

Bratislava Welcome Package

Introduction

Welcome to the heart of Europe!

Occupying both banks of the Danube River, the left bank of the Morava River, and bordering Hungary and Austria, Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is one of the most geographically important capitals in Europe. It is home to more than 650,000 people and counting.

The city's history has been strongly influenced by people of different nations, beliefs and religions and is considered the most diverse city in the country. It is no surprise that since the country's independence in 1993, Bratislava has witnessed and embraced constant change characterized by a rapid entry to the global economy and active participation as a member of the European Union.

This guidebook gives you practical information for the first weeks and months of settling into life in Bratislava. You will find, among other things, practical information on residences and work-related issues, schools and day-care, as well as where to get started with the Slovak language.

Contact details of various authorities help you take care of all the necessary formalities when moving to Bratislava.

In addition, should you have ideas for a viable business, you will also find relevant contact information for various business support and development organizations included in this guidebook.

We are happy that you are here, we welcome you and appreciate your contribution to this city.

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Municipality of Bratislava

With 650 000 inhabitants, Bratislava is the most populous municipality in Slovakia. The City of Bratislava has its own representative bodies - the mayor and its parliament, as well as advisory bodies: councils and committees.

The municipality office consists of different departments dealing with various life situations:

Department of Social Affairs - establishes centers of social services, includes section for long-term care services and section of crisis intervention

Department of Education - establishes kindergartens and elementary schools

Building Department - issues planning, zoning and construction permits

Department of Culture - establishes cultural institutions in the city and authorizes civic assemblies

For more information on the municipalities, its responsibilities and activities, please check: www.bratislava.sk

The city of Bratislava is divided into 17 self-governing administrative districts with their own local authorities. Depending on your residency, you belong to a particular local authority where you can resolve many important issues related to your life in Bratislava. Each of these city boroughs has their registry office that issues birth certificates, accepts applications for marriages, etc.

■ List of Bratislava city boroughs

Staré Mesto
Lamač
Ružinov
Devín
Vrakuňa
Devínska Nová Ves
Podunajské Biskupice
Záhorská Bystrica
Nové Mesto
Petržalka
Rača
Jarovce
Vajnory
Rusovce
Karlova Ves
Čunovo
Dúbravka

Bratislava is also the capital of the **Bratislava Self-Governing Region** (Bratislavský samosprávny kraj).

The region establishes secondary schools, language schools and centers of leisure activities.

In the field of healthcare, the region issues licenses to provide medical care and controls the healthcare facilities.

The region also registers providers of social care and also establishes some providers of social care.

Address:

Office of Bratislava Self-Governing Region
Sabinovská 16
820 05 Bratislava

For more information on the Bratislava Self-Governing Region, please visit:

www.bratislavskykraj.sk

■ Rights and Duties towards the City

Anyone who holds temporary or permanent residence including foreigners on the territory of the city has the **right to participate in the municipality**.

You can participate in municipality meetings; address your suggestions or petitions to the mayor, the city parliament and advisory bodies of the municipality.

Only the residents of the region city (person with permanent residence) have voting rights. Foreigners with permanent residence have the right to vote and to be elected in the city/regional parliament, as mayor/governor and also vote in local/regional referendums. On the other hand, every inhabitant has duties towards the city, such as the duty to help maintain order in the municipality.

Residents are obliged to pay local taxes levied and collected by the city; rates are regulated in accordance with local conditions. Local taxes are:

- real estate tax www.bratislava.sk/sk/dan-z-nehnutelnosti governed by the city
- tax for the use of public areas, www.bratislava.sk/sk/dan-za-uzivanie-vere-jneho-priestranstva governed by the city and city borough
- accommodation tax www.bratislava.sk/sk/dan-za-ubytovanie governed by the City
- local fee for municipal waste and minor construction waste www.bratislava.sk/sk/poplatky-za-komunalne-odpady-a-drobne-stavebne-odpady governed by the City
- dog tax, governed by the city borough

Applying for Residence Permits

Types of Residence Permits

There are three types of residence permits for third country nationals:

Temporary Residence

You may request temporary residence for the following reasons:

- Business
- Employment
- Study
- Special activities
- Research and development
- Family reunion
- Performing professional duties by civilian units of the armed forces
- Person with acknowledged status of a Slovak Living Abroad
- Person with acknowledged long-term residence in another Union Member State

Permanent Residence

- permanent residence permit for 5 years
- permanent residence permit for an unlimited period
- long-term residence permit

Tolerated Residence

Tolerated residence is a specific type of residence which may be granted to a foreign national for a maximum of 180 days, if one of the following conditions applies:

- The foreigner is a minor child found in the territory of Slovakia;
- The foreigner is a victim of human trafficking and is at least 18 years old;
- If it is required due to respect for his/her personal and family life;
- The foreigner was illegally employed under particularly exploitative working conditions or to an illegally employed minor person;
- It results from international commitments of the SR.

