

SURVIVAL GUIDE

2024

UMIB



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ERASMUS+
KOSOVA

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WELCOME

Welcome!

This guide was prepared for international students coming to Kosovo and the University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini" (UIBM). In the following pages, you will find essential information to help you navigate your first days in Kosovo and integrate smoothly into university life. We highly recommend reading this guide carefully, as it will provide valuable insights and make your stay at UIBM much easier and more enjoyable.



HOW TO GET TO



REGISTRATION

Getting to Kosovo by plane

The cheapest option to reach Mitrovica is by bus. Regular bus services run from the airport to Prishtina bus station, where you can then transfer to a bus heading to Mitrovica. The total cost for the trip is around 5-7 euros. The journey takes about 1.5 hours, depending on traffic.

Taxis are available at the airport, and the ride to Mitrovica costs approximately 30-35 euros. It's a 45-minute trip. Make sure to agree on the fare beforehand or ensure the driver uses the meter.

Getting to Mitrovica

Buses: Public buses run throughout the city and to nearby towns. Tickets typically cost around 0.50-1 euro for short trips. Bus services connect the university with key areas like the city center and student housing districts.

Taxis are affordable and commonly used, with starting prices of 1.50 euros, and rates averaging 0.80 euros per kilometer. Taxi apps such as "Taksi Mitrovica" are also popular.

Getting around Kosovo

For trips to Prishtina or other cities like Peja, Gjakova, and Ferizaj, intercity buses run frequently. For longer trips, prices range from 2-10 euros, depending on distance.

Registration process

Upon arrival, Erasmus students must visit the International Relations Office located at the main campus. You will need:

- Your passport and visa.
- Proof of accommodation.
- Confirmation of your Erasmus grant.
- A printed Learning Agreement. After registration, students will receive a student card, providing access to university facilities, including libraries and dining halls.



MITROVICË

KOSOVO

42.883° N | 20.867° E



ACCOMMODATION

Student Dormitories

UMIB offers dormitory-style accommodation primarily for international students. Dorms are located within walking distance from the university, and they provide basic amenities including free Wi-Fi, laundry services, and shared kitchens. Rent is affordable, ranging from 100-150 euros per month. Rooms are shared with other international or local students.

Private Housing

For students preferring more privacy, apartments can be rented in Mitrovica. Prices range from 200-300 euros for a one-bedroom apartment. It's common to share a flat with other students, which can reduce costs to around 150 euros per person. Popular areas for student rentals include Vallaq and Bosniak Quarter

Living in Mitrovica

The cost of living in Mitrovica is relatively low compared to other European cities. Expect to spend between 350-450 euros per month on rent, food, transport, and leisure.



TRANSPORTATION

Buses: Kosovo has an extensive and affordable bus network connecting all major cities, including Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, and Prizren. Intercity buses are the primary mode of public transport, with tickets ranging from 2 to 10 euros. Minibuses ("furgons") are also available for quicker, short-distance travel.

Taxis: Taxis are common in urban areas, with a starting fare of around 1.50 euros and 0.80-1.00 euros per kilometer. Taxi services can be hailed on the street or booked via taxi apps.

Transportation in Mitrovica

Local Buses: Mitrovica has a local bus network that connects different parts of the city, including the university and city center, with fares typically around 0.50-1 euro.

Taxis: Taxis are widely used for getting around Mitrovica. The fare starts at 1.50 euros, with short trips costing around 3-5 euros. Taxi apps are also available for easy booking.

UNIVERSITY OF MITROVICA



University "Isa Boletini"-
Mitrovica
Str. Ukshin Kovacica, 40000
Mitrovica
Republic of Kosovo



BANKING SYSTEM



Kosovo's banking system is well-developed and modern, offering a range of services for both residents and international students. Most banks in Kosovo are subsidiaries of international banks or regional ones, ensuring a reliable and secure banking environment. Some of the most popular banks include NLB Bank, TEB, ProCredit Bank, and Raiffeisen Bank.

Opening a bank account

Erasmus students are encouraged to open a local bank account to easily receive their Erasmus grant and manage daily expenses. The process is straightforward and typically takes one day. To open an account, you will need:

- Passport and visa (if required)
- Proof of address in Kosovo (rental agreement, dorm contract, etc.)
- Student enrollment certificate from your university (UMIB)
- Tax Identification Number (you can obtain this at the local tax office)

Once your account is opened, you will be given a debit card and access to online banking services, which make it easy to transfer funds, pay bills, or check your balance. ATMs are widely available in all major towns and cities, and most accept Visa and MasterCard. Most banks offer accounts with no monthly fees for students and minimal transaction charges for withdrawals and payments.



