



UNIVERSITETI®  
METROPOLITAN  
TIRANA

# STUDENT GUIDE



# ABOUT THIS GUIDE



**Dear students,**

*Mirë se erdhët! - Welcome!*

Welcome to University Metropolitan Tirana and Albania! As you step into our vibrant community and our country, you are embarking on an international journey.

As you navigate your way through our University and immerse yourself in the academic and cultural offerings of University Metropolitan Tirana, we encourage you to embrace every opportunity for learning, growth, and connection. Our dedicated faculties, staff, and fellow students are here to support you on your journey and help you make the most of your experience.

Whether you are here for a short or long period we wish that you build lifelong friendships, broaden your horizons, and leave with cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information please visit [umt.edu.al](http://umt.edu.al)

## **Enjoy your stay!**

International Relations Office



# Facts and figures

<b>Language</b>	Albanian
<b>Area</b>	28.748 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population</b>	2.793.592 hab
<b>Borders with</b>	Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Greece
<b>Capital</b>	Tirana
<b>Currency</b>	Albanian lek
<b>Political system</b>	Parliamentary republic
<b>Climate</b>	Mediterranean continental
<b>Official website</b>	<a href="http://umt.edu.al">umt.edu.al</a>

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# LIVING IN TIRANA



## History

The 1992 Elections in Albania marked the end of communist rule that had persisted for 47 years. The Albanian people, having shaken off the oppressive weight of the communist regime, now embraced a spirit of freedom and enjoyment.

The vibrant and unrestrained color schemes of the newly constructed buildings serve as a visual representation of this lively rebirth. Tirana, the capital city, presents a captivating blend of different architectural styles. The cityscape features stern Soviet Bloc cement structures, Ottoman minarets, and 1930s Italian Architecture. These elements create an intriguing contrast when juxtaposed with the vivid color schemes of the more recent buildings.

The religious sites in Tirana exemplify the city's rich heritage and multicultural present. Christian and Muslim shrines coexist harmoniously, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of its inhabitants. Tirana was founded in 1614 by Sulejman Pasha Bargjini, a local feudal Lord from Mullet. His initial constructions included a mosque, a bakery, and a hamam.

The city gained temporary capital status on February 8, 1920, through a decision made at the Congress of Lushnje. It was officially declared the permanent capital on December 31, 1925.

Today, Tirana has been valued as Youth Capital for 2022, demonstrating a lively environment with abundant opportunities to explore and activities for youth. During 2023, Tirana was chosen as the European City of Sports 2023 indicating a vivid sports life with a lot of activities and events.

# LIVING IN TIRANA

## Documents and Entry Formalities

For all international students who are planning to visit University Metropolitan Tirana will have to plan all the required paper work needed before flying to Tirana. Once you are successfully nominated by your home university, you should start to collect the documents that are necessary for the application process of residence permit. Nominations from Home University must be submitted at: *iro-projects@umt.edu.al*

- Nomination from Home University
- Learning Agreement (template)
- Transcript of Records
- Copy of Passport
- Student Visa\*\*\*

After entering Albania, students need to apply for a student's residence permit. The students need to have the following original documents prior to their application in Albania:

- Photocopy of valid travel document
- Photo taken in the last 6 months (47x36mm) (please 4 photos with you as they will be needed later)
- Evidence of suitable accommodation in Albania, certificates/lease contracts of the apartment in accordance with the housing standards in Albania
- Acceptance document from the host institution
- Evidence of sufficient financial resources for living during the stay in Albania for the required period
- Proof of knowledge of the language of the study program/certificate for admission to the preparatory language course
- Document for payment of fees imposed by the host institution.

[https://e-albania.al/eAlbaniaServices/DPPSH/15146/15146\\_anglisht\\_kerkese\\_leje\\_unike.pdf](https://e-albania.al/eAlbaniaServices/DPPSH/15146/15146_anglisht_kerkese_leje_unike.pdf)

# LIVING IN TIRANA

## Transport and travelling

### By air

The National Airport of Albania is Tirana International Airport “Nen Tereza” which has numerous connections from major European Cities. The airport is situated 16.4 km approximately 30 minutes outside the city center of Tirana and is accessible via public transportation (bus) and taxis.

