

Getting settled in Ljubljana

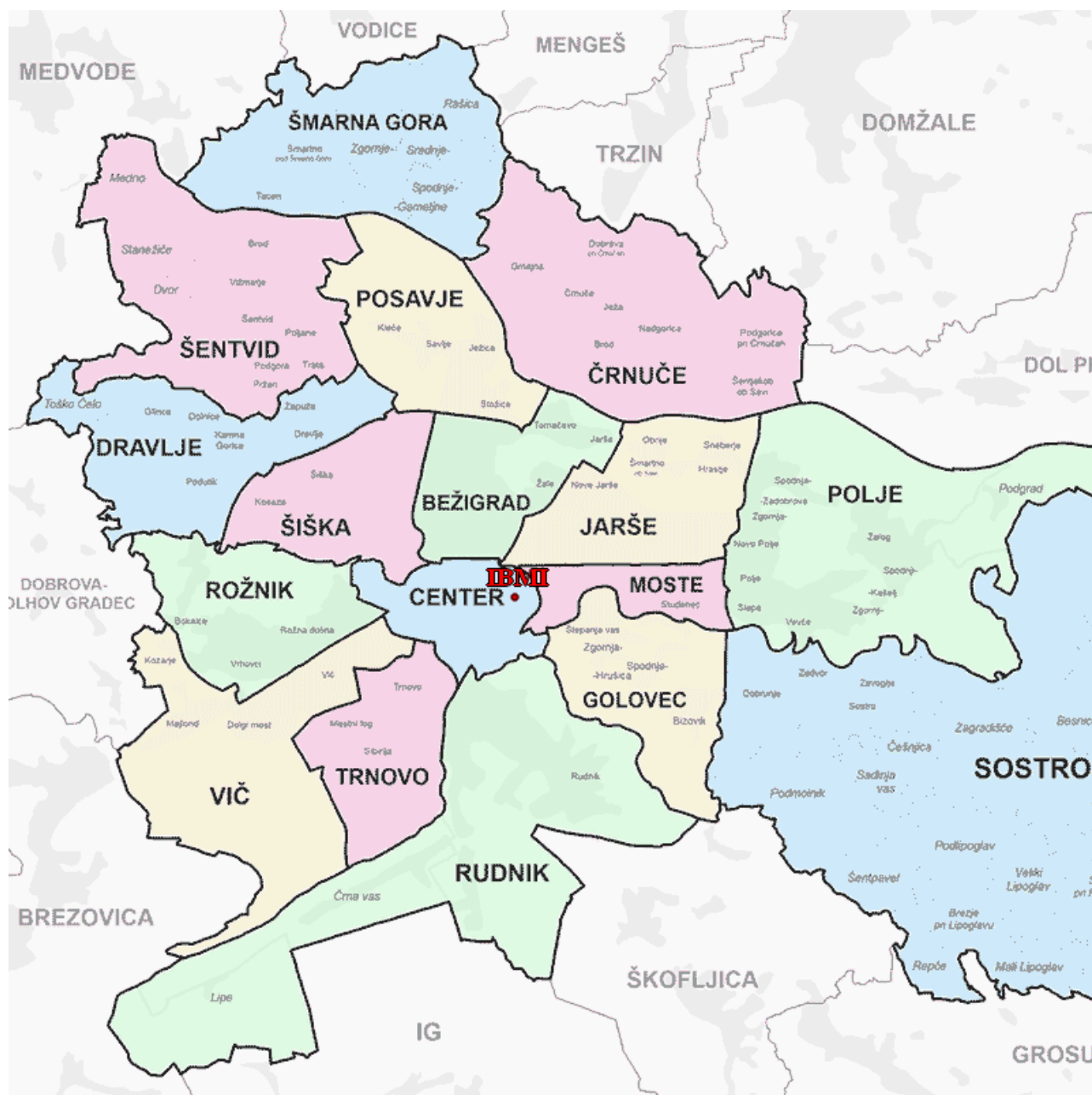


Figure 1: Ljubljana districts

Accommodation

First advice : look for accommodation as soon as you can.

Second advice : do not limit yourself to the center or to flats closest to the faculties. Many good offers are on the suburbs, and you can move easily in the town by bus or bike.

Websites for staying longer than a week :

- [Nepremičnine](#), website in English or Slovenian, has many offers from private individuals and companies too. Most offers are in Slovenian but can be easily translated with translation software;
- [ErasmusPlay](#) compiles many offers for students from many websites and also mentions the minimum mandatory stay;
- [HousingAnywhere](#) offers many possibilities and you have guarantees. However, it is often expensive and they add a service fee;

For shorter stay (or if you didn't find accommodation soon enough, or if your accommodation is not available at the time of your arrival), we recommend you look for an Airbnb or rent a hotel room.

Regarding accommodation, more information can be found [here on the university website](#) or [here on the town website](#).

Paperwork

There are papers to fill in from the university before moving in Slovenia. See and talk to the secretary of your host organization. This is necessary to get a EMŠO number (citizen identification number) which will be needed if you want to eat and take the bus in the city at discount prices.

Language

Most people here speak English very well, which means you will easily be understood.

Moving in the city

Ljubljana is one of the most bicycle-friendly cities in Europe and you can easily rent a bike here.

An alternative to biking is using city buses to get around. In that case you must get a [Urbana](#) card, with which you can travel within the city as much as you want by bus. You cannot pay in the bus.

You need to find an Urbanomat, i.e. a machine where you can buy the card, then buy unlimited use of buses for a month and refill it each month. Urbanomats are located near some bus stops and you can find them on google map with the key word "urbanomat".

For bus reductions, we recommend you to go to the [Passenger center LPP on Slovenska cesta 56](#) with your student number, passport or ID card, your phone and your address in the city.

