



PAR University of Applied Sciences - The European Dual Studies University



AY 2025/2026

Guidebook

www.par.hr



#studyinRijeka



Take a Tour



Dear student,

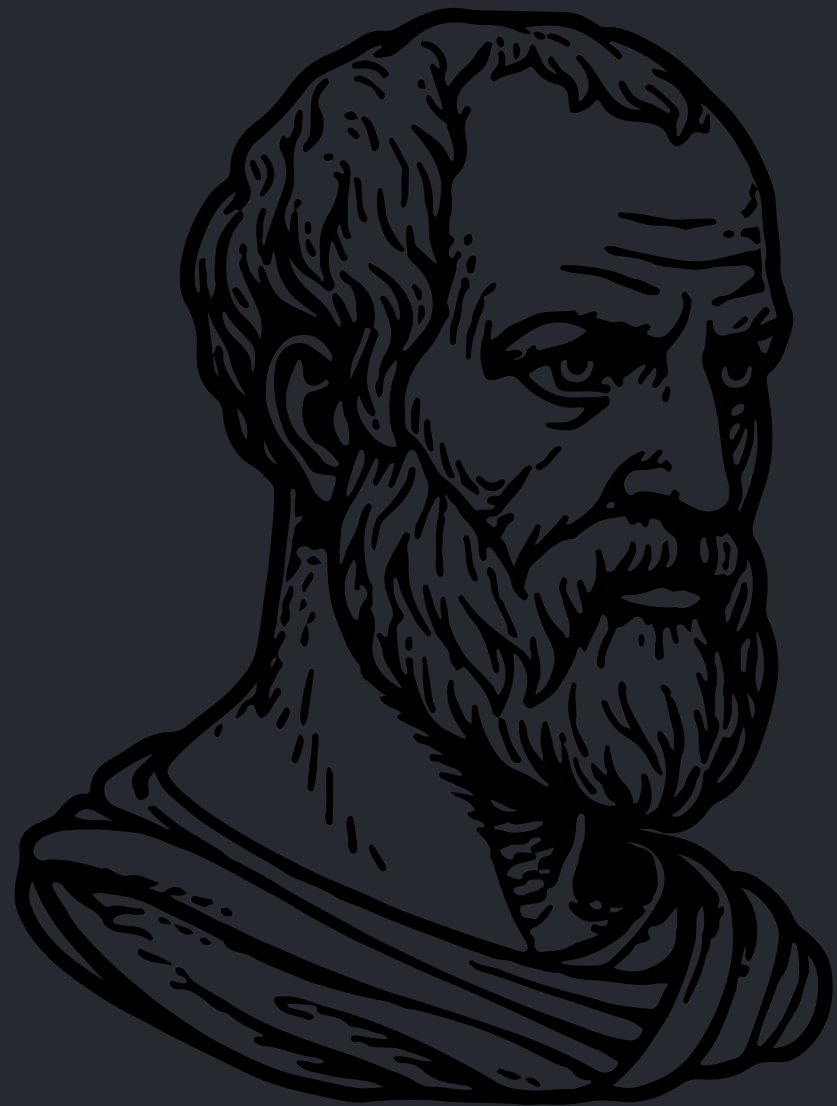
it is with great joy and pride that I welcome you to PAR University of Applied Sciences and to our beloved city of Rijeka. By joining us, you've taken an important step toward shaping not only your career but also your personal development. We are here to support you at every stage of this exciting journey. It has been my experience that each generation of students brings fresh ideas and vibrant energy to our academic community, and I look forward to all that you will accomplish during your time here with us. Thank you for choosing PAR and allowing us to be part of your educational path. Wishing you a successful academic year ahead - may it be filled with inspiring experiences and unforgettable moments!

Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Gordana Nikolić, PhD

Dean





“We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

- Aristotle -



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE TEAM



Sonia Grotz, PhD

Vice-Dean for International Cooperation

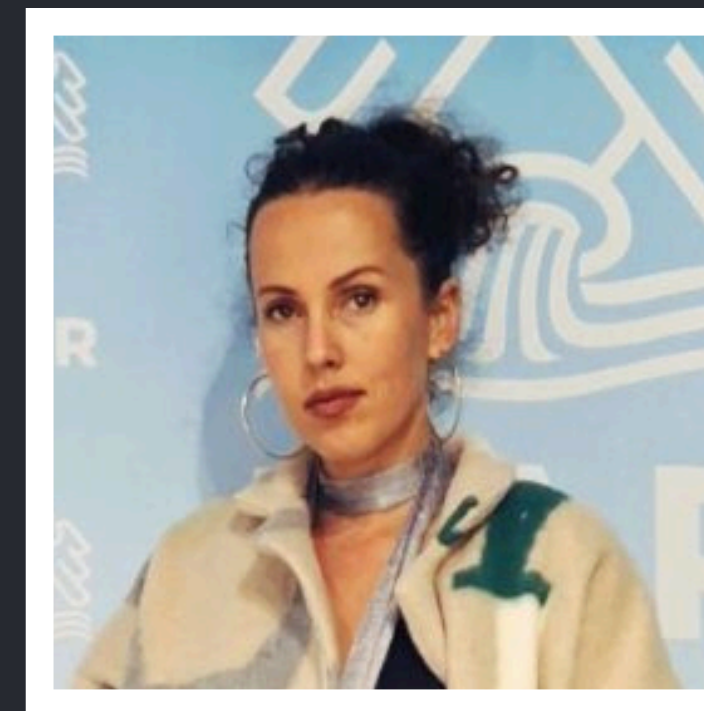
sonia.grotz@par.hr



Nikolina Demark Rađenović, MA

Head of International Office

nikolina.demark@par.hr



Mia Maslač, MA

Erasmus Coordinator/Teaching Assistant

mia.maslac@par.hr



OVERVIEW



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EU4DUAL



Study programmes



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About **PAR**

We tested Ivana, Marina, Martina and Marija...



