - vocational and technical education,
 - general secondary education,
- higher vocational education,
- higher education.

Structure of the education system in the Republic of Slovenia

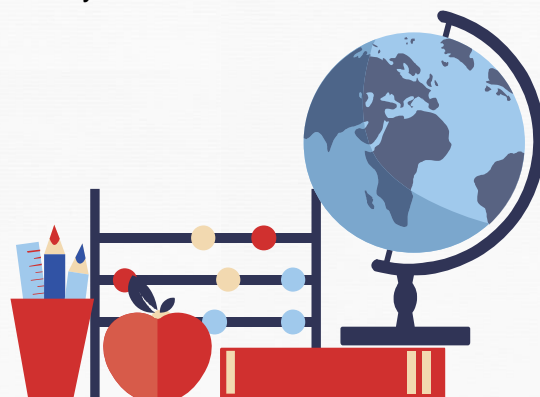
Basic education is mandatory and funded from budgetary resources. The State is required to enable its citizens to obtain a sufficient education. State universities and professional colleges are autonomous.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Pre-school education, offered by pre-school institutions, is not compulsory. It includes children between the ages of 1 and 6. The curriculum is divided into two cycles (from 1 to 3 and from 3 to 6). The new curriculum promotes different types of programmes such as: day, half-day and short programmes. There is also the possibility of child-minders, pre-school education at home or occasional care of children in their homes. The curriculum for pre-school institutions defines six areas of activities: movement, language, art, nature, society and mathematics. The goals set in individual fields of activities provide the framework for the selection of content and activities by teachers.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary (also Basic) education lasts for nine years. Children that reach the age of 6 in a particular calendar year enter the first class in that year. Nine-year basic education is divided into 3 three-year cycles. Elementary schools provide the compulsory and extended curriculum. The compulsory curriculum must be provided by the school and studied by all pupils. It consists of compulsory subjects, electives, home-room periods and activity days (culture, science, sports, and technology). An extended elementary school curriculum must be provided by school, but pupils are free to decide whether they will participate in it or not. It includes educational assistance



for children with special needs, remedial classes, additional classes, after-school care and other forms of care for pupils, interest activities and out-of-school classes.

Successful completion of basic education enables pupils to proceed to education in their choice of secondary school. Pupils who fulfil the legal compulsory education requirement and successfully complete at least seven classes in the nine-year elementary school can continue their education in a short-term vocational education programme. Success at that level opens doors to other more demanding secondary school programmes.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary education follows the compulsory basic general education. Secondary schools include vocational and technical schools preparing students to enter directly into labour market and general secondary schools preparing students for further studies. Programmes in secondary education vary in content, duration and goals.

GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

A general secondary school preparing students for further studies is called a 'gimnazija'. Gimnazija programmes are divided into two groups: general and professional oriented. It lasts four years. It ends with an external examination called the 'matura' examination. Those students who for various reasons do not wish to continue their education have a possibility to enter the labour market by attending one or more of many available vocational courses and gaining a qualification in the selected occupation.

The aim of vocational courses is to provide a bridge between general and vocational education and to make it possible for graduates from general secondary school to obtain initial vocational qualifications at the level of corresponding secondary vocational and technical schools. Educational aims are the same as for vocational and technical education. The course leads to a vocational qualification needed on the labour market or for further studies at higher vocational and professional colleges.

SECONDARY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The planning, programming and provision of vocational education are the joint responsibility of social partners (employers and trade unions) and the state. The common aims and goals of secondary vocational and technical education were defined in a common curricular document. This document stresses attainment targets in interdisciplinary fields and interest activities.

Short-term vocational programmes should last a year and a half for students and apprentices that have completed their basic education, and two and a half years for those without completed basic education. They finish with a final examination. The certificate of the final examination enables students to enter the labour market or to enter the first year at any other (upper) secondary vocational school.

Pupils who have successfully completed elementary school can enrol in 3-year secondary vocational programmes. Vocational education programmes are offered in the dual - that is the apprenticeship, system and/or in the school-based system.

The core curriculum is common to all programmes and includes a minimal scope of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills specified by occupational standards and required for a certain vocational qualification, regardless of the type of educational provision.

