



BRIEF GUIDE TO

STUDY & RESEARCH IN SLOVAKIA

STUDY IN
SLOVAKIA
GOOD IDEA

Basic facts and figures
about higher education and
R&D environment in Slovakia



With financial support of the
Ministry of Education, Research,
Development and Youth of SR



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Little big country

in the heart of Europe



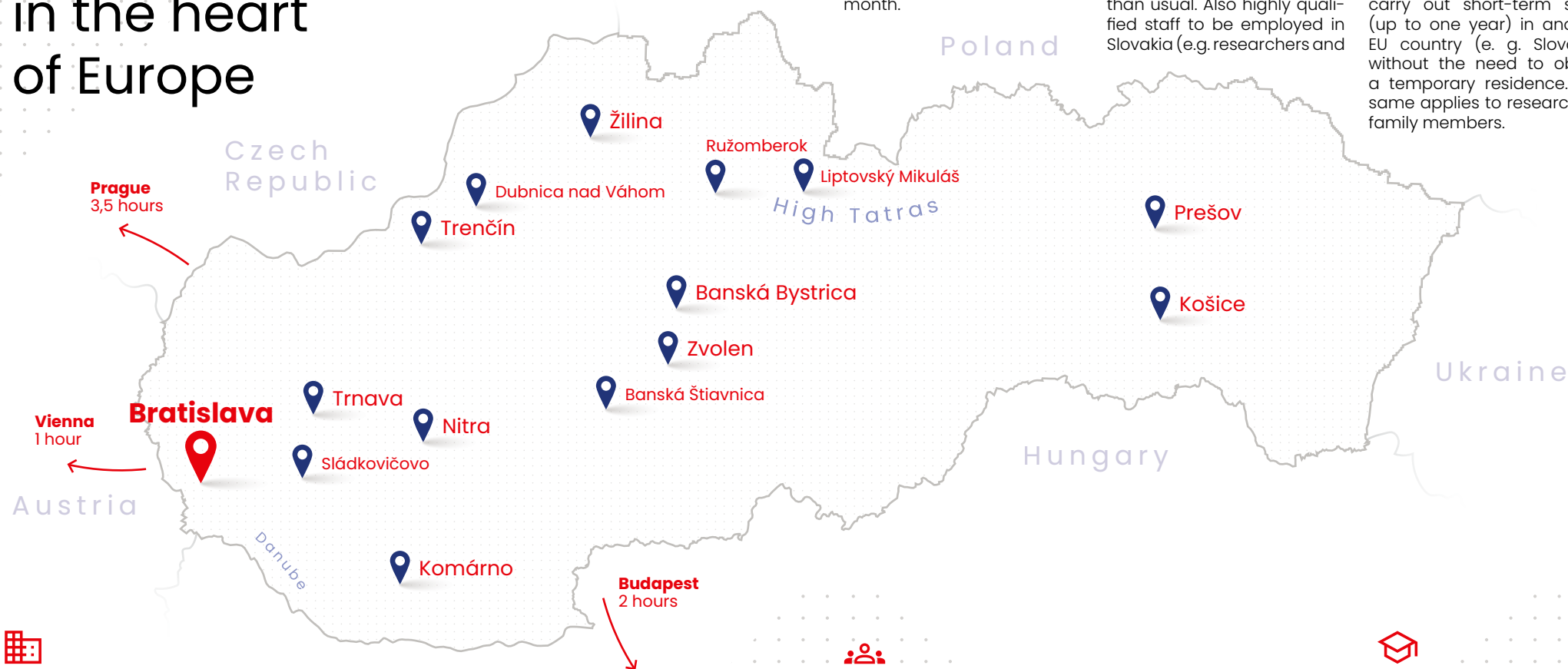
Did you know that ..

Scholarship holders within governmental/EU scholarship programme or a programme that is part of an international agreement, residing on the territory of Slovakia are entitled to full coverage within the **public health insurance**, provided that they are awarded the scholarship for a period of more than one month.

Scholarship holders of listed programmes coming to Slovakia for more than three months **can apply for a national visa** (type D visa), which allows them not only to enter but also to stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic for the duration up to one year with **much simpler administrative procedures** than usual. Also highly qualified staff to be employed in Slovakia (e.g. researchers and

other listed professions) can enjoy similar simplified national visa formalities.