COST OF LIVING



Kosovo is one of the most affordable countries in Europe for students, making it an ideal destination for Erasmus participants. Living costs are considerably lower than in Western European countries, allowing students to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle on a budget.

Accommodation

- Student Dormitories: Prices for student dormitories range from 100 to 150 euros per month. These dorms are basic but well-maintained, offering shared facilities like kitchens and bathrooms.
- Private Apartments: For those who prefer private accommodation, renting an apartment in Mitrovica costs between 200 to 300 euros per month. Shared apartments with other students are also common, bringing the cost down to around 150-200 euros per person.

Food and groceries

- Groceries: Monthly grocery expenses are generally low, averaging around 100-150 euros. Local markets are a great place to buy fresh produce, with fruits, vegetables, and dairy products being especially affordable.
- Eating Out: Dining in Kosovo is very inexpensive. A meal at a local restaurant costs around 5-8 euros, while a coffee or tea at a café is just 1 euro. Fast food options and student canteens offer even cheaper meals, around 2-3 euros for a meal.



COST OF LIVING

Transportation

Public transportation, such as buses, is extremely affordable, with a one-way ticket costing 0.50-1 euro in the city, and monthly passes are around 20-25 euros. Taxis are also affordable, with short rides within the city typically costing between 3-5 euros.

Utilities and internet

Monthly utility bills (electricity, water, heating) for an apartment usually range from 40 to 70 euros, depending on the season.

Internet services are widely available and inexpensive, with broadband costing around 10-15 euros per month.

Entertainment and leisure

Kosovo offers a variety of entertainment options, from cinemas to concerts and cultural events. A cinema ticket costs around 4-5 euros, and entrance to museums or galleries is often free or less than 2 euros. Nightlife in cities like Prishtina is vibrant and affordable, with drinks at bars and clubs costing 2-4 euros.

Health and insurance

Healthcare in Kosovo is affordable, with most basic medical consultations costing 10-20 euros. However, Erasmus students are covered under the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which grants access to public healthcare services at no or low cost. Pharmacies are easily accessible in cities, and common medications are cheap and widely available.

Overall estimated monthly expenses

- Accommodation: 100-300 euros
- Food and groceries: 100-150 euros
- Transport: 20-30 euros
- Utilities: 40-70 euros
- Leisure/Entertainment: 50-100 euros



PRISHTINA



HEALTHCARE



Kosovo offers both public and private healthcare services, with public healthcare being the primary system available to residents and international students. As an Erasmus student, you are eligible for healthcare services through the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which grants access to public healthcare at little or no cost.

Public healthcare

Hospitals and Clinics: The public healthcare system in Kosovo is free for residents and visitors with the EHIC. Regional hospitals are present in major cities, including Mitrovica and Prishtina. These hospitals offer general medical care, emergency services, and specialist consultations.

Mitrovica Regional Hospital: This hospital provides general health services, including emergency care, surgery, and outpatient services. It is the largest public healthcare facility in the region and is accessible to both locals and international students.

Primary Healthcare Centers: For non-emergency issues, primary healthcare centers (QKMF in Albanian) are available in most towns and cities. They offer consultations for minor illnesses, vaccinations, and other routine services.

Emergency Services: In case of emergencies, you can dial 112 for ambulance services. Emergency care is available 24/7 at regional hospitals, including Mitrovica and Prishtina hospitals. Ambulance services are usually quick to respond, particularly in urban areas.

Private healthcare

Private Clinics: Private healthcare is widely available and typically faster than public services. Many international students prefer private clinics for specialist consultations and non-emergency treatments due to shorter wait times. Private clinics in Kosovo offer a range of services, including dental care, dermatology, and general medicine.

Cost of Private Care: Private healthcare is generally affordable compared to Western Europe, with consultation fees ranging between 20-30 euros.

Treatments and medications can also be reimbursed through private insurance, if applicable.

Popular Clinics: In Prishtina, well-known private clinics include American Hospital, Swiss Med, and Royal Medical Clinic, which provide specialized medical services in areas such as cardiology, orthopedics, and internal medicine.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies (Apotekë) are abundant in Kosovo, and most common medications like pain relievers, antibiotics, and cold medicines are available without a prescription. Pharmacies in larger cities, such as Mitrovica and Prishtina, are usually open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with some offering 24-hour services.

Costs: Medication costs in Kosovo are relatively low. For instance, common painkillers cost around 1-2 euros, and antibiotics are typically 3-5 euros. It's important to note that prescriptions from EU countries are usually accepted, but you may need a local doctor to confirm the medication.