Residence permit for EU citizens

EU citizens can stay in Slovakia beyond 3 months if he/ she:

- is employed/ self-employed/ will potentially find employment in Slovakia;
- is studying in Slovakia; or
- has sufficient financial means for himself as well as for his family members.

An EU citizen is entitled to a permanent residence if he has legally resided in Slovakia for an uninterrupted period of five years.

In specific cases, it is possible to apply for permanent residence even earlier than after five years of uninterrupted residence.

How to Apply

The application procedure, documents required and processing time for each type of residence permit differ from each other, but here is the general application procedure:

For your first legal residence permit, application for residence must be submitted in person at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic accredited for the country which issued your passport or for the country of your residence. If you already have legal residence in Slovakia, you may request a residence permit personally at the Foreign Police Department.

The required documents include:

- A filled-in application form
- 2 identical color photos (3 x 3.5 cm)
- Administrative fee (as required for the relevant type of residence)
- Valid passport
- Documents proving your accommodation in Slovakia
- Documents proving the purpose of your residence
- Documents proving financial coverage
- Documents proving clear criminal record

Foreign Police Department in Bratislava:

Address: Regrútska 4, Bratislava 831 07

Phone: +421 9610 36999

Fax: +421 9610 36959

E-mail: ocppzba@minv.sk

Working hours:

Mon 7:30 – 14:30

Tue 7:30 – 14:30

Wed 7:30 – 16:30

Thu 7:30 – 14:30

Fri 7:30 – 12:00

To avoid queues at the Foreign Police Department, you can book your appointment online:

www.portal.minv.sk/wps/wcm/connect/en/site/main/Individuals+-life-situations/Foreigners/Booking-system/

For more info, please check the website of the Ministry of Interior:

www.minv.sk/?agenda-of-foreigners-affairs

Finances

■ Banks in Slovakia

There are many banks to choose from in Slovakia, depending on the type of account and services you are looking for.

See a list of all the banks operating in Slovakia:

www.subjekty.nbs.sk/?aa=select_categ&bb=4&cc=&qq=

General conditions for opening a bank account

An applicant should be above the age of 18, with the exception of student accounts where the age limit is reduced to 15.

Documentation required to open a bank account (for individuals)

Non-residents can open bank accounts in Slovakia so long as you have the necessary documents required by each bank. Basic documents often required by banks include:

- a valid passport or National Identity Card (applicable only for EU residents);
- proof of residence;
- proof of address.

Documentation required to open a bank account (for legal entities)

Legal entities need to have an extract from the business register and an ID (in the case of companies), or trade license, concession license/application to assign company ID and ID (in the case of self-employment), plus a minimum deposit.

Health care and medical services

■ Health insurance

Each foreigner with residence in Slovakia is obliged to have health insurance; the foreign police can verify this when conducting immigration checks of residence. Health insurance can be through a company in Slovakia or abroad if it covers health care expenses in Slovakia.

In Slovakia there is public and commercial health insurance.

Foreigners with permanent residence and foreigners who are employed or self-employed participate in public health insurance. The insurance fee is deducted from their wages or directly paid to the insurance company.

Public health insurance

With public health insurance, the holder is entitled to healthcare and services under the Health Insurance Act.

Public Insurance Providers:

- Union Health Insurance Company, Inc., (UNION zdravotná poisťovňa, a.s.),
www.unionzp.sk, Tel: +421 2 2081 1811
- Health Insurance Company Dôvera, Inc., (DÔVERA zdravotná poisťovňa, a.s.),
www.dovera.sk, Tel.: +421 37 772 22 78
- General Health Insurance Company, Inc., (Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, a.s.), run by the state, www.vszp.sk, Tel: +421 2 2081 7003

The insurance for public health care of some foreigners is covered by the state: children; disabled and parents on maternity or parental leave; persons granted asylum; foreign students based on international treaty, minors in Slovakia without their legal representative; foreigners in detention or in prison in Slovakia.

