WELCOME GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA

University of Žilina
MENZA
Accommodation facility Hliny V
Accommodation facility Veľký Diel
Žilina
Hliny
Bôrik
Park Ľudovíta Štúra
Nemocničná
Mostná
Vysokoškolákov
Obchodná akadémia sv. Tomáša Akvinského
Vojenský cintorín
Žilinská univerzita v Žiline
Univerzitná
Veľký Diel
Jaseňová
Osiková
Centrálna
Borová
Javorová
Bajzova
Oravská
Kvetná
Poľná
Ružová
Hlinská
Kraskova
Majochova
Festivalová
Stavbárska
Antona Petrovského
Gabajova
Hečkova
Mila Urbana
Alexandra Rudnaya
Gabriela Povalu
Jána Kovaľka
Ďulenova
Juraja Sklenára
Nešporova
Saleziánska
Komenského
Juraja Fándlyho
Antona Bernoláka
Hlboká cesta
Krátka
Astrová
Obchodná
Poštová
Za plavárňou
Na Malý diel
Cesta k Parovej búde
Malý diel
Bôrická cesta
Tulipánová
Lipová
Svätoplukova
Mojmírova
Rastislavova
Pribinova
Pod hájom
Ovesná
Janka Šilana
Andreja Žarnova
Rudolfa Dilongu
Univerzitná
Tomborove kruhy

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ŽILINSKÁ UNIVERZITA
REKTORÁT
ŽILINSKÁ UNIVERZITA

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZILINA

Welcome to the University of Žilina. We are pleased that you have made our University your choice for studying abroad.

This guide is intended for international students who decided to study at the University of Žilina in an exchange programme. It has been designed to make your stay both enjoyable and beneficial. We wish you a pleasant stay at the University of Žilina as well as in Žilina itself.

International Relations and Marketing Office

RECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear international students,

let me, on behalf of the University of Žilina, welcome you to our Institution.

The University of Žilina has had its unquestionable place among Slovak universities for over 60 years. It offers technically and technologically oriented study programmes at its seven faculties as well as studies in economic and humanities fields. The University successfully cooperates with numerous partners in the world via international projects and activities. The second and third year students of our University have a possibility to participate in a wide range of exchange programmes at foreign universities.

The combination of research and education activities provides an opportunity to apply the latest knowledge and technologies in specific fields of studies. E-learning, project oriented education and case studies are as common at our University as traditional contact teaching in the form of lectures and seminars. All the above mentioned aspects of studies prepare graduates for a career in an interdisciplinary and globalised environment.

Dr. h. c. prof. Ing. Tatiana Čorejová, PhD.
Rector

1.1 NAME AND ADDRESS

UNIVERSITY OF ŽILINA
Univerzitná 8215/1
010 26 Žilina
Slovakia

Tel: +421 – 41 - 513 51 51, +421 – 41 - 513 51 33
fax: +421 – 41 – 513 50 51, +421 - 41 - 513 50 56

GPS: 49°12'8.26"N
18°45'23.6"E

Website: www.uniza.sk

1.2 GENERAL INSTITUTION OVERVIEW

The University of Žilina was established as the Railway College on 1st September 1953 by the separation from the Czech Technical University in Prague. It has gone through numerous changes during its history. Finally, in 1996, it was renamed from the College of Transport and Communications to the University of Žilina in Žilina. The University as a public university provides education at all three levels of higher education (bachelor's degree, engineer/master's degree and doctoral degree) in both full-time and part-time forms. So far approximately 69,000 graduates have finished their studies (2,000 graduates from abroad) at the University. Approximately 10,000 students currently study in all forms of study. There are more than 1,500 employees and 650 of them are university teachers.

With its more than 60 years of history, the University has taken a prominent place in the Slovak educational space not only with the number of its students, with the range of accredited study programmes, but also with its scientific and

foreign activities based on cooperation with domestic and foreign companies and institutions. In the field of science and research, individual workplaces of the University have been involved in solving of more than 200 scientific and research projects financially supported by public sources through national grant schemes in the sum of 2.1 mil €. At the same time scientific teams have been working on 41 projects with foreign support, mainly within the EU 7th Framework Programmes. Apart from solving project tasks, the issues of quality technical equipment of experimental workplaces and increasing quality of human sources have been monitored.

Scientific teams closely cooperate with partners from various industrial branches in the applied research. Six centres of excellence are supported by the Research and Development Operational Programme within the framework of structural funds. The University is also involved in four projects being solved by centres of competence within this Operational Programme. There have been three applied research centres created, as well. Attainments are presented mainly through publications, submitted patent applications, presentations at international scientific symposia and conferences, but also at trade fairs and exhibitions.

Cooperation with foreign universities enables students and teachers to actively participate in international educational and research projects (ERASMUS+, ERASMUS-MUNDUS, KOREA SMILE, TEMPUS, COST, CEEPUS, the 7th Framework Programmes, etc.). The University belongs to the most active universities in the ERASMUS programme. Within this Programme, the University, as the only one in Slovakia, has been listed among most successful universities of the EU in the field of teacher mobility for a ten year period. As for the number of outgoing ERASMUS students and the number of teaching staff mobilities, the University occupies one of the top positions among Slovak universities participating in the Programme.

1.3 STRUCTURE AND DEGREES

The University of Žilina has seven faculties and several institutes focusing on various scientific fields. It offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programmes (225 altogether), carries out intensive research activities and cooperates with more than two hundred European universities and also with universities in Asia (Japan, China, Korea) and America (the USA, Mexico, Brazil).

The University of Žilina confers the following academic degrees and titles: bakalár (bachelor), magister/inžinier (master), doktor (Philosophiae Doctor – PhD).

1.4 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year consists of two semesters:

- Winter semester (September - January)
- Summer semester (February – August)

Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications

The Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications was established in 1953 as one of the first faculties of contemporary University of Žilina. The primary mission of the Faculty is to provide higher education and creative scientific research in the fields of transport and communications technology; economics and management of various transport and communications branches; economics and management of transport, postal and telecommunications enterprises; economics and management of transport services and logistics; and economics and enterprise management.