<https://www.tirana-airport.com/>

### By bus

Public Transportation in Tirana consists of a number of intercity bus lines which are distinguished through the bus colors, also, you can check now at Google Maps the lines and the timetables. Tickets per fare cost approximately 40 cents. You may also find busses for traveling to the north or south of Albania or even the Tirana International Airport.

*[Map with the bus lines around Tirana](#)*

### By bicycle

Bicycles are an often-used transportation mean in Tirana. You may rent bicycles and use them around the streets of Tirana. New combined bus and bike lanes have been opened recently on most of the main boulevards.

### By taxi:

Most locals travel either by bus or taxi, with an extensive bus network making it easy for foreigners coming to Tirana to reach most parts of the city center with minimum fuss. To save more time you could also use taxis which are characterized by yellow plates.

*Taxi companies such as Green Taxi, City Taxi, Blue Taxi offer special prices for fares from the National Airport of Tirana.*

## Shops and services

The opening hours of Albanian shops vary but they are generally open from 9:00 to 21:00 pm during the week. Some shops may be closed during Sundays.

# LIVING IN TIRANA



## Communication

### Postal service

Most post offices remain open from 08:00 to 19:00. The main Albanian Post Office in Tirana “Posta Shqiptare” is opened from 07:30 am to 20:00 pm.

### Mobile companies

There are 2 major mobile companies that you may consider while studying in Tirana:

1. Vodafone <https://www.vodafone.al/>
2. One <https://www.one.al/>

### Emergency telephone numbers:

- **Albanian Emergency Number:** 112
- **Fire brigade:** 128
- **National Police:** 129
- **Ambulance:** 127

### Contact of UMT

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**International  
Relations Office**

**iro-projects@umt.edu.al**

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**Student’s Support  
Office**

**support@umt.edu.al**

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**Dean of Students**

**deanofstudents@umt.edu.al**

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# LIVING IN TIRANA



## Cost of living

The prices can vary considerably depending where you stay. The average living costs for students range from 600-700 €/month including rent, groceries public transport and culture.

### Food and drinks

<b>Lunch at canteen</b>	<b>From 400 lek/4 euro</b>
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<b>Pizza in a pizzeria</b>	<b>From 400 lek/4 euro</b>
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<b>Restaurant meal</b>	<b>From 1000 lek/10 euro</b>
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<b>A loaf of bread</b>	<b>From 100 lek/1 euro</b>
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<b>1.5l mineral water</b>	<b>From 50 lek/50 cent</b>
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# LIVING IN TIRANA

## Accommodation for students

Accommodation prices may vary to the preferences of students. University Metropolitan Tirana has a close cooperation with the Directorate of Public Dormitories at the Students City. However, students may also look for private apartments around Tirana.

**Student dormitory/month**

**10000-12000lek/100-120 euro**

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**Private room/month**

**20000-25000 lek/200-250 euro**

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**Private apartment/month**

**From 40000 lek/400 euro**

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The Student City is an enormous area that offers students residences, including almost 30 major buildings, with a surface of around 250,000 sqm. It is an easily identifiable area of Tirana as thousands of students every year reside and contribute in the social life of the “city”.

5 reasons why to choose the Student City:

- Convenient location near most of Tirana's Universities and near the National Park of the capital. This geographical position makes it easier for students to move and creates opportunities to have a healthier life near green and relaxing environments.
- Student City is quite easy to reach by public transport.
- Accessible facilities: shops, cafes, restaurants, Emergency hospital services, Police, Fire Fighting Station.
- Amazing parks and green areas.
- Only a few minutes away from University Metropolitan Tirana

The type of rooms that are brand new reconstructed are designated to accommodate 4 students per room. The rooms are divided in two rooms and each has a private main entrance. The space that connects both rooms is the shared jack and jill style of bathroom. One of the two rooms in most cases includes a balcony.