“Founded back in 2007, it is the first and only European Dual Studies University in Croatia (pause) ...and I should add: the only higher education institution in Croatia established, owned and led by a woman.”

Ivana (EU Funding Office)



“Located in the heart of Rijeka, PAR is small, but mighty! You won’t get lost in a sea of students here - we keep things personal. Think of it like studying at a big family gathering, but with fewer embarrassing childhood stories and more focus on your future. How did I do, did I pass?”

Marina (Faculty Secretary)



“100 + student exchange partnerships. Think of us as your passport to the world - minus the paperwork and airport security.”

Martina (Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs)



“We’re not just about diplomas, but rather about connections. Whether it’s local businesses or international partnerships, we’ll make sure you know someone, who knows someone, who gets you that dream job.”

Marija (Dean’s Assistant)

Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver high-quality, practice-oriented education that bridges the gap between academia and industry. Through innovative dual study programs, strategic international partnerships and a personalized learning environment, we empower students to develop the skills, confidence and mindset needed to succeed in a dynamic global job market.

Our Vision

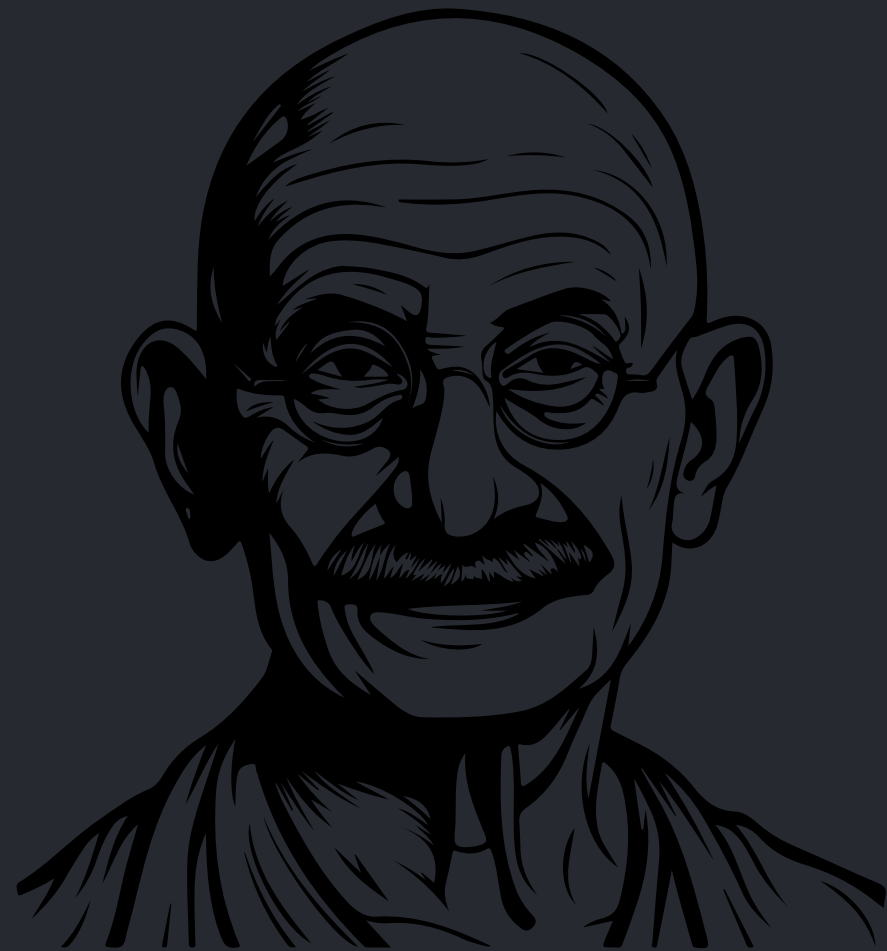
Our vision is to become the leading international center of excellence for dual education. As the only Croatian member of the European Dual Studies University - EU4Dual, we are committed to shaping the future of education by connecting academic excellence with real-world experience. Education is our passion, and we want to share it with our students through a transformative journey of learning, growth and professional success.



ABOUT EU4Dual

PAR is a proud member of the European Dual Studies University - EU4Dual, a visionary initiative that unites education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship across regional and european landscapes. This model of higher education blends academic learning with practical, work-based experience, giving students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills by working and collaborating with our international industry partners. It is this very approach, combined with our modern facilities and experienced faculty, that greatly contributes to our reputation as a forward-thinking academic institution in Croatia.





“You can shake the world in a gentle way.”

- Mahatma Gandhi -





UNDERGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL STUDY

Our undergraduate professional study programme offers two study tracks:

1. **Business Management** and
2. **Management in Gastronomy and Restaurateurs.**

The programme equips students with a strong foundation in business administration - covering key areas such as finance, marketing and management. The emphasis is put on the practical experiences, enabling students to participate in internships and real-world projects alongside their academic coursework.