Public health insurance

Foreigners are obliged to apply to a health insurance company of their own choice within eight days after the start of their participation in public health insurance. If you start employment, this obligation shall be fulfilled by your employer. If your employment is terminated, your employer will also notify the health insurance company. The health insurance company shall issue and deliver an ID card of the policy holder. This card certifies to health care providers that your health care is covered by health insurance.

In general, a person is insured in the country in which he/she is employed or self-employed, even if his/her residence or the seat of the employer is in a different country.

European Union Citizens can be insured in one country only. This is either the country where they work, receive a pension or have permanent residency, according to the respective laws.

Individual (commercial) health insurance

Foreigners who cannot participate in public health insurance have to conclude individual health insurance. Policy holder is entitled to health care to the extent specified in the contract with the insurance company.

Individual (commercial) Insurance:

UNION poisťovňa, a.s., www.union.sk/health-insurance-for-foreigners,

Tel: 0850 111 211, from abroad: +421 2 2081 1811,

AXA ASSISTANCE CZ www.axa-assistance.sk/for-foreigners-sk/

Tel: +421 220 664 228

MAXIMA SLOVENSKO, s.r.o., www.pojistovnamaxima.sk/en

Tel: +421 949 523 254

Within 30 days from collecting the residence document, a foreigner is obliged to submit a certificate that he/she has not been suffering from a contagious disease that endangers public health to the foreign police .

The certificate can be issued by:

- Poliklinika cudzokrajných chorôb, ZAMA s. r. o., Americké námestie 3, 811 08 Bratislava,
- Inštitút očkovania a cestovnej medicíny s. r. o., Teslova 33, 821 02 Bratislava,
- Medicínske zariadenie Mlynská Dolina s. r. o., Staré Grunty 56, 841 04 Bratislava,
- Travel Health Clinic s. r. o., Tehelná 3120/26, 831 03 Bratislava

Health care**Bratislava Hospitals**

Kramáre - Ľ. Déreera, Limbová 5, 02/59541 111

Ružinov - Ružinovská 6, 02/4823411

Staré mesto - Mickiewiczova 13, 02/57290 111

Petržalka - Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, Antolská 11, 02/68671 111

National Institute of Children's diseases, Limbová 1, tel. 02/59371111

The National Oncological Institute -Klenová 1, 02/59378 111

The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Pod krásnou hôrkou 1, Kramáre, tel. 02/59320111

St. Michael's Hospital, Cesta na Červený most 1, tel. 02/59351216

List of Doctors and Clinics:

www.zzz.sk/zariadenia/slovensko/ordinacia

Some doctors/facilities speak foreign languages (e.g. English). We recommend checking the websites of providers to see which languages they can speak.

The Bratislava self-governing region handles complaints about private healthcare facilities. If a provider refuses to provide health care services, complaints can be sent to : iveta.chrenkova@region-bsk.sk

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE

In the event of a sudden worsening of your health outside of working hours of regular providers, you can visit a center of emergency health care providing services during weekends and holidays:

www.e-vuc.sk/bsk/zdravotnictvo/ambulantna-pohotovostna-sluzba-v-bsk.html?page_id=127099&iframe=1

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 112

- 24/7 Service
- English speaking operators available
- All emergency calls are free
- Don't worry if your phone is without a SIM card, they can still track your location

COMPLAINT, MISTREATMENT OR LAW VIOLATIONS

Patients who are dissatisfied with medical treatment can submit a complaint to the Health Care Surveillance Authority. Forms can be found at <http://www.udzs-sk.sk/web/en/welcome-to-the-authority-web-site>.

Those dissatisfied with the behavior of medical employees should report to the management of the medical facility, the respective chambers, the regional authorities or the Ministry of Health.

Children's health care

It is recommended to look for a doctor for your children even before they are born. Doctors start caring for babies 48 hours after they leave the maternity ward of hospitals.

During a child's first year, they undergo 9 check-ups and the 10th after they are 1.5 years old. Children should then visit the pediatrician once every two years until they are 18.

