



**UNIVERSITY OF VLORA
"ISMAIL QEMALI"**



ERASMUS + INCOMING STUDENT GUIDE



2019-2020




UNIVERSITY OF VLORA “ISMAIL QEMALI”
(Universiteti “Ismail Qemali” Vlorë)

Address: Lagjia “Pavarësia”, Rruga “Kosova”, 9400, VLORE, ALBANIA

 <https://univlora.edu.al/en/>

 Universiteti Ismail Qemali Vlorë

 UniVlora2

 U.V. Ismail Qemali

 Universiteti Ismail Qemali Vlore

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Dear Students,

Thank you for choosing to join us at the University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali". We are much honored and looking forward to welcoming and meeting you. This guide is prepared to give you some practical and useful information about the University of Vlora and daily life in the city of Vlora, to make your stay here pleasant, satisfying and most enjoyable.

Coming to Vlora, Albania, living and conducting your exchange studies can be an exciting experience. Vlora is a place which must be visited and remembered. It has a very interesting cultural enrichment with plenty of natural and original places to explore and many friendly people to meet; so make the most of your time here, get involved, form friendships, try new things, learn about another culture and enjoy your Albanian experience.

Please don't forget that we are always at your service to help and to facilitate you through this process and your participation in our intense academic and cultural life.

We hope you will enjoy and value your time with us and quickly make yourself at home here.

Wish you happiness and success,

***Prof. Dr. Roland ZISI,
Rector
University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"***



DESTINATION UNIVERSITY OF VLORA

INFORMATION ABOUT UV

Established in 1994, University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” (UV) is a public higher education institution located in the urban setting of the large town of Vlorë (189.282 inhabitants), in Albania. Officially accredited and recognized by the Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education in Albania, UV is a large higher education institution with nearly 14 500 students graduated.

UV offers students a personal, high quality, affordable education through a diverse combination of liberal studies, professional instruction, and cultural and social experience. Students will find at the University of Vlora excellent programs in science and engineering, business, medical sciences, education, teaching etc. Currently UV provides Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as well as a doctoral program in Mathematics.

UV promotes and encourages the international dimension of studies, learning and scientific research and considering this as one of university's fundamental tasks in development of international exchanges of students, academic and administrative staff. UV has joint projects and exchange programs with some of the best universities in the world and very actively is trying to expand further such programs.

WHY CHOOSE

- High quality and affordable education
- US** Compact, friendly, centrally- located campus
- You'll get dedicated help and support
- We promote equality and respect for diversity
- Vlora it's a great place to live
- A city with a strong identity, history and culture.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A STUDY EXCHANGE

As an exchange student you can spend one or two semesters at the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”. You can come for an exchange through one of the following:

- **Erasmus+ programme;**
- **Ceepus programme;**
- **Mevlana exchange programme;**
- **Within bilateral agreements.**

Before applying you should inform yourself if your home institution have an institutional agreement in place with the respective department at UV. After that you should visit the academic offer at the respective unit of the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”. The academic offer can be found at the following link: <https://univlora.edu.al/en/>

For being an exchange student at the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” you should first be nominated by your home university. Inform yourself at your home university on the procedure you should follow in order to be considered for nomination. After you are nominated by your home university, you will be contacted by the UV's International Relation Office which will send you by email the letter of acceptance in UV and will connect you with your academic coordinator to agree upon the Learning Agreement.

Exchange students need to have their Learning Agreement duly signed by their home university. Upon arrival, they should first go to the International Relations Office and then contact the Academic Coordinator of the department where they will study during the exchange. This procedure is MANDATORY.

The Projects and International Relation Sector registers and provides the exchange student with a unique UV identification code. For registration the student must submit the following documents:

- Copy of the ID card
- Acceptance letter from UV
- Learning Agreement

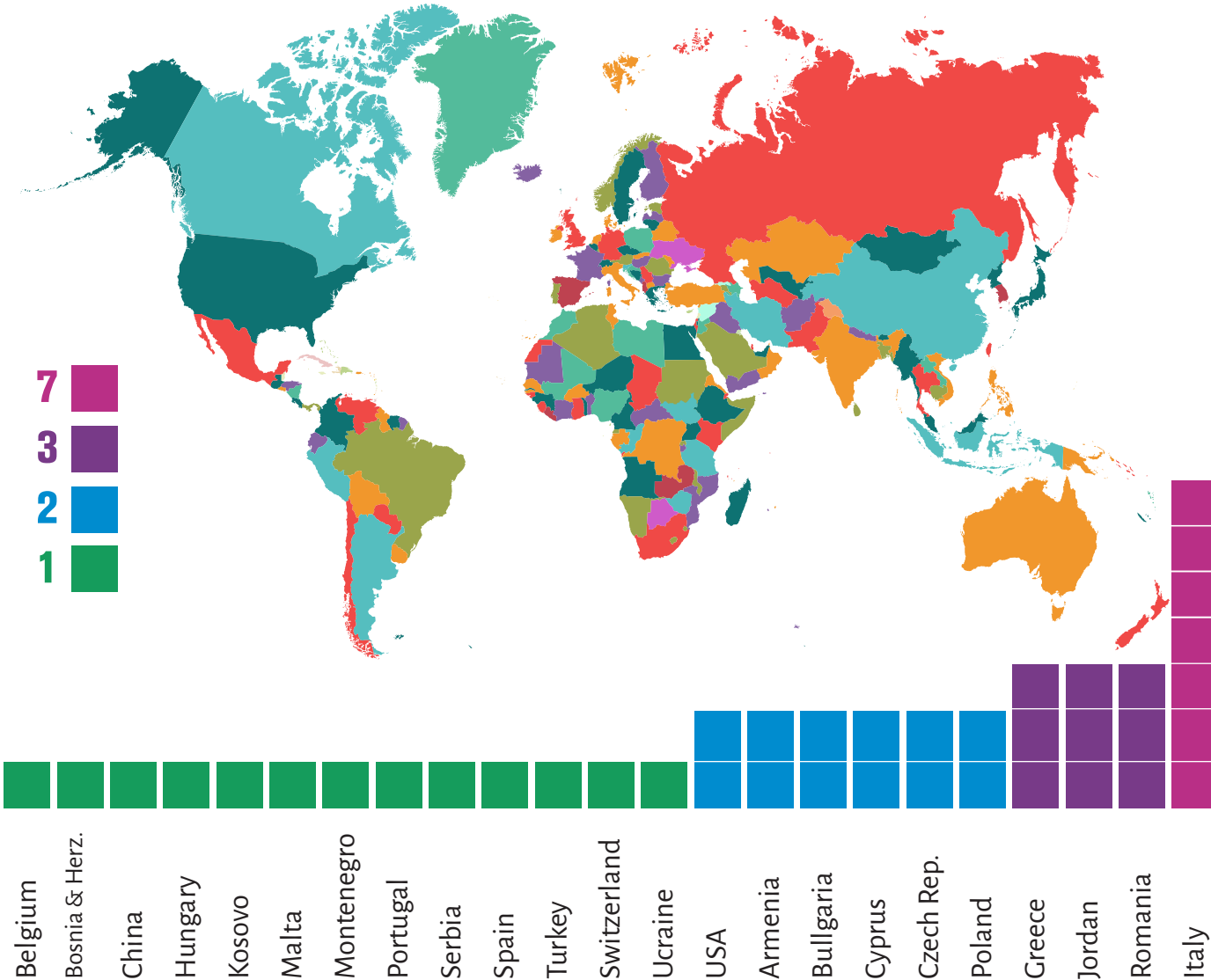
Those students, who need the Certificate of Arrival from their home universities, must bring it to the enrolment day at IRO in order to get the signature.