Thanks to the **simplified rules of mobility within EU**, even non-EU students, researchers with a residence permit for the purpose of study or research and development in one of the EU member states can carry out short-term stays (up to one year) in another EU country (e. g. Slovakia) without the need to obtain a temporary residence. The same applies to researcher's family members.



Universities in Slovakia

20 public HEIs
3 state HEIs
10 private HEIs
6 foreign HEIs

Academic staff

Academic staff around 14 400 academic employees at HEIs in Slovakia (share of foreign academic staff cca 6,4%)



Students in numbers

Around 136 000 Slovak students (cca 84%)
Around 21 200 international students from 117 countries (cca 16%)
Majority of foreign students come from Europe and from Asia



Education programmes

More than 600 programmes at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels in foreign languages

Discover all the universities in Slovakia

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are third level education, scientific and art institutions. The major task of HEIs is to provide higher education and creative scientific research or creative artistic activity. Based on founding and funding, there are 3 types of HEIs:



The range of STUDY FIELDS students can choose from is wide:



 **More than 600 programmes**
in English and other foreign languages

For detailed information
about study programmes
and fields of study, see:
www.portalvs.sk/en



The following map allows you to see
what fields of study can be studied in which city

Bratislava

Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava



Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava



Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava



Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts



Comenius University in Bratislava



Pan-European University in Bratislava



School of Economics and Management in Public Administration in Bratislava



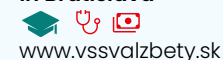
Slovak Medical University in Bratislava



Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava



St. Elizabeth University of Health Care and Social Work in Bratislava



University of Economics in Bratislava



School of Management



Banská Bystrica

Academy of Fine Arts in Banská Bystrica



Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica



Banská Štiavnica

Ján Albrecht Music and Art Academy in Banská Štiavnica



www.huaja.org

Komárno

J. Selye University in Komárno



www.ujs.sk

Prešov

College of International Business ISM Slovakia in Prešov



www.ismpo.sk

University of Prešov



www.unipo.sk

Trnava

University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava



www.ucm.sk

Trnava University



www.truni.sk

Dubnica nad Váhom

DTI University in Dubnica n. Váhom



www.dti.sk

Liptovský Mikuláš

Armed Forces Academy of General Milan R. Štefánik



www.aos.sk

Košice

P. J. Šafárik University in Košice



www.upjs.sk

Technical University in Košice



www.tuke.sk

University of Security Management in Košice



www.vsbm.sk

University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice



www.uvlf.sk

Nitra

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra



www.ukf.sk

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra



www.uniag.sk

Ružomberok

Catholic University in Ružomberok



www.ku.sk

Zvolen

Technical University in Zvolen



www.tuzvo.sk

Sládkovičovo

Danubius University in Sládkovičovo



www.vsdanubius.sk

Žilina

University of Žilina



www.uniza.sk

Trenčín

Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín



www.tnuni.sk

Also, foreign HEIs established and situated in the territory of another member state of the EU, EEA or Switzerland may provide higher education following the law of their country of origin in the territory of Slovakia once they have been granted official approval by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

Study programmes and organisation of study

Slovak higher education institutions (HEIs) can offer only accredited study programmes. The teaching language is Slovak in general, but HEIs also offer study programmes in other languages (mostly in English, but sometimes also in Hungarian, French, German or Russian).

Study programmes are usually offered in one of the three levels of higher education:

Bachelor Study
3–4 years
app. 240 credits

Master Study
1–2 years
app. 180 credits

Doctoral PhD.
3–4 years

5 – 6 years
Medicine
Veterinary Medicine
Pharmacy

The full degree study in Slovak language is free of charge for the period of standard study duration. Generally, tuition fees apply for study programmes provided in a foreign language. However, HEIs can also decide to offer a particular study programme in a **foreign language without requesting tuition fees**. Information on tuition fees and study programmes can be obtained from respective HEIs/faculties.

The academic year begins on 1 September of the current year and ends on 31 August of the following year.



It is composed of 2 semesters (winter semester lasts from September to January and summer semester lasts from February to June) or 3 trimesters (organisation of the academic year is set by the statute of the faculty or statute of the HEI).

For the assessment of student's achievements, the credit system following the rules of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used; it was introduced in 2002 for all levels and forms of higher education studies. Student's standard work load is expressed by the number of credits: 60 credits per academic year and 30 credits per semester. Every HEI determines the total number of credits required for the due completion of the study in its respective stages.