Most of the dormitories in the new buildings include common areas which students can use to fulfill their daily personal duties. These areas include:

1. Kitchen equipped with stoves, fridges.
2. Eating area
3. Laundry
4. Study area
5. Working area

# LIVING IN TIRANA



Pictures of the public dormitories

Regarding registration and reservation to public Dormitories the following documents will be required from international students:

1. Invitation /Acceptance letter from the Host University.
2. Copy of bank payment (this is concluded as soon as the students arrive).
3. 2 photos.
4. Copy of passport.

*Students are required to pay in advance a deposit of 50 euros which they retrieve at the end of their accommodation.*



Pictures of the Students City

# LIVING IN TIRANA

## Accommodation for visitors and colleagues

Tirana offers many possibilities for short stays in the city.

**A hotel room/night** **50 euro**

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Some hotels around the city near University Metropolitan Tirana:

Hotel Rogner

Mullaj Hotel

Hotel Boutique Kotoni

## Culture

**Cinema ticket** **700-800 Lek/7-8 euro**

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**Theatre ticket** **400-500 Lek/ 4-5 euro**

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**Museum Admission** **400-500 Lek/ 4-5 euro**

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## Sports

**Fitness centre admission** **3000 Lek/30 euro**

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**Sports court** **250 Lek/2'5 euro/ person**

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# LIVING IN TIRANA



## Places to visit

### Tirana

**Skanderbeg Square** Tirana's social and cultural hub, this location is ideal for observing people and immersing oneself in the daily routines of the city's inhabitants. The renowned Equestrian Statue of the Albanian hero can be found on the southern part of the Square.

**National Museum of History** The largest museum in Albania holds most of the country's treasures. It contains many artifacts ranging from ancient times through Hoxha's regime. It remains the best place in Albania to learn its history. Harrowing exhibition about Albanians' gruesome labor camp system.

**Clock Tower (Kulla e Sahatit)** The clock tower is the symbol of Tirana positioned in the city center. It is one of the oldest constructions in Tirana, built in the 1920's.

**Et'hem Bey Mosque** This small, elegant mosque is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Tirana. Construction of this mosque took about 28 years and finished on 1821.

**Also is recommended to visit:** Pazari i Ri (new marketplace), National Library of Albania, Ura e Tabakave, Murat Toptani Street, Tirana Castle, Rinia Park, Bunkart and House of Leaves.

# LIVING IN TIRANA

## Where can you travel from Tirana?

Tirana is in the center of Albania, serving as a strategic point for travelling around the country whether it is towards the south or towards the North. You may travel within a reasonable distance with busses or car to various cities around the country.

1. Berat 2. Krujë 3. Gjirokaštër 4. Theth 5. Valbonë 6. Korçë 7. Dhërmi 8. Himarë 9. Vuno 10. Prezë 11. Vlorë 12. Sarandë 13. Ksamil



# LIVING IN TIRANA

## UNESCO protected monuments

- Butrint (1992, 1999)
- Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (2005, 2008)
- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2007, 2011, 2017, 2021)
- Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (1979, 2019, 1980)

## National Parks

National Parks	Establishment	Area	Max Altitude
Butrint	2005	2.500 ha	-
Teth	1966	2.630 ha	2.300 m
Driloni	-	150 ha	-
Llogara	1966	1,769,20 ha	1.027 m
Valbona valley	1996	8,000 ha	2.694 m
Karaburun	2010	12,437 ha	1.499 m

# LIVING IN TIRANA



## Local cuisine

Albanian culinary traditions embody the essence of Mediterranean cuisine and exemplify the Mediterranean diet, emphasizing the significance of olive oil, fruits, vegetables, meat and fish. The diverse cooking practices of the Albanian people result from environmental factors conducive to cultivating a wide array of herbs, vegetables, and fruits. Olive oil, the oldest and widely utilized vegetable fat in Albanian cuisine, has been produced since ancient times, especially along the country's coastal regions.