59 INTER - INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS KA107 BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF VLORA AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

1	AUSTRIA			ITALY	10
2	BELGIUM			LATVIA	1
1	BULGARIA			NORTH MACEDONIA	1
1	CROATIA			NORWAY	1
2	CZECH REPUBLIC			POLAND	8
1	ESTONIA			ROMANIA	12
1	FINLAND			SLOVAKIA	4
3	GREECE			SPAIN	2
2	HUNGARY			TURKEY	7

41 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF VLORA AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Address: L. "Pavarësia", Rr. "Kosova", 9400, Vlore
 Rectorate, First floor
E-mail: international@univlora.edu.al
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 08:00 - 16:00

STAFF MEMBERS:

PhD. Sokol BANA
 Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and Institutional Development

MSC. Rezarta SINANALIAJ
 Director of Internal Quality Assurance and Projecs Unit.

MSC. Edlira LATI
 Head of Projects and International Relation Sector

MSC. Ina BINAJ
 International Relation Officer

MSC. Aulona HYSENAJ
 Project Officer

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

The academic coordinator it is at your disposal on questions regarding the courses and academic issues. Academic coordinator's name and contact will be shown at each Inter – Institutional Agreement according to the mutual program and faculties involved in that agreement.

STUDENT BUDDY

Making new friends can sometimes be challenging, especially in a new country and environment. To facilitate this process and to fill this gap University of Vlora will engage his Erasmus+ alumni to help the incoming exchanged students during first steps of living and studying at UV. The student buddies will be arranged by University of Vlora upon your arrival. They will socialize and help you with orientation on the universities facilities / faculties and provide support on the city lifestyle.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS



Department of Law

Bsc in Law
MPS in Administrative Sciences
MPS in Criminal Law
MSc in International Relations

Department of Albanian Language and Literature

Bsc in Albanian Language and Literature
MSc in Teaching of Albanian Language
and Literature

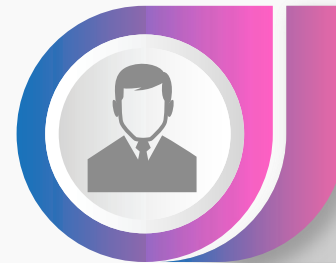


Department of Education

Bsc in History and Geography
Bsc in Preschool Teacher Education
Bsc in Primary Teaching Education
Bsc in Specialized Pedagogy
MPS in Primary Teacher Education in Pre-school Teacher Edu.
MSc in Education

Department of Foreign Languages

Bsc in English
Bsc in Italian
MP in Specialist's Master's Degree in ILT with minor FLT
MP in Specialist's Master's Degree in ELT with minor ILT
MSc in Translation and Interpretation



Department of Business

Bsc in Business Administration	MPS in Public Administration
Bsc in Tourism Management	MPS in Entrepreneurship in tourism
Bsc in Marketing	MPS in Marketing
MSc in Business Administration	

Department of Finance & Accounting

Bsc in Finance	MPS in Accounting
Bsc in Accounting	MSc in Finance
MPS in Finance	MSc in Real Estate



Department of Economics

Bsc in Economics
MPS in Economics in Entrepreneurship
MSc in Economics

Department of General Nursing

Bsc in General Nursing
MP in Adult Nursing
MP in Surgical Nursing
MSc in Nursing Science



Department of Health Care

Bsc in Nursing and Midwifery
MP in Pediatric Nursing

Faculty of Technical Sciences

Department of Engineering and Marine Technology

Bsc in Mechanic Engineering
Bsc in Naval Engineering
Bsc in Electrical Engineering
MPS in Industrial and Naval Operations
MSc in Naval Engineering

Department of Mathematics

Bsc in Mathematics
Bsc in Mathematics-Finance
Bsc in Actuarial Science
MPS in Mathematics
MSc in Mathematics, Mathematics- Finance, Actuarial Science
PhD in Mathematics

Department Of Computer Sciences

Bsc in Information Technology
Bsc in Computational Sciences
Bsc in Informatics
MPS in Teaching in Informatics Subject in High School System
MSc in Computer Sciences

Department of Marine Sciences

Bsc in Navigation
MPS in Advanced Marine Studies

Department Of Physics

Bsc in Physics
MPS in Secondary Teacher Education in Mathematics-Physics
MSc in Physics

Department of Biology

Bsc in Biology
MPS in Teaching in High School System in Biology with minor profile in Chemistry
MSc in Environmental Biology

Department Of Chemistry

Bsc in Chemistry
MPS in Teaching in Chemistry in Secondary School
MSc Teaching in Chemistry in High School

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF STUDIES

Studies at the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” are organized and implemented in the framework of the Bologna declaration.

1. The Bachelor program (Bsc) is completed in six semesters (3 academic years)
2. Master of Professional Study (MPS) is completed in 3 semesters (1.5 academic years)
3. Master of Science (MSc) is completed in four semesters (2 academic years)
4. Doctoral program degree (PhD) is completed in 5 academic years

UV language of instruction is Albanian. However, we also have a great variety of courses from different departments offered in English and Italian language. The courses catalogue offered in English and Italian language for academic year 2019-2020 can be found at the <https://univlora.edu.al/en/sektori-projekteve/erasmus/>

Course Syllabus

In every course that you take at UV, instructors will hand out a course syllabus which provides a detailed outline of the course goals and student learning outcomes; reading assignments, written assignments to be handed in, examination periods, and the method for calculating the final grade in the course.

Attendance

Course attendance is compulsory to 75% of all classes. Students are expected to participate actively and attend class regularly.

Examinations and Assessment

One midterm examination is given during each semester only for Bachelor study programs. In addition to midterm examinations and other work, students are required to take a final examination which can be in written form or through oral assessment, depending on the course. Attendance, assignments and class participation are also considered part of the final mark.

