



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
Ministarstvo  
demografije i useljeništva



# Learn Croatian in **CROATIA!**

Guide for Scholarship Recipients of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration

# Guide for Scholarship Recipients of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration – Participants in the Croatian Language Course in the Republic of Croatia

Zagreb, April 2026.

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## COURSE LOCATIONS

### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - ZAGREB

Centre for Croatian as a Second and Foreign Language Croaticum  
Phone: +385 1 4092 068  
Email: [croaticum@ffzg.hr](mailto:croaticum@ffzg.hr)

### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - SPLIT

The Centre for Croatian Studies Abroad  
Phone: +385 21 545 546  
Email: [cehas@ffst.hr](mailto:cehas@ffst.hr)

### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - RIJEKA

The Rijeka School of Croatian Studies  
Phone: +385 51 265 677  
Email: [rks@ffri.hr](mailto:rks@ffri.hr)

### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - OSIJEK

Croatian Language for Foreigners  
Phone: +385 31494 662  
Email: [hzs@ffos.hr](mailto:hzs@ffos.hr)

### UNIVERSITY - ZADAR

The Centre for Foreign Languages  
Phone: +385 23 400 433  
Email: [csj@unizd.hr](mailto:csj@unizd.hr)

### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES - PULA

Department of Croatian  
Phone: +385 52 877 436  
Email: [ffpu-kroatistika@unipu.hr](mailto:ffpu-kroatistika@unipu.hr)

## FOREWORD

The Croatian Language Learning Scholarship Programme in the Republic of Croatia (Croatian: RH) is implemented by the Ministry of Demography and Immigration (Croatian: MDU), specifically by the Directorate for the Implementation of Public Immigration Policies.

The Programme's aim is to encourage the return and immigration of members of the Croatian diaspora through familiarisation with and promotion of the Croatian language, culture and national identity.

By learning the Croatian language, scholarship recipients acquire essential language skills necessary for successful integration into Croatia's society and economy.

Based on this, a number of important issues pertaining to entry, residence and stay in the Republic of Croatia arise, which fall under the jurisdiction of various state authorities and public institutions of the Republic of Croatia.

The Ministry of Demography and Immigration provides basic assistance to scholarship recipients, as well as to all members of the Croatian diaspora interested in returning and settling in Croatia.



illustration

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR LEARNING THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE

- The scholarship is awarded on the basis of a Public Call issued for one academic year and includes:
  - the cost of the Croatian language course for one academic year, paid to the course providers in the Republic of Croatia, and
  - a financial allowance for living expenses, paid to scholarship recipients.
- The scholarship may also include subsidised meals and accommodation in student dormitories, subject to the approval of the ministry responsible for science and education.
- Other information related to scholarships, as well as the total number of available scholarships and the exact financial amount per semester, are defined in the Public Call published in the second quarter for the upcoming academic year on the website of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration: [www.mdu.hr](http://www.mdu.hr)

- Croatian emigrants, descendants of Croatian emigrants and their family members aged 18 or older may apply to the Public Call.
- **The Decision** on the awarding of scholarships is also published on the website: [www.mdu.hr](http://www.mdu.hr)

## ARRIVAL IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

- General information on status-related matters upon arrival in the Republic of Croatia may be obtained through the [e-Citizens system \(Croatian: e-Gradani\)](#).
- Financial resources should be sufficient to cover basic needs during the first months after arrival in the Republic of Croatia.
- Prior travel health insurance is recommended
- Scholarship recipients who do not have accommodation in a student dormitory are advised to arrange accommodation in advance.



## SHORT-TERM STAY REGULATION

- The competent authority for registering and regulating residence in the Republic of Croatia is the Ministry of the Interior ([www.mup.hr](http://www.mup.hr)), specifically the competent police administration or station.
- **A short-term stay** is valid for a period of 90 days from the date of entry into the Schengen area.
- The short-term stay must be registered within 48 hours of arrival in the Republic of Croatia:
  - In tourist or student accommodation (hotel, hostel, rental apartment); the owner or manager is legally required to register each guest (a certificate of registration of stay must be provided).
  - If you are staying in private accommodation, you must personally register with the competent police administration or station of the Ministry of the Interior.
- To regulate temporary residence in the Republic of Croatia, a criminal record certificate issued no more than six months prior, accompanied by an official translation into Croatian and legalisation (*apostille*), is required.



## CERTIFICATE FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEMOGRAPHY AND IMMIGRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATING THE RESIDENCE OF IMMIGRANTS AND RETURNEES FROM THE CROATIAN DIASPORA WHO DO NOT HAVE CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP

- After regulating short-term stay, it is necessary to contact the competent Ministry of Demography and Immigration service in order to obtain a **certificate** from the Ministry for the purpose of regulating the residence of immigrants and returnees from the Croatian diaspora who do not have Croatian citizenship, which facilitates the procedure for regulating temporary residence.
- With the certificate issued by the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, applicants are not required to provide evidence of means of subsistence or health insurance.
- Temporary residence is granted for a period of up to two (2) years, with the possibility of extension.
- Once temporary residence has been approved, the submission of an application for Croatian citizenship is enabled and facilitated, as well as access to employment and self-employment, education programmes, vocational training, education and studies in the Republic of Croatia
- Starting from the second half of 2026, the Ministry of Demography and Immigration plans to cover the costs incurred in the regular procedure for granting temporary residence, as well as the issuance of biometric documents

## CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP

- The competent authority **for acquiring Croatian citizenship** is the Ministry of the Interior.
- In order to initiate the procedure for acquiring Croatian citizenship, it is necessary to present a biometric document as proof of approved temporary residence, as well as original documentation with an official translation into Croatian and legalisation (apostille).
- Mandatory documentation includes birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, a criminal record certificate, school certificates and diplomas.
- It is important that the submitted documentation clearly demonstrates affiliation with the Croatian people.