## Restaurants

**Restaurant Piceri Era "Blloku":** Rruga Ismail Qemali, Tirana.

**Oda Garden:** Rruga Shenasi Dishnica, Tirana.

**Floga:** Rruga Pjeter Budi , Tirana.

**Artigiano at Vila:** Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II 9, Tirana.

**Zgara të Pazari:** Sheshi Avni Rustemi, Tirana.

**AlAr Fast Casual Restaurant:** Rruga Abdyl Frashëri 4, Tirana.

**Gjelltove Sauku - Gatime Tradicionale:** Rruga Xhorxhi Martini, Tirana.

**Mrizi i Zanave Tiranë:** Bulevardi Zhan D'Ark, Tirana.



# LIFE AT UMT



**UMT**

## **Our DNA**

University Metropolitan Tirana has a focus in Engineering, Computer Science and Economics. UMT ensures to improve the professional perspectives of students that will serve strategic interests in the economic and social development of society.

## **Career and academic excellence**

University Metropolitan Tirana has been evaluated as “Excellent”, receiving institutional accreditation for five years by the Albanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the British Accreditation Agency.

## **Life in campus**

The campus of University Metropolitan Tirana is in the heart of the “Students City”, just 1.5 kilometers from the center of Tirana; offers various sports, cultural, entertainment, student clubs and volunteering opportunities. In recent years, the focus has shifted to the safety and well-being of the community.

## **Internationalization**

Internationalization is one of the main priorities for University Metropolitan Tirana. Its importance derives from the impact that internationalization has on increasing the quality of the university and its role in the Higher Education System. UMT considers international cooperation and participation in projects as an essential instrument of becoming a national and regional point of reference.

# LIFE AT UMT



## Students council

The Student Council, part of University Metropolitan Tirana, is the representation of all students of University Metropolitan Tirana which meet to address several issues related to the academic and social student life and also to promote it through the organization of various activities and the activation of student clubs.

### Functions of the students council

- Dealing with students' concerns and providing solutions.
- Creation of cooperative relations between Student's Council and the governing bodies of the faculty with the aim of improving the academic and research level of students.
- Creating and strengthening links between students of UMT faculties and students of universities throughout Albania.
- Creation of unique structures and organizations for the development of extracurricular activities.

## Students clubs

### Metro4All Club

Metro4All, organizes fundraising activities and charity events for people in need.

### Metroart Club

Metroart Club, has in focus artistic activities and organizes different expositions within and outside UMT.

### Sports Club

Sports Club, organizes different sports and frequent sport activities. championships

### Entrepreneurship Club

Entrepreneurship various activities that have Club, meets in fo discusses and cus entrepreneurship organizes .

### Engineering Club

Engineering that are related club, is focused on acti to the engineering field. vities and events

### Migjeni Book Club

Migjeni Book Club, organizes various activities such as open lectures, open discussions, book fairs with focus the promotion of literature

### Innovation Club

Innovation Club, gathers students that are passionate about innovation and organizes activities that promote innovation.

### Metrotalk Club

Empowering voices, shaping futures: MetroTalk ignites the passion for debate and dialogue, fostering communication and critical thinking.

### Mobile developers

Uniting minds, coding skills, and passion to drive mobile innovation for a better tomorrow

### Web developers

Break boundaries, build brilliance! Join the web dev revolution with our dynamic club.  
Code, create, connect!

### Metromusic

Transforming notes into journeys, shaping the university's musical landscape.

## AI developers

Club where we roll up our sleeves and dive into the world of AI, researching and working hard to master it together, one step at a time.

## Cybersecurity

Empowering minds, where learning protects tomorrow.

## Google developers

Advanced your skills, career and network.  
Give back to your community by helping others learn

## Game developers

The Game Development Club serves as a platform for aspiring game developers to collaborate, learn, and share their ideas and skills in a supportive and stimulating environment.



# LIVING IN TIRANA



## Foreign Cultural Institutions

- **Italian Institute of culture:** Pallati i Kulturës, Sheshi Skenderbej, Kati II
- **Goethe Institute:** Rruga Skënderbej 1, Tirana
- **AF TIRANA-Aliance Française:** Rruga e Barrikadave Nr. 122, Tirana
- **Europe House:** Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana
- **ESN Tirana**