COURSE NAME	ECTS
Introduction to Management	6
Mathematics for Economists	6
Principles of Economics	6
Management of Small & Medium Enterprises	6
Business Logistics	6
Human Resource Management	5
Accounting	5
Professional Practice I	5

COURSE NAME	ECTS
Winter School INCASO 2026	5
Introduction to Tourism	4
Introduction to Croatian Language & Culture I	4
Digital Transformation	3
Business Law I	3
Business English I/III	3
International Project Week I (PAR Bootcamp)	3
Principles of Healthy Living	2

*If fewer than 5 students enroll in a course, PAR reserves the right to offer a substitute course.



COURSE NAME	ECTS
Business Statistics	6
Marketing	6
Corporate Finance	6
Professional Practice II	5
Winter School INCASO 2026	5
Summer School SAIL & LEARN 2026	5
Business Organization	5
International Trade	4

COURSE NAME	ECTS
Digital Economy	4
Entrepreneurship in Tourism	4
Introduction to Croatian Language & Culture II	4
Business Ethics	3
Business Law II	3
Business English II/IV	3
International Project Week II (European Week)	3
Sports & Recreation	2

*If fewer than 5 students enroll in a course, PAR reserves the right to offer a substitute course.





GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL STUDY

Our graduate professional study programme offers three specializations:

1. **Financial Management,**
2. **Management of Small and Medium Enterprises** and
3. **Management in Sports.**

The programme builds on undergraduate knowledge and focuses on advanced business strategies, leadership and entrepreneurship. Its curriculum is designed to blend theoretical insights with practical skills, preparing students for leadership roles across diverse industries.



COURSE NAME	ECTS
Financial Management	6
Strategic Management	6
Leadership	6
Event Management	6
Strategic Accounting	6
Sports Management	6
Sports Law	6
Organizational Culture & Behaviour	5

COURSE NAME	ECTS
Professional Practice III	5
Winter School INCASO 2026	5
Digital Transformation Advanced	5
Business Communication	4
Business English	4
Introduction to Croatian Language & Culture I	4
International Project Week I (PAR Bootcamp)	3
Principles of Healthy Living	2

*If fewer than 5 students enroll in a course, PAR reserves the right to offer a substitute course.



COURSE NAME	ECTS
Entrepreneurship and Innovation	6
Quantitative Methods for Business Decision Making	6
Business Ethics Advanced	6
Marketing Management	5
Project Cycle Management	5
Digital Economy Advanced	5
Summer School SAIL & LEARN 2026	5

COURSE NAME	ECTS
Professional Practice IV	5
Business Negotiation	4
Introduction to Croatian Language & Culture II	4
Business English	4
Business Law Advanced	4
International Project Week II (European Week)	3
Sports & Recreation	2

*If fewer than 5 students enroll in a course, PAR reserves the right to offer a substitute course.



#SPORTSACADEMY



PAR ATHLETES: Ana Jelušić Black

A three-time Olympian and former elite alpine skier, Ana competed at the Olympics at just 15 years old. Today, she is a respected expert in sports marketing and communications, and a valued member of the PAR alumni community. After a successful sports career, Ana worked with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Ski Federation (FIS), the International Testing Agency (ITA) and Eurosport. She now runs her own consultancy and contributes as an educator in IOC programs.

At PAR, we are proud to support the professional and educational growth of student-athletes, empowering them to succeed both on and off the field.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

(three steps to studying at **PAR**)

1. NOMINATION

Before applying, students must be officially nominated by their home university. The partner university should send the nomination by email to erasmus@par.hr, including the following details:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Home university name
- Current year of study

Once the nomination is received and accepted, students will be contacted with the application instructions and required documents.

NOMINATION DEADLINES:

Autumn/Winter Semester: **30 June 2025**
Spring/Summer Semester: **30 November 2025**

2. APPLICATION

Students who wish to apply must complete the application form and send the following documents to erasmus@par.hr:

- Completed application form
- Learning Agreement
- Copy of their passport or ID
- Health insurance card
- Two passport-size photos

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Autumn/Winter Semester: **30 July 2025**
Spring/Summer Semester: **30 December 2025**

3. ACCEPTANCE LETTER

Once accepted, you'll receive an official Letter of Acceptance from us, confirming your participation in the Erasmus exchange programme.



FACT SHEET

FULL NAME	VELEUČILIŠTE PAR (PAR UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES)
ERASMUS CODE	HR RIJEKA03
ADDRESS	TRG RIJEČKE REZOLUCIJE 4, 51000 RIJEKA, CROATIA
WEBSITE	www.par.hr
PHONE	+385 (0)51 327 037
EMAIL ADDRESS	international@par.hr ; erasmus@par.hr



FACT SHEET

ORIENTATION WEEK

Orientation days, held during the first week of each semester, mark the beginning of your academic journey with us and are designed to help you settle in smoothly. During this time, you will meet your professors, fellow international students and the dedicated team from the International Office. You'll receive important information about your class schedule, learning platforms, textbooks, student cards, etc.