You can use the Google Map application to look for the bus timetables in live. It is constantly updated and you can plan ahead easily.

Moving out of the city

If you feel like going sightseeing, we advise you go to the central bus station (avtobusna postaja Ljubljana) and buy tickets for your destination from the counter. Check available buses and their route [here](#) (it is highly recommended to buy tickets at the station, buy online only if you can print them). Make sure to monitor your position with a GPS system like Google Maps because Arriva buses for instance do not warn when they are stopping. There are heavy reductions on the week-ends, e.g. a 7€ ticket would drop to 2€.

Credit card

Most businesses (shops, restaurants, tourist sites, ...) accept the use of credit card, so you do not absolutely need to carry cash at all times (of course, it is still better if you do). Tickets for taking the bus to go outside Ljubljana will always ask for cash though.

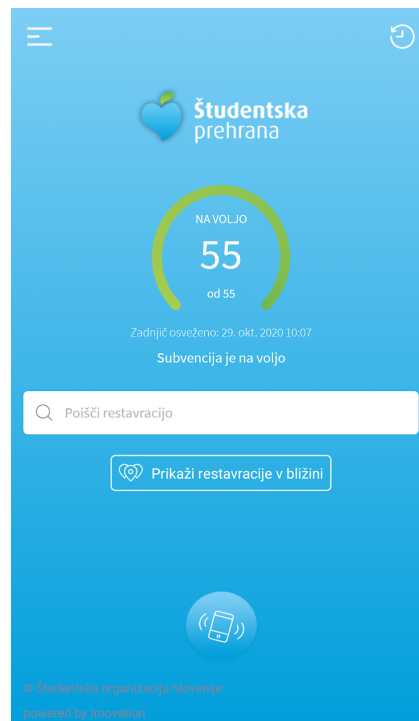
Lunch

There are students coupons called "študentski boni" which you can use in many restaurants and fast foods in Ljubljana to pay at most 5.14€ a meal. To get it, you must :

1. have an EMŠO number;
2. make an account on [the študentska prehrana website](#) ;
3. download the mobile application "študentska prehrana" ;
4. go to "Pivovarniška ulica 6, 1000 Ljubljana" to the Student service to validate your account (you have to go there, you cannot do it online). You will need your phone (with an Internet connection), your ID card or passport, your EMŠO number, the code given when you created the account (ŠOS). It is open only on Mondays and Wednesdays from 09:00 to 15:30 ([more information here](#)).

The application has a list of all restaurants with their prices (some are not updated), their open hours, and the dish they have available. To use the "boni" (coupons), you always need to have the application with an Internet connection **AND** your ID card or passport. You get around 20 boni per month during 2 to 3 months. Once you can use the boni, the app should look like this. Press the button below to trigger a signal that the pink machine for boni at restaurants will acknowledge.

Note that the app is only available in Slovenian, which is not really an issue as it is intuitive enough.



Weather

In Slovenia, one thing that surprised us was the rain. It can rain a lot and without warning. You should always carry an umbrella or have a raincoat with you. Ljubljana is also very humid so do not forget to

ventilate your flat as often as possible. In summer, the temperatures may vary between 15°C and 35°C from our experience.

Shops

Most shops are closed on Sunday, and many on Saturday afternoon. We advise you to plan ahead and buy everything you need.

Insurance

If you are from a country in the European Union, look for getting the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This card is free, not the services, and it covers only the urgent needs or chronic illnesses. However, it guarantees you will be charged the same way as Slovenians : if a service is free in Slovenia, it will be free for you as well; if it isn't free, you can ask for reimbursement back in your country with your insurance company or directly in Slovenia with a document you should find in your country's health insurance website.

If you have Erasmus, an insurance might be in your contract. You should verify it before leaving for Slovenia.

Anyway, you should turn to your own insurance company.

Working at IBMI as an intern

The content of an internship at IBMI is fairly well tailored to your level in statistics. Usually, foreign interns are students in medicine who come here to discover statistics applied to medicine; they get to read about how these fields intertwine, learn about epidemiology, statistical tests, p-values...

We are students in statistics who just finished our first year of masters' at the Ensai in France, and are planning on specializing in biostatistics next year. We chose IBMI to get a headstart in the subject and discover the important concepts a biostatistician has to be comfortable with. We have been given three main tasks over the course of two months that allowed us to make use of and expand on the concepts we learned in class. We worked with the R language, which is the language most people use for statistical programming here. When reporting results, it is heavily recommended to work with LaTeX or RMarkdown for example, but not Word.

Our first task involved reading biostatistical literature with a critical eye, i.e. identifying the flaws or the opacity in the methodology of a paper. This is a very useful skill to develop as a statistician since you will often need to read papers, whether it is to learn more about how some data are typically analyzed or learn to identify which tools are the most appropriate for dealing with the problem at hand. We were then to perform simulations showing why the methodology is flawed and report it in such a way that our work could be used to show students in statistics the flaws of the article.

The second task had us learn about a kind of statistical model we had not worked with before (generalized linear mixed models), but we had the tools and time to dive a little bit in the theory. Then we had to look for R packages fitting them and exploring them as there are various methods to fit such models, and how they perform in a certain context. Fortunately, the institute has a lot of books on various relevant subjects (designing experiments, bioinformatics, survival analysis, mixed models, regression...) and we had access to many papers on the Internet for free thanks to the institute's wifi.

The third one involved data imputation and studying correlations with regression models. Once again we had enough time to look at the literature for imputation and reported our results on a regular basis. We then had meetings to discuss what could be improved and if we could work on further analyses.

The atmosphere at the institute is very laid-back and people are available and happy to help. There are computer scientists, senior statisticians, PhD students and there are often other foreign interns too, generally medicine students.