Grading is based on the ECTS grading scale:



Slovak universities participate in several alliances within the European Universities Initiative:

Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava
FILMEU Alliance brings together 8 European universities
<https://www.filmeu.eu>

Slovak University of Technology Bratislava
EULiST Alliance composed of 10 European universities
<https://eulist.university>

Comenius University in Bratislava
ENLIGHT Alliance composed of 10 European universities
<https://enlight-eu.org>

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
is an associated partner of AURORA Alliance composed of 10 European universities
<https://aurora-universities.eu>

Technical University of Košice
ULYSSESUS Alliance integrating 6 European universities
<https://ulyssesus.eu>

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
INVEST Alliance bringing together 5 European universities
<https://www.invest-alliance.eu>

Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
EMERGE Alliance composed of 9 European universities
<https://euemerge.eu>

Trnava University
KreativEU Alliance bringing together 11 European universities
<https://www.kreativ.eu.org>

University of Žilina
PIONEER Alliance integrating 9 European universities
<https://pioneer-alliance.eu>

Scholarships to Slovakia

Internationalization of education and science

Higher Education Internationalisation Strategy 2030 aims to foster academic mobility of students and university staff, and enhance conditions for studying in Slovakia – more study programmes in English, easier procedure for visa and residence permit, more scholarships, more joint degree programmes, support for integration activities, and other measures.

PhD scholarships

All admitted PhD students (including from outside of EU/EEA) are entitled to a PhD scholarship during the full-time doctoral study.

Erasmus+

Slovakia is also a part of Erasmus+, EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

Academic Mobilities

Academic Mobilities are scholarships based on bilateral governmental agreements between Slovakia and various countries in Europe and all over the world. Applicants from these countries can come to Slovakia for study and research stays of varying length, summer language courses and other mobility formats. Check the available scholarships at: www.grants.saia.sk



National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic

NSP supports study and research stays of students (1 – 2 semesters), PhD students (1 – 10 months), university teachers, researchers, and artists (1 – 10 months). The scholarships are available to applicants from any country in the world! More information at: www.scholarships.sk



Search
our Database
of Scholarships
& Grants

Find out more
about studying
in Slovakia:



CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies)

CEEPUS supports academic exchange and mobility of students, PhD students, university teachers, and researchers from 15 Central and South Eastern European countries. Scholarship stays can range from one week in case of university teachers to one academic year in case of students. More information at:

www.ceepus.saia.sk/en



Action Austria – Slovakia

Action Austria – Slovakia, cooperation in Science and Education, is an academic exchange programme between Austria and Slovakia that provides scholarships for study and research stays to students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers, summer language courses and project cooperation. More information at: www.aktion.saia.sk/de



Governmental Scholarships

Every year, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic awards full study scholarships for all levels of study to applicants from selected countries all over the world. More information at:

<https://www.vladnestipendia.sk/en/>



Visegrad fund

International Visegrad Fund – as a donor organisation of the governments of Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary offers scholarships, fellowships and residencies supporting individual mobility as well as project grants to foster international regional cooperation. More information at: www.visegradfund.org



Euraxess

EURAXESS Slovakia is part of the pan-European initiative backed by the European Commission. Free-of-charge, it provides information and personalised assistance for researchers and their family members on various practical matters related to mobility and helps their integration in the new cultural environment. It facilitates global talent circulation, but also researchers' career development via various tools, trainings and activities both within and beyond academia. European EURAXESS portal is also hosting the enormous database of research jobs and funding opportunities. More information at: www.euraxess.sk or <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>



Research, development and innovation

Slovakia offers an increasing number of opportunities to carry out excellent research and convert your ideas into practical application or business initiatives. We are an attractive destination for **foreign investors**, with one of the highest shares of medium enterprises and high-tech exports in the European Union and among other perks, we are the number one producer of **cars** per capita in the world. Our strong ambition to become the hub of innovations is underlined by the examples of the successful Slovak companies like ARDACO, ESET, Anasoft (**IT security sector**), c2i (**carbon-fibre components**), GA Drilling (**plasma drilling technology**), MultitplexDX (**personalised molecular diagnostics** — including cancer and

Covid-19), SanaClis (**clinical trial services**), Glycanostics (**non-invasive cancer diagnostic tests**), NG Aviation (**airport digitisation**), Sygic (navigation systems), Microstep-MIS (**weather and environment monitoring and information systems**). A strong focus on the automotive industry is also reflected in the development of **hydrogen-powered concept car** (cooperation of Technical University of Košice with Matador group) and innovative electric **battery solutions** (InoBat). Innovations leading to **sustainable and ecological solutions** could be found e.g. with Sensoneo (**smart waste management**) or Nitroterra (**biofertilisers**). Even rather newly established research centres have managed to obtain international attention, like KInIT in the area of **AI**.