Departments

Department of Road and Urban Transport, Department of Railway Transport, Department of Air Transport, Department of Communications, Department of Economics, Department of Water Transport, Department of Quantitative Methods and Economic Informatics

Address

Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications
(Fakulta prevádzky a ekonomiky dopravy a spojov)
Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina
Tel: +421 – 41 – 513 30 51
Fax: +421 – 41 – 513 15 27
E-mail: education@fpedas.uniza.sk
Web: http://fpedas.uniza.sk/en

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Vice-dean for Foreign Affairs

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Administration

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1.5 FACULTIES

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering has a long-standing tradition in technical education and research. It concentrates mainly on the issues of construction materials; production technology linked with the development of technical base of vehicles, machines, instruments and constructions; vehicle construction; mobile work machinery, lifting, handling and energetic equipment design; designing with virtual reality support; Rapid Prototyping; Finite Element Method analyses of structures; operation and renovation of machines and equipment; robotics; logistics; enterprise management; industrial engineering; digital factory; systems of quality control; design, operation, analysis and simulation of manufacturing and logistics systems; modern production technologies; and more recently, on alternative sources of energy.

Departments

Department of Applied Mathematics, Department of Transport and Handling Machines, Department of Design and Machine Elements, Department of Material Engineering, Department of Applied Mechanics, Department of Industrial Engineering, Department of Automation and Production Systems, Department of Machining and Production Technologies, Department of Technological Engineering, Department of Power Engineering.

Address

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
(Strojnicka fakulta)
Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina
Tel: +421 – 41 – 513 25 00
Fax: +421 – 41 – 565 29 40
E-mail: education@fstroj.uniza.sk
Web: http://fstroj.uniza.sk

Contacts for foreign students

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Vice-dean for International Cooperation

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Administration

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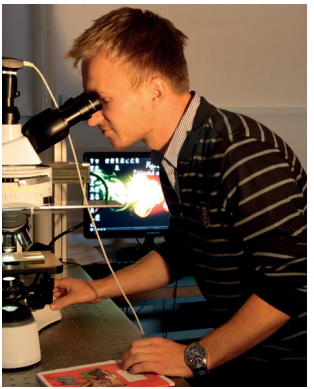


Faculty of Electrical Engineering

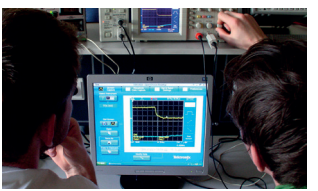
The Faculty of Electrical Engineering originally focused on electro-technical aspects of transport. Later on, the Faculty started to concentrate on information and communication technologies; information and safety systems; modern telecommunication technologies, networks and services; optoelectronics; photonics; intelligent transport systems; electro-technologies and materials; development of power semiconductor systems; traction driving systems; power electronics; electric traction systems for railways; and also on interdisciplinary branches – mechatronics and biomedical engineering.

Departments

Department of Physics, Department of Theoretical Electrical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering, Department of Measurement and Applied Electrical Engineering, Department of Mechatronics and Electronics, Department of Power Electrical Systems, Department of Control and Information Systems, Department of Telecommunications and Multimedia, Institute of Aurel Stodola in Liptovský Mikuláš

Address

Faculty of Electrical Engineering
(Elektrotechnická fakulta)
Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina
Tel: +421 – 41 – 513 20 51
Fax: +421 – 41 – 513 15 15
E-mail: education@fel.uniza.sk
Web: http://fel.uniza.sk/en/



Contacts for foreign students

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1.5 FACULTIES

Faculty of Civil Engineering

The Faculty of Civil Engineering provides education in the fields of engineering constructions, buildings, transport constructions, material engineering, transport planning as well as construction technology and management. The research activities focus mainly on theoretical planning, designing, building, rehabilitation and reconstruction of transport infrastructure issues, including the impact of transport on the environment, while utilising theoretical, experimental and numerical analysis, modelling and simulations. There is a strong focus on the geoinformation system development issues in the civil engineering practice as well as on the research of sound-insulation and thermal-technical properties of constructions and their energy performance.

Departments

Department of Structural Mechanics, Department of Geodesy, Department of Geotechnology, Department of Structures and Bridges, Department of Highway Engineering, Department of Railway Engineering and Track Management, Department of Building Construction and Urban Planning, Department of Construction Technology and Management

Address

Faculty of Civil Engineering
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Web: http://svf.uniza.sk

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Monika Ilovská
Administration

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Faculty of Management Science and Informatics

The activities of the Faculty of Management Science and Informatics are determined by new trends in information and communication technologies development. The main educational and scientific activities concentrate on design and realization of technical means for information and management systems; analysis, synthesis and design of integrated information and management systems; management; marketing; logistics; enterprise; design of transport and communication systems; management and optimisation of goods and passenger transport; management and optimisation of databases design; data transmission and data processing; issues concerning multimedia information systems and simulation tools for communication networks and systems; and mathematical modelling.

Departments

Department of Transportation Networks, Department of Information Networks, Department of Informatics, Department of Management Theories, Department of Macro and Micro Economics, Department of Mathematical Methods, Department of Software Technologies, Department of Technical Cybernetics

Address

Faculty of Management Science and Informatics
(Fakulta riadenia a informatiky)
Univerzitná 8215/1
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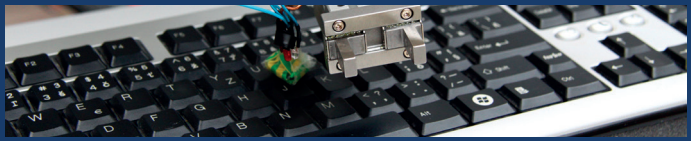

1.5 FACULTIES

Faculty of Humanities
The former Faculty of Science was renamed in December 2010 to the Faculty of Humanities in compliance with the Act of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport SR. The Faculty has gradually transformed its profile by establishing departments of humanities and natural sciences and by extending the spectrum of offered study programmes enabling graduates to get a foothold in the European labour market.

Departments
Department of Mediamatics and Cultural Heritage, Department of Music, Department of Mathematics, Department of Pedagogical Studies, Department of English Language and Literature, Department of Religious Studies

Address
Faculty of Humanities
(Fakulta humanitných vied)
Univerzitná 8215/1
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Mgr. Lenka Kalúsová
Administration

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Faculty of Security Engineering

The Faculty of Security Engineering is the Faculty of technological and managerial orientation. In the field of Civil Security it offers an accredited study programme Crisis Management and Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure; in the field of Rescue Services it is the study programme Rescue Services, in the field of People and Property Protection it is the study programme Security Management. Individual study programmes focus on specialists training for the needs of public administration mainly in the areas of crisis management, risks evaluation, people and property protection, civil protection and internal security.

