

University of Work "Ismail Qemali"



2020-2021

ERASMUS+
INCOMING STUDENT
GUIDE



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
- Output
 UniVlora2
- U.V. Ismail Qemali
- Universiteti Ismail Qemali Vlore

CONTENT

DESTINATION - UNIVERSITY OF VLORA	6
Information about the University of Vlora	7
How to apply for a study exchange	8
Inter - Institutional Agreements	9
Memorandum of Understanding	10
International relations office	11
Academic coordinator	11
Student buddy	11
Faculties and departments	12
General structure of studies	15
Academic calendar	17
Location	19
Library	
Sports, social & cultural activities	. 20
PRE- DEPARTURE PREPARATION	. 24
Student visa	25
Arranging accommodation	27
Student dormitory	27
Apartment for rent	. 28
Hotels in Vlora for your first days	. 29
USEFUL INFORMATION BEFORE DEPARTUR	E
Albanian money	31

Climate and clothes	
Mobile phone	
Electrical equipment	33
TRANSPORTATION TO VLORA	34
By air	35
By land	37
By sea	
ARRIVAL TO VLORA	40
Local customs and etiquette	41
Cuisine & restaurants	41
Public transportation in Vlora	42
Taxi	42
Health and emergencies	43
DISCOVERING VLORA	11
Cafés/ out for a drink	
Entertainment and cultural events	
Sports in Vlora	
Entertainment sport for adventurous	
Tourism in Vlora	48
TESTIMONIALS	50
BASIC ALBANIAN FOR BEGINNERS	_





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"



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 15 000 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.

8

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:

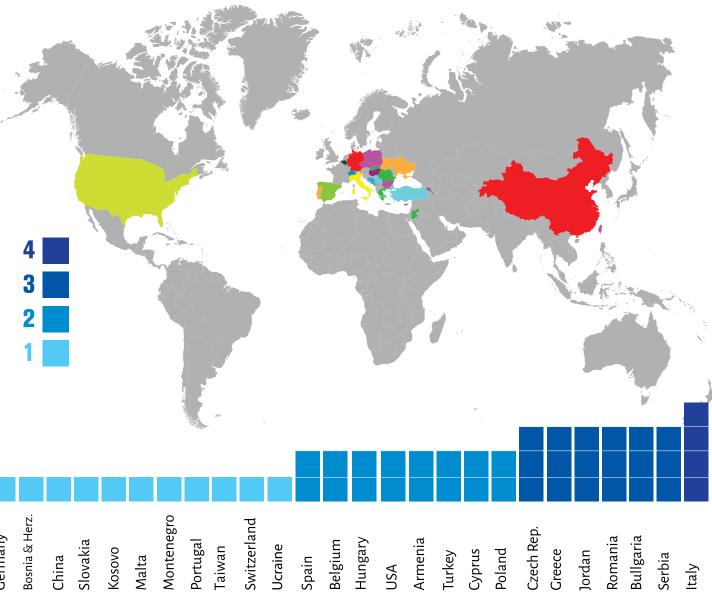
- Copy of the ID card
- Acceptance letter from UV
- Learning Agreement

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.

76 INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS KA107 BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF VLORA AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AUSTRIA **© CROATIA ● GREECE** NORWAY SPAIN SERBIA SLOVAKIA MACED 9

49 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF VLORA AND OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



INTERNATIONAL **RELATIONS OFFICE**

L. "Pavarësia", Rr. "Kosova", 9400, Vlore Rectorate, First floor Address:

E-mail: international@univlora.edu.al Opening hours: Monday - Friday 08:00 - 16:00

STAFF MEMBERS:

PhD Enkelejd MËHILLI

Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and Institutional Development

MSC. Rezarta SINANALIAJ

Director of Internal Quality Assurance and Projects 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



Econom

Faculty

Department of Business

Bsc in Business Administration Bsc in Tourism Management Bsc in Marketing MSc in Business Administration | MPS in Marketing

MPS in Public Administration MPS in Entrepreneurship in tourism

Department of Finance & Accounting

Bsc in Finance Bsc in Accounting MPS in Finance

MPS in Accounting MSc 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 STUDIFS

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 2020-2021 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.