Credits The Albanian Credit System is compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
 1 semester = 30 ECTS credits
 1 full academic year = 60 ECTS credits

Grading system

ECTS grade	Points (%)	Local grade	Description of the grade	Description of the local grade in Albanian
A	90-100	10	Excellent	Shkëlqyeshëm
B	80-89	9	Very good	Shumë mirë
C	70-79	8	Good	Mirë
D	60-69	7	Satisfactory	Kënaqshëm
E	50-59	6	Sufficient	Mjaftueshëm
E	40-49	5	Passable	Kalueshëm
FX	0-39	1-4	Fail	Mbetës

Transcript of records The incoming exchange students will be awarded ECTS credits for each successfully completed course and provided with a transcript of records that will be sent to the International Office at their home institution.

Tuition fee For students applying through Erasmus+ tuition is free of charge.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Every year, the study calendar specifies the duration of organized study activities, examination periods, school holidays and public holidays. The academic calendar may differ from year to year depending on MASR decision.

Fall semester (1st term)

Exchange students application deadline
 Recommended arrival dates
 Fall semester classes (start - end)
 Winter holidays
 Examination period

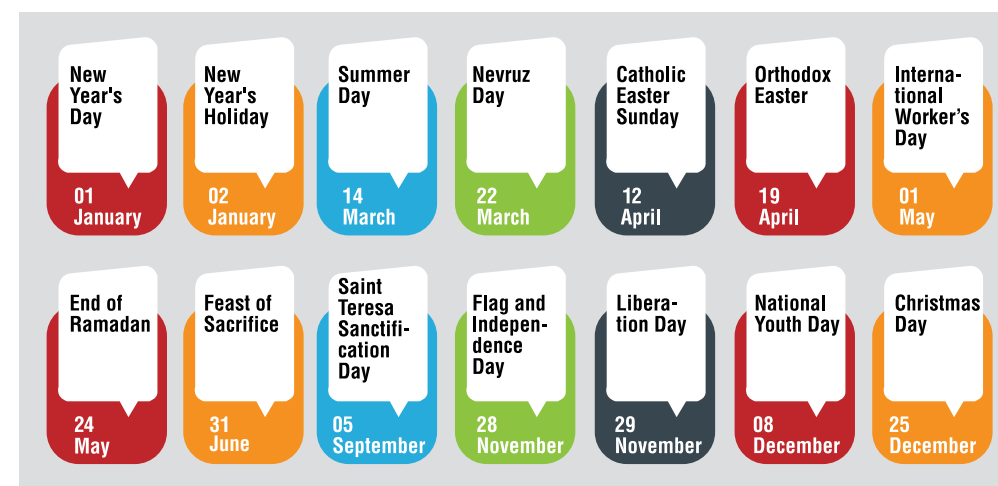
1st of July
 Late September
 Mid October – mid February
 24 December – 4 January (Christmas holidays)
 February

Spring semester (2nd term)

Exchange students application deadline
 Recommended arrival dates
 Spring semester classes (start - end)
 Spring examination period
 Summer holidays

1st of December
 Mid February
 Beginning of March
 mid June
 Mid June- mid July
 Mid July - end of September

Public holidays in Albania 2020



*In cases where official holidays fall on weekdays (Saturday or Sunday), Monday is a holiday day.



LOCATION

The University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali" is located in three main buildings "A", "B" and "C".

Building "A"

Faculty of Economy / University's Rectorate

Building "C"

Faculty of Technical Sciences

Address: L. Pavarësia, Rr. Kosova 9400 Vlorë

Building "A" & "C" enjoy a great location near the recently renewed coastal line promenade of the city, known by the locals as "Lungomare". This wide boulevard offers breathtaking views over the sea, vibrant pedestrian zone, sports facilities, bike lane, bars and restaurants; turning into a favorite refuge for residents of all ages and a destination for tourists and visitors from all over the world. On the other side of building "A" & "C" you'll find a park, supermarkets, grocery and food shopping, bars, fast-foods, restaurants, rent-a-car, copy center, travel agency, money exchange and high street shopping.

Building "B"

Faculty of Human Sciences

Address: L. "Isa Boletini", Rr "Suljman Delvina" 9400, Vlorë

Faculty of Human Sciences (Building "B") campus is located in the city centre, ideal for exploring the rest of the city. It is very close to public transport, shopping areas, city ambulance and pharmacies, bars ect. Inside this campus is situated the University's dormitory, a student restaurant and cafeteria at very affordable price, a library and study room; relaxing colorful park; volleyball and basketball court where they can practice their sports.

Faculty of Public Health

Address: Ish Fabrika e Orizit, 9400 Vlorë

Due to reconstruction of the "B" building which originally hosted the faculty of Human Science and the faculty of Public Health; the faculty of Public Health has temporarily moved to other building located in the main boulevard of Vlora "Ismail Qemali". During 2019 this boulevard has also been a target of construction aiming its transformation into a majestic grand boulevard that runs from the city entrance to the sea promenade. The constructions do not affect the classes held at the faculty of Public health nor the facilities around.

LIBRARY



At students disposal UV provides libraries at all its buildings (“A”, “B”, “C”) where they are welcomed to visit and study at its facilities. The main library is located at the “A” building (rectorate) where can be found variety of books in Albanian and English and academic journals all of which are available to students and staff. Opening a library membership card is necessary in order to borrow /take a book from the library. It’s an easily and free procedure: you will need an ID card and exchange student endorsement document. No action will be taken on behalf of another reader.

Library computers, copy machines and printers can be used with the permission of the library staff at the working hours of the library (only for research and homework purposes). If you wish to bring your own laptop, you will find free Wi-Fi and plug socket for it to recharge at every library.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday - 08:00 - 20:00 (library at “A” building /rectorate)

Monday to Friday - 08:00 - 16:00 (libraries at “B” “C” building /rectorate)

Saturday/ Sunday - closed

Internet access

The university offers wireless networks access to students and staff across the campus facilities.

SPORTS, SOCIAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

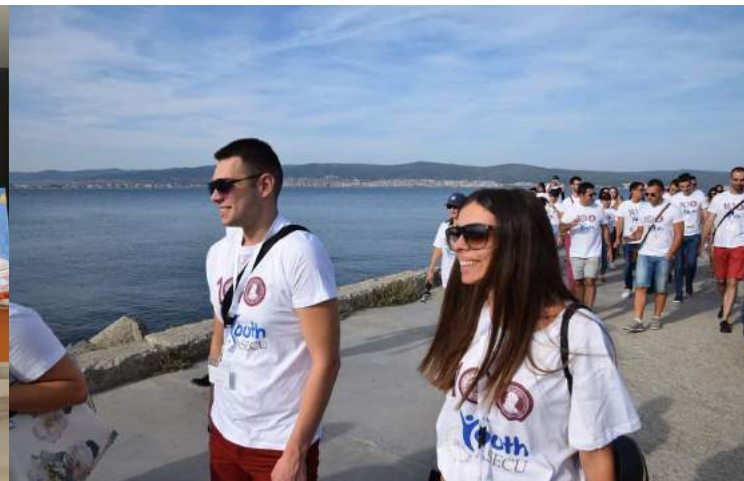
UV’s students are often enrolled in awareness and social activities, sports activity and community services in the city. The university offers sports activities in minifootball (male), volleyball (female) and chess. All students, including exchange students, are encouraged to take part in these activities and join the university sport teams (UniVlora Sport). The university organizes several time a year championships between its faculties and participates in national championships between universities in Albania.

