



**INFORMATION GUIDE  
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND STAFF**

**POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY TIMIȘOARA**



## Information Guide for International Students and Staff

This is the Information Guide of Politehnica University Timișoara. Here you will find practical information useful for international students, staff and guests who spend time at our university. Although all the information in the guide has been checked carefully, it may be subject to change. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **CHAPTER 1 – LIVING IN ROMANIA**

1.1. Key data about Romania.....	08
1.2. Timișoara.....	12
1.3. Getting here and around.....	18
1.4. Currency.....	20
1.5. The Romanian language.....	20

## **CHAPTER 2 – POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY TIMIȘOARA**

2.1. Brief history.....	22
2.2. Structure .....	23
2.3. Student campus	
Accommodation.....	25
Dining services.....	27
Medical care.....	27
Sports centers.....	28
Library.....	30
2.4. Internationalisation.....	31

## **CHAPTER 3 – PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

3.1. Application process.....	32
3.2. Visa, residence permit, insurance, enrolment.....	33
3.3. Cost of living .....	34
3.4. Academic and social life.....	35
3.5. Academic calendar.....	38

## **CHAPTER 4 – PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF**

4.1. Incoming Erasmus+ staff mobility for teaching.....	39
4.2. Incoming Erasmus+ staff mobility for training.....	40
4.3. Accommodation.....	41

# CHAPTER 1. LIVING IN ROMANIA

## 1.1. KEY DATA ABOUT ROMANIA



**GEOGRAPHY.** Romania is situated in the south-eastern part of Central Europe and shares borders with Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north and the Republic of Moldova to the east. With an area of 238,391 square kilometre, Romania is the largest country in South-eastern Europe. About a third of the country consists of the Carpathian Mountains. Another third is hills and plateaus, rich with orchards and vineyards. The final third is a fertile plain, largely devoted to agriculture. The Danube River ends its journey at

the Black Sea, forming one of the largest and most bio diverse wetlands in the world, the Danube Delta.

**HISTORY.** What is now Romania has been inhabited since the Palaeolithic Age as evidenced by unearthed carved stone tools. The name "Romania" comes from the Latin word "Romanus" which means "citizen of the Roman Empire". The empire expanded into what is now Romania in 106 AD, under the rule of Emperor Trajan (98 to 117 AD) when the Roman Empire reached its greatest territorial extent through his conquests in the east. Over the centuries, various migrating people invaded Romania. In December 1989 a national uprising led to the overthrow of the communist regime. The 1991 Constitution established Romania as a republic with a multiparty system, market economy and individual rights of free speech, religion and private ownership.

**PEOPLE.** About 19,500,000 people live in Romania. The capital city – Bucharest – has a population of 1,883,400. The largest cities are Iași (322,000), Cluj Napoca (309,000), Timișoara (303,000) and Constanța (298, 000). Ethnic breakdown is 89% Romanian, 7.5% Hungarian, 1.9% Gypsy, German, Ukrainian, Armenian,





Croatian, Serbian and Turkish. More than 55% of Romania's population lives in towns and cities. Romania is associated with big names in arts, sports, science and technology such as George Enescu (music), Gheorghe Zamfir (music), Eugen Ionescu (literature), Emil Cioran (philosophy), Constantin Brâncuși (sculpture), Sergiu Nicolaescu (film), Nadia Comăneci (gymnastics), Ilie Năstase (tennis), Gheorghe Hagi (soccer), Gabriela Szabo (athletics), Nicolae Paulescu (medicine), Traian Vuia (aeronautics), Henri Coandă (aerodynamics), George Emil Palade (biology), Emil Racoviță (speleology).

**CULTURE.** The Romanian language currently spoken by over 25-million people is 1,700 years old. The main religions present in Romania are Eastern Orthodox – 81% of population, Roman Catholic – 4.3%, Protestant – 3%, Pentecostal – 1.8%, Greek Catholic – 0.75%, Baptist -0,5%. The tallest wooden church in the world, and the second-tallest wooden structure in Europe, can be found in Săpânța Peri - Maramureș (north-western Romania). Romania has the second-largest outdoor museum in the world: Astra Museum in Sibiu, and the second largest administrative building in the world: the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, which are definitely worth a visit. The local cuisine blends Turkish, Bulgarian, Greek, Austrian, Hungarian, Serbian, etc. influences with its own character. The most common alcoholic drinks are wine, brandy (țuică, pălincă) and beer.



**POLITICS.** Romania is a semi-presidential democracy based on a bicameral Parliament: the Chamber of Representatives (Camera Deputaților) and the Senate (Senat). All members of the legislature are directly elected from Romania's 41 counties. Parties must win at least five percent of the national vote to gain representation in the Parliament. The President of the Republic is currently Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis (elected on November 16, 2014). Romania became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in 2004 and has been a member of the European Union since 2007.