Vaccination in Slovakia is mandatory. Currently, children have to be vaccinated against 10 diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- pertussis/ whooping cough
- polio
- hepatitis B
- measles
- invasive haemophilus influenza infections
- invasive pneumococcal diseases
- mumps
- rubella

Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children can be fined up to €331.

Dental care

Dental care can be reimbursed by the public health insurance only if the treatments have been used with standard materials.

If you are interested in dental health care using above-standard materials, you will pay the price difference between standard and above-standard materials.

Every publicly insured person has the right to a preventive dental check once a year.

Education

■ **Pre-school education**

As of 2021, pre-primary education is compulsory for 5 year-old-children. 6 year-old-children are obliged to attend primary schools, preferably according to the place of residence.

Kindergardens in Bratislava are established by the city boroughs.

To find the list of kindergardens in your city borough, please check the City borough's website (page 4 of this Brochure).

You can apply for your child during the whole school year.

■ **Primary education**

There is a 10 year compulsory school attendance for children from the ages of 6 to 16 in Slovakia.

You can find many primary schools established by the city borough, primary schools established by churches and primary schools in Bratislava.

To find the list of primary schools in your City Borough, please check the city borough's website (page 4 of this Brochure).

Enrollment into primary schools takes place between 1st and 30th April. The city boroughs in Bratislava announce places and dates of enrollments on their websites.

However, if your child comes to Slovakia during the school year, you must register them upon their arrival. You have to enroll your child to a primary school if he/she will reach the age of 6 by the 31st August of the ongoing year.

You are obliged to bring your ID, your child's birth certificate, disability certificate (if your child is disabled) to the enrollment process. The application form can be found on each school's website or directly at the enrollment.

At the enrollment procedure, children are evaluated by teachers for basic knowledge, ability to concentrate, and problem solve.

■ **Secondary education**

Secondary and vocational schools belong to the competency of the Bratislava regional government. Students can choose between general secondary education at gymnasiums- academic oriented schools - and specialized secondary education at schools with enhanced coverage of certain subjects and trades; some finish with a high school diploma and some do not

Please, find information on secondary education in the Bratislava region at

<https://bratislavskykraj.sk/>

The deadline for submitting applications to secondary schools is February or , de-

pending on the type of school.

Only a student with completed primary education can be admitted to a secondary school.

For more information on secondary schools in the Bratislava region and on applications and deadlines, please check the information Brochure “Stredná pre mňa” :

www.strednapremna.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/A5_SPM.pdf

■ Elementary Schools of Art and Centers of Leisure

The city of Bratislava has established 12 elementary schools of art, with possibilities to learn how to play a musical instrument, paint or dance.

Find the list of schools of art here:

www.bratislava.sk/sk/filter/zakladne-umelecke-skoly

Apart from that, there are 5 Centers of Leisure in Bratislava, offering many leisure and sport activities.

Find the list of centers of leisure here:

www.bratislava.sk/sk/filter/centra-volneho-casu

■ Universities and colleges

Institutions of higher education are divided into universities and colleges, depending on the nature of the program and the amount of work involved. Universities and colleges are divided into public, state, private and international institutions.

Admission requirements

Admission requirements for international students are generally the same as for Slovak nationals. However, international students may be required to attend preparatory courses, such as Slovak language courses, if they fail to meet the admission requirements for the particular institution. Respective universities may also organise courses of Slovak language.

Tuition fees

For Slovak and international students, studies in the Slovak language at state and public universities are free of charge. However, according to the law on universities, students have to pay for studies held in languages other than Slovak. The price lists are published on the websites of universities.

Universities and colleges in Bratislava:

- Slovak Technical University: www.stuba.sk/english.html?page_id=132
- Economic University: www.euba.sk/en
- Comenius University: www.uniba.sk/en
- Academy of Performing Arts: www.vsmu.sk/en
- Slovak Medical University: www.eng.szu.sk
- College of Health Care and Social Work: www.vssvalzbety.sk

- Academy of Police Force: www.akademiapz.sk/en
- Paneuropean College: www.paneurouni.com/en/home/

■ Slovak Language Acquisition Institutions

Learning Slovak is essential to fully integrate yourself into the local culture and lifestyle. There are a lot of private language schools and training centers with a variety of courses.