Departments

Department of Crisis Management, Department of Fire Engineering, Department of Security Management, Department of Technical Sciences and Informatics, Crisis Management Research Workplace

Address

Faculty of Security Engineering
(Fakulta bezpečnostného inžinierstva)
Ul. 1. mája 32
010 26 Žilina
Tel: +421 – 41 – 513 66 06
Web: http://www.fbi.uniza.sk

Contact for foreign students

Ing. Vladimír Mózer, PhD.
Vice-dean for Development and Foreign Relations

Tel: +421 – 41 - 513 66 10
E-mail: vladimir.mozer@fsi.uniza.sk

1.5 FACULTIES

Research Institute of High Mountain Biology

The multinational centre for high mountain biology research was established in 2000 and is located in Tatranská Javorina in the mountain range Belianske Tatry. Thanks to staff members' enormous effort, the Institute has been transformed into a modern workplace with botanic, zoology and molecular biology laboratories in a relatively short time. Thermovision analyses of temperature differences on an alpine vegetation level, water chemism and its biotic monitoring, atom absorption spectrophotometry and X-ray metrology are only a few examples of the techniques which a young research team uses in laboratories and also in the high mountain alpine terrain. Since 2006 the Institute has been providing teaching of so far the only whole university study programme Protection and Utilization of Countryside with the specialization in education of rangers of national parks. Based on the agreement between the Norwegian Telemark University in Bo and the University of Žilina, the students of the Institute, after successful completion of their Bachelor's study programe, can continue in Master's degree in Norway.

Address

Research Institute of High Mountain Biology
(Výskumný ústav vysokohorskej biológie)
059 56 Tatranská Javorina 7
Tel/fax: +421 – 52 - 449 91 08
Web: www.vuvb.uniza.sk

Contact for foreign students

Mgr. Zuzana Hrehová
Administration

Tel.: +421 – 52 - 449 91 08
E-mail: zuzana.hrehova@uniza.sk

1.6 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

International Relations and Marketing Office coordinates international relationships of the University of Žilina and it is also responsible for the following:

Partnerships with Universities
- agreements
- student and teacher mobility
- international visitors' stays

EU ERASMUS
- ERASMUS – incoming students
- ERASMUS – outgoing students
- ERASMUS – teacher mobility
- ERASMUS – staff mobility

Exchange Programmes
- providing information and counsel on mobility programmes to students and teachers of the University of Žilina
- foreign students' study at the University of Žilina within university agreements and the ERASMUS

Address
International Relations and Marketing Office
Univerzitná 8215/1, Building of Rectorate
010 26 Žilina

Contacts

Vice-rector for International Relations and Marketing	Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jozef Ristvej, PhD. ERASMUS Institutional Coordinator E-mail: jozef.ristvej@uniza.sk
International Relations and Marketing Office	Ing. Jarmila Červená Head of Office E-mail: jarmila.cervena@uniza.sk
Administration of ERASMUS	Mgr. Lenka Kuzmová ERASMUS Contact person, Main Administrator E-mail: lenka.kuzmova@uniza.sk
Office for Education	PhDr. Renáta Švarcová Head of Office Full-time study for foreign students E-mail: renata.svarcova@uniza.sk

1.7 INSTITUTES, FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

University Library
Web: http://ukzu.uniza.sk

Institute of Forensic Research and Education
Web: http://uzvv.uniza.sk/

CETRA – Centre for Transport Research
Web: http://www.uniza.sk/cetra

Institute of Life-long Education
Web: http://www.ucv.uniza.sk

Institute of Information and Communication Technologies
Web: http://uikt.uniza.sk

Institute of Physical Education
Web: http://utv.uniza.sk

Aviation Training and Educational Centre
Web: http://www.lvvc.uniza.sk

Institute of Competitiveness and Innovations
Web: http://www.ukai.uniza.sk

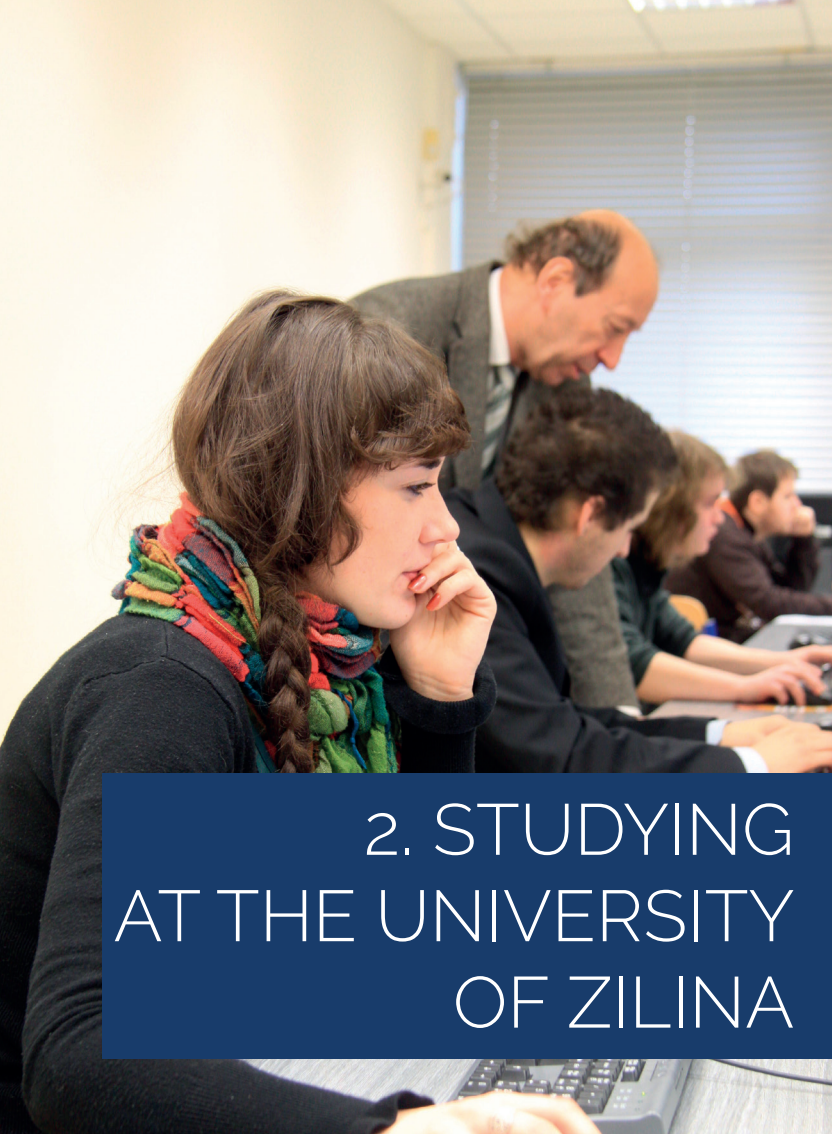
EDIS – University Editorial Centre (Printing House of the University of Žilina)
Web: http://www.uniza.sk