Practical training in the framework of the dual system is offered by employers. Programmes also specify the part of practical training that can be provided by schools and/or inter-company centres as practical instruction.

The certificate of the final examination enables students to enter the labour market or to continue education in two-year vocational-technical programmes, leading to a qualification at the level of a secondary technical school. Vocational-technical programmes are developed as an upgrade of vocational education. The aims of vocational-technical programmes are the same as those of technical education programmes and lead to educational qualifications at the level of secondary technical school, also called a technical qualification, in a specific field.

On the other hand, graduates who find a job immediately after completing a three-year vocational programme can re-enter education after at least three years of employment to obtain a qualification at the level of a secondary technical school by passing examinations. By passing an examination for master craftsman, foreman or shop manager, they demonstrate a higher level of competence in their occupation. If they additionally pass examinations in the general subjects of the *poklicna matura* examination, they can continue their studies in higher vocational education.

Technical education is designed primarily as preparation for vocational and professional colleges, although it also leads to jobs with a broad profile. Secondary technical programmes last four years, which end with the *poklicna matura* examination.

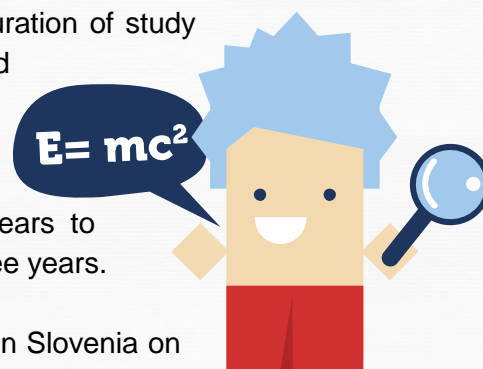
HIGHER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Higher vocational education programmes are markedly practice-oriented and tightly connected with the world of work. Post-secondary vocational education lasts for two years ending with a diploma examination. A post-secondary vocational diploma enables students to start work in specific occupations. Since the 1998/99 academic year, vocational college graduates have been able to enrol in the second year of professionally oriented higher education programmes if the higher education institution providing this type of study allows such arrangements.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education includes academic university studies and professional oriented studies.

In 2004, amendments to the Higher Education Act were adopted. The Act provides for a three-level study structure. The first level relates to undergraduate studies and the second and third levels to postgraduate studies. The duration of study programmes is limited in years (three to four years) and credit points (180 to 240 credit points). Study programmes must be in line with EU study programmes. The second level is master's studies. It encompasses from 60 to 120 credit points and takes one or two years to complete. The third level is doctoral studies and lasts three years.



You can find a detailed description of education system in Slovenia on the [Eurydice](#) webpage.