During this week, you will have the opportunity to connect with the local students through our Buddy Programme. Each incoming student can be paired with a local "buddy" who will help them navigate student life, settle into the new environment and answer any practical questions. This is a great way to make local friends, learn more about the Croatian culture and feel more at home from day one.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Autumn/Winter Semester:

Teaching period

6 October 2025 - 30 January 2026

Mid-semester break

12 December 2025 - 9 January 2026

Exams

2 February 2026 - 13 February 2026

Spring/Summer Semester:

Teaching period

2 March 2026 - 29 May 2026

Mid-semester break

3 April 2026 - 10 April 2026

Exams

1 June 2026 - 12 June 2026



FACT SHEET

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Non-EU students who wish to study in Croatia must obtain a student visa (Type D) before entering the country. To apply, you'll need a valid passport, an acceptance letter from the host institution, proof of sufficient funds, health insurance, a criminal record check, and a proof of accommodation. The application is typically submitted at the Croatian embassy or consulate in your home country.

OIB NUMBER

Your first step in Croatia is to get an OIB (Personal Identification Number), which is required for many official purposes. You'll apply for it at the local tax office, and our Erasmus coordinator will help you through the process.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

To apply for your residence permit in Croatia, you'll need:

- A copy of your ID and health insurance card
- Your OIB (Personal Identification Number)
- An acceptance letter from PAR, stating your scholarship amount
- A tenancy agreement, signed by the apartment owner and notarized
- A residence registration form and supplementary form (available at the police station or International Office)

*Students from non-EU countries must also provide a student visa (if required), a passport-sized photo (3.5 x 4.5 cm), and pay a fee of approximately 90 EUR when applying for a temporary residence permit in Croatia.



INTERNATIONAL PROJECT WEEKS (IPWs)

PAR BUSINESS CAMP (3 ECTS)

Our annual bootcamp - PAR Business camp is designed to foster the entrepreneurial mindset of both BA and MA students. Organized as an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme, it explores key aspects of entrepreneurship through dynamic, hands-on activities. Held annually in the second half of November, PAR bootcamp is a key part of the academic calendar. As incoming students, you'll have the chance to be part of it as well, as regular classes are paused during this period to allow full participation.



WINTER SCHOOL INCASO (5 ECTS)

The International Carnival School is a unique programme that merges modern business concepts with the lively atmosphere of carnival festivities. The academic component focuses on entrepreneurship, tourism, and marketing, while providing students with an immersive experience in the region's rich cultural traditions. Students also visit local businesses in Rijeka, where they gain valuable insights into the local economy and the impact of cultural events on tourism and entrepreneurship. The programme culminates in an unforgettable experience: participation in the International Carnival Parade in Rijeka, one of the largest and most iconic events of its kind in the world.



“Are you sleeping peacefully, Rio de Janeiro?”



PAR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (PILC)

PILC is a respected professional and scientific conference held every March in the scenic town of Opatija. Each year, it brings together experts to explore key topics in leadership and management across business, education, sports, tourism and industry. Our main partner in organizing the event is AI&GAMING EDIH - European Digital Innovation Hub focused on advancing artificial intelligence and gaming technologies through education, research and industry collaboration.



SUMMER SCHOOL SAIL & LEARN (5 ECTS)

Sail & Learn is a unique international programme that brings together students, lecturers and entrepreneurs from around the world for an enriching blend of academic learning and Adriatic adventure. Designed for BA and MA students, it combines engaging business-related courses with hands-on workshops, cultural experiences and sailing trips along the Croatian coast. With its mix of classroom sessions and life at sea, Sail & Learn offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to expand their academic knowledge and build international networks in an inspiring and adventurous setting.



OUT & ABOUT IN RIJEKA



“Situating along the beautiful Adriatic Sea, Rijeka offers stunning coastal views and is just a short drive from picturesque mountains. It’s Croatia’s most cosmopolitan city and was crowned European Capital of Culture in 2020 (yes, you can party and feel cultured at the same time)!”

Eni, student



OUT & ABOUT IN RIJEKA

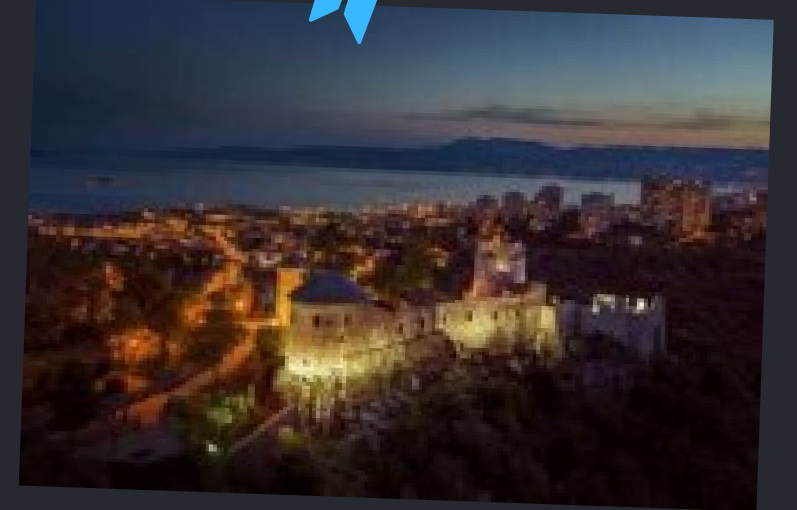
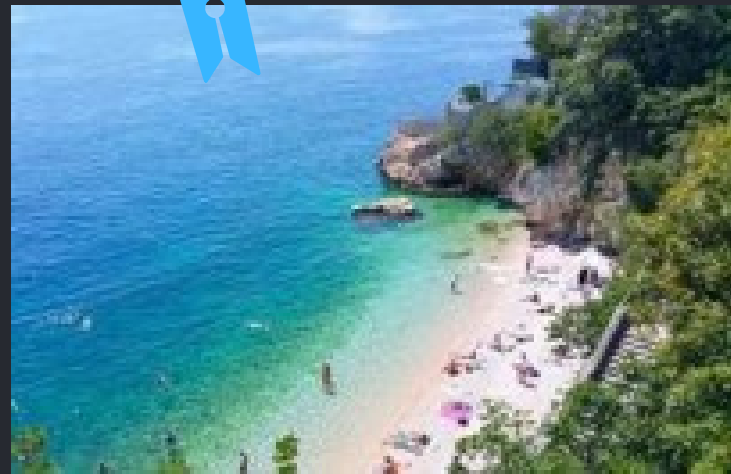