Institute of Foreign Languages
Web: http://www.ucj.uniza.sk

National Training Centre for Safety in Civil Aviation
Web: http://fpedas.uniza.sk/~nvcb/

University Science Park
Web: http://www.uvp.uniza.sk

Research Center of the University of Žilina
Web: http://www.vyskumnecentrum.sk



2. STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZILINA

2.1 STUDY PROGRAMMES IN ENGLISH

Faculty of Operation and Economics of Transport and Communications
Air Transport – bachelor and master study programme
Economics and Management of an Enterprise – master study programme

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Applied Mechanics – master and PhD. study programme
Industrial Engineering and Management – master and PhD. study programme

Faculty of Electrical Engineering
Biomedical Engineering – bachelor and master study programme
Electric Drives – master study programme
Telecommunication and Radiocommunication Engineering – master study programme
Theoretical Electrical Engineering – PhD. study programme
Power Electrical Engineering – PhD. study programme
Process Control – PhD. study programme
Telecommunications – PhD. study programme
Electro-technologies and Materials – PhD. study programme
Electric Power Systems – PhD. study programme

Faculty of Civil Engineering
Civil Engineering – bachelor and PhD. study programme
Construction Management – bachelor and PhD. study programme
Civil Engineering – PhD. study programme
Applied Mechanics – PhD. study programme
Forensic Engineering – PhD. study programme

Faculty of Management Science and Informatics
Informatics – bachelor study programme
Information Systems – master study programme
Network Engineering – master study programme
Applied Informatics – PhD. study programme

Institute of High Mountain Biology
Ranger – bachelor study programme

2.2 ECTS

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is a system based on the relevance and intensity of an individual course in relation to students' performance and there is a particular number of ECTS credits assigned to each course. 60 ECTS credits are required to complete a year of full-time study (30 ECTS credits represent one semester).

ECTS grade	Grading system in words	Points %	Mark
A	Výborne EXCELLENT	100 - 93	1
B	Veľmi dobre VERY GOOD	92 - 85	1,5
C	Dobre GOOD	84 - 77	2
D	Uspokojivo SATISFACTORY	71 - 69	2,5
E	Dostatočne SUFFICIENT	68 - 61	3
FX	Nedostatočne INSUFFICIENT	lass than 61	4

2.3 LEARNING SLOVAK

The University of Žilina offers ERASMUS Intensive Language Courses (EILC) for foreign students organised before the official beginning of semester (75 classes/3weeks) as well as Slovak courses for foreign students during the whole academic year (2 classes/a week). These courses are provided by the Institute of Foreign Languages.

2.4 ACADEMIC YEAR

Winter semester / 13 weeks (late September – December)
Examination period / 6 weeks (January – middle of February)
Summer semester / 13 weeks (middle of February – middle of May)
Examination period / 6 weeks (middle of May – end of June)

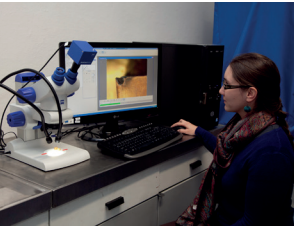
2.5 ADMISSIONS

2.5.1. FULL-TIME STUDY

The University of Žilina seeks students with appropriate academic qualifications and strong motivation to study. Students who have completed secondary school education, have reached the age of 18 or more, have a good command of English (and Mathematics for technical and economic fields of study) and are not Slovak citizens, are eligible for the study at the University of Žilina as self-payers (except for the EU countries citizens who study under the same conditions as the citizens of the Slovak republic).

For more information, please contact:
Žilinská univerzita v Žiline – Rektorát (Rectorate of the University of Žilina)
Oddelenie pre vzdelávanie (Office for Education)
Univerzitná 8215/ 1
010 26 Žilina

E-mail: education@uniza.sk



2.5.2 ERASMUS PROGRAMME

International Relations and Marketing Office

Vice-rector for International Relations and Marketing Office

Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jozef Ristvej, PhD.
ERASMUS Institutional Coordinator
E-mail: jozef.ristvej@uniza.sk

Main Administrator

Mgr. Lenka Kuzmová
ERASMUS Contact person
E-mail: lenka.kuzmova@uniza.sk

2.6 VISA AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Since the Slovak Republic is a member of the European Union, international students coming from the EU countries do not need a visa. It is possible that students from non-EU countries will need a visa for arranging their entry and stay in Slovakia. Information on whether student needs a visa for entry and stay in Slovakia can be obtained at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of their country, or at its consulates. Relevant information can be found at The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the SR website: http://www.mzv.sk/en/home. The Migration Information Centre (MIC) has prepared an information brochure (http://mic.iom.sk/en.html) in order to provide useful information on how to obtain or to extend a residence permit in the Slovak Republic. It gives practical tips and important warnings and refers to the Act 404/2011 regulating the residence of foreigners in Slovakia.

2.7 INSURANCE

Foreign students are recommended to travel with valid general insurance covering the full length of their stay. It is advisable to consider purchasing of other types of insurance available. EU citizens having a European Health Insurance Card are eligible for free health service.

2.8 LIBRARIES

Study at the University of Žilina is fully supported by the following resources: the University Library, University Intranet and Slovak Academic Data Network with access to the Internet.

The mission of the academic library is to promote educational and scientific research activities of the University by collecting, processing, storing and providing access to professional and scientific literature. It offers an online catalogue, electronic journals and full-text and abstract electronic information resources on its website. Full text information on final theses defended at the University is also a part of the electronic library catalogue. The library organises consulting, lecturing and other educational activities.

Departmental libraries are well equipped with books, journals and other study facilities more closely oriented to particular fields of study.