Wide network of public research institutions

- 45** Institutes of Slovak Academy of Sciences
- 33** Higher Education institutions
- +** Specialised research institutes

Key RDI challenges

- ✓ Digital transformation (Industry 4.0)
- ✓ Transformation to an environmental and energy-efficient economy
- ✓ Development of Slovak regions, including area of agriculture

International collaborations

- ✓ Part of European Research Area
- ✓ Member of CERN, ESA, XFEL and other large research infrastructure projects



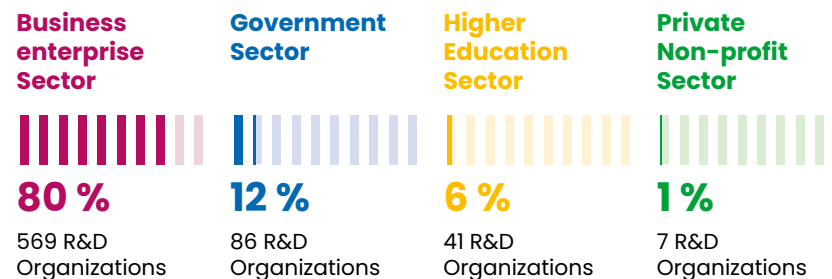
R&D & Innovation Sector in Slovakia by SARIO