UV promotes inclusive education and encourages its students toward active civic participation through awareness-raising and community services in the city. Such activities include raising awareness marathons among students and teachers on various sensitive topics (bullying, racism, women’s violence, AIDS) and theatre shows performed by the students. Other awareness initiatives include: “donate blood save a life”, “healthier and cleaner environment” ect.

There are also various events traditionally organized in the university such as: Promotion of the tourist season in collaboration with the municipality of Vlora; National Independent day (exhibition of traditional dancing, Albanian culture) ect.

Always look for announcements on our website www.univlora.edu.al posters on your faculty and social media for dates and event details. Get involved!







PRE-DEPARTMENT PREPARATION

STUDENT VISA

Can enter Albania without visa:

- Foreign citizens who have a valid, multiple-entry Schengen visa, which has been previously used in one of the Schengen states, or foreign citizens who have a valid permit of stay in one of the Schengen states.
- Foreign citizens who have a valid, multiple-entry US or UK visa, which has been previously used in the respective country of issuance, or have valid permit of stay in the US or UK
Please note!
- Citizens from the EU have the facility to enter the country with only an ID card
- Passport or ID card must be valid for at least 3 (three) months from their entrance day

Visa regime for foreign citizens: <http://punetejashtme.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/3-visa-regime-for-foreign-citizens-01.11.2018.pdf>

All the other foreigners must apply for Visa before entering Albania. For information about the Visa Application please visit: <https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/aplikim-per-vize/>

Foreigners staying for more than 3 months in Vlora should apply for Resident permit within 30 days after entering the Republic of Albania. They must appear in person at the Local Police Directorate of Border and Migration of Vlora's office (situated at the port of Vlora). The process

for resident permit application will be facilitated by the International Office Team at the University of Vlora.

Document required for resident permit application:

1. Request for the residence Permit form
2. Residence Permit Application form
3. Photocopy of Passport or ID card
4. Four passport sized photos (47mm X 36mm) no older than six months from the date of application
5. Proof of accommodation while in the Republic of Albania (provided by the house landlord in original notarized copy)
6. Document from home institution proving that he/she is part of Erasmus + program.
7. Criminal Record document (issued by the home country) legalized according to the regime with the relevant country which has issued this document. (translated and notarized)
8. Travel health insurance documents for the duration of the visa
9. Letter of Invitation from the host institution (will be given by UV)
10. Proof that the students has sufficient income (Erasmus document grant);

The cost for resident permit for 6 months is 5000 Lekë (40 €) + the card cost



STUDENT DORMITORY

ARRANGING ACCOMMODATION

University of Vlora offers accommodation to incoming exchange students in its student Dormitory. The dormitory (situated at the Faculty of Human Science Campus) offers very good conditions and is comfortably suitable for students at very low prices (4500 Lekë = 36 € per month); It hosts two buildings; one for female students and the other one for male students.

Room furnishings and facilities:

The dormitory provides warm rooms equipped with a desk, chairs, a dresser, a bed with linens and pillows for each resident and a mutual kitchen at every floor. The rooms are equipped with a shower and a toilet.

Other services also include:

Wi-Fi connection in each room and other facilities within the campus

Laundry and ironing services (50 Lekë = 0.40 € per laundry)

Parking

Surveillance Security

Medical and nurse

Electricity and warm water 24/7

Within the dormitory campus the students will also find a library and study room; relaxing colorful park; volleyball/ basketball court and a student restaurant and cafeteria. The student restaurant offers a wide range of quality and tasty menus of Albanian cuisines, for students at reasonable and affordable prices (3.5 € a meal including a main dish, a salad and dessert). It is a self-service restaurant which gives you the ability to create a flexible menu.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

The dormitory opening hours for residents are till 22.00 in winter and 23.00 in summer. If a dormitory resident is likely to arrive on campus late, they are obliged to get entrance permission from the dormitory administration. During weekends the schedule are more flexible.

For booking and additional information contact:

E-mail: trajtimi.studentit.vlore@gmail.com

Phone: +355 33 408 121; +355 693593444

Facebook: Qyteza Student Vlorë

Instagram: Qyteza Student Vlorë

Address: L: "Isa Boletini" Rr. "Sulejman Delvina", 9400 Vlorë

If you are searching for a flat to share or a one room apartment in Vlora, you should know that prices vary according to the location, number of rooms of the apartment; its furniture's but also the time period of renting. Being a tourist destination, during summer the prices for rent tend to increase but on off-season the price of accommodation are lower.

Rent per month average:

2 rooms apartment: 13.000 - 20.000 Lekë (104 -160 €) in the non-central areas
20.000-25.000 Lekë (160-200€) central areas
over 30.000 Lekë (240 €) in the seaside areas

3 rooms apartment: 16.000 – 20.000 Lekë (128 –160 €) in the non-central areas
25.000 – 30.000 Lekë (200 – 240 €) central areas
over 37.500 Lekë (300 €) in the seaside areas

The easiest way to find an apartment in Vlora is to search it through an agency service, but a commission fee is mandatory; in general it is half or one-month rental pay depending on the agency. You can communicate accommodation preferences with them and book your apartment prior to your arrival in Vlora. Some of them are as follow: <https://albrealproperty.com/>; <http://en.danushiproperty.com/>; <http://vlorarealestate.com/>; <http://ireaproperty.com/>

Please note that real estate agencies tend to promote mostly high rated and expensive apartments in central and seaside areas, so if you have extra time, it is also possible (and cheaper) to find an apartment by wandering around and looking for a flat for rent; you may ask our international office staff for assistance in this regard.

HOTELS IN VLORA FOR YOUR FIRST DAYS

In case you still do not have any accommodation reserved, we suggest you book a hotel for your first days in Vlora. Vlora offers a good choice of hotels with high standard of service and very comfortable conditions.