**ECONOMY.** The currency used in Romania is Leu (plural Lei). The main sectors of the economy are services - 55% of gross domestic product, followed by industry and construction - 32% of GDP and agriculture – 8.1 % of GDP. The main Romanian exports are electronic equipment, vehicles, machines, engines, pumps, oil, cereals, clothing and wood. 39.2% of Romania's territory is arable land, 28% forests, 21% pastures, hayfields and orchards and 2.5% vineyards. Romanian wine history started 4000 years ago when the Greeks arrived from the Black Sea, making it one of the world's oldest viticulture regions. Today Romania is the no. 9 wine producer in the world!



**TOURISM.** UNESCO included on the World Heritage List seven areas in Romania:

**The Danube Delta** - The waters of the Danube, which flow into the Black Sea, form the largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas. The Danube Delta hosts over 300 species of birds as well as 45 freshwater fish species in its numerous lakes and marshes.

**The churches of Moldavia** - The eight churches of northern Moldavia (Arbore, Humor, Moldovița, Pătrăuți, Probota, Suceava, Gura Humorului, Sucevița), built from the late 15th century to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, their external walls covered in fresco paintings, are masterpieces inspired by Byzantine art. They are authentic and particularly well preserved. Far from being mere wall decorations, the paintings form a systematic covering on all the facades and represent complete cycles of religious themes. Their exceptional composition, the elegance of the characters, and the harmony of the colors blend perfectly with the surrounding countryside.

**The Dacian fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains** - Built in the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B.C. and A.D. under Dacian rule, these fortresses show an unusual fusion of military and religious architectural techniques and concepts from the classical world and the late European Iron Age. The six defensive works, the nucleus of the Dacian Kingdom, were conquered by the Romans at the beginning of the 2nd century A.D.; their extensive and well-preserved remains stand in spectacular natural surroundings and give a dramatic picture of a vigorous and innovative civilization.

**The historic centre of Sighișoara** - Founded by German craftsmen and merchants known as the Saxons of Transylvania, Sighișoara is a fine example of a small, fortified medieval town which played an important strategic and commercial role on the fringes of central Europe for several centuries.

**The Horezu Monastery** - Founded in 1690 by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu, the monastery of Horezu, is a masterpiece of the 'Brâncovan' style. It is known for its architectural purity and balance, the richness of its sculptural detail, the treatment of its religious compositions, its votive portraits and its painted decorative works. The school of mural and icon painting established at the monastery in the 18th century was famous throughout the Balkan region.

**The villages with fortified churches in Transylvania** - These Transylvanian villages with their fortified churches provide a vivid picture of the cultural landscape of southern Transylvania. The seven villages inscribed (Biertan, Câlnic, Dârjiu, Prejmer, Saschiz, Valea Viilor, Viscri), founded by the Transylvanian Saxons are dominated by their fortified churches, which illustrate building styles from the 13th to the 16th century.

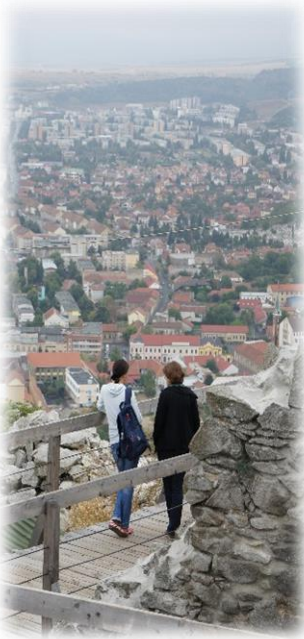
**The Wooden Churches of Maramureș** - These eight churches (Bârsana, Budești, Desești, Ieud, Plopiș/Șisești, Poienile Izei, Rogoz/Târgu Lăpuș, Șurdești/Șisești) are outstanding examples of a range of architectural solutions from different periods and areas. They show the variety of designs and craftsmanship adopted in these narrow, high, timber constructions with their characteristic tall, slim clock towers at the western end of the building, either single- or double-roofed and covered by shingles. As such, they are a particular vernacular expression of the cultural landscape of this mountainous area of northern Romania.

To learn more about tourism in Romania:

Romania National Tourist Office: [www.romaniatourism.com](http://www.romaniatourism.com)



The most common weekend trip destinations for international students enrolled at Politehnica University Timișoara are:



- **The cities of Banat and Transylvania.** Arad, Alba-Iulia, Deva, Hunedoara, Reșița, Târgu Jiu, Sibiu, Cluj-Napoca or Oradea are all easily accessible by train or bus.
- **Iron Gates National Park and the Danube river gorges.** Whether driving close to the Danube and stopping in the picturesque villages or boarding a ship for a tour on the Danube, this is a great way of spending a sunny week-end.
- **During winter:** the closest winter sports resorts are Semenic or Muntele Mic, both accessible as day trips from Timișoara. For longer trips, Poiana Brașov, Sinaia, Predeal, Păltiniș or Runcu are great choices.
- **International:** Belgrade and Novi Sad in Serbia; Budapest and Szeged in Hungary; 14 country capitals are within a 700 km range from Timișoara. Various places around Europe are also accessible by low-cost airlines.