2.9 STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

ERASMUS Student Network (ESN UNIZA)
It is a student organisation providing help to incoming foreign students and organises various events for them during their stay.

Activities:
There are a lot of activities organised for ERASMUS students including a welcome party, a sightseeing tour around Žilina, and various trips around Slovakia.
ESN UNIZA provides the following services:
• picking up of foreign students at the railway station or bus terminal
• getting acquainted with the city and the campus
• assistance with formal documents such as a school ID or a public transport pass.

Contact:
E-mail: uniza@esn.sk
Web: http://uniza.esn.sk

Board of Accommodated Students
It is a non-profit organisation serving as an advisory body in managing and improving the life of students accommodated at student accommodation facilities. Its activities focus on defending students' rights and at the same time it puts emphasis on following the rules.

Student Information Centre
The Centre provides students with access to computers and the Internet. It also informs students about events held at the University, distributes leaflets on the University premises and displays information on the students' portal.

i-Tečko broadcasting
Its main activity is the transmission via computer network at the student accommodation facilities. i-Tečko creates its own programme focusing on students' interests and it helps develop practical skills of students interested in TV production and broadcasting.

Internet Club
It has been operating since 1998. At that time, its main task was administration of the server dorm.utc.sk and students' email boxes. It was also responsible for the development of data network at the student accommodation facilities. Later on, 24-hour monitoring of the network was added to its main responsibilities. Today it has fifteen active members and it provides services which are utilised by approximately 3,000 active users.

2.9 STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

The Friends of Railway Club

Though its roots date back to the College of Transport era, it was officially established in 1995. Today it has approximately thirty members who regularly meet and organise excursions to various interesting railway workplaces. They also collect technical literature, railway periodicals, time tables and other objects which are available not only to its members.

GAMA Club

The Club was established in 1996 and in its beginnings it focused exclusively on theatre performances. Today it also offers screening of films.

ŽUŽO

The student periodical has been published since 1996. It ranks among to the most read student periodicals with its circulation of 1,500 copies. As the only student periodical, it was admitted to the President's Office and in the competition "Štúrovo pero" it has regularly been awarded among three most successful university periodicals.

Radio X

At present it is the only radio studio broadcasting at student accommodation facilities in Slovakia which provides its listeners with news and information blocks within eight broadcasting circuits. It was established in October 2010 and apart from music, it offers a programme focused mostly on events happening in the University vicinity, in Žilina and its surroundings. A part of the studio facility is a recording studio which, together with its creative production, serves as a training space for aspiring moderators and technicians.

Rapeš Radio

The first radio studio at student accommodation facility in Slovakia which had two broadcasting circuits – Rapeš Hliny (1974 -) and Rapeš Veľký Diel (1987 – 2009). They were named after the premises on which they were located. After Rapeš Veľký Diel separation from Rapeš Hliny, the latter still continues in its broadcasting tradition.

2.9 STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

OMNIA
The mixed choir OMNIA was established in 2003 by extending and strengthening the former female choir with the male vocal section. During its existence, the choir has participated in numerous international competitions and festivals where it has successfully represented the University and has received numerous awards.

Dancing Club Country Beta
The beginnings of the club date back to 1985 when a group of country music fans was formed into a dancing backup for the music band Vodopád. Today the club performs modern American country dance and it is one of three clubs with similar focus in Slovakia.

Stavbár – Traditional Folklore Group of the University of Žilina
It focuses on the presentation of authentic folklore. It was established in the company Pozemné stavby in Žilina in 1959. In 1997 it became a part of the University of Žilina. During its 54-year history, it has performed more than 2,000 times in Slovakia as well as in the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. It has received numerous significant national and international awards from various folklore competitions and festivals.

AIESEC - an international not-for-profit organisation that provides students with leadership training and internship opportunities at for-profit and non-profit organisations

IAESTE - the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

3. LIFE IN ŽILINA

3.1 ARRIVAL

The nearest airports

Žilina has excellent train and bus connections to many cities. When flying in, you may arrive at the following airports with convenient connections to Žilina:

• Vienna International Airport in Austria (www.viennaairport.com), located about 60 kilometres from Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic. The airport has a regular bus connection to Bratislava bus terminal (about a 50-minute bus ride). There is a direct train connection to Žilina from there (200 kilometres, about a 2.5-hour train ride).

• Václav Havel Airport Prague in the Czech Republic (www.prg.aero/en/). There is a direct train connection to Žilina from the airport (450 kilometres, about a 7-hour train ride).

• Bratislava Airport (www.airportbratislava.sk). There is a shuttle bus from the airport to the railway station. Direct train to Žilina leaves approx. every 2 hours.

Train connection

The railway station is situated in the centre of Žilina just at the end of pedestrian precinct. The best way to get to the University or student accommodation facility is to go by bus, trolley bus or taxi.

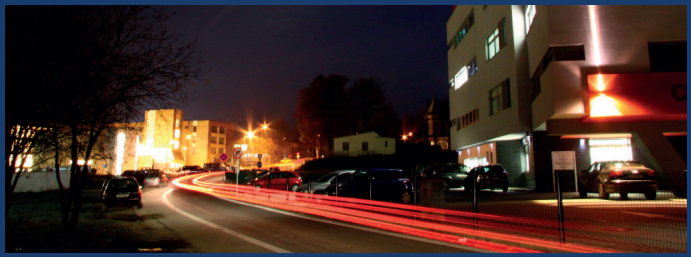
The railway connections can be viewed at http://www.cp.sk (the web site is available in English and German) and on-line tickets can be purchased at: http://www.slovakrail.sk/en.html.

Although it is possible to buy a ticket on the train, it is advisable to buy one before boarding. The ticket bought after boarding is more expensive. It is not recommended to travel without a ticket as there is a heavy fine for travelling without one. The train ticket from Bratislava to Žilina costs ca 10 - 16 €.

SAD/Slovak Lines transport

The central bus terminal is close to the railway station in the city centre. The bus connection can be found at: http://www.slovaklines.sk/main-page.html

The tickets are bought when boarding the bus from the driver.