Some of the hotels near the faculty of Human Science are:

- ★★ Hotel Alpine <http://hotel-alpine.al/>
- ★★ Hotel Greta Phone: ++355 33 22057
- ★★★ San Marino Hotel Phone: ++355 68 207 6663
- ★★★ Hotel Vlora <http://vlora-hotel.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/>

Some of the hotels near the faculty of Economics; Technical Sciences & Rectorate:

- ★★★ Hotel Pavaresia <http://hotelpavaresiavlore.com/>
- ★★★ Hotel Martini <https://www.hotelmartini-vlore.com/en-us>
- ★★★★ Hotel Palace <http://hotelpalace.al/>
- ★★★★ Hotel Bologna <http://bologna.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/>
- ★★★★ Hotel Partner <http://hotel-partner.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/#main>
- ★★★★★ Hotel Vlora International <http://www.vlora-international.com/new/en/>

Some of the hotels in the seaside area are:

- ★★★ Hotel Lungomare <http://hotel-lungomare.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/>
- ★★★ Hotel Primavera <http://hotel-primavera.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/>
- ★★★ Hotel Ambassador <https://hotel-ambassador.business.site/>
- ★★★ Hotel Bojko <http://www.hotelbojkovlore.website/>
- ★★★★ Hotel Gold <http://gold-hotel.vlore.hotels-al.com/en/>
- ★★★★ Hotel Liro <http://www.hotel-liro.com/>
- ★★★★ Hotel New York <https://www.hotelnewyork.al/en-gb>

For more options please refer to the website below:

<http://www.hotels-al.com/vlore-hotels-41593/search/?sort=Rating&order=DESC&part=1&Name=>

USEFUL INFORMATION BEFORE DEPARTMENT

ALBANIAN MONEY

The Albanian monetary unit is called Lek (plural Lekë).
The currency code for Lekë is ALL (Albanian Lek).
Banknotes come in denominations of 200, 500, 1 000, 2 000, 5 000 Lekë;
Monetes come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 Lekë
Euro – ALL currency: 1 EUR = 125 ALL (depending on the currency rates)
https://www.bankofalbania.org/Markets/Official_exchange_rate/
You can use Euros in Albania but we advise to use Albanian money, since shops do not offer an accurate currency. Money Exchanges and ATMs can be found in every city of Albania. Most ATMs accept international credit cards or bank cards (a strip of logos is usually displayed above the ATM). Depending on your needs, there are several possibilities for money transfer: bank transfer or special transfer (such as Western Union and Money Gram).

BANK ACCOUNT

International students may open a bank account in any bank in the Republic of Albania. Currently, 14 banks operate in Albania, with domestic and foreign capital.
The list of licensed banks may be found can be found at the link below:
https://www.bankofalbania.org/Supervision/Licensed_institutions/Banks/
There are several banks close to the University and around the city. You should be aware that some banks may charge a maintenance fee. Most banks are normally open, for consummator service, daily between 08.30 – 15.00 hrs, Monday to Friday inclusive, some of them also on Saturday mornings.

COST OF LIVING

Compared to its neighboring nations, Albania is a very cheap destination. Like other cities of Albania, Vlora is very affordable. Living expenses (rent, food, local public transport, books and other small personal expenses) roughly amount to €400 (50.000 Lekë) per month; actual expenditure depends on individual lifestyle.



5 €



1.5 €



0.92 €



3.50 €



0.45 €



0.85 €



0.99 €



0.85 €



0.84 €



0.88 €

CLIMATE AND CLOTHES

Vlora has a climate typical of Mediterranean Sea - short, soft, wet winters; hot and dry summers. Vlora holds the record of more sunny hours in a year in Albania, the average is over 2000 hours per year.

Spring (*March, April, May*) is warm, sunny with occasional rainfall

Summer (*June, July, August*) is hot and dry;

Bring shorts, skirts, t-shirts, comfortable walking shoes, bathing suit, sunscreen ect.

Fall (*September, October, November*) is cool and crisp;

Winter (*December, January, February*) is cold with plenty of rain (snow is relatively uncommon); Bring a warm jacket, sweaters, scarf, waterproof shoes and an umbrella for the raining days.

SHOPPING

Such items can be easily bought also in Vlora when you arrive. Vlora has a bustling high street with a variety of shops that are open every day (09.00 - 21.00) for clothing and other items. Around the city you can find good quality clothes at good prices; in many independent shops it is possible to bargain over prices.

MOBILE PHONE

Almost the whole country of Albania is covered by telephone networks. You can use your home sim card in Albania if your provider has enabled international roaming but take care to the fees. However, for exchange students we recommend purchasing an Albanian Sim card.

Vodafone <https://www.vodafone.al> Telekom <https://www.telekom.com.al> ALBtelecom <https://www.albtelecom.al> are the three mobile companies operating in Albania. The rate will vary depending on the network provider so you can consult their websites or pay a visit to their store to get information about subscriptions and deals. There are network providers at the airport, or at stores near to your accommodation.

Making international calls to Albania mobile or land line:

Phone: + 355 (Country Code) + 9 Digits Cellular Number.

ex: +355 6* *** **

Landline: + 355 (Country Code) + Area Code + Recipient's Number.

ex: +355 33 *** **

For local calls, dialing only the telephone number is sufficient.

ex: 069***** or 033*****

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

The standard voltage in Albania is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power plugs and sockets are of type C and F which are two-pin socket or plug. If your appliances plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter which can easily purchase also in Vlora.



TRANSPORTATION TO VLORA

Location and boundaries

Albania is located in Southeastern Europe, West of the Balkan Peninsula. It is bordered by Greece to the South and Southeast, Montenegro to the North and Italy to the West, divided by the Adriatic and Ionian Sea, Macedonia to the East and Kosovo to the Northeast.

Vlora lies in the southwestern coastal region of Albania at the southern end of the Adriatic Sea and the northern part the Ionian Sea separated by only 72km from Italy (Channel of Otranto) and 123km from Greece (the island of Corfu).

There are several ways on how you can arrive to Albania; by plane, by land or by sea. Below you can find the information per mean of transport.

BY AIR

When you wish to arrive to Albania by plane, you will have one option: “Mother Teresa” Tirana International Airport (TIA). Tirana’s compact and easy-to-use international airport is used by 11 regular airlines operating flights between a number of different European destinations. TIA is located 17 kilometers outside Tirana the capital of Albania and 148 Km from Vlora.

“MOTHER TERESA” Tirana International Airport

Tel: +355 4 2381 600; +355 4 2381 545

E-mail: info@tirana-airport.com

Website: www.tirana-airport.com

From Airport to Vlora by TAXI

Travelling from TIA to Vlora by taxi can be very expensive 85 € - 11.200 Lekë. If you decide to travel via taxi we suggest pre-booking, which often saves money and avoid rates inflation especially with foreigners. Tirana Airport taxi service is provided by ATEx shpk (www.atex.al) specialized in transfers between Tirana Airport and all Albanian cities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At the airport, taxis park in front of the terminal and also at the pickup area of the terminal. We would recommend that passengers use only licensed taxis, which are yellow.