## 1.2. TIMIȘOARA



**BRIEF HISTORY.** Timișoara was born in the Middle Ages, as a small settlement needed for defence in the middle of the swamps. The city developed rapidly, and came to play a key role in Romanian and European history. In 1552 the city was conquered by the Ottomans and becomes the center of a large pașalâc. In 1716 the city is freed from the Ottomans by the Prince Eugene of Savoy and becomes a part of the Hapsburg Empire. Over the next two centuries the city is heavily influenced by Vienna. Thousands of colonists from all over Europe come into the region of Banat, the swamps are drained and the Bega River is turned in a canal to link Timișoara to Vienna by ship. The economy is booming, the city reaches a continental importance, many of the city's technical firsts dating from this period, including the introduction of electrical

street lighting and of the electrical –drawn trams. At the end of 1918, the citizens of Banat region decide to unite with Romania.

**LOCAL CULTURE.** Situated less than 700 km away from 14 European capitals (Belgrade, Bratislava, Bucharest, Budapest, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Pristina, Prague, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Tirana, Vienna, and Zagreb) in an ethnically diverse region and being a thriving university centre generated a dynamic lifestyle and an open-minded community with a busy cultural agenda including dozens of festivals of all kinds, including:

- Bega Boulevard Festival (open-air family festival)
- Hearts Festival (open-air traditional music & dancing from around the world)
- PLAI Festival (open-air world music)
- Musical Timișoara International Festival (classical music)
- Jazz TM (jazz music)
- House Parade Festival (electronic music)
- Early Music Festival, Baroque Music Festival
- Timorgelfest (organ music)
- Enescu – Bartok Musical Days (classical music)
- Holly Music Days (church choir music)
- Opera and Operetta Festival (open-air shows)
- Timișoara International Dance Festival (ballroom dancing)



- EuroThalia Festival (theatre in various European languages)
- European Film Festival
- TimiShort Film Festival (short movies festival)
- CineCultura Festival (movie festival)
- French Film Festival
- Spanish Culture Days
- Salsa Addicted Festival
- Street Art International Festival
- Graffiti International Festival
- StudentFest (student arts festival)
- Wine Festival, Beer Festival.

Details about sights and cultural events:

**Tourist Information Centre of Timișoara:**

<http://www.timisoara-info.ro/en.html>

Address: Str. Alba Iulia nr. 2





**MUSEUMS.** According to our international students the top five museums of Timișoara are:

**1. Memorial Museum of the 1989 Revolution**

Address: Str. Emanuil Ungureanu 8 (behind Piața Unirii), e-mail: [amrtim@lasting.ro](mailto:amrtim@lasting.ro)

*The Memorial Museum exhibits uniforms of Romanian militia and military, written testimonies of witnesses and participants in the Revolution, official and personal documents, an audio-visual archive, a library and a collection of newspapers.*

**2. Banat Village Museum**

Address: Aleea CFR 1, e-mail: [office@msbtm.ro](mailto:office@msbtm.ro)

Website: [www.msbtm.ro](http://www.msbtm.ro)

*This open-air museum exhibits more than 30 traditional peasant houses dating from the 19th century. Wood, stone and clay homes were taken piece by piece and set up in the beautiful surroundings of Pădurea Verde (Green Forest). Craftsmen's fairs and folk shows are held here periodically.*

**3. Timișoara Art Museum**

Address: Str. Mercy 2, website: [www.muzeuldeartatm.ro](http://www.muzeuldeartatm.ro)

*The collection of Timisoara Art Museum includes works of contemporary art, paintings of 15th – 17th century Italian masters, drawings and prints by important European artists, decorative arts (ceramics, glasswork, textiles, furniture, etc), as well as art from the Banat region.*

**4. Banat Museum**

Address: Piața Huniade, e-mail: [muzeul.banatului@yahoo.com](mailto:muzeul.banatului@yahoo.com)

*Occupying a 14th century castle, this museum boasts sizeable historical and natural history sections. It hosts the largest collection of archaeological objects from the Banat region.*

**5. Religious Art Collection of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral**

Address: Piața Victoriei

Website: <http://mitropolia-banatului.ro/colectia-de-arta-bisericeasca-veche/>

*A valuable collection of old church books (manuscripts of the seventeenth century), icons (the oldest from the sixteenth century), iconostases and other religious objects is housed in the cathedral's basement in Victoriei Square, with the entrance inside the church, not far from the iconostasis, on the right.*

**EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE.** 14 Romanian cities competed to become the European Capital of Culture in 2021. Timișoara won the competition, and will be the second Romanian city – after Sibiu (2007) - to hold this prestigious title. The title will be shared with a city in Greece and a city in Serbia or Montenegro, and it is expected to be a catalyst for the cultural development and the transformation of the city. The already high number of cultural events will increase year by year, as the city will channel its energy in becoming more visible at European level.

**USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES.** By the end of high school all young people study two foreign languages. The most frequently taught foreign languages in Romania are English (97% of students), French (86.5% of students) and German (9.5% of students). Timișoara has bilingual schools where all courses from primary to high school level are taught in English, French, Italian or Spanish, as well as schools where the studies are done in the languages of the larger regional ethnic minorities, namely in Hungarian, German and Serbian.



**EVENTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.** Our international guests were particularly fond of and recommend the events organised by the following institutions:



**French Institute of Timișoara**

Address: bd. C.D. Loga nr. 46

Web: <http://www.institutfrançais.ro>

Activities: promoting French cultures through the médiathèque (library), exhibitions, concerts, film projections, improvisational theatre, various activities for kids and youth, French language courses and exams.



**German Cultural Centre of Timișoara**

Address: str. Dr. Liviu Gabor nr. 1

Web: <http://www.ccgtn.ro/>

Activities: promoting German cultures through the library, exhibitions, concerts, film projections, various cultural events, activities for children and youth, German language courses and exams



**German State Theatre**

Address: Str. Alba Iulia nr. 2

Web: [www.deutschestheater.ro](http://www.deutschestheater.ro)

**Hungarian State Theatre “Csiky Gergely”**

Address: Str. Alba Iulia nr. 2

Web: [www.tm-t.ro](http://www.tm-t.ro)








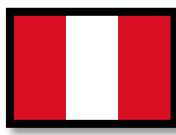












**Via Rumania Cultura Association**

Web: <http://www.viarumaniacultura.com>

Activities: promoting Spanish culture through art exhibitions, music, dance, film, gastronomy workshops, translation contests, lectures in various fields

## DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN TIMIȘOARA.

	<b>Honorary Consulate of Austria</b> Address: Strada Mărășești, nr. 7 Phone: 0040 256 294 300		<b>Honorary Consulate of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> Address: Splaiul Nicolae Titulescu, nr. 8, Phone: 0040 256 202 057
	<b>Honorary Consulate of Bulgaria</b> Address: Piața Unirii, nr. 14 Phone: 0040 256 490 697 Fax: 40-356-490 697		<b>Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Moldova</b> Address: Bulevardul Revoluției din 1989, nr. 29 Phone: 0040 727 773 595
	<b>Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic</b> Address: Strada Remus, nr. 7A Phone: 0040 356 179 038		<b>Honorary Consulate of the Netherlands</b> Address: 8 A, Str. Protopop George Popovici Phone: 0040 256 496 994, 0040 256 221 501
	<b>Honorary Consulate of Estonia</b> Address: Saiftim Building (Piața 700)		<b>Honorary Consulate of Peru</b> Address: Strada Oravița, nr. 2D Phone: 0040 256 281 963
	<b>Honorary Consulate of France</b> Address: Strada Gheorghe Dima, nr. 1 Phone: 0040 256 292 661		<b>Consulate General of the Republic of Serbia</b> Address: Strada Remus, nr. 4 Web: <a href="http://www.consulatulgeneral-serbia.ro">www.consulatulgeneral-serbia.ro</a> Phone: 0040 256 490 334
	<b>Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany</b> Address: Splaiul Tudor Vladimirescu, nr. 10 Web: <a href="http://www.timisoara.diplo.de">www.timisoara.diplo.de</a> Phone: 0040 256 309 800		<b>Honorary Consulate of Spain</b> Address: Calea Stuparilor 45A sc. B ap. 17 Phone: 0040 256 222 429
	<b>Honorary Consulate of Hungary</b> Address: 6, Str. Franz Liszt Phone: 0040 356 462 550		<b>Honorary Consulate of Sweden</b> Address: City Business Center, 10, Strada Coriolan Brediceanu Phone: 0040 256 300.933
	<b>Honorary Consulate of India</b> Address: Strada Jiul, nr. 2 Phone: 0040 256 490 227		<b>Honorary Consulate of South Korea</b> Address: Filarmonica Banatul - Bd. C. D. Loga nr.2
	<b>Honorary Consulate of Italy</b> Address: Calea Timisoarei nr.66 ap.3, Giroc, Timis (temporary)		<b>Honorary Consulate of Tunisia</b> Address: 116 A, Str. Mures Phone: 0040 256 395 779

**RELIGION.** Timișoara is a multi-faith city with a large student population coming from all over the world. Besides the various Christian churches where services are carried out in Romanian, German, Hungarian, Serbian, etc., the city also has a mosque and a synagogue.



