

## **Arriving in Slovenia**

As part of the EMMIR program, my fourth semester took place between the University of Nova Gorica and the Slovenian Migration Institute in Ljubljana.

When I moved to the capital, instead of residing in one of the students' dorms, I decided to rent a room in an apartment near the centre. Although student dorms are quite cheap and easy to get, the idea to stay in the centre of Ljubljana came exactly during the period of the covid-19 pandemic. It was easier from there to reach open facilities and to have nice walks around the historical centre. Apartments are, in general, not too expensive and there are also several Facebook groups where to search for the best solutions. A lot of students go to Ljubljana with Erasmus scholarships, so it is not difficult to find roommates (also for shorter periods of stay) and new friends.

I arrived in Ljubljana by bus (Flixbus). But it is also possible to fly there or take a train from neighbouring countries. However, many people recommend flying to one of the nearby airports that offer better (and cheaper) options such as in Venice (Treviso as well) or Trieste. The Slovenian airport is quite small and the flights are expensive compared to other nearby airports and their respective routes. Remember that within three days, it is mandatory to go to the nearest police station to register entry in the country. You will need your passport and your apartment/room contract.

## **Food vouchers :)**

As soon as I received my student card, I went to the Student Union's facility to get access to the food's "boni". These are food vouchers/coupons available for students and valid in the whole country. A lot of restaurants and bars accept them and you can have good meals for a very cheap price. I believe it is the most needed thing for every exchange student in Slovenia. If your stay is longer than one semester, you might think it is worth buying a Slovenian SIM card. Many services are unfortunately available for Slovenian numbers only.

## **Studying in Slovenia**

Regarding my studies there, a lot has inevitably changed during the pandemic. For example, many classes were taught online. I followed English courses, and all the teachers have been very approachable, qualified and interested in my questions and views. There was no problem in communication as all of them speak perfect English too. Furthermore, during my semester at UNG, I have also been writing my thesis. So, most of the time spent in Slovenia was dedicated to my research project.

## **Everyday life**

Ljubljana is a very nice, friendly, and small city. You have everything you need and you can reach other cities in Slovenia and neighbouring countries pretty easily. For example, I recommend visiting Trieste.

In the city centre, there are many study-friendly cafes, where I used to work. Unfortunately, I also had to experience the lockdown period and these were all closed. The library is accessible and its architecture is very characteristic

The city has a lot of green areas and it is bike-friendly. It is possible to do small hikes and swimming in the nearby lakes.

More in general, Slovenia is beautiful, welcoming and a place to discover in central Europe at the crossroads of European diversity. The high presence of international students helps in creating a very good location to experience the Erasmus in Europe.