From Airport to Vlorë by BUS

Likometaj Travel agency offers a bus transport service from TIA to Vlorë and vice versa for 1000 Lekë (8 €) one-way ticket.

Contact for pre-booking:

Mobile: +355 696740073 (Viber/ WhatsApp)

E-mail: rezervo@likometajaeroport.al

Web: www.likometajaeroport.al

Facebook: Likometaj Travel

Service Hours: depending on the booking and passenger's flights. Pre-booking is necessary.

Interurban transport BUS / VAN

Perhaps the cheapest and most convenient way to get to Vlorë is through interurban transport. Traveling by bus it is not only economical but also provides a unique view of the countryside and runs more frequently. The journey will take 3 hours following this path: Tirana – Durrës – Kavajë – Rrogozhinë – Lushnjë – Fier – Vlorë.

To reach the city of Tirana from Airport takes twenty to thirty minutes, depending on the traffic and costs about 2500 Lekë (20 €) by taxi. There is also a bus service (LU-NA shpk +355 69 57 27 261 / +355 69 37 94 848) that brings passengers from Airport to Tirana and vice versa. The buses depart every hour between 08.00 and 24.00. Ticket cost 250 Lekë (single fare) and the trip takes 30-45 minutes. Tirana Interurban bus station is situated near Sheshi “Shqiponja”, Rruga “Dritan Hoxha” (“Eagle” Square, Street “Dritan Hoxha”); ask the driver to stop you there! Upon reaching the bus station, you will see many buses lined with a sign in the window for destination, look for the one with “VLORA” sign on it.

Service Hours: 05:00-17:30 every 30 minutes.

You can also take a “furgon” (van) which can be faster than bus (2 hours). The van station in Tirana is at “21 street”, very popular street in Tirana. Van have no timetable, they depart when they are good and ready – or full. Tickets are available always at the driver. One-way ticket by bus costs approximately 700 Lekë (6 €). In Vlorë buses and vans drop off in the city “centre” near the Muradie Mosque (Xhamia) or a couple of blocks west.

Staying over in Tirana

We strongly advise you to schedule your arrival to coincide with hours of operation of the above mentioned options to insure that you can reach Vlorë the same day. If you are due to arrive in Albania too late for any bus service, it may be less expensive to spend the night in Tirana and travel to Vlorë the following day instead. You can book accommodation in advance at: https://www.booking.com/searchresults.en.html?city=-108649&aid=1480287&no_rooms=1&group_adults=2&room1=A%2CA

BY LAND

Cross borders (Macedonia – Albania)

- **Qafe Thane** leading to Librazhd - Elbasan – Rrogozhinë – Lushnjë – Fier – Vlorë

- **Tushemisht** – leading to Pogradec

- **Bllata** – leading to Peshkopia, Bulqizë e Burrel

If you're coming from Macedonia there are regular buses from Skopje to Tirana. <https://www.balkanviator.com/en/bus-timetables/skopje-mkd/tirana-alb/26.03.2019>

Cross borders (Greece – Albania)

- **Kakavia** leading to Gjirokastrë – Tepelenë – Vlorë / Gjirokastrë - Qafë e Muzinës – Sarandë – Vlorë

- **Qafe Bote** leading to Saranda – Dhërmi - Vlorë

- **Tre Urat** connecting Konica with Permet – Tepelenë – Vlorë

- **Kapshtice** leading to Korca

If you are coming from Greece there are over night buses and day long buses every day from Greece to Vlorë. <http://www.rucitours.com/sq/2015-05-03-22-57-45/timetable-3.html>

Cross borders (Kosovo – Albania)

- **Morina** connects Gjakova with Tropoja

- **Qafe Morin** connects Prizren with Kukës – Rrëshen – Lac – Fushë Krujë - Durrës – Kavajë – Lushnjë – Fier - Vlorë

- **Qafe Prush** connects Gjakova with Hasi

If you are coming from Kosovo there are regular buses from Pristina to Tirana 10 € one way ticket. <https://gjirafa.com/Autobus?nisja=Prishtine&destinacioni=Tirane>

Cross borders (Montenegro - Albania)

- **Hani i Hotit** leading to Shkodra – Lezhë – Durrës – Kavajë – Lushnje – Fier – Vlorë
- **Murriqan** connecting Ulqin with Shkodra
- **Vermosh** connects the region of Kelmendi with Plava and Gucia in Montenegro

When travelling from Montenegro towards Albania, there are regular buses boarded in the following cities Herceg Novi, Kotor, Budva, Podgorica.

<https://getbybus.com/en/blog/new-bus-route-montenegro-to-albania/>

BY SEA

You can access Albania by passenger ferry through its larger coastal cities, several foreign companies have regular services to:

PORT OF VLORA

Vlora is Albania's second largest port, having regular ferry boat connections with Italian port of Brindisi. The ferry trip from Brindisi to Vlora is a popular route and is operated by the large ferry companies every day.

For online booking: <https://ferries-booking.com/ports/albania-ferries/vlora-port/>

Address: Lagjia: "Pavarësia" Skelë, Vlorë

Phone: +355 33409700

Web: <https://www.portivlore.com/>

E-mail: info@portivlore.com

PORT OF DURRES

The port of Durres is Albania's largest sea port. This port connects to the Italian ports of Bari, Ancona, Trieste in Italy.

For online booking: <https://www.directferries.com/albania.htm>

Address: Rruga "Tregtare", Lagjia Nr 1, Durrës

Phone: +355 5222228

Web: <http://www.apdurres.com.al/>

PORT OF SARANDA

Daily trips are made to the Greek Island of Corfu. The Sarris Cruises & Lines service runs up to 4 times per day with a sailing duration of around 1 hour 10 minutes while the Sarris Cruises & Lines Fast Ferry service runs up to 14 times per week with duration from 35 min. For more information: https://www.finikas-lines.com/lines?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIY3Wo6ud4QIVxYjVCh2w-wrKEAAYAiAAEgKoJvD_BwE

Address: Rruga "Mitat Hoxha", Sarandë

Phone: +355 85224475 / +355 85225542

Web: www.ponisa-rande.com.at

PORT OF SHENGJIN

For commodities only.



ARRIVAL TO VLORA

LOCAL CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

It is wonderful to have you here. This may be your first visit to Vlorë, Albania, and we are sure you must have many questions. Getting to know and learning to function in a new country and culture is not easy; while fascinating can also be challenging. Please know that we are here, offering support and helping you navigate your way through all the necessities and help ease the tension you may have as a newcomer.