“Affordable living, vibrant nightlife and Croatia’s biggest carnival (where you can finally wear that awkward costume) mean there’s never a dull moment. Plus, you’re just a quick hop away from epic weekend getaways to Venice, Trieste, Ljubljana and the nearby islands.”

Ricky, student



THE CITY THAT FLOWS...



LOCATION HUNTING

Discover the locations and bring your selfies to the International Office to claim your prize!



SPORT LIFE IN RIJEKA

“Rijeka’s sports scene offers a wide range of activities year-round, thanks to its ideal location between the mountains and the Adriatic Sea. Whether you’re into alpine skiing at Platak Ski Center in winter or windsurfing at Preluk Bay, the city caters to both recreational and competitive athletes.”

Katja, physical education teacher

“Water sports like swimming, sailing, and water polo are popular in Rijeka, with the city boasting top clubs such as VK Primorje.”

Hana, scuba diver

“Football fans can catch a match at HNK Rijeka’s home stadium, Stadion Rujevica. I’ve been coming here with my dad since I was three. This year we are going to win the championship, mark my words...”

Borna, student



“Fitness lovers will find numerous gyms, like Fitness Center Tower and Mofit Fitness Club, offering student friendly daily and monthly memberships.”

Mario, fitness trainer

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING RIJEKA'S NIGHTLIFE



1. Pace yourself: Croatians party late.

Don't be surprised if clubs don't start filling up until well after midnight - so save some energy for the long haul!

2. Cash is king.

Many bars and clubs are cash-only, so make sure to have some euros (yes, Croatia uses the euro) on hand. You don't want to be that person trying to buy drinks with a credit card no one accepts.



3. Dress code

Rijeka is laid-back, so don't stress about dressing up. Comfortable but stylish is the way to go.

4. Đir po starom gradu

Đir po Starom Gradu (A Stroll through the Old Town) is one of Rijeka's most popular weekly events, especially among students. Every Tuesday, four bars in the Old Town - Rakhia Bar, Garçon Bar, Modesto Club and Stop Bar - host themed parties with great music, affordable drinks and a lively atmosphere. Known as "Student Tuesday," it offers student discounts and happy hour specials, making it a fun and budget-friendly way to break up the week.



THE BUREK PHENOMENON

“The nightlife? There’s no such thing as a ‘quiet night out’. You head out for one drink, and somehow end up eating a burek on some random street corner at 4 a.m., wondering where it all went wrong - or right.”

Lovro, hairdresser



Burek kod braće

*Burek is made with thin, flaky dough called yufka, and is usually filled with savory ingredients. In Croatia in particular, it’s typically filled with either meat or cheese.

FOR OUR FELLOW BEER LOVERS

Goblet Beer Bar & Shop isn't just any spot to grab a drink - it's a haven for craft beer lovers. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or just curious to try something new, Goblet offers a wide variety of brews to suit every palate, from hoppy IPAs to rich stouts. But it's not just the beer that makes Goblet stand out - the atmosphere is unbeatable: laid-back and welcoming. And here's the best part: you can even buy bottles to take home. So if you're in Rijeka and craving a cold one, Goblet Bar & Beer Shop is the ultimate go-to for discovering top-notch brews in a cool, relaxed setting.



Goblet Beer Bar & Shop

www.par.hr

[#studyinRijeka](https://www.instagram.com/studyinRijeka)



THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH OF ELECTRONIC BEATS

Crkva means 'church' in Croatian, and while the club has no religious ties, its name plays on the idea of being a kind of 'temple' for electronic music lovers. Tucked away in the heart of Rijeka, the club's interior is crafted to reflect the underground music scene - with a dark, industrial vibe that amplifies the experience. It's well-regarded throughout the region for offering a unique and intimate setting where people come together to enjoy top-tier music and performances. Be sure to check their event calendar, as they regularly host exciting acts that energize the city.



Crkva

www.par.hr

[#studyinRijeka](https://www.instagram.com/studyinRijeka)



AFFORDABLE DINING OPTIONS



 **Restaurant Indeks**



 **Restaurant Kampus**

Rijeka offers a variety of budget-friendly spots where you can enjoy a good meal - many of which offer special discounts for students, so don't forget to bring your student ID!

AFFORDABLE DINING OPTIONS



 **Restaurant Municipium**



 **Restaurant Slano & Slatko**

Rijeka offers a variety of budget-friendly spots where you can enjoy a good meal - many of which offer special discounts for students, so don't forget to bring your student ID!

