



MONTENEGRO

STUDENT

GUIDEBOOK 2026



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First steps in Montenegro

1. ARRIVAL IN MONTENEGRO

For Erasmus+ Incoming Students

1.1. Arrival in Montenegro

- Most incoming Erasmus+ students enter Montenegro through Podgorica Airport (TGD), the country's main international airport. It is located approximately 10 km from Podgorica city center, making it very easy to reach your accommodation shortly after landing.

1.2 Before You Travel

To ensure a smooth arrival, please prepare the following:

- Inform the International Relations and Mobility Office (IRMO) about your arrival at least 5 days before your trip.
- Keep your Letter of Acceptance, passport or ID card, and travel itinerary easily accessible.
- Have the address of your accommodation saved or printed.
- If staying in a private apartment, notify your landlord of your exact arrival time.
- Make sure you have health insurance valid in Montenegro throughout your stay.

1.3 Upon Arrival at Podgorica Airport

- After disembarking, follow the signs to passport control and baggage claim.
- EU/EEA students may enter Montenegro with a national ID card or passport.
- Non-EU students must present a valid passport and may be asked for their acceptance letter or accommodation details.
- The airport is small and easy to navigate, so the process usually takes only a few minutes.

Transportation from Podgorica Airport to the City

You now have ****three convenient options**** to reach Podgorica:

1. Airport Bus (Public Transport Service)

A direct shuttle bus connects Podgorica Airport ⇔ Podgorica Central Bus Station.

Bus stop: In front of the airport terminal, in the designated bus parking area.

Tickets: Purchased directly from the driver or through the carrier's online system.

Frequency: Several departures daily (typically more than a dozen in both directions).

Travel time: Approx. 15–20 minutes. Op

This is the most affordable option and ideal for students without heavy luggage.

2. Taxi

Official taxis are available directly outside the terminal.

Price: 8–12 EUR to most central areas

Travel time: 10–15 minutes

Recommended for late-night arrivals or heavy luggage



1.4. First Steps After Arrival in Podgorica

Once you arrive at your accommodation, there are several important administrative steps to complete.

1.4.1. Check-in at the International Relations and Mobility Office (IRMO)

All incoming students must confirm their arrival at the University of Montenegro.

International Relations and Mobility Office (IRMO)

University of Montenegro

Address: Cetinjski put bb, 81000 Podgorica

Working hours: 08:00–14:00

During your visit, you will:

Officially register your arrival

Submit or confirm your Learning Agreement

Receive information about academic procedures

Be introduced to faculty Erasmus coordinators

Learn about orientation events and student support services

Documents to bring:

Passport or ID

Letter of Acceptance

Learning Agreement (if not already submitted)

Orientation and Welcome Week

During the first week, students are invited to take part in:

- IRMO orientation sessions
- Faculty introductions and academic briefings
- Campus tours
- ESN Podgorica Welcome Events
- Social, cultural, and city-exploration activities

This is the best opportunity to meet fellow Erasmus students, learn how the university functions, and get comfortable with the city.



Documents & Legal registration

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO HAVE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

1. Passport (or a valid travel document) - it must be valid long enough, at least 3 months after your planned departure from Montenegro.
2. Confirmation that you have been accepted as an exchange/ Erasmus+ student - this serves as the “proof of purpose of stay.”
3. Proof that you have accommodation in Montenegro - for example, a confirmation that accommodation has been provided for you, or a rental contract for an apartment/ room, or accommodation arranged through the university.
4. Proof that you have sufficient financial means (scholarship / grant, bank account statement / proof of funds / grant agreement) - if you are an exchange student, the grant agreement from your exchange program usually serves as proof.
5. Health insurance valid in Montenegro for the entire duration of your stay.
6. Clean criminal record / certificate of no criminal convictions from your home country - usually not older than 6 months, translated into Montenegrin (certified by a court-sworn translator), if required.

•ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND REGISTRATION

Residence registration: if you are a student and plan to stay longer than the short tourist period, you must register your stay. For foreign students, you must submit a request for a temporary residence permit / temporary stay permit at the Ministry of Interior.

The application must include all the documents listed above - travel document, proof of accommodation, financial means, insurance, and the purpose of stay (studies / exchange), etc.

Deadlines: if you enter Montenegro without a visa (e.g. from the EU), you must register your stay shortly after arrival and then proceed with obtaining your temporary residence permit.