- In Vlorë, we pride ourselves on being a place where everyone is welcome, so hospitality is one of our great values.
- Vlorë inhabitants are tolerant, dynamic and funny people. They like to smile, laugh and be amused.
- Family, work and where someone is from are good topics of conversation.
- Italian and English is widely spoken in the cities, especially by youth. Any attempt to speak Albanian is greatly appreciated.
- Greeting and saying goodbye can both be done with a kiss on both cheeks between women and between women and men. Handshaking is the accepted form of greeting otherwise.
- Albanians nod when they mean “no” and shake their head when they mean “yes”. Be careful answering questions with your head.
- Faith and religion is considered a personal matter in Vlorë. You will not be judged by the locals and Albanians in general for your religion convictions.
- Young people usually socialize by going to bars, discos, and parties. Bars are the most common where they drink coffee and chat. This is an activity that can take several hours.

CUISINE & RESTAURANTS

The cuisine of Vlorë is a typical cuisine of the mountainous but also coastal areas. In Vlorë at the same restaurant you can taste the mountain and the sea cuisine; the fresh seafood and roasted meat in the hell which has a unique incomparable taste due to the growing area, full of iodine and salt which comes from the wind of the Ionian sea.

Some other characteristic dishes of Vlorë cuisine are:

Byreku (pie): is a flaky pastry that is preferred by the people of Vlorë to be filled with either field greens (spinaches or leeks) or just as a milky pie or even meat.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Harapash is similar to porridge and is cooked with corn flour, the intestines of lamb, cheese and butter.

Raki is the traditional alcoholic drink of Albania. The drink is typically grape-based, but you can also find raki made from blackberries and plums. Be careful as it can be deceptively strong.

Vlora has a great variety of restaurants and bars: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g678774-Vlore_Vlore_County.html. Tipping at restaurants is generally an exercise in rounding up to the nearest Lekë note.

Vlora is a compact city and the best way to get around is to walk but if you need to take public transport, local buses “Urban” in Vlora are very convenient, frequent and reasonable in price, a single ticket costs 30 Lekë (0.24 €) and a monthly pass for all lines costs 1.150 Lekë (9€). Bus tickets can be purchased/paid once on board at the busman. Beware of pickpockets.

TAXI

Taxis in Vlora are mostly hailed on the street. They usually have a yellow sign of TAXI on the top. Pay attention when it comes to taxi drivers approaching you, since not all taxies are equipped with a meter they are likely to inflate their rates especially with foreigners. We suggest that once you show the driver your destination address to also ask him in advance about the price and to agree upon it before getting in. Within the city taxies costs approximately 500-1000 Lekë (4-8 €) depending on the distance.

CAUTION WHILE WALKING

Always pay attention and use the pavement for walking. In Vlora there are rare signals and has no traffic lights. If there isn't a pavement, then it is safest to walk on the right-hand side of the road so that you can see any oncoming traffic. When crossing looking both ways before stepping into the road and always walk by zebra cross.

HEALTH AND EMERGENCIES

The Hospital of Vlora is opened 24/7 and is approximately 5 min drive from the city center if no traffic or about 10-15 min walk (address: Lagja: “Partizani”, Spitali Rajonal Vlore).

For emergencies call 00355 33 222 631

<http://spitalirajonalvlore.gov.al/>

The Police Station in Vlore is located at the very entrance of the city center, in the same entrance you enter the city from Fier either by car or bus.

Emergency numbers:

Police 129

Traffic police 126

Firefighters 128

Ambulance 127

Useful tips:

- Be aware of the street dogs; in case of being bit by a dog, you should go quickly to a hospital to receive treatment
- Make a list of your food allergies (if any). You should specify them every time you order something to eat or before taking a medicine; food allergies are taken for granted in Albania and people tend not to ask previously.



DISCOVERING VLORA

CAFÉS/ OUT FOR A DRINK

In Vlora you have a wide choice of places to go out and spend your free time. A day out usually begins with the traditional “xhiro”, an evening walk often taken with the family or friends along a busy pedestrian route. After that, it’s to cafes or bars, where coffee, various beverage or beer are the order of the day. Mostly in the weekends, several bars in Vlora perform live music; in this case you may be asked to pay an entrance fee or you will notice a slightly price increase on the order (a minimum 500 Lekë =4 € for a no alcoholic beverages and 750 Lekë = 6 € for a cocktail). Drinking age in Albania is above 18.

CULTURAL EVENTS

The city of Vlora offers a broad variety of cultural activities, which we hope you will enjoy.

Even though Vlora does not own a cinema yet, its theatre is very active and offers several shows throughout all year from every genre. Tickets cost between 200 -500 Lekë (1.6- 4 €). Students do not get a price reduction.

On 14th of March is celebrated Summer Day, a national holiday in Albania, where are organized music concerts and several entertainment activities and a perfect day for picnics in the beautiful Vlora coastline or in the mountain of Llogora.

May is a joyful month in Vlora where is celebrated the official opening of tourist season. While enjoying the beautiful sunny weather during this time several events and activities are taking place for the amusement of both children and adults.

During summer Vlora turns into one of the liveliest cities in Albania where many live concerts are performed from Albanian and foreign singers; nightlife is also very dynamic, many great clubs playing traditional folk music and discos where you can party at.

Being the city where the Albanian Independence was proclaimed, Vlora is the host of the Independence celebration. Every year on 28 – 29 November a special ceremony takes place at the flag square in Vlora, with the participation of many politician bodies from Albania and Kosovo and citizens from all over Albania. The celebration is accompanied with tradition dancing on the street and live concerts.

SPORTS IN VLORA

The most popular sport in Vlora is football. Vlorë has two professional teams: KS Flamurtari Vlorë and Vlora City FC. Flamurtari currently plays in the Albanian Superliga, while Vlora FC competes in the Albanian First Division. Other professional sports played in Vlorë include basketball, volleyball, handball, cyclism, gymnastics, athletics, ping-pong, boxing, billiard and swimming.

ENTERTAINMENT SPORT FOR ADVENTUROUS

If you are a fan of adventurous and entertainment sport you should give yourself a chance to try them in Vlora. Favored by its geography, Vlora is suitable for a wide range of sport in the mountains, air and watersports in the sea.

MOUNTING SPORTS

Vlora offers great opportunities to exercise the activities of trekking, hiking, biking and mountain climbing.

Hiking Mountain Llogora

Start at 09:30am every Sunday from Llogora Tourist Village

Path “Qafa e Thelle”

Contact for booking:

E-mail: info@llogora.com

Facebook: Llogora Tourist Village

Treking, Hiking Mountain Çika

An interesting trekking program is the one called “Trekking of Çika”, which goes through the valley of Dukat, Çika mountain range, Kurveleshi zone and ends at the Ionian coast. The trekking route is Dukat – Tërbaç – Vranisht – Kuç – Kudhës - Qeparo. Climbers who conquer the peaks of Çika Mountain will enjoy the magic panorama of the sea, mixed with the rocks and the pine-trees.