ACCOMMODATION

1. University Dormitories (Student Dormitory "Trsat")

The main student accommodation is located near the University of Rijeka's Trsat campus. The dormitory provides affordable housing tailored for students, including international exchange students. Rooms are typically shared (double rooms), although a limited number of single rooms may be available. The monthly rent is approximately 200 EUR per student.

To book a room, please contact the Student Centre via email at dom@scri.hr and/or scri.uniri@scri.hr. Room assignments are generally made on a first-come, first-served basis.

2. Private Accommodation

Renting a shared flat with other students can be a great way to live more independently while splitting costs. Depending on the location and size of the apartment, rent can vary from 200 to 500 EUR per month (usually per person). Sharing with roommates can significantly reduce costs.

Useful Facebook page: *Iznajmljivanje stanova Rijeka i okolica (prva grupa u Rijeci)*

*We strongly encourage you to arrange your accommodation before arriving in Rijeka. ;)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN RIJEKA



Rijeka's bus network efficiently connects the city center with suburban areas and nearby towns like Opatija and Kastav. Key stops include Korzo and Žabica (the main bus station). Tickets can be purchased at kiosks, Autotrolej offices, via the mTicket app, or directly from the driver (at a slightly higher price). Fares range from €2.50 to €4.00 depending on the zone, while a monthly student pass for Zone 1 costs €22. Buses operate roughly from 5:00 AM to midnight.

#GetAround with Autotrolej



TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET

A variety of telecom providers are available in Rijeka, offering competitive deals on both prepaid and postpaid plans. Prices are generally affordable, with monthly packages starting as low as €10.



tomato



telemach



T Mobile





RIJEKA CARNIVAL

“If you happen to be in Rijeka for the famous Rijeka Carnival, brace yourself. It’s one of the largest carnivals in Europe, and for a few weeks, nothing makes sense. You’ll see people dressed as everything from giant sausages to historical royalty. You might find yourself in the middle of a parade at 3 AM, wondering if this is real life or just a very strange dream. And yes - joining the chaos isn’t just expected, it’s encouraged.”

Leo, student

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The Halubje Bell Ringers (Halubajski Zvončari) are a traditional masked group from the Halubje region near Rijeka, known for their loud, rhythmic bell-ringing and distinctive costumes. Wearing sheepskin garments, horned masks and large brass bells, they parade through villages to chase away evil spirits and welcome spring (a custom rooted in ancient Slavic traditions). This vibrant ritual is a key highlight of the Rijeka Carnival and is recognized as part of Croatia’s intangible cultural heritage.

MEET THE LOCALS

“Oh, you want to know about Rijeka? Okay, here we go: Rijeka is where history, sport and culture meet, and then they grab a drink or two exclusively at OUR bar. See what we did there (wink)?”

Ivan & Artem, bartenders



"People of Rijeka are like the city's weather:
unpredictable, a bit stormy, but always warm at heart!"

Šeki, merchant



"I overheard my husband Zoran earlier today, while he was talking to one of the guests at our restaurant. He said it is his wife running this place, not him, contrary to what other people in the surrounding area believe.

I picked a good one, didn't I?"

Jasna, entrepreneur



"I'm giving him a fresh cut that will survive even Bura*. In case it doesn't, he should blame the wind, not the barber!"

Elbe, barber



*Bura is a powerful, cold and dry northeastern wind that sweeps down the Adriatic coast.

B: "People get surprised when they see we get along so well. What do they think: that we're in here throwing roses at each other? (pause) However, if she eventually starts getting on my nerves, I'll just put her in charge of the cactus section."

S: "She's just joking. You are, aren't you?"

Blaženka (mother-in-law) & Sara (daughter-in-law), florists



D: "Busy schedules can wait; coffee on Korzo with Grandma is the real priority."

S: "After all, who's going to remind her to slow down..."

Dora (student) & Suzana (full-time Grandma)