IMPORTANT NOTES / POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Documents from your home country (such as the criminal record certificate, grant agreement, insurance) must be translated into Montenegrin language and certified by a court-sworn translator.
- An apostille (or another form of document legalization) may be required depending on your country, so check it in advance. An apostille is an international certification (stamp) that verifies a document is valid and issued by a competent authority in your country, allowing it to be used in another country without any additional legalization.
- Your health insurance must cover the full period of your stay in Montenegro.



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Each international student will be assigned a Buddy who will assist them with registration, documentation, accommodation arrangements, and all other practical matters throughout their stay in Montenegro, ensuring they feel supported and fully integrated from the moment they arrive.
- It would be better if all the documents were on physical form rather than digital.
- If you come from a country with a visa - free regime, you are allowed to stay for 90 days to apply for.
- Note that their proof of residence is included in the Erasmus certificate, in case the others have trouble arranging it.
- You need 50€ to submit an application to Ministry of Interior.



Life In The Student Dorms

MEAL VOUCHERS (BONOVI)

Meal vouchers are used for payment in the student cafeteria (menza). There are three types of vouchers: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Their price varies depending on the meal type, generally ranging between €0.30 and €0.50 per voucher. Breakfast vouchers are typically the most expensive, while lunch and dinner vouchers are slightly cheaper. Each student may purchase up to 30 vouchers per meal type per month (30 for breakfast, 30 for lunch, 30 for dinner – approximately €30 in total). **Vouchers are valid from the day they are purchased until the same date in the following month, but unused vouchers cannot be carried over; they expire and are deleted automatically.** Vouchers can be purchased until 13:00 each working day.

Where to purchase vouchers depends on where you are situated:

- First Residence Phase: Reception of the first phase
- Second Residence Phase: Reception of the second phase
- New Dormitory: At the Plavi Dvor

CAFETERIA (MENZA)

Meal times:

- Breakfast: 08:00–10:00
- Lunch: 11:00–16:00
- Dinner: 17:00–20:00

The cafeteria has two separate entrances:

- The left entrance is used for breakfast, where students can choose items such as scrambled eggs, pastries, sandwiches, and similar options.
- The right entrance is used for lunch and dinner, and it leads to a larger dining hall. For these meals, students take a wooden tray and may select one main dish, a salad, one cooked side dish and seasonal fruit (which is usually available during lunch).

Desserts are sometimes available (typically during dinner) and may require an additional voucher.

After selecting the food, students pay using a cafeteria card, processed by the staff member at the end of the line. Once finished eating, trays and dishes should be returned to the designated drop-off area.

STUDENT DORMITORIES (DOM)

Dormitory rooms are typically double or triple rooms.

Upon entering the New Dormitory, students may be asked by the receptionist to present their ID card and provide their room number.

Dormitory fees are paid at the reception desk of each residence. Prices vary depending on the dorm type:

- First Residence Phase: approximately €8.50
- New Dormitory: approximately €20–€30

Keys are issued during the official check-in process. For documentation requirements, students should verify details with the dormitory manager as well as the administration office of their faculty at the University of Montenegro (UCG).



KEEP IN MIND:

- Respect your roommates and communicate about shared expectations.
- Keep your space clean and organized.
- Follow dorm rules and respect quiet hours.
- Take care of your belongings and lock your room.
- Clean up after yourself in shared areas.
- Be polite with dorm staff – they can help when needed.
- Keep important contact numbers accessible.

University Life & Academics

- Academics at UCG are organized according to the ECTS credit system. Each semester carries **30 credits**, and to pass a course you need to complete the requirements during the semester (midterm exams, attendance, participation, lab work, projects) and pass the final exam.
- Lectures and exercises are held according to the faculty schedule. Grades are cumulative - everything you do throughout the semester contributes to your final result.

EXAM DEADLINES

There are three main exam periods:

- January/February,
- June/July,
- September (make-up period).

Some faculties also have special exam periods or a system based on midterm exams, so it's good to follow announcements on their websites.

COMMUNICATION WITH PROFESSORS AND ASSISTANTS

Professors and assistants usually have designated consultation hours that you can use for questions related to the course material, exam preparation, help with projects.

Communication most often takes place via email or faculty platforms. A professional tone and clearly formulated questions are always recommended.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

University life is not only about studying – it also includes participating in projects, attending events, student clubs, volunteering, socializing and exchanging experiences with peers from Montenegro and abroad.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet new people and develop skills that go beyond academics.