At the Llogora national park you will find also a “Visitor Center” that offer information for tourists regarding mounting sports in Vlora: Contact: +355 47 235 216

AIR SPORT

Enjoying the beauties of Vlora from the sky it's a unique experience. The best spot in Vlora for practicing this sport is mountain of Llogora and Shashica, where the wind direction is favorable. For professionals or amateurs who want to try parachute jumping and paragliding, there are several organizations and events who organizes skydiving in Vlora.

Some of them are as follow:

Albania Open organizes an annual event in Vlora for all those people who want to try this sport. <https://paragliding.al/albania-open-2018/>. If you are a beginner in this sport, you will be accompanied during your flight by a professional member of Albania Open's skydiving team.

Aeroclub Albania

Facebook: Aeroclub Albania

Extreme Illyricum Aeroclub

<https://xtremeillyricum.com/>

Paragliding and tandem paraglider Shashica mount, Vlora (Seaside)

Flyable: All Year

WATER SPORT

The rich underwater discoveries in Albanian seas provide a unique opportunity for divers to explore sea life and sunken ships. Underwater sports centers are located in North of Vlora (Adriatic Sea). Towards the south, from Vlora to Saranda, there are numerous sports centers, where you can practice this growing sport. The most suitable places to practice this sport are Karaburun Peninsula, Sazan Island, the area north of Saranda, Vlora. In particular, it is Vlora Bay that ‘hides’ many sunken ships of considerable antiquity.

“Ekspedita Blu” offer assistance in diving, exploring the waters of the two seas of Vlora. Facebook: Qendra e zhytjes “Ekspedita BLU”

TOURISM IN VLORA

Also in individual way, you can exercise water sport as swimming, surfing, riding water-motors in the crystal waters of Ionian Sea.

Vlora enjoys an especially favorable geographic position as the entrance to the Albanian Riviera. It is one of the most beautiful cities and the pearl of tourist destinations in Albania. It is surrounded by some of the greatest beaches, ancient monasteries, castles and archaeological parks that are unforgettable.

For more information, visit the Municipality of Vlora web page: <http://vlora.gov.al/turizem/informacion-per-visitoret/>

Check out many youtube video online about Vlora. Some of them are as follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X4Z4CJ1xt0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diyHW-GpOsM>



TESTIMONIALS



Andrea De Simone

University of Salerno, ITALY

Hi, I'm Andrea a law student in Salerno, this year I had the opportunity to go to Erasmus in Vlora (Albania) wonderful place and not only because the university is on the sea but also because the people here are wonderful and sunny. The teachers were kind in letting me find myself at ease, looking for good accommodations and showing me the most beautiful places to visit.

Josef Alaa Eddin

University of Salerno, ITALY



An intriguing experience that shapes you and helps you stay open minded. Fully immersing myself, from the funny act of speaking the local language to the simple one of socializing with the host institution's students, has immediately intrigued and motivated me in the studies and to leave the so called comfort zone.



Massimiliano Aliberti

University of Salerno, ITALY

City and people made me comfortable since first day I arrived, showing a lot of kindness and cheerfulness. We felt like we never went out from home, we found friends and happiness, and studying in a different country increased our knowledge more than we expected. The city is stunning! I strongly suggest to live this experience in Albania, it will be one of the best memory of life.

Piotr Hońko

Professor at Bialystok University of Technology, Poland



My stay at this facility was an opportunity to exchange with the university staff the experience in the process of promoting doctors, scientific research, and conducting didactic classes. In addition, I received a lot of tips on how to spend my free time in Vlora and the surroundings, which are very attractive in terms of tourism.

Daily life conversation:

Hello! – [Përshëndetje](#)
Good morning – [Mirëmëngjes](#)
Good afternoon – [Mirëdita](#)
Good evening – [Mirëmbërëma](#)
Excuse me – [Më falni](#)
How are you? – [Si jeni?](#)
How are you doing? – [Si po ia kaloni?](#)
Well, Fine – [Mirë](#)
My name is... - [Unë quhem....](#)
What's your name? – [Po ju si quheni?](#)
I am from... - [Unë jam nga....](#)
Nice to meet you – [Gëzohem që u njohëm](#)
Do you speak English? – [Flisni anglisht?](#)
I don't speak Albanian – [Unë nuk flas shqip](#)
I don't understand – [Nuk e kuptoj](#)
What does ... mean? – [Cfarë do të thotë ...?](#)
Please – [Ju lutem](#)
Could you write it? – [A mund ta shkruani?](#)
Thank you – [Faleminderit](#)
My pleasure – [Kënaqësia ime](#)
Good bye – [Mirupafshim](#)
Have a good day - [Ditën e mirë](#)
Good night – [Natën e mire](#)

Travelling:

Bus – [Autobus](#)
Bus station – [Stacion autobusi](#)
Ticket – [Biletë](#)
Street – [Rruga](#)
Taxi – [Taksi](#)
Van – [Furgon](#)
Airport – [Aeroport](#)

Time:

When? – [Kur?](#)
Today – [Sot](#)
Yesterday – [Dje](#)
Tomorrow – [Nesër](#)
Morning – [Mëngjes](#)
Evening – [Mbrëmje](#)
Day – [Ditë](#)
Monday – [E hënë](#)
Tuesday – [E martë](#)
Wednesday – [E mërkurë](#)
Thursday – [E enjte](#)
Friday – [E premte](#)
Saturday – [E shtunë](#)
Sunday – [E djelë](#)


At the bar/ restaurant:

Open – [Hapur](#)
Close – [Mbyllur](#)
Beer – [Birrë](#)
Coffee – [Kafe](#)
Tea – [Caj](#)
Fruit Juice – [Lëng frute](#)
Water – [Ujë](#)
Sparkling water - [Ujë me gaz](#)
Menu – [Menu](#)
Vegetables – [Perime](#)
Fish – [Peshk](#)
Soup – [Supë](#)
Salad – [Sallatë](#)
Wine – [Verë](#)
Desert – [Ëmbëlsirë](#)
Fruits – [Fruta](#)
Enjoy your lunch – [Ju bëftë mire](#)
How much does it cost? – [Sa kushton?](#)
Bill – [Fatura](#)

Emergency situation:

I need help – [Kam nevojë për ndihmë](#)
I don't feel well – [Nuk ndihem mire](#)
I'm sick – [Jam sëmurë](#)
Where is the hospital? – [Ku ndodhet spitali?](#)
Take me to the hospital - [Më conit në spital](#)
I need a doctor – [Kam nevojë për një doktor](#)
Pharmacy – [Farmaci](#)
Police – [Policia](#)

BASIC ALBANIAN FOR BEGINNERS



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