

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AS A STUDENT WITH TEMPORARY RESIDENCE IN SLOVAKIA

1. You can work, but with restrictions

Temporary residence for the purpose of studies allows you to work:

- if you are a university student: 80 hours per month,
- if you are a high school student: 40 hours per month.

You can work under an employment contract or under agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship.

2. You can run a business

With temporary residence for studies, you can start a business (e.g. on the basis of a trade license) or become a statutory body of a company (e.g. managing director of a limited company) without having to apply for change in the purpose of residence.

3. You must have health insurance for the entire duration of your stay

You must conclude health insurance no later than within three business days of receiving your residence card. You do not have to send the proof of health insurance to the Foreign Police, but you must be able to prove you have it if checked.

If you are studying in Slovakia on the basis of an international treaty, under a scholarship programme of the Slovak Government, the European Union, or the Slovak Ministry of Education, or if you are a Slovak living abroad, you are entitled to public health insurance paid by the state in one of the three insurance companies (Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, Union, Dôvera). Otherwise, you must conclude individual (private) insurance.

4. You must notify the Foreign Police of any changes during the validity of your residence

Once you have obtained residence, you must notify the Foreign Police of any change in your name, surname, personal status and replacement of your travel document within five business days of the date on which the change occurred.

You are also obliged to apply for a new residence card within five business days if the data in it have changed.

You are obliged to inform the Foreign Police within three business days of the cessation of the purpose of your stay (interruption, dropout, expulsion from studies and successful completion of studies).

You have the obligation to notify the Foreign Police in writing that you will be staying outside the territory of the Slovak Republic for more than 180 days continuously.

5. You can change the purpose of your residence in Slovakia only in certain cases

You can apply for change in the purpose of residence at the Foreign Police in Slovakia only if you: →

- successfully passed the final exam or graduation exam at a secondary/high school in Slovakia, or
- successfully completed studies at a secondary/high school in Slovakia or obtained first- or second-level university education.

If you don't meet these conditions and you want to pursue another activity in Slovakia, you will have to submit your application for a different purpose of residence at a Slovak Embassy/Consulate abroad.

6. If you are a student of language or vocational training for university studies, you cannot change the purpose of your residence in Slovakia

Language or vocational training students may not apply for change in the purpose of their residence (e.g. to employment/business) at the Foreign Police. If you do not want to continue your studies and want to pursue another activity in Slovakia, you will have to submit your application for a different purpose of residence at a Slovak Embassy/Consulate abroad.

7. Your temporary residence can be cancelled before the expiry date indicated on your residence card

Even if your residence card is valid until a certain date (e.g. until the end of August), the Foreign Police can cancel your residence earlier – if they find that the purpose for which your residence was granted has ceased to exist. The purpose of your residence ceases to exist when you stop being a student – if you interrupt your studies, drop out (leave without finishing), get expelled or successfully complete them.

8. Your school is obliged to report changes in your student status to the Foreign Police

The school in Slovakia where you are studying must inform the Foreign Police not only that you have become their student, but also if you interrupt, drop out (leave without finishing), are expelled or successfully complete your studies. Any change of status may affect your temporary residence.

9. Interruption/dropout/expulsion from studies means an immediate loss of purpose of your residence

If you decide to interrupt your studies, if you drop out (leave without interruption/successful completion) or if you are expelled, you cease to be a student and the purpose for which your temporary residence was granted ceases to exist.

The Foreign Police can start cancelling your residence as soon as they become aware of the loss of purpose. They will first send a notice to your address of residence informing you that your temporary residence is about to be cancelled. If you want to stay in Slovakia, e.g. to work or run a business, you must apply for change in the purpose of your residence.

10. Upon successful completion of studies, you will not lose your residence immediately

You also lose your student status when you pass your last state exam/defend your thesis. However, the Foreign Police will not start cancelling your residence until 30 days after this happens (unless your residence expires in the meantime).

11. If you do not have a job immediately after graduating from university, you can extend your residence for nine months to look for a job

After successfully completing university studies, you can apply to renew your temporary residence for nine months to look for work or start a business. As you are no longer a student during this period, you cannot work under a student temporary work agreement. As a graduate, however, you have free access to the labour market, which means that you do not need any other permit to work apart from a valid temporary residence.

You can find the list of documents required to apply for and renew temporary residence for the purpose of studies in our Fact Sheet: Temporary Residence – Studies