LIBRARIES AND RESOURCES

UCG has several faculty libraries and a central university library. As a student, you can use:

- reading rooms,
- computers
- free Wi-Fi,
- access to academic databases,
- books, scripts, and journals.

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZE ACADEMIC LIFE?

- Follow announcements from your faculty and ESN.
- Make a weekly study schedule that divides tasks over time.
- Use libraries – they are ideal for focused studying.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help: professors, mentors, the ESN buddy team, and faculty staff are there to support your adaptation.



Student Finance 101

WAYS TO SAVE / STRETCH YOUR MONEY AS A STUDENT

1. Use a student discount card – [EYCA](#)

- The EYCA card gives students many official discounts in Montenegro (and worldwide): on entertainment, shopping, travel, health, food, etc.
- For example – at Hard Rock Cafe Podgorica students get 50% off on Tuesdays (food & soft drinks) with EYCA

Through EYCA (or local student-oriented discount programs), some students get cashback or other benefits in certain stores/partner companies.

2. Stores and working hours

Typical store/market hours (in many places – but always check locally):

- Grocery stores: often from ~ 06:00 or 07:00 up to ~ 21:00–22:00.
- Regular shops / boutiques: about 08:00/09:00 to 20:00/21:00.
- Local markets: often operate early morning until early/mid afternoon (many wind down by ~2–3 PM).

On Sundays: many supermarkets or markets might have reduced hours or be closed – but smaller shops, kiosks, bakeries are sometimes still open.

Special note: In tourist areas (or summer season) – some shops may stay open later (or even until midnight) because of higher demand.

• **USE CARDS + CARRY SOME CASH**

The official currency is the euro (€). Many supermarkets, shops, restaurants accept debit/credit cards (Visa, Mastercard), especially in larger stores or in cities.

But small shops, bakeries, market stalls, some cafés or transport services might prefer or require cash – so it's good to have both card and some cash on hand.



SMART TIPS & LIFESTYLE IDEAS

- Use your student discount card for meals, cafés, entertainment (theatre, concerts) – this often gives big discounts vs regular price.
- Grocery-shop at local markets or cheaper supermarkets; cook meals instead of eating out – this saves money.
- Pay attention to “yellow-sticker” sale items or store discount-programs (some supermarkets or chains may have loyalty or sale discounts) to get more for less.
- Use ATMs or cards wisely – big supermarkets and shops usually accept cards, but small vendors might require cash. Have both just in case.
- Make use of cultural or student-friendly social events (e.g. cheap theatre or discounted cafés, local events) rather than always spending on expensive nights out.

Transportation & Food

BUSES

Urban transport :

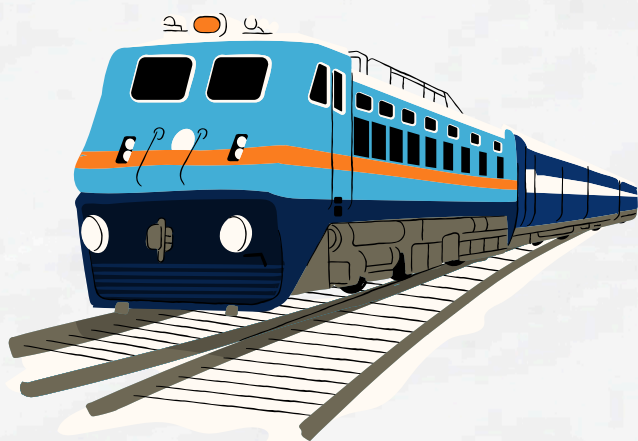
- Larger cities (Podgorica, Niksic, Bar) use buses as the main urban transport.
- Tickets are bought from the bus driver, it usually costs from €0.90 to €1.20 for an hour and a half (depends on the city)
- In some cities (including the capital) you can use Moovit application for bus timetables
- If you are in Podgorica, use epodgorica.me website to track your buses in real time using the city map. This website offers a lot of info, so you can scan the QR code and check it out!

Intercity transport:

- Tickets are bought at the bus station or online (via busticket4.me website)
- You need to pay additional €1 for bigger luggage



epodgorica.me



TRAINS

Trains in Montenegro are affordable, easy to use and offer stunning views. Use it to go to the coastal city of Bar, western Nikšić, or Kolašin, Mojkovac and Bijelo Polje in the northern part of our country.