## ACCOMMODATION IN STUDENT DORMITORIES

- Accommodation in student dormitories is available to Ministry of Demography and Immigration scholarship recipients provided that the appropriate age requirement (18 to 33 years) is met and subject to the availability of places, which are limited in number.
- Scholarship recipients granted accommodation reside in the student dormitory during the course duration, provided they attend the course regularly.



Studentski dom „Stjepan Radić“

## CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY / FACULTY

- Croatian language instruction is organised and conducted as a semester-based course at public higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia, for all language levels.
- The course is held at universities or their respective faculties in all major cities of the Republic of Croatia: **Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Zadar** and **Pula**.
- When applying to the Public Call, scholarship candidates select the location at which they wish to attend the course; the Ministry of Demography and Immigration recommends choosing smaller cities.
- Each scholarship recipient is required to attend classes regularly.



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Within the available financial resources, the Ministry has designed and expanded a Croatian language learning program for scholarship recipients with additional integration, cultural, and educational activities, implemented by the faculties/universities.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

- Starting from the academic year 2025/2026, the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, in cooperation with the Croatian Health Insurance Fund (Croatian: HZZO), will pay a one-off amount for scholarship recipients to obtain insured status.
- During their stay in the Republic of Croatia, scholarship recipients undertake to pay monthly contributions for compulsory health insurance to the Croatian Health Insurance Fund.



## FUNDING THE COSTS OF RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- The Ministry facilitates the administrative and professional integration of Croatian emigrants, their descendants, and family members who obtained higher education abroad by covering the costs of translating the documentation required for the recognition or evaluation of foreign qualifications in the Republic of Croatia.
- The costs of certified translations of diplomas are covered, and, if necessary, the full curriculum of the foreign higher education institution, translated by a court-appointed interpreter.



## EMPLOYMENT MEASURES

- Among other measures, the Croatian Employment Service (Croatian: HZZ) implements a programme called **I Choose Croatia**, (Croatian: Biram Hrvatsku), which includes financial incentives for the return and immigration of Croatian emigrants and their descendants to less developed areas and localities with a shrinking population in the Republic of Croatia.
- Scholarship recipients interested in this measure and accessing the labour market may contact the Ministry of Demographics and Immigration in order to arrange a meeting with the Croatian Employment Service.
- Through this measure, an incentive amounting up to **EUR 27,000** may be granted.

## BIRAM HRVATSKU



HRVATSKI ZAVOD  
ZA ZAPOSŁJAVANJE

## TAX RELIEF

- Croatian citizens, Croatian emigrants and their descendants who have resided continuously abroad for at least two (2) years may be eligible for an **exemption from paying** personal income tax for a period of five (5) years.
- The right may also be exercised by Croatian emigrants, their descendants, and their family members who have been granted temporary residence for the purpose of return and immigration of the Croatian diaspora, subject to a certificate issued by the competent Ministry (MDU).
- The relief is applied through the annual income tax calculation.
- We recommend that those interested seek additional information from the competent branch **office** of the Tax Administration.

## HOUSING

- At the initiative of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, **housing provision** for Croatian emigrants, their descendants and family members is made possible through the rental of state-owned apartments, in accordance with the available housing stock.
- This measure is intended for persons who are immigrating to or wish to permanently return to the Republic of Croatia.
- The procedure is carried out by the administrative bodies of the counties and the City of Zagreb responsible for housing provision.
- The procedure is initiated ex officio upon the proposal of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, with prior approval from the ministry responsible for demography and immigration.
- Applications are accepted throughout the year and allocated depending on the availability of housing units.
- For applications and additional information, please contact the Ministry at: [stambeno@mdu.hr](mailto:stambeno@mdu.hr).

## SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEMOGRAPHY AND IMMIGRATION

- The Ministry of Demography and Immigration regularly provides scholarship recipients and other interested members of the Croatian people with support, information, advisory assistance and, where possible, mediation in various matters and procedures related to immigration and residence in the Republic of Croatia.
- This primarily relates to residence regulation procedures in the Republic of Croatia and acquiring Croatian citizenship.
- Candidates, scholarship recipients and beneficiaries of the scholarship for learning the Croatian language in the Republic of Croatia can contact us at: [stipendije@mdu.hr](mailto:stipendije@mdu.hr).
- All other interested persons, including former scholarship recipients who have immigrated or intend to immigrate to the Republic of Croatia, may contact us at: [uselijenistvo@mdu.hr](mailto:uselijenistvo@mdu.hr).

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER COMPLETING THE CROATIAN LANGUAGE COURSE?

- The Ministry of Demography and Immigration intends the Croatian language learning scholarship to be the first and decisive step towards extending residence and remaining in the Republic of Croatia.
- In pursuing this goal, especially during the first years, the Ministry of Demography and Immigration has the resources and wishes to continue being a source of support for former scholarship recipients and their family members in order to facilitate their integration into economic and social life in the Republic of Croatia as smoothly as possible.
- With the aim of ensuring the most successful possible integration of scholarship recipients and their family members, the Ministry will continue to improve existing measures and develop new ones.



### NOTE

As amendments or additions may be expected, all interested parties are advised to regularly follow the website of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration: [www.mdu.hr](http://www.mdu.hr)



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The strength of the homeland

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For more information about the project, please contact the project holder:

Ministry of Demography and Immigration,  
Ulica grada Vukovara 23, 10 000 Zagreb  
stipendije@mdu.hr