

Albania



Tirana

General information

- Number of inhabitants: 2,9 million / Capital: Tirana
- Important economic sectors: Agriculture employs 41% of the population; the industrial sector includes textiles, oil and gas, mining, and cement, among many other products; the service sector is the fastest growing sector, with tourism representing 8.4% of the GDP
- Approximate costs of living for students €400-€500

Useful links

Albania Erasmus+ Office
www.erasmusplus.al

Albania Erasmus+ Office e-mail address
albania@erasmusplus.al

Overview of the Higher Education System:
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche_albania_2017.pdf

Other facts:

- Unemployment rate: 14.7% (2016)
- Currency: Lek
- Official language: Albanian

About Higher Education

- There are 39 universities in Albania, of which 15 are public and 24 are private
- HEIs in Albania can be Universities (which operate in the area of education, scientific research, creative and professional activities), University Colleges (which provide higher education, knowledge, scientific and innovation development as well as professional programmes. Such institutions offer study programmes in the first and/or second study cycle and programmes with a professional character.), Academia (operate in the area of profiled higher education, scientific research, creative and professional activities. It consists of at least one faculty) and Higher Vocational Colleges (higher education institution with professional orientation that prepares professionals with practical skills).
- First cycle studies are offered in Universities, University Colleges and Academia
- There are approximately 165.000 students in Albania
- Albania is a member of the Bologna process since 2003
- **1st cycle (Bachelor degree)** - 3 years, comprises between 180 ECTS
- **2nd cycle (Master degree)** - 1 or 2 years, comprises between 60 and 120 ECTS
- **3rd cycle (PhD)** - 3 to 5 years
- The semesters in Albania usually last 15 weeks; the first starts in October and the second in March
- Employability is considered a parameter for the assessment of performance in the new Law on Higher Education. Since then, cooperation between HEIs and enterprises has started to develop and internships are becoming more common.
- International mobility in Albania is targeting mainly outgoing students and incoming and outgoing professors. Some programmes which are offered in foreign languages, mostly in Italian and English, attract a few foreign students as well.
- Higher education institutions in Albania have been participating in many Erasmus Mundus projects. The most active HEIs involved in Erasmus Mundus action 2 partnerships are the University of Tirana, Agricultural University of Tirana, Polytechnic University of Tirana, University "Aleksander Moisiu" of Durres, University "Aleksander Xhuvani" of Elbasan, University "Fan Noli" of Korça, University "Luigj Gurakuqi" of Shkodra, University "Eqerem Çabej" of Gjirokastra, University "Ismail Qemali" of Gjirokastra and European University of Tirana.
- In the past three years, more than 2500 mobilities have taken place between Albania and Erasmus+ programme countries, of which more than 1800 were outgoing from Albania and about 700 were incoming to Albania. 31 of these mobilities were to or from the Netherlands.
- Within Erasmus+ KA107, Albania collaborates most with Italy, Spain, Germany, Romania and Poland.