Research in Slovakia



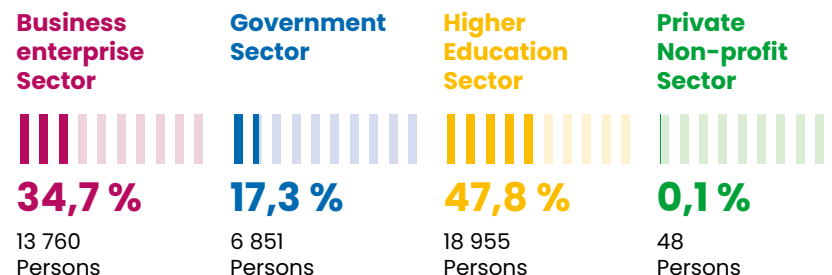
Slovak R&D by Sectors

Number of R&D organizations / **703**



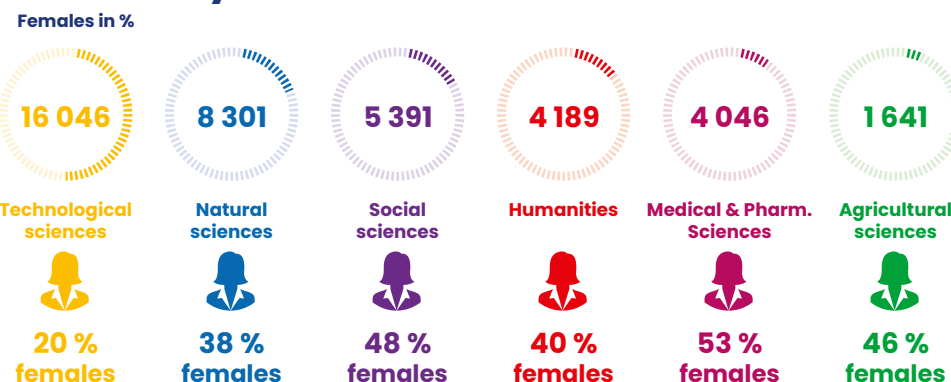
R&D Personnel by Sectors

Number R&D Personnel / **39 614**



R&D Personnel in Head Counts by Fields of Science

Number R&D Personnel / **39 614**



Institution	Location	Research focus	Web
Centre of Applied Research of New Materials	Bratislava	materials engineering, nanotechnology, process engineering	www.cav.sav.sk www.cemea.sav.sk
Lab. of Advanced Materials at the Comenius University	Bratislava	inorganic and organic nanostructures, complex assemblies and clusters, narrow-bandgap perovskite	www.fns.uniba.sk/en/lam
Science Park of the Comenius University	Bratislava	biomedicine, biotechnology, environmental medicine	www.cusp.uniba.sk
Biomedical Research Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences	Bratislava	cancer research, clinical and translational research, experimental endocrinology, virology	www.biomedcentrum.sav.sk
Slovak National Center for Quantum Technologies	Bratislava	quantum technologies	www.qute.sk www.quantum.physics.sk
BioMed Martin of the Comenius University	Martin	molecular medicine, cancer research, neuroscience, respirology	www.biomedmartin.sk/en
Agro Bio-Tech Research Centre	Nitra	processing technology of agricultural products, agri-food industry, biotechnology, genetic technologies, agroecology, bioenergetics, bioeconomy	www.agrobiotech.sk
University Science Park TECHNICOM, Technical University	Košice	information and communi. technologies, electrical engin., automation and control systems, mechanical engin., civil engin., environmental engin.	www.uvptechicom.sk
Centre for Interdisciplinary Biosciences	Košice	therapy of cancerous diseases, protein engineering, bioenergetics	www.cib-center.org
Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass at the A. Dubček University	Trenčín	functional and surface functionalized glass	www.funlass.eu
CAMBO University Science Park of the Slovak University of Technology	Trnava	material science, ion technologies, nanotechnology, ICT, automation	www.atr.mtf.stuba.sk
Research Centre and University Science park at University of Žilina	Žilina	Intelligent transp. systems, progress. materials for transp. infrastructure and vehicles production and etc.	www.vyskumnecentrum.sk www.uvp.uniza.sk

Scholarships and grants for researchers

Slovakia provides various funding schemes for researchers, both early-stage (information at the host institution) and postdocs with previous international experience (R2). Moreover, also grants for up to 5 years are to be available for excellent researchers with international recognition for the establishment of a research team. Schemes supporting participation in European research funding schemes (e.g. Seal of Excellence or other marks of quality) are also foreseen. More information in early 2025 at www.vyskumnaagentura.sk and www.euraxess.sk

The **Slovak Academy of Sciences** also offers various funding schemes for reserachers: **IMPULZ** – for internationally recognised researchers. The task for the excellent scientists is to create and manage their own research groups which will work on new research directions in line with the current world trends. The grant support lasts typically 5 years. More information at: <https://impulz.sav.sk/en>

Stefan Schwarz Postdoctoral program – for PhD graduates with not more than 5 years after the date of dissertation defense. The grant support is for 2 to 3 years. More information at:

<https://schwarz.sav.sk>

Also other funding opportunities are managed by SAS. Incentives towards the Seal of Excellence in MSCA and similar ERC quality marks within Horizon Europe proposals are considered to be reintroduced.

There are further funding/job opportunities available at thematic or project level (e.g. in quantum technologies <http://qute.sk/opportunities/mobility-call/>) or at institutional level (various universities have their own postdoc schemes).

For several opportunities also see the funding, hosting and job announcements at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

Key higher education, RDI and internationalisation stakeholders and initiatives

Slovak Academy of Sciences
www.sav.sk

Slovak Rectors Conference
www.srk.sk

Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic
www.minedu.sk

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO)
www.sario.sk

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
www.siea.sk

SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency)
www.saia.sk

Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation
www.saaic.sk

Slovak Organization for Research and Development activities (SOVVA)
www.sovva.sk

EURAXESS Slovakia
www.euraxess.sk

Enterprise Europe Network Slovakia
www.een.sk

Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development (SLORD) in Brussels
www.slord.sk

Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy SAPIE
www.sapie.sk

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
www.cvtisr.sk

Research and Innovation Authority
www.vaia.gov.sk

Slovak Research and Development Agency
www.apvv.sk

CIVITTA Slovakia
www.civitta.sk

Fulbright Slovakia
www.fulbright.sk

Research Agency
www.vyskumnaagentura.sk

More at: Current Research Information System (database of R&D org.) www.skcris.sk

Also, find more about international mobility scholarships in the section **Scholarships to Slovakia**.

SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency) is a well-established organisation that focuses on promoting international mobility and cooperation in education and research. We manage scholarship programmes for international students and researchers, and also provide services such as guidance, counselling and information about study and research opportunities in Slovakia.



SAIA Study
in Slovakia



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www.studyinslovakia.saia.sk
www.researchinslovakia.saia.sk
www.euraxess.sk
www.saia.sk/en

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