Trains are very cheap and affordable for students, so use it whenever you can!

Important Tip : If you own the European Youth Card (EYCA), the price of the train ticket lowers by 50%! Just show your EYCA at the train station and enjoy the cheapest trip you can get!

GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

- Bus stations often charge a 1€ platform fee.
- In summer buses quickly fill up – its safer to buy tickets in advance (online at busticket4.me website or at the station)
- Delays in timetables are very frequent, so save some patience :)

If you're passionate about food, you've come to the right place!

These are six must-try dishes in Montenegro:

- Njeguški pršut (prosciutto) – slightly smoked, dried ham
- Kaćamak – traditional dish with potatoes, cheese and flour
- Popeci – another traditional dish – meat rolls with cheese
- Priganice – small, deep-fried dough balls (try them with honey, cheese or kajmak – a creamy dairy spread)
- Popara – dish made with old bread, butter and cheese (great for breakfast)
- Ćevapi – grilled minced-meat sausages



IF YOU ARE AT THE COAST,
DON'T MISS TRYING THE FISH
AND SEAFOOD FLAVOURS!



Social Life & Culture Tips

1. A FRIENDLY AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

Montenegrins value a relaxed lifestyle. Cafés are an essential part of daily life—meeting for coffee (“ajmo na kafu”) is the most common social invitation. Don’t be surprised if a simple coffee lasts for hours; it’s part of the culture.

2. HOSPITALITY MATTERS

People are generally very hospitable. If someone invites you to their home, it’s polite to bring a small gift—chocolate, sweets, or something from your home country. Hosts will often serve food or drinks, and it’s respectful to at least try what is offered.

3. SOCIALIZING AND NIGHTLIFE

University cities like Podgorica, Nikšić, and Kotor have an active student scene. Bars, live-music venues, and student parties are common, especially on weekends. Clubs usually open late and stay lively until early morning. You can always ask your ESN friends where to go in order to have fun.

4. LOVE FOR NATURE AND SPONTANEITY

People in Montenegro often take spontaneous trips: a quick drive to the coast, a hike in the mountains, or a coffee by the river.

Because the country is small, everything feels close – and students love making last-minute plans. Don’t hesitate to join; it’s often the best way to experience real Montenegro.

5. LOCAL TRADITIONS TO ENJOY

Take the chance to experience:

- Kafanas – traditional taverns with local food and music
- Festivals and Events – music and cultural events throughout the year
- Cuisine – try specialties such as ćevapi, kačamak, burek, and fresh seafood on the coast

6. PRACTICAL ETIQUETTE TIPS

- Dress casually for every-day occasions; people value comfort.
- Punctuality is flexible – being a few minutes late is common, but for official meetings, try to be on time.
- Learning a few simple phrases in Montenegrin language goes a long way.

7. JOINING STUDENT LIFE

Erasmus networks, university clubs, and sports groups are great ways to meet both locals and other internationals. Montenegrins are proud of their culture and happy to share it—just show interest, and you’ll make friends quickly.



It’s very important to read notifications and stay in touch with members of ESN Montenegro, who will inform you about the latest news and future events.

A useful website if you are in Podgorica.

Health & Mental Wellbeing

HEALTH INSURANCE

Whether you are a temporary or permanent resident, it is important to know the procedure for the options available to you.

Foreigners who have the right to health insurance in Montenegro are those who have:

- a temporary stay, or
- permanent residence.

In order to exercise this right, you must register within the Health Insurance Fund of Montenegro.

IMPORTANT : JUST BY PAYING THE CONTRIBUTION YOU WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY GET INSURANCE, YOU MUST SUBMIT A SPECIAL APPLICATION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE REGISTRATION TO THE HEALTH FUND.

Health insurance lasts until your residence permit expires. After its extension, it is necessary to resubmit the insurance application for the new period.

In addition to state insurance, foreigners have the opportunity to purchase a health insurance policy from insurance companies in Montenegro.

HEALTH CENTERS

Health centers are usually open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., but you can always check it on your local health center website.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies are usually open until 9 or 9:30 p.m., but there are also on-duty pharmacies.

Some medicines require a prescription, so check if your therapy can be taken without a prescription in Montenegro

Some pharmacies do not accept prescriptions that were not prescribed in Montenegro. Make sure to check this out before arriving!