Bus and trolley bus

Žilina has a relatively efficient public transport system that includes buses and trolley buses with a satisfactory coverage area and time density around the clock. A single fare and student seasonal tickets are sold at a reasonable price. Students are required to have a valid Slovak student card if they want to buy a discount student ticket. Our ESN student organisation assists exchange students with obtaining of tickets after their arrival. The bus tickets can be bought at a vending machine at the bus stop, in the news stand or with the driver.
Web: http://www.dpmz.sk/en/
http://www.imhd.sk/za/

The nearest bus stop to the student accommodation facility Hliny V is "Mostná" or "Hlinská".
The nearest bus stop to the student accommodation facility Veľký Diel is "Obchodná".
The nearest bus stop to the University is "Univerzitná" or "Žilinská univerzita".

Taxi

Taxi operates 24 hours a day and prices are comparable to other cities in Europe (for example, a ride from the centre to the accommodation facility costs around 6 €).

Car rental

Prices vary by type and model of the car.

3.3 ACCOMMODATION

The University of Žilina provides accommodation at its student accommodation facilities. ERASMUS students live on the same floor in rooms with en suite bathrooms. They can choose from single, double or 3-bed rooms. The kitchen and appliances are shared by all students living on the floor. It is the responsibility of all people sharing the common premises to keep them clean. There are two student accommodation facilities that are located at Veľký Diel and Hliny V.

Veľký Diel

The student accommodation facility Veľký Diel offers 2,396 beds in the following three buildings:

Building A-B-C-D: double or 3-bed rooms. There are shared bathrooms on each floor. Each floor also has a kitchen with appliances. The rooms located in the B section have access to the DSL Internet and the rooms in the sections A-C-D have access to the wireless Internet.

Buildings E-F and G-H: three-bed rooms with en suite bathrooms. There is a kitchen with appliances on each floor. All rooms in these buildings have access to the Internet. There are also television rooms, conference rooms, a cinema room for approximately 180 people (film screening, conferences, lectures, rehearsals and workshops), study rooms, laundry, kitchens, GP, dentist, and hairdresser. There is free parking in a car park.

Address:
Veľký Diel
Ul. vysokoškolákov, 010 08 Žilina
Tel.: +421 – 41 - 565 25 07, +421 – 41 - 513 14 70
Web: http://vd.internaty.sk

Hliny V

The student accommodation facility Hliny V has a capacity of 1,934 beds and offers accommodation in building sections 2 - 9 in units with double or 3-bed rooms. Almost half of the rooms have access to the Internet. There are television rooms, conference rooms, study rooms, laundry, kitchens, a COPY-centre, a FIT centre, a climbing wall, room for Thai box, Finish and Infra saunas, squash, bowling, table tennis and badminton. There are also areas for football, volleyball, and basketball as well as tennis courts. The facility offers hairdresser/barber services, GP, dentist and students services. There is free parking in a car park.

Address:
Hliny V
Ul. Hlinská, 010 54 Žilina
Tel.: +421-41-513 14 77
Web: http://hliny.internaty.sk

3.4 CATERING

Meals for students are served in student canteens or in snack bars which are all located on the premises of accommodation facilities.
The student canteen uses the information system KREDIT 7 which enables automatic ordering and collecting meals by smart card.

Catering services are provided:
• Monday to Thursday: 7.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.
• Friday: 7.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
• Saturday and Sunday: 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Meals are served at the following places:
• canteens Nová menza and Stará menza
• canteens and snack bars in the following buildings: NR, Faculty of Security Engineering, Faculty of Management Science and Informatics.

Several snack bars can also be found in the area of Veľký Diel (Bufet Klub, Bufet Internáty Veľký Diel E-F, Cafeteria, Alammo, Paladeo, Café Paľova Búda) and in the area of Hliny V (Café K2, Bufet Stará Menza, Café Stará Menza).

3.5. USEFUL INFORMATION

Currency
Slovakia as a part of the European Union accepted Euro currency in January 2009. In every shopping centre and supermarket you can find ATMs and exchange offices or banks. Credit and debit cards are accepted in most shops in Slovakia including Visa, Maestro or Master card. There is a network of ATMs in the city operating non-stop.

Banks
There are various bank branch offices in Žilina, e. g.:
• Tatrabanka, Mariánske námestie 196
• Všeobecná úverová banka (VÚB), Na bráne 1
• Československá obchodná banka (ČSOB), J. Milca 14
• UniCredit bank, Národná 12
• Slovenská sporiteľňa, Hurbanova 4

Post Offices/Telephoning
Pošta = Post Office:
Pošta 1 Sládkovičova 14
Pošta 2, Hviezdoslavova 3
Pošta 8, Poštová ulica - Vlčince (the nearest post office to the accommodation facility Veľký Diel)

The easiest way to make a long distance call is to go to a post office or to use a public telephone. A phone card is required to make a phone call from a public phone. Phone cards are available at post offices. More information at: www.slovakiasite.com/telephoning.php

3.6 RELIGION

Slovakia is a Christian country tolerating other churches and denominations. Most of the Slovaks are of the Roman-Catholic religion. There are three Roman-Catholic churches and one protestant church in the centre. The services are held in Slovak.

3.7 LIVING EXPENSES

The exact amount of money needed for life in Žilina is hard to estimate. The approximate prices are as follows:

- student accommodation facilities cost approx. 97-136 € **per month**
- meals in student canteens cost approx. 8 € **per day**

3.8 HEALTH CARE

Slovakia provides good quality health care. Every village has a health centre and there is at least one hospital and several health centres in every city. Highly specialised hospitals are situated e.g. in Bratislava, Martin, Banská Bystrica and Košice. Every hospital has emergency service which operates in after regular hours. Emergency medical service can be reached 24/7 at the numbers 155 and 112.

Every citizen of Slovakia is mandated to pay for health insurance. Dental treatment in Slovakia is usually only partially covered by health insurance and many dentists in Slovakia do not have contracts with health insurance companies. In these cases, patients cover the treatment in full themselves. Operations and in-hospital treatments are also covered from the health insurance. Most medications are partially covered by the insurance; some medications are even fully covered while others are only available in full payment. Antibiotics and many other drugs are only available on doctor's prescription.

Emergency care costs patients 2 €. European Union citizens must have a valid European Health Insurance Card. Medical treatment for other foreigners is available for direct payment. Opening hours for health centres are usually from 7.30 a.m. till 4 p.m., but can vary. There is a standby pharmacy in every city. The list of standby pharmacies can be found on the door of every pharmacy.