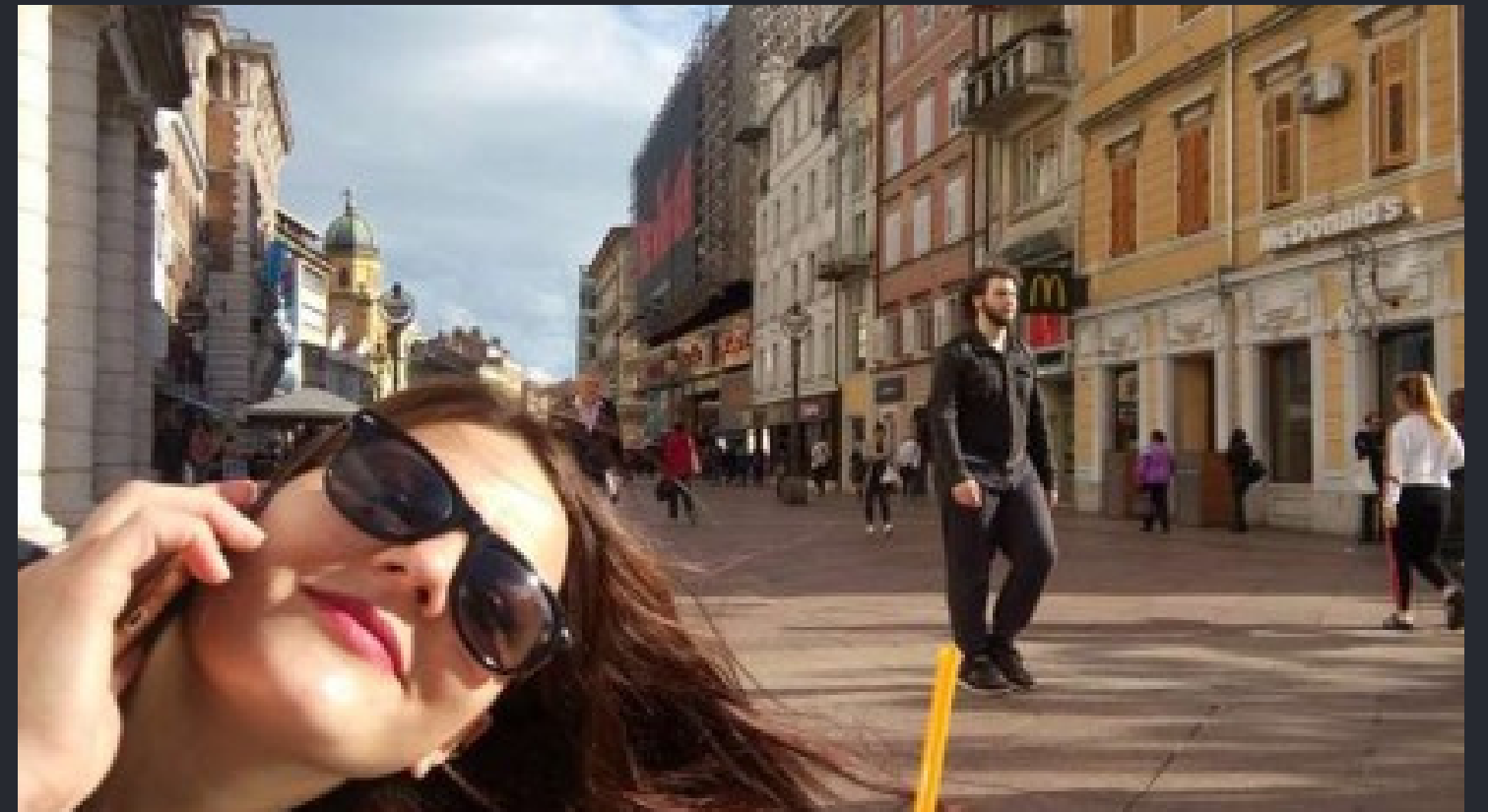
“My wife said she felt like having fish for lunch today. I guess I better not come home empty-handed! Please, make sure this photo makes me look like I just caught the one that got away last season!”

Petar, professional chef



“Rijeka is a city where the weather changes faster than my weekend plans, but coffee breaks stay eternal. This is my third coffee today and it’s not even noon yet. Go figure...”

Monika, teacher



“I agree with Monika. You’ll discover that grabbing a coffee is practically a full-time hobby here; you’ll be sipping it for hours. Coffee culture in Rijeka is a beautiful, time-consuming art form – and you’ll love every minute of it.”

Luka, sommelier



"I love helping students find those 'investment pieces' - you know, the ones they'll wear to every event until graduation! I've gotten pretty good at spotting who's just browsing and who's calling their parents for backup, after seeing the price tag. I used to be in that latter group myself. If only I could turn back time..."

Katarina, store assistant



What's one message you'd share with our students?

D: "The man who does not read, has no advantage over a man who can't read. I forgot who said that, though."

E: "I'm pretty sure it was Mark Twain who said that. And if he was here right now, he'd probably tell you to read more, so you wouldn't be so forgetful!"

Danijela & Eni, librarians





EXPLORE CROATIA

So, you've made it to Croatia - a country where the sea is clearer than your weekend plans, the food rivals your mom's cooking (but you'll never admit it), and the locals are so laid-back, they could teach a masterclass in Advanced Relaxation.

Whether you're here for a few months or the whole academic year, get ready - there are some unforgettable spots waiting to be explored.



DID YOU KNOW?

Croatia is known as 'Hrvatska' in the local language - a name that reflects the country's rich cultural heritage and strong national identity. The official currency is the Euro (EUR), which replaced the Croatian Kuna (HRK) on January 1st, 2023.



“Zagreb is not a city to pass through, but a place to come to.”

– Antun Gustav Matoš –

ZAGREB

“If you hear a loud bang around noon, don’t worry - it’s just the Grič cannon from Lotrščak Tower, reminding everyone to check their watches and realize they’re already late for whatever they’re doing. Welcome to Zagreb, where even the pigeons walk with attitude. But there’s more to Zagreb than surprise cannon fire and confident pigeons. The city is a blend of Austro-Hungarian elegance and quirky street culture - where you can sip coffee for hours on a sunny terrace, stumble upon a museum dedicated to broken relationships, or ride the world’s shortest funicular. It’s a place that feels both grand and intimate, full of small surprises around every corner.”

Ira, student



Fun fact: The colors of the lakes change constantly - from turquoise to emerald to deep blue - depending on the minerals, algae and angle of sunlight. So even if you visit twice, it'll never look exactly the same.

PLITVICE LAKES

“Plitvice Lakes are Croatia’s oldest and most famous national park, known for their 16 terraced lakes and over 90 waterfalls. Wooden walkways let you explore the park up close, and crystal-clear water makes it one of the most photographed spots in the country. It’s a must-see whether you’re into hiking or just want a peaceful day in nature.”

Jura, janitor



Fun fact: Rovinj was once an island! Until 1763, it was completely separated from the mainland, but then the channel between was filled in. So technically, the Old Town you're walking through today used to float on its own.