## UNIVERSITY CENTRE.

Timisoara is one of the largest Romanian university centres. Over 40 000 students from Romania and all over the world are enrolled in bachelor, master and PhD studies at the 4 state universities located in the city. Politehnica University Timișoara is the oldest and second largest institution of higher education in the city. The other 3 state universities are the West

University of Timișoara, the Banat's "King Michael I of Romania" University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine and the Victor Babeș University of Medicine and Pharmacy. The rich academic, social and cultural life of the city caters to the needs and desires of a diverse community of young professionals.



**BUSINESS CENTRE.** The Timiș county ranks 3rd in terms of exports, after Bucharest and the Argeș county, where Dacia cars are produced. Timișoara is considered to be the best city for business in Romania. The presence of a large number of companies interested in offering internships and recruiting students makes the city particularly attractive to those who are looking for a head start on their career. The largest employers in the city are in the automotive field (Continental, Lisa



Draxelmaier, Delphi Packard, Kromberg & Schubert, TRW Automotive Safety Systems, Mahle, Dura) and in the electronics and telecommunications field (Flextronics, Zoppas, ABB Rometrics, Luxten Lighting, ELBA-Philips, Alcatel, Deltatel), though important companies working in many other sectors are active in our area.





### 1.3. GETTING HERE AND AROUND

**By air:** Timișoara’s “Traian Vuia” International Airport ([www.aerotim.ro](http://www.aerotim.ro)) connects the city to many major cities in Europe. There are also domestic connections to all major airports in Romania. The airlines that operate flights from this airport include Alitalia, Lufthansa, Ryanair, Tarom and Wizzair. The connection from Timișoara to the airport is made by buses Expres 4 and 4B. A bus ticket is 2.5 lei =0.55 Euro. The airports of Bucharest (transfer by air or train to Timișoara) or Budapest (transfer by train or minibus to Timișoara) might offer lower priced alternatives for guests coming from certain destinations.



**By train:** Romania has an extensive railway network, with trains being often the cheapest, though sometimes the slowest means of reaching distant places. We recommend using Inter Regio trains for the best travel conditions. Trains are a good travel option for reaching Budapest (Hungary), Belgrade (Serbia) or Vienna (Austria). A train trip from Bucharest to Timișoara will take around 9 hours. Discounts are available for students and groups of travellers.

**By car:** Don’t forget to buy a “rovigneta” when entering the country (toll for using national roads valid 1 day, 7 days, 30 days, 90 days or 12 months) if you decide to bring your own car. Please note that you should completely refrain from drinking if you plan to drive. In the student complex there are limited on-street (not guarded) parking places.

**By taxi:** Guests arriving at the airport at odd hours might need to take a taxi to reach the city. Updated phone numbers of





various companies and details about regular fares can be obtained from the Department of International Relations.

**Public transportation:** It is unlikely for international students or staff to use the public transportation system of Timișoara since the student complex is situated within walking distance from the city centre. A regular one-way bus/tram ticket is 2 lei (~0.45 EUR), while an express ticket is 2.5 lei (~0.55 EUR). International students will have access to public transportation discounts after registration.



Photos:

Page 18: Corvin Castle in Hunedoara;  
Densuș Church; Retezat Mountains; Black Eagle Palace in Oradea.

Page 19: Peleş Castle; Albota Trout Farm (Făgăraș Mountains); Arieșeni (Apuseni Mountains).



## 1.4. CURRENCY



The national currency in Romania is called “leu” (plural “lei”). The following coins are currently in circulation: 1 ban (100 bani = 1 leu), 5 bani, 10 bani, 50 bani. The value of the bank notes are 1 leu, 5 lei, 10 lei, 50 lei, 100 lei, 200 lei, 500 lei. Please note that the 200 lei and 500 lei bank notes are less common and might be refused in smaller shops if they cannot give you proper change.



The exchange rate varies between 4.3 and 4.5 lei for 1 EUR.



The use of debit and credit cards is becoming more common in Romania, though they are still not as widely used as in some other countries.



All major cards are accepted at hypermarkets, supermarkets, hotels, larger urban restaurants. ATMs are widely available in cities, and less frequent in remoter areas.



## 1.6. THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

The Romanian alphabet has 31 letters, similar to the ones in the English alphabet, with the exception of five special letters called 'diacritics': ă (like the 'a' in English word 'musical'), ș (pronounced as 'sh'), ț (pronounced 'ts'), â, î (have the same reading, without an English equivalent). If you've studied other Romance language, such as Italian, Spanish, French or Portuguese, you may feel at home sooner than you think. Romanian is a phonetic language, so words are pronounced as they are spelled.