Check out the link below to find a list of language schools and centres:

www.welcometobratislava.eu/language-schools-in-bratislava/

The IOM MIC also offers free online Slovak courses; find out more here:

www.mic.iom.sk/en/social-issues/education/498-learn-slovak-language-for-free.html

■ Recognition of Foreign Diplomas

A completed application form for recognition of education must be submitted to the Department of Education of the District Office together with the following documents:

- copy of the identification document
- certified copy of the certificate or diploma
- transcript of completed courses and completed exams
- in a case of vocational secondary education, a confirmation issued by the secondary school about the scope of practical education

The application form is available here:

www.minedu.sk/academic-recognition-of-diplomas/

The original educational documents must be authenticated (apostilled or superlegalised) by a competent body of the state in question and its certified copy must be translated into Slovak.

The Department of Education of the District Office considers the application within 30 days after its receipt.

The Department of Education of the District Office of Bratislava
address: Tomášikova 46, 823 05 Bratislava

Employment

■ Work regulations

For non-EU Citizens

An employer may only employ a third-country national who:

- is a holder of the EU Blue Card,
- has been granted temporary residence for employment purposes upon a confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy,
- has been granted a work permit and a temporary residence for employment purposes,
- has been granted a work permit and a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunion,
- has been granted a work permit and temporary residence of a third-country national, who has a status of a long-term resident in a Member State of the European Union, unless stipulated otherwise by a special regulation, or
- does not require confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy that corresponds to a highly qualified employment, confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy or a work permit.

The employer is obliged to notify the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family within 7 working days from the start/end of the employment of a foreigner by submitting an “Information Card”.

Temporary residence for the purpose of employment (single permit)

A third-country national who intends to be employed in the Slovak Republic must submit an application for a single permit at the Police Department.

A single permit authorizes a third-country national to reside in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the purpose of employment. When issuing a single permit, the Foreign Police Department requests a confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy from the relevant Labor Office.

Conditions for issuing the confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy containing consent or opposition to it are defined by the Act on Employment Services.

If the job is on the shortage occupations list, the competent Labour Office will issue a confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacancy without taking into account the situation on the labour market and it is not necessary to report the vacancy. The shortage occupations list can be found on the website the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

In some cases, you may be employed without a work permit, confirmation on the possibility to fill in a vacancy, or confirmation on the possibility to fill in a vacancy which corresponds to a highly qualified employment.

To see if your case qualifies, please check: www.mic.iom.sk/en/work/who-does-not-need-a-work-permit-or-confirmation.html

For EU Citizens

If you are an EU Citizen, you do not need a work permit to work in Slovakia.

■ Job-seeking

If you want to find a job in Slovakia, one way of doing so is to have a look at internet pages like profesia.sk, eures.sk, careerjet.sk, topjobs.sk, trhprace.sk, and ponuky.sk. If you wish to increase your qualification or even change the course of your career, you can enroll yourself in a retraining course.

Find out more about Jaspis Agency: www.jaspis.sk, Ján Škoda Retraining Center: www.e-maser.sk, Salón Médea: www.salonmedea.sk, or Education Agency AMOS-K: www.amosk.sk.

To find if you are being paid fairly by your employer, please visit www.platy.sk/en

■ Starting a business

If you intend to do business in Slovakia, it is essential to be granted a residence which allows you to conduct business. If you hold a temporary residence for the purpose of studies or a temporary residence for the purpose of family reunion, you are allowed to do business.

You are allowed to do business in Slovakia without being granted a temporary residence for the purpose of business as well in the case that you acquired a temporary residence as a third country national with acknowledged status of a Slovak Living Abroad or a temporary residence as a third country national with acknowledged long-term residence in another European Union Member State.

If you do not hold any residence in Slovakia, you should apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of business after obtaining a trade License. Find the right support you need from the following organizations that support startups, entrepreneurs and small businesses in Slovakia:

1. Slovak Business Agency

The Slovak Business Agency is one of the most crucial and oldest non-profit organizations for the support of small and medium-sized enterprises on a local, national or regional level. It aims to increase the survival and employment rate of enterprises and lift the level of competition.

Contact them for services related to financial counselling, business incubators & micro-loans: www.sbagency.sk

2. Crowdberry

Contact them for business counselling: www.sbagency.sk

To register your company on the Commercial Register, you must submit the application at the competent Register Court or Trade Licensing Office.