Student Exchange during COVID-19

As a response to the coronavirus pandemic classes at the University of Vlora have been delivered in a combination of online and in-person modalities. Study procedures are subject to change in response to the pandemic situation and the Ministry of Education in Albania instructions. This won't affect your mobility at UV and hope you will make the most out of your experience at our University and Albania.

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
А	90-100	10	Excellent	Shkëlqyeshëm
В	80-89	9	Very good	Shumë mirë
С	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 Februar 24 December – 4 January (Christmas holidays) February

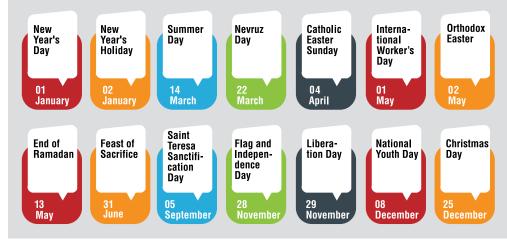
Spring semester (2nd term)

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 2021



*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

Add<mark>r</mark>ess: 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

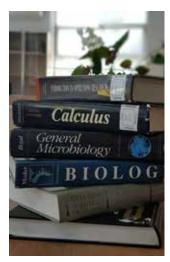
Faculty of Human Sciences (Building "B") campus is located in the city centre, ideal for exploring the rest of the city. It is very close to public transport, shopping areas, city ambulance and pharmacies, bars ect. Inside this campus is situated the University's dormitory, a student restaurant and cafeteria 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". 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.

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.

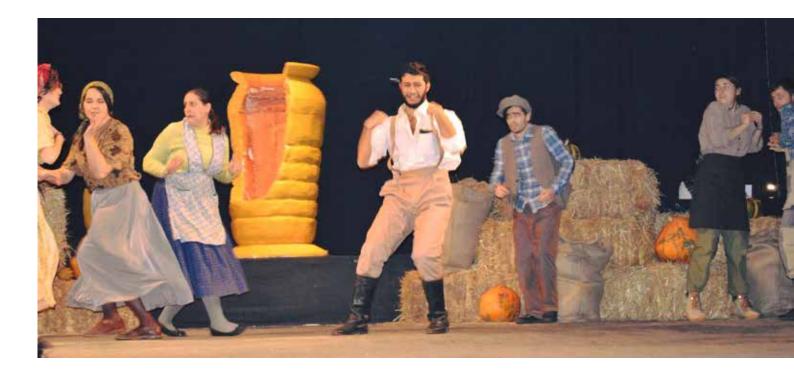
SPORTS, SOCIAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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!































UNIVERSITETI"ISMAIL, QEMALI" VLORE

STUDENT VISA

Can enter Albania without visa:

- Foreign citizens who have a valid, multipleentry 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, multipleentry 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/ 7. uploads/2018/11/3-visa-regime-for-foreigncitiznes-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 Vlore'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.
- 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)
- 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 25 (Erasmus document grant);

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



ARRANGING ACCOMMODATION

STUDENT DORMITORY

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.

For booking and additional information contact:

 $\hbox{E-mail: trajtimi.studentit.vlore@gmail.com}\\$

Phone: +355 33 408 121; +355 693593444

Facebook: Qyteza Student Vlorë Instagram: Qyteza Student Vlorë

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

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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 prerior 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 Ambasador https://hotel-ambasador.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=

USEFULINFORMATIO BEFORE DEPARTURE

ALBANIAN MONFY

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, 1000, 2000, 5000 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.



















CLOTHES

Vlora has a climate typical of Mediterranean Sea - short, soft, wet winters; hot and dry summers. Vlore 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.