The doctor for students of the University of Žilina: **MUDr. Yvetta Kurimská** http://www.mojdoktor.sk/yvetta

4. SLOVAKIA

4.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Slovakia is a small but beautiful country. It takes eight hours to travel from east to west and only one hour to fly across. Within the area of 49,036 square kilometres you can find beautiful mountains of the High and Low Tatras (Vysoké and Nízke Tatry), the Small and Big Fatras (Malá and Veľká Fatra) as well as fertile lowlands in the south and east of the country.

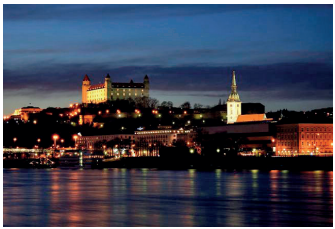
Although Slovakia is predominantly mountainous – 60% of its territory spreads from 300m up to 2 655m above sea level – it is a green country, covered with coniferous and broad leaved woodlands, green meadows and fields interwoven with smaller and bigger rivers as e. g. the Váh, Hron, Ipeľ, Hornád, Tisa, Morava ... and the Danube. Upon hills you can find castles, or at least their ruins. Underneath many of the mountains there are karsts, granite or ice caves. Slovakia has approximately 1,200 thermal and mineral springs and balneological treatment is of world standard. If you look at the map of Europe you can see that Slovakia is located directly in the heart of it, bordered in the north by Poland, northwest by the Czech Republic, southwest by Austria, south by Hungary and east by Ukraine. The population of Slovakia is approx. 5,500,000. The capital Bratislava with a population of 600,000 is just 65 km from Vienna, Austria, and Žilina is approximately 260 km by car from Vienna.

The official language in the Slovak Republic is Slovak. English and German are spoken and understood in the main tourist areas. Slovakia has a continental climate with cold winters and warm summers. The coldest month is January (0°C) and the warmest are July and August (26°C).

4.2 HISTORY

(resource: http://www.slovakia.org, http://www.slovakia.com)

The history of the people living in the area of Slovakia goes back several thousand years. In the Bronze Age (400 B.C.), under the influence of the Celts, who moved into the area of south-western Slovakia the country begun to boom. At the same time the Romans built a 'Limus Romanus' on the Danube which was a European equivalent to Hadrian's Wall on the British Isles. The Slavs came to the area of today's Slovakia between the 5th and 6th century A.D.



When the Habsburgs took over from the early kings and queens, Bratislava itself became the jewel in the crown. In 1526 Bratislava became the capital of the Empire. During the reign of Maria Theresia in the 18th century the country prospered as well as did Bratislava since it was the Queen's favourite residence. The prosperous reign of the Habsburgs ended on 14th November 1918 when newly formed Czechoslovakia was proclaimed as an independent state. During Thomas Garyk Masaryk presidency Czechoslovakia thrived. Soon it became the 5th richest country in the world with an economy so strong that it was hardly affected by the Great Depression of 1929. In 1993 the two independent countries -Slovakia and the Czech Republic were established. Currently Slovakia is part of NATO, the European Union as well as a temporarily member of the UN Security Council.

5. ŽILINA

5.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Žilina is an important centre of the northwest Slovakia and one of the largest cities in the Slovak Republic. Žilina today is a city with almost 90,000 inhabitants. Its importance is determined by the strategic position on the confluence of three rivers in the valley of the River Váh. The city is located in the middle of beautiful mountains which makes it a starting point to many tourist areas.

The city acquired a greater significance after the formation of the Slovak Republic in 1993. A new impulse for further development was when the County of Žilina was established in 1996. Žilina with its economic, cultural and educational potential has always been the centre of the north-western Slovakia. There are a lot of industry and construction companies. Žilina has a rich past, dynamic present and all conditions for all-round development in the future.

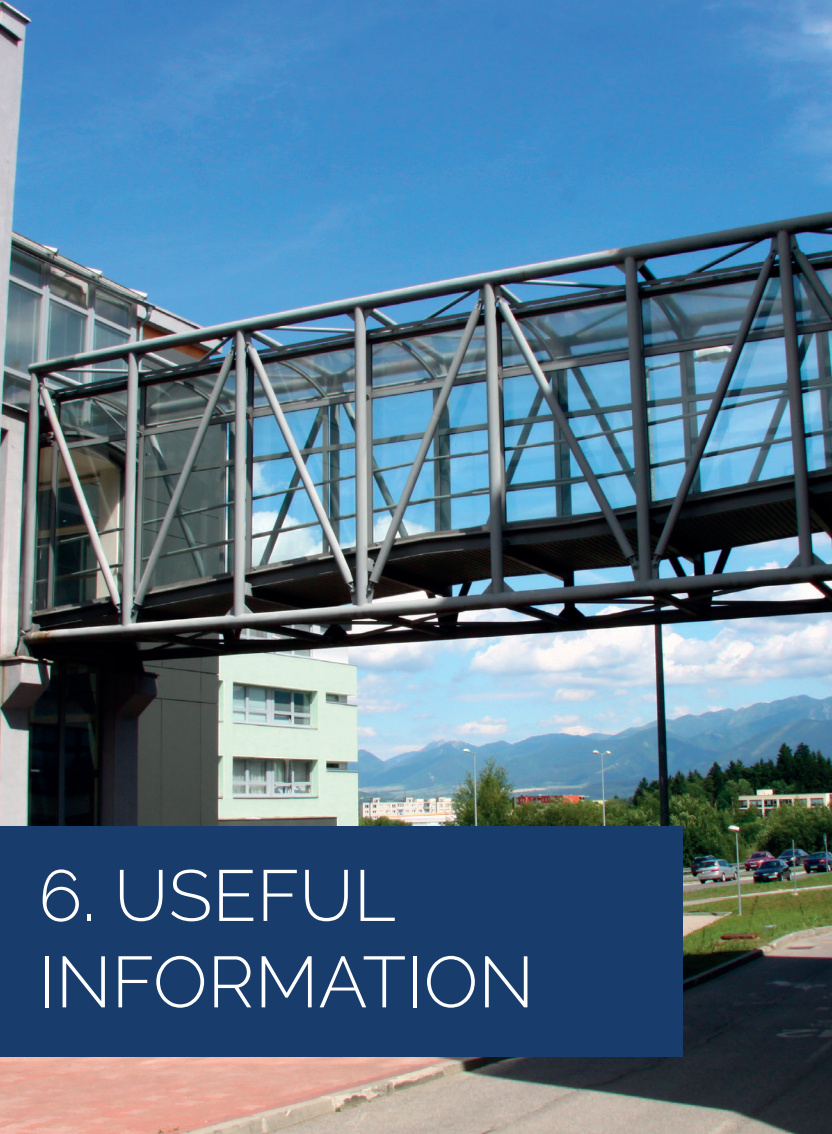
5.2 HISTORY

(taken from http://www.travel-to-zilina.biz/uk/history.htm)

The town's territory was first settled in the last Ice Period about 20,000 B.C. The evidence of the Slavonic settlement could be found on the premises of the following historical castles: Hričov, Súľov, Lietava and Strečno. First written document about the town's territory dates back to 1208 where the town was mentioned under the name Terra de Selinan. In 1297 the name Žilina appears in some writings. According to the written documents from 12th July 1321 Žilina was already a town.