Transportation

Public transport

The Bratislava public integrated transportation system is called IDS BK, and consists of tram lines, trolleybus lines and bus lines, which is divided into two zones. The first zone lines are the usual choice for tourists, since they cover downtown and most of the city. The second zone lines consist of the Bratislava surroundings.

Tickets

All types of tickets are valid for a single journey of the selected time duration if you travel in Bratislava surrounding areas.

Find more information about fares & tickets:

www.imhd.sk/ba/doc/en/17874/Ticket-Price-List

Ticket inspectors carry out random checks around the clock. Make sure you:

1. Learn how to purchase tickets.
2. Mark your ticket in the marking machine IMMEDIATELY upon entry into the bus, tram or trolleybus.
3. Purchase the 60 minute transfer ticket for any journey with scheduled duration over 15 minutes (the scheduled duration is posted at the bus and tram stop for each line); only purchase the 15 minute ticket if you are absolutely positive that the journey is under 15 minutes.

Parking Policy in Bratislava

In Bratislava, there are zones with a restricted parking policy. You can find more information on parking regulations on the websites of each city borough (see page 4 of this Brochure).

The city borough should provide you with information on regulated parking zones, parking fares, registration of parking "residency card" etc.

OTHER INFORMATION

Regional travel

Travel opportunities within Slovakia and the region of Bratislava are endless. Information on routes and timetables of regional coach and train connections can be found at:

<https://cp.hnonline.sk/vlakbusmhd/spojenie/>

Family Life

Getting married

Marriage between a Slovak citizen and a foreigner, or between two foreigners, is possible in Slovakia, so long as all necessary documents are provided. Foreigners who enter into marriage with Slovak citizens can be granted permanent residence for the purpose of family reunification.

Documents required from foreigners, whether you are marrying a Slovak citizen or a foreigner, includes:

- Birth certificate
 - Proof of legal capacity to enter into a marriage - issued by the foreigner's home country
 - Proof of legal stay in Slovakia
 - Proof of citizenship (i.e. a valid passport)
 - Proof of marital status
 - Death certificate of a deceased spouse – if the foreigner is widowed
 - Divorce decree – if the foreigner is divorced
 - Proof of identity (i.e. ID or passport)
1. Documents submitted by a foreigner must be translated by an official translator; the translated documents must then be signed by the certified translator and must include a round seal.
 2. An interpreter must be hired to interpret the whole marriage ceremony into the foreigner's language if one/both spouses do not speak Slovak.
 3. Proof of marital status must not be older than 6 months.

You may choose between a civil marriage ceremony at the Registry Office or a religious wedding ceremony in a church.

For a civil marriage, the wedding vows are given to each other in front of the mayor or a councilor in the presence of a registry officer. It should take place at the responsible Registry Office, according to the place of permanent residence of one of the spouses, unless otherwise approved by the locally competent Registry Office.

For a religious wedding, wedding vows must be read by the couple to each other in the presence of a priest of the registered church. The religious body will then send the marriage certificate to the locally competent Registry Office within 3 days following the wedding.

Administrative fees

- Marriage between a Slovak citizens and a foreigner: 66 EUR
- Marriage between foreign nationals: 165.50 EUR
- Marriage where neither of the spouses has permanent residence in the Slovak Republic: 199 EUR
- Permission to conclude a marriage at a place other than a competent registry office: 33 EUR

- Authentication of the documents issued by eligible foreign authorities for use in the Slovak Republic: 20 EUR
- Authentication of the documents issued by the Slovak authorities for use in a foreign country: 20 EUR

Each city borough has its own registry office – to see the address, office hours and contact of registry offices in Bratislava, please check the website of your city borough (page 4 of this Brochure).

■ Getting divorced

In the Slovak Republic, marriage can be dissolved only by a court.

A marriage can be dissolved by a court if the relationship between the spouses is seriously damaged and has permanently broken down, so that the marriage can no longer serve its purpose and the spouses cannot be expected to resume marital cohabitation.

The court establishes the causes of the serious breakdown of the relationship between the spouses and takes them into account in its decision on the divorce. The court always takes the interests of minor children into account in its divorce decision.

If you reside in Bratislava, you should file for divorce in one of five district courts in Bratislava – depending on your residence address in Bratislava.