<b>Personal data – Date personale</b>	<b>Greetings – Formule de salut</b>
Surname – Nume	Good morning – Bună dimineața
First name – Prenume	Good afternoon – Bună ziua
Date of birth – Data nașterii	Good evening – Bună seara
Age – Vârsta	Good night – Noapte bună
Country– Țară	Sleep tight – Somn ușor
Address – Adresă	Goodbye – La revedere
Street – Stradă	Hi – Bună / Salut / Ceau (all informal)
Number – Număr	Bye – Ceau / Pa (all informal)
Passport – Pașaport	See you soon – Pe curând
<b>Conversation – Conversație</b>	<b>Signs - Semne</b>
My name is... – Numele meu este...	Open / Closed – Deschis / Închis
What is your name? – Cum vă numiți? (formal); Cum te cheamă? (informal)	Men / Women – Bărbați / Femei
How are you? – Ce mai faceți? (formal), Ce mai faci? (informal)	Entrance / Exit – Intrare / Ieșire
I'm fine, thanks! – Bine, mulțumesc!	Push / Pull – Împinge / Trage
Please – Vă rog (formal) / Te rog (informal)	Arrivals / Departures – Sosiri / Plecări
Thank you – Mulțumesc (formal)	No smoking – Fumatul interzis
You're welcome – Cu plăcere!	Emergency exit – Ieșire de urgență
Excuse me, I'm sorry – Scuze! / Îmi pare rău!	No entry – Intrarea interzisă
Enjoy your meal – Poftă bună!	Danger – Pericol
Cheers! – Noroc!	Watch out / Caution – Atenție
Do you speak English? – Vorbiți englezește?	Police - Poliție
Yes, a little – Da, puțin	Hospital - Spital
Yes – Da	Fire department - Pompieri
No – Nu	Airport - Aeroport
Maybe – Poate	Train station - Gară
I don't understand – Nu înțeleg	Exchange office – Casă de schimb valutar
I don't know – Nu știu	Post office - Poștă
How much does it cost? – Cât costă?	Parking – Parcare
Price – Preț	No parking – Parcare interzisă
Where is... – Unde este...	Right – Dreapta
Is it far? – E departe?	Left – Stânga
I am lost – M-am pierdut	Straight forward – Drept înainte
Please repeat it – Vă rog să repetați	Back – Înapoi
Can you show me on the map? – Îmi arătați pe hartă?	<b>To be – A fi</b>
Here – Aici	I am – Eu sunt
There – Acolo	You are – Tu ești
Towards – Spre	He/she is – El/ea este
Could you call me a taxi? – Ați putea să îmi chemați un taxi?	We are – Noi suntem
I am worried/ill – Sunt îngrijorat/ bolnav	You are – Voi sunteți
I am happy/excited– Sunt fericit/ încântat	They are - Ei/ele sunt

# CHAPTER 2. POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY TIMIȘOARA

## 2.1. BRIEF HISTORY

Politehnica University Timișoara (UPT) is one of the biggest technical universities from Central and Eastern Europe. It was founded in 1920 based on the Royal Decree signed by King Ferdinand I as an answer to the need for engineers of the Romanian society in the context of the post WW1 economic recovery. In 1920 classes began with 117 students. Currently over 13 000 students are enrolled in bachelor's, master and PhD programmes. The university is one of the 12 universities in Romania classified as universities of advanced research and education (highest classification level) with a high confidence teaching rating.

During its 95 years of existence, Politehnica University Timișoara enriched its academic offer adding new fields of study, developed an educational and research infrastructure – buildings and equipments – comparable with the most prestigious European universities, and produced over 120 475 engineers, greatly appreciated on the national and international level for their competence. The students of Politehnica University Timișoara have now at their disposal a modern student campus, including cafeterias, and sports centres.



The Rectorate of Politehnica University Timișoara

## 2.2. STRUCTURE

Politehnica University Timișoara has 10 faculties and 25 departments. The faculties are:

1. Faculty of Architecture and City Planning;
2. Faculty of Automation and Computing;
3. Faculty of Civil Engineering;
4. Faculty of Communication Sciences;
5. Faculty of Electrical and Power Engineering;
6. Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications;
7. Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering;
8. Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation;
9. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering;
10. Faculty of Engineering in Hunedoara.



Faculty of Architecture and City Planning  
Faculty of Civil Engineering,  
Faculty of Communication Sciences



Faculty of Automation and Computer Science  
Faculty of Electrical and Power Engineering  
Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications



Faculty of Mechanical Engineering



Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and  
Environmental Engineering





Faculty of Engineering in Hunedoara



Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation

The departments of Politehnica University Timișoara are:

1. Applied Chemistry, Engineering of Inorganic Compounds and Environmental Engineering
2. Applied Electronics
3. Architecture
4. Automation and Applied Informatics
5. Civil Engineering and Equipments
6. Communication and Foreign Languages
7. Communications
8. Computing
9. Electrical Engineering
10. Electrical Engineering and Industrial IT of Hunedoara
11. Engineering and Management of Hunedoara
12. Fundamental of Physics for Engineers
13. Hydrotechnical Engineering
14. Management
15. Materials and Manufacturing Engineering
16. Mathematics
17. Measurements and Optical Electronics
18. Mechanical Machines, Equipment and Transportation
19. Mechanics and Strength of Materials
20. Mechatronics
21. Organic and Natural Compounds Engineering
22. Overland Communication Ways, Foundations and Cadastral Survey
23. Physical Education and Sports
24. Power Engineering
25. Steel Structures and Structural Mechanics



