



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Slovakia Host School FAQ

When does the school year begin and end?

The school year runs from September 1st to end of June. The school year is composed of two semesters, with holidays during Christmas, in February after the first semester, and a week in April for Easter – three weeks in total.

In what type of school will I be enrolled?

AFS students are placed in public (state) or private high schools called *Gymnasiums*. These schools are highly competitive and are intended to prepare students for further academic education (i.e.: university). Almost all schools are coeducational (both male and female students are attending them).

In what grade level will I be enrolled?

AFSers are placed in the junior class, the second-to-last year of high school. Senior year is devoted to preparing the Slovak students for the entrance exams required for admittance into university so AFS students are generally not placed in that year.

What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?

The school day usually runs from 8:00am to 2:30pm, classes held Monday through Friday. Students eat lunch at school and have short breaks between each class.

Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?

Slovak students typically have a set curriculum of Slovak language and literature, History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Programming, and Physical Education. AFS students are placed in one class and have to follow all the subjects with this class.

You may find Slovak school rules stricter than the schools in the United States, with relations between students and teacher much more formal. Daily oral testing is very common. You will be expected to show interest in study and will have opportunities to present your own country and culture.

In what language will classes be taught?

All instruction, with the exception of foreign languages, is done in Slovak. Slovak lessons are not regularly provided, but it is possible to pay for private lessons. AFS will not reimburse you for these expenses.

Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?

AFS Slovakia will not cover any private school fees (if student chooses to select a private school option), teaching materials or textbooks. You will most likely not be required to wear a uniform. Students will receive three study books after their arrival - one for Slovak language, another for Slovak history and a third for Slovak geography. The families and schools are well-supported to study individually with the student.



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Are extra-curricular activities available such as sports, music, or art?

Some schools offer extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama, or computer clubs. These activities are not as extensive as they are in American schools, though, mainly due to the lack of adequate facilities. Students in Slovakia usually join sports clubs or pursue other extra-curricular activities (e.g. dance or drama) outside of school.

Slovakian schools sometimes offer special school trips at an extra cost, which AFSers will have to pay for themselves if they wish to participate

How will I get to school?

This varies according to the proximity between your host home and your host school, but typically students in Slovakia walk or take public transportation.

Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?

At the end of the school year, knowledge will be tested by oral and written exams, which are graded on a scale of 1 to 5. AFSers will most likely also receive a written evaluation from each class at the end of the school year, along with a document that proves attendance at the school.

Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?

The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the U.S. so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS does not have any influence over obtaining academic credit for your studies abroad and cannot assist you with course or grade information for your time on program.