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 Vlora 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.likometajaerport.al Facebook: Likomentaj 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 Vlora 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 – Lushnje – 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 Vlora 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 mention options to insure that you can reach Vlora 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 Vlora 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 Lushnje Fier Vlorë
- **Tushemisht** leading to Pogradec
- Bllata leading to Peshkopia, Bulqize 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 Gjirokaster Tepelenë Vlorë / Gjirokastër 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 Vlora. 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 – Lushnje – 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
- Murrigan 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 citites, everal 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 pons 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=EAlalQobChMIlY3W06ud4QlVxYjVCh2w-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

It is wonderful to have you here. This may be your first visit to Vlora, 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.

LOCAL CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

- In Vlora, we pride ourselves on being a place where everyone is welcome, so hospitality is one of our great values.
- Vlora 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 Vlora. 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 Vlore is a typical cuisine of the mountainous but also coastal areas. In Vlora 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 Vlore cuisine are:

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

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 deceivingly strong.

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

PUBLIC TRANS-PORTATION

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: Lagia: "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 often taken for granted in Albania and people tend not to ask previously.

PRFVFNTIVF MEASURES FOR COVID-19

Protect yourself and others around you by taking appropriate precautions. Clean your hands often; in case there is no water and soap, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% of alcohol. Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.

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 = $4 \in$ for a no alcoholic beverages and 750 Lekë = $6 \in$ 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 through 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 form 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.

ENTERTAIN-MENT SPORT FOR ADVENTUR-OUS

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

Treeking, 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 what 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"

47

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

TOURISM IN VLORA

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-vizitoret/ 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



Robert DEATCU

"Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, Romania

Being an Erasmus student in Vlore was AWSOME!

Due to coronavirus, my courses were online, but even in that situation, after the coronavirus cases reduced, I just enjoyed the beautiful city of Vlore, and the sun from the beach! If I have to choose between my previous Erasmus+ mobility in Greece and the one from Albania, I would 100% choose University of Vlora for that amazing people, city and great weather!

Patricia STANCIU

Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania

"Erasmus+ made me a better person"

I am grateful to all who were involved in facilitating this incredible experience. The care that the host team put into the week was evident creating a warm, friendly environment.

The training week was a great motivator, and I returned to Braşov very excited and enthusiastic. I would highly recommend the Erasmus+ staff mobility scheme to anyone looking to gain a new perspective on their role. It was a great experience! To anyone attending an Erasmus+ training I say: Go for it with an open mind – you will learn a lot but also, you will spend a wonderful-wonderful time!!.





Antonios MANIATIS

University of West Attica, Greece

"Albania, the delight to teach"

I enjoyed very much my stay at the very center of Vlora, which is a mainstreaming city of Albania, which looks like Greece. Academics of the University were very hospitable and some of them tried to connect me with the Italian academic community, as they were informed on my ambitions on the matter. Last but not least, my teaching experience was more valuable than the one acquired in Paris, in the ERASMUS programme. For all these reasons, I strongly recommend any similar mobility to Albania, let alone to Vlora.

Daily life conversation:

Hello! – Përshëndetje

Good morning - Mirëmëngjes

Good afternoon – Mirëdita

Good evening - Mirëmbrëma

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 – Eshtunë

Sunday – E djelë

At the bar/ restorant:

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 – lam sëmurë

Where is the hospital? – Ku ndodhet spitali?

Take me to the hospital - Më coni në spital I need a doctor - Kam nevojë për një doctor

 $Pharmacy - {\color{red} Farmaci}$

Police – Policia

BASIC ALBANIAN FOR BEGINNERS

This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. The various companies mentioned in the guide are random selected only for orientation purposes, not for promotion.

PUBLISHED BY: University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"

FOR THE PUBLISHER: **Prof. Dr. Roland ZISI, Rector**

TEXT: Aulona Hysenaj, Rezarta Sinanaliaj, Edlira Lati, Ina Binaj

DESIGN: STUDIOSAI

YEAR 2020