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GUIDE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS AND STAFF

UNIVERSITY OF SHKODRA “LUIGJ GURAKUQI” DEPARTMENTS OF CLINICAL AND PARA-CLINICAL SUBJECTS



Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education

Strengthening capacities and digital competences in biomedical education through internationalization at home

BIOSINT

101082863-BIOSINT-ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear incoming students and staff,

Welcome to the Departments of Clinical and Para-Clinical Subjects as well as to our study programs!

We are thrilled to have you join our diverse and vibrant community of learners. As you embark on this journey, we want you to know that we are here to support you every step of the way.

Our programs are designed to provide you with not only the academic knowledge but also the practical skills and cultural insights necessary to excel in the global field of nursing. You will have the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, collaborate with peers from around the world, and immerse yourself in a new culture.

Remember, you are not just joining our programs but becoming part of a family. Embrace the challenges, celebrate the successes, and never hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or guidance. We believe in your potential and are excited to see the positive impact you will make in the world of healthcare.

Once again, welcome to our nursing community.

We look forward to a successful and enriching journey together!

Warm regards,

Departments of Clinical and Para-clinical Subjects

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Welcome to Shkodra city

Shkodër (sometimes spelled Shkodra) is a city in northern Albania, known for its rich history and cultural significance.

Historical Background

Shkodër has been an important settlement since antiquity. It was known as "Scodra" in the Roman era and was an important center for the Illyrians, an ancient group that inhabited the western Balkans.

During the medieval period, it was a significant city in the region and came under the rule of various powers, including the Venetians, Ottomans, and others. It was a ***center of trade and culture***.

This city boasts a mix of architectural styles from different periods. Notable sites include the ***Rozafa Castle***, which offers panoramic views and has historical significance dating back to the Illyrian period. The castle is associated with various legends, including the story of the woman who was sacrificed in the construction of its walls.



Shkodër is also home to several important religious sites, including the ***Cathedral of Shkodër*** (a Roman Catholic church) and ***several historic mosques*** reflecting its diverse religious history.

Natural Beauty

Shkodra Lake is one of the largest lakes in the Balkans. It is a key natural feature of the area. It straddles the border between Albania and Montenegro and is known for its scenic beauty and

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biodiversity.

The region around Shkodër features beautiful landscapes, including mountains and rivers, making it a popular destination for outdoor activities.



Shkodra city has a strong *educational presence* and is known for its contributions to Albanian literature and arts. It has several cultural institutions, including museums and theaters.

Shkodër offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, making it a fascinating place to visit and explore.



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How to reach Shkodra

By Plane

To Tirana: The nearest international airport is in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Tirana International Airport (TIA) is about 85 kilometers (53 miles) from Shkodra.

From the Airport: You can take a bus or shuttle service from the airport to the center of Tirana.

From there, you can catch a bus or hire a taxi to Shkodra.

There is also a Hermes shuttle that offers direct transfer from the Airport to Shkodra City

By Bus

From Tirana: There are regular buses from Tirana to Shkodra. Buses typically depart from the central bus station in Tirana.

Travel Time: The bus ride takes about 2 to 2.5 hours.

By Car

From Tirana: If you're driving, you can take the SH1 road north from Tirana directly to Shkodra.

Travel Time: The drive is around 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on traffic and road conditions.

By Taxi or Private Transfer

From TIA or Tirana city: You can hire a taxi or arrange a private transfer for a more comfortable and direct journey.

Car Rentals: Available for those who prefer to drive.

Tips

Check Schedules: Make sure to check bus or shuttle in advance, as they can vary.

Currency: The local currency is the Albanian lek (ALL), so have some cash on hand if needed.

Language: While Albanian is the official language, many people in Shkodra, especially in tourist areas, can speak some English or Italian.

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History of Shkodra University

“*Luigj Gurakuqi*” University of Shkodra was established on 02. Sept. 1957 as a High Pedagogical Institute. At the beginning this University had 2 Faculties (Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Natural Sciences).