Department of Hydrotechnical Engineering



Department of Mechatronics

## 2.3. STUDENT CAMPUS



**ACCOMMODATION** in a student residence can be provided for all international students.

I. **Incoming exchange students** are hosted mainly in student residence 11C. For the Student Residence no. 11C, the address is:

Complexul Studentesc  
Street Aleea Studentilor, nr. 11C  
Timișoara

All incoming exchange students are expected to arrive at the student residence from Monday till Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. If the student will arrive later or during the weekend and he/she informed the Department of International Relations ([incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro)) with at least a week in advance about his/her exact arrival day and time, the student will pick up the key and entry card from Student Residence 8C (Street Aleea Studentilor, nr. 8C). To sign the accommodation contract a copy of the identity card or passport and two ID photos (3cmX4cm) will be required. The accommodation fee will be around 50 Euro/month.

The accommodation conditions are as follows:

- 2 students / room. It is not possible to pay double in order to have the room to yourself. You may request however to stay in the same room with someone you know. Male and female students are not placed in the same room unless they both request it and they are related or married.
- Rooms have Internet connection, TV cable, fridge, furniture and bed linen. Students do not pay utilities.
- Shared bathrooms, laundry rooms, reading rooms & kitchens. Irons, ironing boards, cooking ware and tableware will not be provided.
- Student residences have security systems which include video surveillance and entry based on electronic cards.



The accommodation fee will be paid monthly using a credit or debit card. It is not possible to pay the accommodation using cash.

Please note that to make the stay of all residents as pleasant and safe as possible student residences enforce a set of rules. Failure to comply with these rules can generate fines, and if the offenses are repeated the student can be evicted from the residence. We strongly recommend reading the accommodation contract carefully: an English version of the contract will be given to you at check in. It is also possible to read a sample accommodation contract on the Department of International Relations webpage in the incoming students section.

We do not advise exchange students to come to Timișoara without booking their room at least for the first month in the student residence. Finding a furnished room on the private market for a short period of time can be difficult and expensive. Our office has no possibility to find private accommodation for international students.

II. **Full-degree international students** can be hosted in any of the 16 residences owned by the university depending on their academic achievement and personal circumstances.

Student residences 8C, 9C, 11C and 14C offer accommodation in shared double rooms. In student residences 19C, 20C, 21C, 22C, 1C, 2C, 4C, 7C, 1 MV and 2 MV the rooms are shared by 5 or 6 students. Residences 23G and 25G are family-oriented and host mainly teaching, administrative and research staff, married PhD students and athletes.

All rooms have Internet connection, TV cable, fridge, furniture and bed linen. Bathrooms, laundry rooms, reading rooms & kitchens will be shared. Students do not pay utilities. All student residences are situated within a walking distance from the UPT buildings (faculties, library, sports centres, student restaurants, etc.) and the city centre. There are no reservation taxes to be paid in advance. The accommodation fee will be paid monthly using a credit or debit card. It is not possible to pay the accommodation using cash.

First year international students have to send the details of their arrival in Timișoara at least one week in advance to the Department of International Relations ([incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro)). Students from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study onwards will follow the same procedures regarding accommodation as local students. Accommodation in student residences can be provided at the earliest 4 days before the beginning of the academic year.

All international students will need a certificate issued by the Department of International Relations confirming their status before checking in at the student residence. To receive this certificate, one must fill in and submit the accommodation request form which can be downloaded from our website, or filled in by hand when visiting the Department of International Relations (UPT Rectorate, Piața Victoriei, no. 2, office 105).



**DINING SERVICES.** Students who do not cook their own food can buy from the administrator of the student residence meal tickets. Each ticket ensures one meal at a price of approx. 2 EUR. For 5 tickets, the student will pay approx. 8 EUR (1 free ticket for every 4 tickets bought). These tickets can be used in the two student cafeterias of UPT:

- Restaurant Universitar Politehnica (located at the intersection of Aleea Studentilor and Aleea F.C. Ripensia)
- Fast - Food 1 MV (located at the ground floor of the 1MV student residence on Bld. Mihai Viteazul)

In the student campus you will find a supermarket, various grocery stores and restaurants. Most student residences have vending machines.

**MEDICAL CARE.** The Student Polyclinic (“Policlinica studentească”) is located in the Student Campus, on Aleea Studentilor nr. 1, and provides free of charge medical checks and treatments in the following areas: general medicine, internal medicine and echography,

dermatology, family planning, gynaecology, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology. Students need to present the student card or a certificate confirming their status in order to benefit from the services of the Student Polyclinic. **For medical emergencies please dial the emergency phone number: 112!**





**SPORTS CENTERS.** All international students have access to the sports facilities of Politehnica University Timișoara in the same conditions as local students.