ROVINJ

"Rovinj is one of those places that feels almost too perfect to be real - like you've stepped into the pages of a romance novel. Its narrow, cobbled streets wind between pastel-colored houses that lean lovingly toward the sea, offering views so stunning they might make you question all your life choices. Set on the Istrian Peninsula - often called Italy's Croatian cousin - Rovinj offers more than just beauty. Here, you'll eat your weight in handmade pasta and aromatic truffles, and sip local wines that may seem pricey at first glance, but trust me - they're a worthwhile investment for your palate."

Silvana, florist



Fun fact: Pula has its very own colony of dolphins! The waters around the city, especially near Cape Kamenjak, are known for frequent dolphin sightings. Locals say if you spot one on your boat ride, it brings good luck - just don't forget to wave back.

PULA

“Pula is a vibrant coastal city with over 3,000 years of history, best known for the Pula Arena - one of the best-preserved Roman amphitheaters in the world. This ancient structure once hosted gladiator battles and now serves as a stunning venue for concerts, festivals and open-air cinema. Beyond the Arena, Pula boasts a fascinating mix of Roman ruins, Austro-Hungarian architecture and a laid-back Mediterranean vibe. Wander through its old town to discover hidden courtyards, charming cafés and historic gates like the Arch of the Sergii. As the largest city in Istria, Pula also offers easy access to beautiful beaches and the nearby Brijuni National Park, making it a perfect blend of culture, history and seaside relaxation.”

Tina, lawyer



"The sunset of Zadar is the world's most beautiful."

– Alfred Hitchcock –

ZADAR

"Zadar is that effortlessly cool cousin - always in style, never trying too hard. A home to the world's first sea organ, an architectural sound art installation that transforms the rhythm of the waves into hauntingly beautiful music. Just a few steps away, you'll find the 'Greeting to the Sun, a solar-powered light show that dances at sunset. It's the kind of place where you can watch the sky burn orange while the sea plays its own soundtrack, and feel like you're part of something quietly extraordinary."

Mate, flsherman



Fun fact: Legend has it that when God was creating the world, he had a handful of leftover white rocks - so he tossed them into the sea and called it a day. That's how the Kornati were born... or so the locals say. Either way, with over 140 islands crammed into such a small space, it does look like someone spilled a bucket of paradise.

KORNATI

"Kornati? Oh, you mean just 140+ islands casually scattered across the Adriatic, like nature got carried away and forgot to hit the brakes. This jaw-dropping archipelago is a surreal mix of stark white cliffs, hidden coves and impossibly blue waters. I came for a peaceful boat ride and left emotionally attached to the rocks. I think I imprinted on half the archipelago."

Marion, tourist



Fun fact: Split literally grew out of a Roman emperor's retirement villa. Emperor Diocletian built his massive palace here in the 4th century AD, and today - people live, shop and sip coffee inside its ancient walls. It's probably the only place in the world where you can buy gelato in a 1,700-year-old hallway.

SPLIT

“Growing up in Split means two things: you know Diocletian's Palace like your own living room, and you shout ‘Hajduk lives forever!’ before you even learn to walk. Split is home to Hajduk Split, a legendary football club founded in 1911, and a powerful symbol of the city's identity, pride and unshakable sporting spirit. For locals, Hajduk isn't just a team - it's family.”

Duje, waiter



Fun fact: The sunniest spot in Europe, boasting an average of over 2,800 hours of sunshine per year. This makes it a prime destination for sun-seekers and vacationers.

HVAR

“Hvar is Croatia’s answer to St. Tropez. It’s where the rich, the famous and us students (thanks to the scholarship) go to party, tan and live our best Mediterranean life. This is where the yachts dock, the cocktails flow and the sunsets make you question every life decision that didn’t involve coming here sooner. If you’re into nightlife, this is your spot. Oh, and don’t be surprised if your casual beach day turns into a boat party by sunset - that’s just Hvar being Hvar.”

Jaime, student



Fun fact: Zlatni Rat is not your average beach - it moves. Thanks to shifting winds and sea currents, the tip of this golden horn-shaped beach actually changes direction. So if you come back the next day and something feels off, you're not imagining it - the beach literally turned.

BRAČ

"Brač is the laid-back sibling in Croatia's island family - charming, sun-drenched and home to some of the clearest waters you'll ever swim in. It's a perfect blend of peaceful villages, olive groves and stunning coastline. The island's crown jewel is Zlatni Rat Beach, often called the most beautiful beach in Croatia."

Ante, restaurant owner



Fun fact: Dubrovnik's walls have seen it all - from medieval sieges to modern-day film crews. Most famously, it starred as King's Landing in Game of Thrones. So don't be surprised if a local casually points out where dragons once "flew." Just smile, nod... and take the selfie.

DUBROVNIK

"Dubrovnik isn't just a city - it's a time machine wrapped in stone walls and bathed in Adriatic light. With its marble streets, baroque facades and dramatic sea views, it's no wonder this place inspired kings, poets and an entire TV show. Walking through the Old Town feels like stepping onto a movie set - probably because, in a way, it is. And if you ask a local, they'll tell you: the best time to see the city is early in the morning, before the cruise ships arrive. That's when Dubrovnik breathes. You'll hear the echo of footsteps on centuries-old stones, catch the scent of fresh bread from tucked-away bakeries, and maybe even have a chat with a cat who clearly runs the place."

Iva, local guide



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