WEATHER

Kosovo has a continental climate, characterized by cold winters and hot summers, with distinct seasons. The weather can vary depending on the region, with higher elevations like the Sharr Mountains being cooler throughout the year.

Summer

Summers in Kosovo are typically hot and dry, with average temperatures ranging from 25°C to 35°C (77°F to 95°F). July and August are the hottest months, often experiencing heatwaves where temperatures can exceed 35°C (95°F), especially in lowland areas like Prishtina. In Mitrovica, the summer heat is tempered by the proximity to the Ibar River, providing slightly cooler evenings. While air conditioning is common in newer buildings, traditional homes may rely on natural ventilation.

What to pack: Light clothing, sunscreen, and hats are essential, but it's also a good idea to carry a light jacket for cooler nights.

Winter

Winters in Kosovo can be cold, especially in the mountains, with temperatures often falling below 0°C (32°F). In Mitrovica, the average winter temperature ranges from -5°C to 5°C (23°F to 41°F). Snow is common, particularly in December and January, and it can create picturesque landscapes but also challenging travel conditions.

The Sharr Mountains and Brezovica ski resort are popular winter destinations for skiing and snowboarding. These areas receive heavy snowfall, making them ideal for winter sports enthusiasts.

What to pack: A warm winter coat, gloves, scarves, and waterproof boots are necessary. Buildings are generally well-heated, but you will need proper winter attire for outdoor activities.

Spring

Spring in Kosovo is mild and pleasant, with temperatures ranging from 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F). Rain is common, particularly in April, but overall the weather is ideal for outdoor activities like hiking and sightseeing.

Mitrovica and its surrounding areas become lush and green during spring, making it a great time to explore local parks and the countryside. The countryside is dotted with wildflowers, and the weather is perfect for hiking in areas like the Rugova Gorge and the rolling hills of the Drenica region.

What to pack: A light jacket, umbrella, and comfortable walking shoes.

Autumn

Autumn in Kosovo is cool and crisp, with temperatures gradually falling from 20°C to 10°C (68°F to 50°F). This is the harvest season, and markets are filled with fresh produce such as apples, grapes, and pumpkins.

The autumn foliage in Kosovo, especially in areas like Peja and Rugova, is stunning, with vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow. It's a perfect time for hiking, visiting vineyards, or simply enjoying the natural beauty of the region.

What to pack: Layered clothing, as temperatures can vary widely between day and night, and comfortable shoes for hiking or city exploration.

MITROVICA





CHECKLIST

Before departure

1. Documents:

- Valid passport
- EHIC card or health insurance
- Erasmus Learning Agreement and UMIB Admission Letter
- Copies of important documents (passport, visa, etc.)

2. Finances:

- Bring enough euros for the first week (200-300 euros)
- Debit/credit card for international use
- Plan to open a local bank account in Kosovo
- Accommodation:
- Confirm accommodation and arrange for deposits
- Keep contact details of your landlord or dormitory

3. Packing:

- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Travel adapter (European standard)
- Medication (if needed)

4. Travel:

- Book flight and print tickets
- Plan transportation from Prishtina Airport to Mitrovica

Upon arrival

1. At UMIB:

- Register at the International Office
- Obtain your student card
- Attend orientation

2. Banking:

- Open a local bank account

3. Accommodation:

- Check amenities and settle in

4. Healthcare:

- Locate the nearest hospital/clinic
- Have your EHIC or insurance info ready

Before returning home

1. Academic:

- Ensure all academic records are finalized

2. Finances:

- Close your bank account if needed

3. Accommodation:

- Notify your landlord/dorm and handle any deposit returns

4. Travel:

- Book return flight and confirm all travel documents



ALBANIAN: HOW TO SAY...?



CONTACTS

English	Albanian	ERASMUS project team
• Hello	Përshëndetje	Elvedina Ismajli - elvedina.ismajli@umib.net (Official for International Cooperation and Scientific research)
• Goodbye	Mirupafshim	
• Please	Ju lutem	Abdullah Sadiku - abdullah.sadiku@umib.net (Official for International Cooperation and Scientific research)
• Thank you	Faleminderit	
• Yes	Po	
• No	Jo	Edita Bekteshi - edita.bekteshi@umib.net (professor)
• How much does this cost?	Sa kushton kjo?	
• Where is...?	Ku është...?	
• Help!	Ndihmë!	
• Do you speak English?	A flisni anglisht?	University administration
• I don't understand	Nuk kuptoj	Besim Kurti - besim.kurti@umib.net (Director of the Office for Budget and Finance)
• Excuse me	Më falni	
• What is your name?	Si quheni?	Sadete Azemi - sadete.azemi@umib.net (Personnel Office Manager)
• My name is...	Unë quhem...	
• Good morning	Mirëmëngjes	Ahmet Jashari - Info@umib.net (Director of the office for Public Information and Communication)
• Good night	Natën e mirë	
• Water	Ujë	Lulzim Bunjaku - lulzim.bunjaku@umib.net (Director of the Office for Information Technology)
• Where is the bathroom?	Ku është tualeti?	
• I am lost	Jam humbur	Zymber Haliti - zymber.haliti@umib.net (Network Administrator)
• How are you?	Si jeni?	Kastriot Xhema - kastriot.xhema@umib.net (Director of Student Services Office)
		Elmaze Muharremi - elmaze.muharremi@umib.net (Head of Procurement Office)