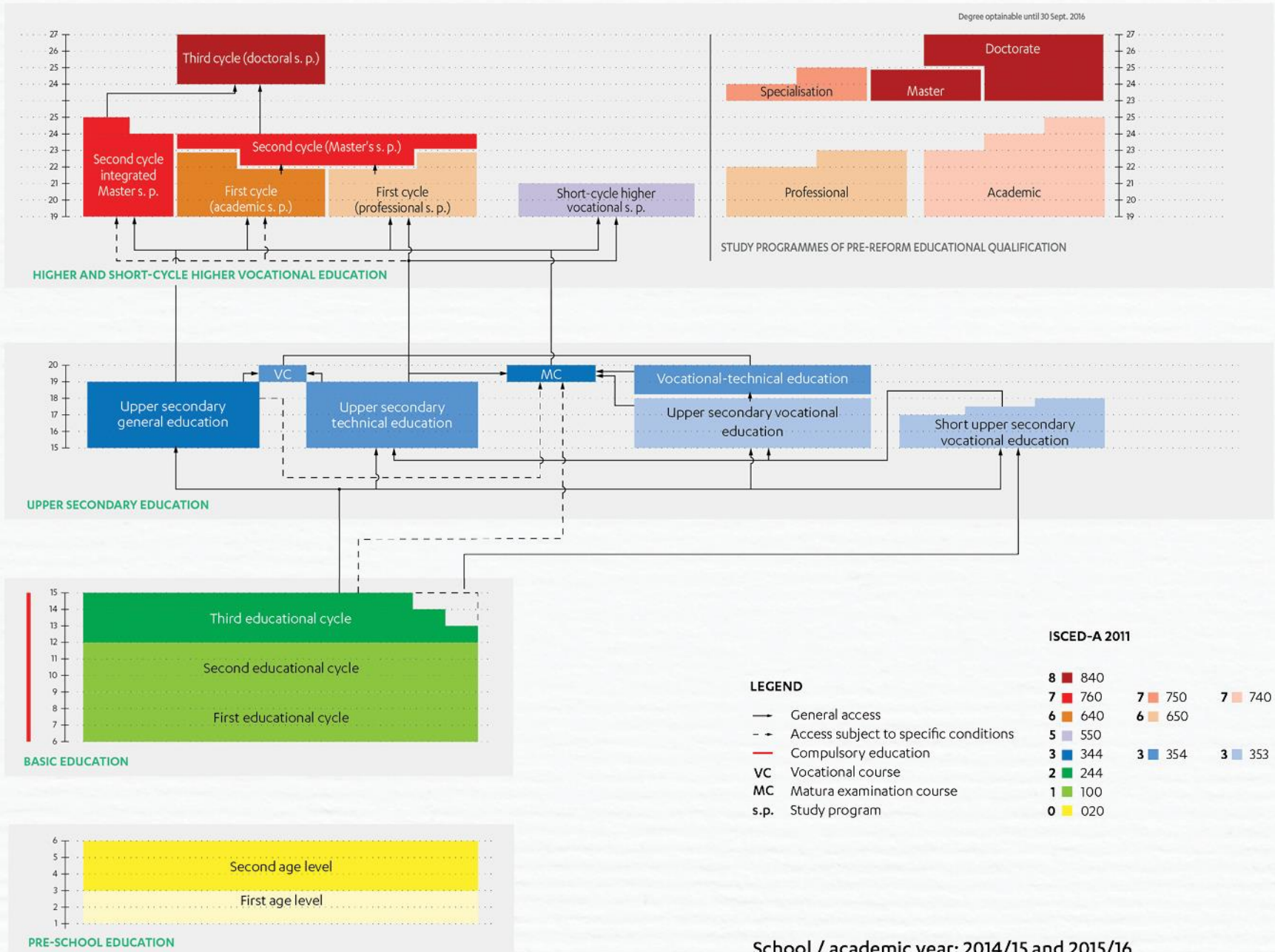
SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

Many private schools offer quality language courses in all major cities in Slovenia. Even if Slovenian is considered a difficult language to learn, you will find it interesting once you start learning it.

One possibility is to attend to one of the courses organised by [Centre for Slovenian as a Second/Foreign Language](#). They are the foremost experts for teaching Slovenian to foreign citizens in Slovenia. The highest level of expertise can be expected at their courses. The price for their courses is from €195 for a 20-hour course to €1,320 for a 220-hour spring school. You can easily find other language courses online.

You can also learn some Slovenian language in online courses, such as www.slonline.si

Degree obtainable until 30 Sept. 2016



10. LIVING IN SLOVENIA

In the following chapter you will find practical information that will help you arrange your life in Slovenia.

ACCOMMODATION

For foreign researchers accommodation is usually arranged by the hosting organisation. Doctoral candidates have the option of using student dormitories, and other researchers can find other accommodation. The real estate market in Slovenia offers diverse opportunities. Prices of renting of an apartment are generally somewhere between €150 (for a room in a shared flat) and €500 per month (the actual price depends on location, available infrastructure, equipment available in the apartment and price flexibility of the owner). Monthly rent normally does not include running costs (i.e. electricity, gas, water, heating, telephone and communal services). Running costs differ significantly and can be more than €100 per month. Buying prices are very fluctuating and in vicinity of €2,200 per square metre in Ljubljana and other urban areas, and the right to purchase is limited to citizens of countries with reciprocity (i.e. citizens of Slovenia can buy real estate in that country too).