King Charles I Robert of Anjou during his royal visit on 12th July 1321 granted privileges of a free town to Žilina. A very important legal document of European importance is the Book of Žilina, the origin of which reaches back to 1378. In 1381 the people living in the town received a positive response from the ruler when they asked for equal rights with German colonists. The bill Privilegium pro Slavis (List of privileges) was issued by King Luis I the Great on 7th May 1381. This important event is commemorated by a memorial tablet on the wall of the Town Hall of Žilina.

In the year 1431 Hussite army conquered and burnt Žilina down. After withdrawal of Hussite troops, the town collapsed economically but in the following centuries Žilina raised to an important centre for craftsman manufactures, trade and education.



6. USEFUL INFORMATION

6.1 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police / 158, 112
Fire brigade / 150, 112
Medical first aid / 155, 112
Information about phone numbers / 1181
Mountain rescue system / 112

6.2 USEFUL PHRASES IN SLOVAK

For more useful vocabulary look at www.slovakiasite.com/useful-vocabulary.php

English	Slovak
Good morning	Dobré ráno
Good afternoon	Dobrý deň
Good evening	Dobrý večer
Goodbye	Dovidenia
Thank you	Ďakujem
Please	Prosím
Excuse me	Prepáčte

English	Slovak
How are you?	Ako sa máš?
How much is it?	Koľko to stojí?
Yes	Áno
No	Nie
Help	Pomoc
What is your name?	Ako sa voláš?

6.3 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January - Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic
6 January - Epiphany
1 May - Labour Day
8 May - Victory over Fascism Day
5 July - St. Cyril and Methodius Holiday
29 August - Slovak National Uprising
1 September - Constitution Day
15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows
1 November - All Saints Day
17 November - Fight for Freedom and Democracy Day
24 December - Christmas Eve
25 December - Christmas Day
26 December - Second Day of Christmas

6.4 USEFUL FACTS

It is a custom in Slovakia to use the formal second person plural "vykanie" in official relations and meetings, the informal "tykanie" (second person singular) is used in families, among friends, and close colleagues (it is similar to calling by first name).
In Slovakia, it is a custom to eat 3 meals in a day. The lunch time is between 11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. The lunch consists of soup and a main course, sometimes also a dessert. For dinner, warm meals are often served generally between 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
When entering someone's flat or house in Slovakia, it is a custom to take your shoes off and it is also a custom for a host to offer their guests some slippers. It is considered impolite to enter someone's flat or house wearing shoes.

About Slovakia
http://www.slovakia.travel
http://www.slovakiasite.com

About Žilina
www.travel-to-zilina.biz/uk/index.htm
www.zilina.sk

6.5 ERASMUS STUDENT COMMENTS

Rostislav, Technical University Sofia, Bulgaria

What does ERASMUS mean to you?
Erasmus provides an opportunity for a person to grow mentally, spiritually and in many other ways. Erasmus gave me a chance to be a part of a big international family, to live together and to share our successes as well as disappointments. Erasmus made me think about myself, the person next to me, and the world in general. The education I received during my time in Erasmus programme was not only academic but also everyday life oriented. I am glad I could be a part of this inspirational family.

Have you enjoyed your stay in ŽILINA?
I have really enjoyed my stay in Žilina so far. The time passed was great and there is still more to come. Žilina is a nice place where life can be very good. Every day I find something new and that is why I will keep looking around every single day until I leave. In my heart I will stay here.

Your favourite sentence, motto:
Different people, different points of view. One thing is to want something, the other one is to be able to do it, the third and fourth ones are to accomplish it!

6.5 ERASMUS STUDENT COMMENTS

César, University of Cantabria, Spain

What does ERASMUS mean to you?
To me, Erasmus is a unique opportunity in the life of a student in which more things are learnt about life in a community by sharing experience with people from other countries so you can know them better.

Have you enjoyed your stay in ŽILINA?
Žilina is a really good place for students to live because it is not very big and there are not many Erasmus students, so we are always together as a family, and everybody knows everybody. Life is relatively inexpensive and you can easily walk almost everywhere.... except for in winter

The most memorable moment of your stay?
Only one!? It may have been the last few days enjoying the snow in the mountains of the High Tatras with other Erasmus students from Banská Bystrica... or else the trip we almost all made to Krakow together, enjoying this amazing city.

Bechir, University of Bucharest, Romania

What does ERASMUS mean to you?
Erasmus is a once in a lifetime experience, it is something I cannot explain in words, it is great. Erasmus is probably the best choice I have made so far. I have met great people and I have had the best time ever. School is also great, most of the teachers are young and talkative and we can understand each other. Great!

Have you enjoyed your stay in ŽILINA?
Well, it was very nice, the city has many beautiful places and the people are nice. I tried very good food here and I would recommend it further if I ever come across someone travelling to Slovakia. The surroundings are amazing, there are mountains everywhere, castles just two hours away, ice-skating, and lots of snow, and not to forget, the parties were amazing, speechless... and I owe the most beautiful moments that I have spent here to my girls Kvetka, Despina, Andreja, Kasia and Adela and all the other Erasmus students. Thank you guys, it was great!!!!!

The most memorable moment of your stay?
This is a crime, how can you choose just one? All moments were amazing, it's impossible to choose only one, I am sorry, but my answer for this question is 27th September 2010 – 12th February 2011.

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Žilinská univerzita v Žiline
Univerzitná 8215/1, 010 26 Žilina,
Slovakia

tel.: +421 - 41 - 513 50 01
fax: +421 - 41 - 513 50 55

GPS: 49°12'8.26"N
18°45'23.6"E

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