MUST-VISITS

PRISHTINA

As the capital and largest city of Kosovo, Prishtina is a dynamic urban center filled with a mix of history, modernity, and vibrant energy. It is home to government institutions, universities, and cultural landmarks, making it a hub of activity for locals and international visitors alike.

- **Newborn Monument:** A must-see, the Newborn Monument was unveiled in 2008 to commemorate Kosovo's declaration of independence. The monument is repainted every year with different designs and messages, making it an ever-evolving symbol of the country's journey toward peace and progress.
- **Kosovo Museum:** This is the largest museum in Kosovo, offering exhibits on the country's history, archaeology, and ethnography. The collection spans from the prehistoric period to modern times.
- **Germia Park:** A large forest park located on the outskirts of Prishtina, Germia offers hiking and cycling paths, picnic areas, and a large public swimming pool. It's a great place to escape the city and enjoy nature.





PRIZREN FORTRESS

PRIZREN

Often referred to as Kosovo's most beautiful city, Prizren is a cultural and historical gem, nestled at the foot of the Sharr Mountains. Known for its well-preserved Ottoman-era architecture and vibrant arts scene, Prizren is a must-visit for anyone looking to experience Kosovo's rich cultural heritage.

- **Prizren Fortress:** Also known as the Kalaja Fortress, this medieval structure overlooks the entire city and offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding area. A hike to the top is rewarded with spectacular scenery and insight into the city's strategic importance throughout history.
- **Sinan Pasha Mosque:** Built in 1615, this Ottoman mosque is one of Prizren's most recognizable landmarks. It is still in use today and its interior boasts intricate Islamic art and calligraphy.
- **Dokufest:** Prizren is also known for Dokufest, an internationally recognized documentary and short film festival that brings filmmakers and audiences from around the world to the city every summer.

PEJA

Located in the western part of Kosovo, Peja is the gateway to the magnificent Rugova Valley and offers a combination of natural beauty, historical landmarks, and adventure activities. The city itself is steeped in history and is a spiritual center for the Serbian Orthodox Church.

- **Rugova Gorge:** One of the most spectacular natural attractions in Kosovo, Rugova Gorge is a deep canyon carved by the Peja River. The gorge offers numerous hiking trails, rock-climbing routes, and zip-lining for adventurous visitors. It's also a popular spot for nature lovers who want to take in the stunning landscape of the Sharr Mountains.
- **Patriarchate of Peja:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this medieval Serbian Orthodox monastery complex dates back to the 13th century and is a spiritual and cultural treasure. The complex contains multiple churches with well-preserved frescoes and religious icons, making it a serene and historically significant place to visit.
- **White Drin Waterfall:** Located about 11 kilometers from Peja, this beautiful waterfall is a favorite spot for locals and tourists alike. The surrounding area offers hiking trails, picnic spots, and breathtaking views of the cascading water.
- **Ethnological Museum:** Located in a traditional Ottoman house, this museum displays a rich collection of items that showcase the customs, clothing, and way of life in the region over the past few centuries.



RUGOVA GORGE



BREZOVICA

Brezovica is Kosovo's premier ski resort and a popular year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Located in the Sharr Mountains, Brezovica offers a variety of winter sports, but also serves as a great destination for hiking and nature walks during the warmer months.

- **Skiing and Snowboarding:** Brezovica is well-known for its ski slopes, which are suitable for both beginners and experienced skiers. The resort features several lifts and ski runs, with fresh powder and excellent conditions throughout the winter season. Ski rentals and instructors are available for visitors.
- **Accommodation and Facilities:** The resort offers a range of accommodations, from basic lodges to more upscale hotels, many of which cater to winter sports enthusiasts. Restaurants and cafes around the resort provide hearty meals to refuel after a day on the slopes or trails.
- **Brezovica National Park:** The ski resort is located within the Sharr Mountains National Park, which is one of the most important protected areas in Kosovo. The park is home to diverse wildlife and plants, and it offers a peaceful escape for nature lovers.

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