It changed its status to University of Shkodra, “*Luigj Gurakuqi*” by the Ministers' Council decree nr. 124, on 28.05.1991. University of Shkodra has now 6 Faculties (Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Foreign Languages).

Organization of the studies

The Departments of Clinical and Para-clinical subjects are included within the Faculty of Natural Sciences at University of Shkodra.

These Departments offer 3 bachelor's first cycle study programs and a professional master's second cycle study program as following:

- Bachelor in General Nursing, 180 ECTS, 3 academic years (started in 2001) and every year there are enrolled 100 students in the first year.
- Bachelor in Nursing - Midwifery, 180 ECTS, 3 academic years (started in 2007) and every year there are enrolled 80 students in the first year
- Bachelor in Physiotherapy, 180 ECTS, 3 academic years (started in 2007) and each year there are enrolled 70 students in the first year
- Professional Master's in "Health Psychology", 60 ECTS, 1 academic year (started in 2012) and every year there are enrolled 70 students in the first year

During the years, these Departments have been involved in different international projects with the focus in Medical Sciences.

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University Library

- The library has been active since the Pedagogic Institute was established in 1957, with a catalogue of 1000 books mainly in the Albanian language. The new university library was built in 2006, thanks to the fruitful cooperation of the University of Shkodra with the University of Graz, Austria.
- Today this library has a catalogue of about 111000 books, newspapers, Cds, tape recorders and DVDs in Albanian and foreign languages. These books serve mainly to the fields of Pedagogy, Psychology, Didactics, Economy, Law, Literature, Linguistic, Medical Sciences etc. These books are in Albanian and in foreign languages.
- It offers contemporary service, accessible in the following website:
www.bush.unishk.edu.al.

Language

The language used in scientific activities offered by the Departments of Clinical and Para-clinical Subjects is the Albanian. There are some also opportunities for English teaching materials.

The subject of English language is included in our curricula in the first year of the undergraduate studies.

Students who apply to be enrolled to second or third cycle study programs in higher education institutions must have a certified level of knowledge through international tests for one of the 5 (five) foreign languages, namely: English language, French language, German language, Italian language and Spanish language, according to the definitions in the instructions of the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Accommodation

There is a dormitory which is managed by the Shkodra Municipality

Renting an apartment:

Here you will find some online platforms that can help you find the ideal place where you want to stay:

MerrJep- <https://www.merrjep.al/>

Njoftime.al - <https://www.njoftime.al/>

Gazeta Celsi - <https://www.gazetacelesi.al/>

DuaShpi.al - <https://duashpi.al/>

Facebook groups

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Albania's info you must know

Basic Phrases in Albanian

Hello: Përshëndetje

Thank you:

Faleminderit

Please: Ju lutem

Yes: Po *No:* Jo

Goodbye:

Mirupafshim

How are you?: Si
jeni?

Some national holidays in Albania

September 5 - Mother Teresa's Day

November 22 – Alphabets day

November 28 - Independence Day

November 29 - Liberation Day

December 8 - National Youth Day

May 1 – Labors days

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Currency

Leku (abbreviation ALL) is the currency used in Albania.

The Lek is a currency that is often linked to the Euro for exchange rate stability. The exchange rate may change in accordance with international market fluctuations.

Emergency numbers:

Police: 129

Ambulance: 127

Fire department: 128

Emergency Services: 112

Visa and Residence Permit

Foreign nationals must apply for residence permit if the stay exceeds 90 days. In such a case, the application must be submitted within 30 days from entry stamp to the border.

For more information: <https://e-visa.al/apply>

Health insurance

Temporary visitors and tourists are advised to have travel insurance that includes health coverage, as they may not be eligible for public insurance services.

Some of these companies are:

Sigal Uniq Group Austria - <https://sigal.com.al/en/>

Intersig- <https://intersig.al/en/>

AlbSig- <https://www.albsig.al/en/>

Contacts

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