If you feel like you miss home, know that this is completely normal and expected, most exchange students feel that way at some point. If you ever feel like you need to talk to someone about how you're feeling, your ESN community is here for you.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Police - 122

Firefighters - 123

Paramedics - 124

Essential Montenegrin phrases

GREETINGS

- Dobar dan – Good afternoon / general polite greeting.
- Zdravo / Ćao – Hi / Hello (informal).
- Dobro jutro – Good morning.
- Dobro veče – Good evening.

GETTING AROUND

- Autobuska stanica – Bus station
- Centar grada – City center
- Univerzitet / Fakultet – University / Faculty
- Da li ovo ide za...? – Does this (bus/taxi) go to...?
- Može karta u jednom smjeru – One-way ticket, please

BASIC COMMUNICATION

- Hvala – Thank you.
 - Molim – Please / You're welcome (depends on context).
 - Izvinite – Excuse me (to get attention or apologize).
 - Kako si? / Kako ste? – How are you? (informal / formal).
 - Dobro sam – I'm good / I'm fine.
- Praktične fraze / Practical phrases
- Gdje je...? – Where is...? (useful for locations).
 - Koliko košta? – How much does it cost?
 - Može li...? – Can I / Could I...? (very common phrase).
 - Ne razumijem – I don't understand.
 - Možete li govoriti sporije? – Can you speak more slowly?
 - Da / Ne – Yes / No.
 - Pričaš li engleski? – Do you speak English?
 - Nisam iz Crne Gore. – I'm not from Montenegro.

USEFUL

- Sve je okej – Everything is okay.
- Može! – Sure! / It works! (very common and friendly).
- Polako – Literally “slowly”, but often used to mean “no stress / take it easy”.
- Može li pomoć? – Can you help me?
- Ima li ovdje Wi-Fi? – Is there Wi-Fi here?
- Super! – Great!
- Živjeli! – Cheers!

IN A RESTAURANT

- Meni, molim? – Menu, please.
- Šta preporučujete? – What do you recommend?
- Račun, molim. – The bill, please.

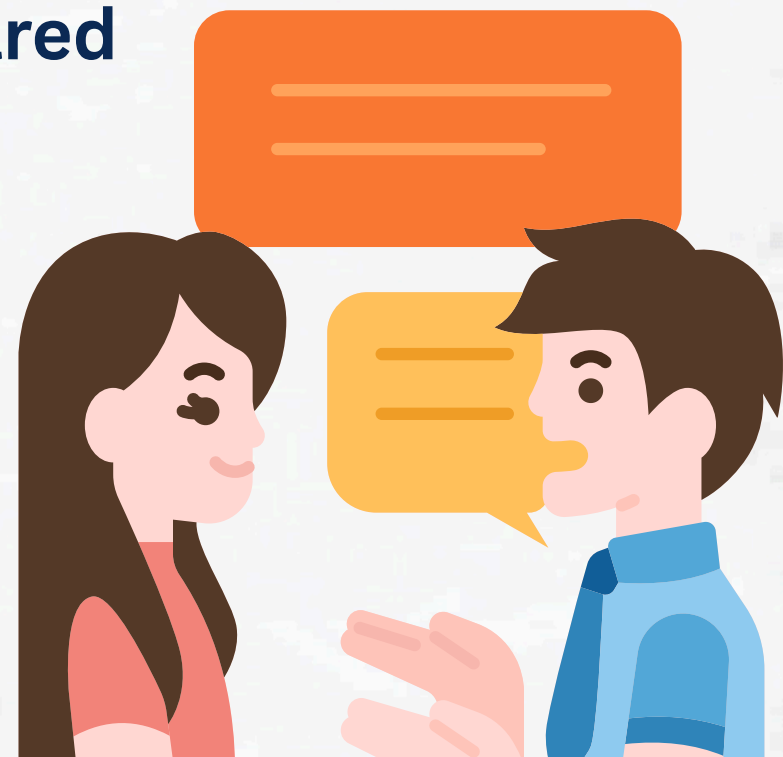
Some Montenegrin letters that appeared in the phrases above:

Š-“sh” in *she*, *shoe*.

Č-“ch” in *chocolate*, *check*.

Ć- softer “ch” something like *ciao*

Ž-“zh” sound – similar to the “s” in *measure*





WELCOME!