If your minor children have residence in another district, your divorce will be handled in the district of your children's residence.

■ Child birth as a foreigner

You must apply for a residence permit from the Foreign Police Department for your child within 90 days from his/her birth. The type of residence permit granted would depend on the type of residence permit that you have.

Together with the application you must submit:

- a valid travel document of your child/ your valid travel document in which your child is recorded
- the newborn's birth certificate
- two color photos (3 x 3.5 cm)
- document on provision of the child's accommodation
- document on financial coverage of the child's residence
- administrative fee of €4.50 for issuing an ID

A child gains citizenship of the Slovak Republic automatically if at least one of the parents is a citizen of the Slovak Republic.

Social Affairs

In Slovakia, the social security system consists of three pillars: social insurance, state social support and social aid.

■ Social insurance

Social insurance serves to protect people in various situations (such as motherhood or the temporary inability to work due to illness). The obligation to contribute to social insurance is a legal obligation.

Only those who have contributed to the social insurance scheme are entitled to benefit from the scheme. The Social Insurance Company is the responsible one for social insurance in Slovakia.

Employed and self-employed foreigners are obliged to pay social insurance in the same way as citizens of Slovakia.

Employees are registered under the social insurance company by the employer, who pays the insurance from the employee's wage.

While employees are registered in the Social Insurance Company by their employers, self-employed persons have to register themselves.

For more info, please visit: www.socpoist.sk/?lang=en
email: info.english@socpoist.sk

■ State social support

State social support is a scheme of social aid supporting mainly families with children. The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides parental allowance, child care allowance, childbirth allowance, funeral allowance etc. The Social Insurance Company provides a Christmas allowance for retired persons and the Tax Office provides a tax bonus for parents.

For more info, please check:

- www.employment.gov.sk/en/family-social-assistance/
- www.socpoist.sk/old-age-pension-/51389s
- www.financnasprava.sk/en/homepage

■ Social aid

Social aid is a scheme of help for the most vulnerable persons, such as pensioners, families with children, persons with disabilities or persons facing crisis life situations (domestic violence, loss of accommodation etc.).

Social aid is provided in cash benefits (by the Offices of Labor, Social Affairs and Family) or in social services (by different providers, including municipalities).

Foreigners are also entitled to social aid, however, be aware of your residence obligations (financial self-sufficiency or accommodation) to avoid possible cancellation of your residence in Slovakia. There are three systems of help with social aid: mate-

rial need, compensation of severe disability and social services.

Material need

Material need is a situation where the income of household members does not reach subsistence level.

If this is your case, you can apply for help in material need at the Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family.

Applying for aid in material need can lead to cancellation of your residence in Slovakia. More info:

www.employment.gov.sk/en/family-social-assistance/material-need-assistance

Compensation of severe disability

The Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family helps persons with severe disabilities by providing them with monetary and non-monetary allowances.

Only a few types of residence are able to benefit from this help.

For more info: www.employment.gov.sk/en/family-social-assistance/severe-disability/

Social services

In case of an adverse social situation (retirement age, severe disability, placing child in a nursery home) or a crisis situation (domestic violence, loss of accommodation, drug addiction, social exclusion etc.) you can benefit from a wide range of social services.

Social services are provided by municipalities (cities or regions) or by other institutions or non-profit organizations.

■ Social Assistance in Bratislava

The city of Bratislava provides, via its offices and organizations, social counselling and assistance.

The city also cooperates with charity organizations and medical facilities.

The city of Bratislava provides social services mainly to seniors, victims of domestic violence and to other socially disadvantaged persons.

You can find more information on social services provided by the city of Bratislava here: www.bratislava.sk/sk/socialne-sluzby-a-pomoc

Various social services are also provided by city borough and you can find them on their websites.

Useful contact in case of some family problems, problems with behaviour of children, family crisis etc.:

The Social Department of the Municipal office in Bratislava

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Social and legal protection of children in Bratislava

The Commissioner for children: +421 (0) 950 439 342

National line for reporting neglect of child care: 0800 191 222

Non-stop child helpline: 116 111

Non-stop line for women experiencing domestic violence: 0800 212 212

For children and parents in crisis situations, there is a possibility of staying in the center for children and families REPULS. For more information, please visit

www.krizovecentrumba.sk

Housing

Having accommodation is an essential prerequisite to having residence in Slovakia. You can arrange your accommodation in a facility (hostel, hotel, guest house) or you can have private accommodation.