The best way to find an apartment to rent is to use the help of friends or work colleagues. If you are looking for accommodation yourself, you can use online services, such as:

- [Nepremičnine.net](http://Nepremicnine.net)
- ABC Real Estate

You can also use a real estate agency (a list of licensed real estate agents is available at website of the [Ministry of Infrastructure](#)). Keep in mind that real estate agencies charge a fee in the amount of one or two month's rent (or even up to 4 for long-term rentals). There is no firm rule who pays the fee to agency (it could be you, it could be the owner or it could be shared). In any case the agent should explain this to you at the beginning (if not, feel free to ask).

Whichever method you use to find an apartment it is strongly recommended that you sign an agreement with the owner. It should be a written agreement signed by both parties. For it to be legally valid, it does not have to be certified by a notary.

TRAVELLING AROUND

Public transport

Public transport in Slovenia includes trains and buses. Larger towns have a city bus network. Each type of transport has different tickets for different users (student tickets, general tickets, senior tickets). The ones you will probably use are general tickets. Tickets can be bought on the transport itself at bus and train stations, automatic tellers

or news kiosks. In Ljubljana you have to use a pre-paid transport card called 'Urbana' – you cannot buy it on the bus itself. You can also use the 'Urbana' card to use Ljubljana's free bike share scheme called [Bicike\(LJ\)](#).

Roads

The Republic of Slovenia has an extensive network of roads – around 39,000 km. To use motorways, you need to buy a vignette sticker, which is now used in lieu of tolls. This can be yearly (€110), monthly (€30) or weekly (€15), prices are for year 2016 for a car. The general speed limit is 90 km/h outside settlements, 50 km/h in towns and villages, 110 km/h on roads reserved for motorised vehicles and 130 km/h on motorways. Wearing your seatbelt is compulsory (also in the back seat), and it is also compulsory to keep your headlights on at all times.

If you have difficulties respecting traffic regulations, please note that penalties are quite stiff (you can see list of some traffic penalties [here](#)). In case you receive a traffic penalty, the fine is only 50% of the full penalty if you pay it within 8 days after it becomes legally valid.

Vehicle regulations (limitations)

Gas prices comparison (see under 'Slovenija')

The location of filling stations of electric cars can be found at [this website](#).

SHOPPING

Currency in the Republic of Slovenia is the Euro (€1 = 100 cents). Most stores accept major credit and debit cards (MASTER CARD - EUROCARD and VISA).

Usual Business Hours

Consular information:

Monday: 9am – 12am, Wednesday: 9am – 12pm and 2pm – 4pm, Friday: 9am – 12pm

Administrative offices:

Monday to Thursday from 8am - 6pm, Friday from 8am - 2pm

Banks:

Monday to Friday: 8.30am – 5pm

Post offices:

Monday to Friday from 8am - 7pm, Saturdays from 8am - 12pm

Shops:

Monday to Friday from 8am - 7pm, Saturdays 8am – 1pm

Larger shops: Monday to Saturday from 8am - 9pm, Sunday from 9am - 3pm

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN SLOVENIA

1 and 2 January	New Year
8 February	Prešeren Day, Slovenian Cultural Holiday
27 April	Day of Uprising Against Occupation
1 and 2 May	May Day Holiday
8 June *	Primož Trubar Day
25 June	Statehood Day
17 August *	Day of Slovenes in Prekmurje Incorporated into the Mother Nation
15 September *	Day of Restoration of the Primorska Region to the Motherland
25 October *	Sovereignty Day
1 November	All Saints Day
23 November *	Rudolf Maister Day
26 December	Independence and Unity Day

* not work-free days

Other work free days in Slovenia

Easter Sunday and Monday	
Whit Sunday (7 th Sunday after Easter)	
15 August	Assumption Day
31 October	Reformation Day
25 December	Christmas



11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

[Slovenia.si](#) – Your gateway to information on Slovenia

[Slovenia info](#) – tourist information portal

[EU member country info](#)

[Information for foreigners](#)

A radio show on [How to become a Slovene](#):

[Slovenia In Your Pocket](#) – A locally-produced online and printed guide written by native English speakers