You are obliged to report your address of residence to the Foreign Police within 3 working days of the date of entry to the territory of Slovakia (3rd country nationals) or within 10 working days of the date of entry to the territory of Slovakia (EU citizens and their family members). The same rule applies if you change your address during your stay in Slovakia.

You can find the form “Notice of Stay” here:

www.minv.sk/?reporting-residence

You can certify your accommodation by submitting a rental contract, accommodation certificate or declaration of ownership of real estate (if you are the owner). These documents have to be made in the Slovak language.

Be aware that the signatures on a rental contract have to be authorised by a notary or registry office.

In case of an adverse social situation, there is a possibility of applying for social help directly from the city of Bratislava, which can provide e.g. crisis housing for families with children, shelters, social housing, housing for disabled persons, retirement homes etc.

The city of Bratislava also provides temporary accommodation for vulnerable persons and families in Fortuna Hostel and Kopčany Hostel. You can find the application form here: <https://esluzby.bratislava.sk/page/socialne-sluzby-a-pomoc>.

Homeless people, including people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, in poor health, mentally ill, without documents, without funds, etc. can find necessary help and accommodation in Depaul Slovensko on Ivánska cesta 32 and on Kapitulská 18 in Bratislava.

The civic association Domov pre každého also helps with the material security and support of the homeless.

Culture

Bratislava hosts many cultural institutions. You can find the list of cultural events here: <https://www.visitbratislava.com/event-categories/top-events/>

To buy tickets to many cultural institutions not only in Bratislava, visit “Návštevník” portal: <https://www.navstevnik.sk/domov?lang=en>

To enjoy online cultural events, go to: <https://navstevnik.online/>

There are two major libraries in the city:

University Library: www.ulib.sk

City Library in Bratislava: www.mestskakniznica.sk

You can use free WiFi provided by the city of Bratislava. To enjoy free city WiFi, you need to use the SSID: VisitBratislava on your device.

Useful contacts

■ Municipality Office of Bratislava

Primaciálne námestie 1, Bratislava
+421 2/59 356 111

■ The Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family

Vazovova 7/A, Bratislava
+421 2 204 437 00

■ Social insurance company

Záhradnícka 31, Bratislava
+421 906 172 111
bratislavamesto@socpoist.sk

■ Centre for legal AID

Centre provides comprehensive legal aid to persons who, due to lack of means, are unable to use paid legal services.

Centre for Legal Aid - Office Bratislava
Račianska 71, Bratislava
+421 650 105 100
info.ba@centrumpravnejpomoci.sk

■ Public defender of rights

In case you deem your fundamental rights and freedoms were violated in conflict with legal order or principles of a democratic and legal state in acting, decision-making, or inactivity of a public administration body, you can file a motion to the Public Defender of Rights in written form or in person.

Direct e-mail to file a motion: podnet@vop.gov.sk

Grösslingová 35, 811 09 Bratislava

www.vop.gov.sk/langEnglish

Apart from state and municipal assistance, there are non-profit organizations providing a wide range of services to foreigners in need of assistance:

■ IOM Migration information centre

legal advice, Slovak language classes and education, job counselling

Website: www.iom.sk/en/

Address: Grösslingová 35, 811 09 Bratislava

Tel: +421 2 5263 0023

■ Human Rights League (HRL)

legal counselling for asylum seekers, community events on integration

Website: www.hrl.sk/en

Address: Račianska 80, 831 02 Bratislava

Tel: +421 918 682 457

■ The line of trust

nonstop, free of charge on-call psychological help
for those facing acute mental crises
+421 800 800 566

■ Children's trust helpline

0907 401 749, 116 111
www.linkadeti.sk
for children facing problems in their family or who need to trust or talk

■ National helpline for victims of trafficking in human beings

0800 800 818

■ Free national hotline for victims of domestic violence and violence against women

0800 212 212

■ Center for children and families REPULS

Budatínska 59/A, Bratislava
+421 2 622 500 35

■ Domov pre každého (Home for Everyone)

Stará Vajnorská 92, Bratislava



European Union
Internal Security Fund
Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



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