There are two sports centers:

- Sports Center 1 (fitness hall, football field, running track, covered mini-football fields) located in the area between the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, the Faculty of Civil Engineering, the Library and the 2MV student residence.
- Sports Center 2 (indoor and outdoor swimming pools with sauna and fitness equipment; basketball and volleyball courts; football fields; bitumen and tartan tennis fields; multipurpose buildings) located behind the Dan Păltinișanu Stadium on str. Podeanu.





Access to the sports centers will be granted only after registration. For access to the swimming pools students must provide a medical certificate. This certificate can be issued by the Student Polyclinic.







**LIBRARY.** The Central Library of Politehnica University Timișoara, located on Bld. Vasile Pârvan, nr. 2, is open from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. During holidays the working hours are from Monday to Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and on Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

One study/reading hall of the library is open 24 hours a day.

Access to the library is granted only after completing the UPT enrolment process. To register at the library you will need to present a valid identity document and the UPT student card.

Students from other universities can use the resources of the UPT library after paying a registration fee of 30 lei.



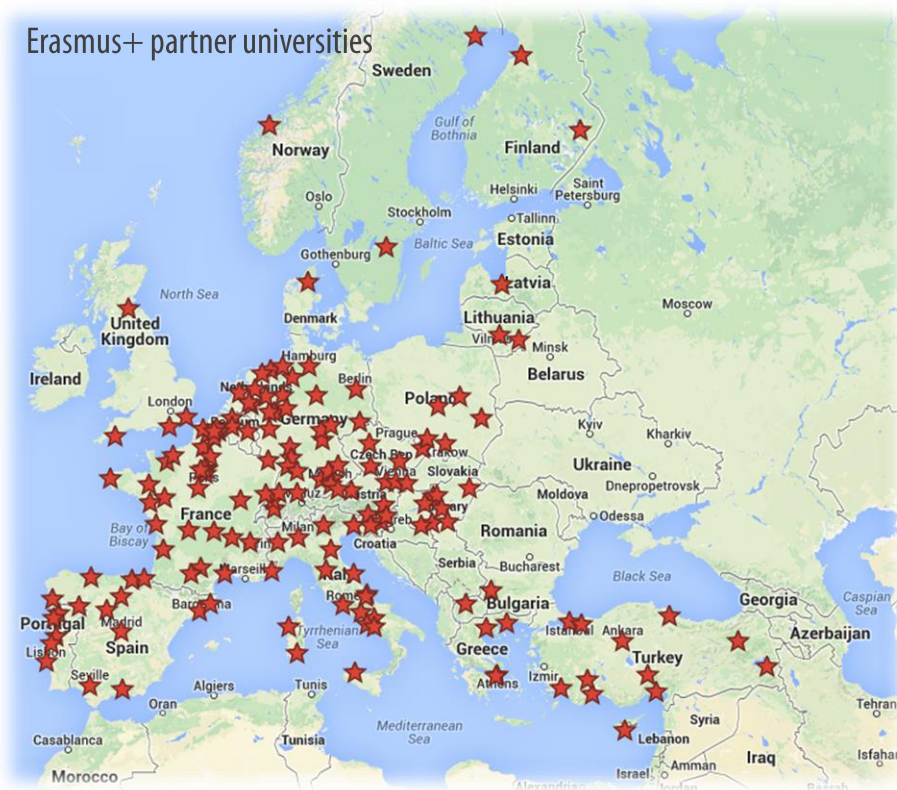
## 2.4. INTERNATIONALISATION

The multicultural spirit of Timișoara is mirrored by the diversity of the UPT student body and academic staff. We welcome students from all over the world. Tunisia, Morocco, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Iran, Singapore, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Albania, Serbia, Moldova, Israel, Syria, Mexico or Peru are just a few of the home countries of our international students.

Politehnica University Timișoara encourages students to spend part of their studies or to do an internship abroad. The university has over 200 bilateral Erasmus+ agreements and more than 100 framework cooperation agreements with universities from all over Europe, but also from Asia, North and South America. Every year more than 200 students do a study or industrial placement abroad, while over 100 students from partner institutions come to study or do an industrial placement under the supervision of an UPT coordinator.

Furthermore, UPT encourages the international mobility of its staff members and welcomes visiting lecturers from partner universities and companies. Every year, through the Erasmus and CEEPUS programmes, more than 100 teaching and administrative UPT staff members do a teaching or training mobility abroad, while over 50 foreign lecturers come teach in Timișoara. Guest lecturers are always welcomed, as they enable students who do not go abroad to come into contact with different perspectives and teaching methods, while reinforcing the link between the institutions.

Increasing the number of both incoming and outgoing students and staff is one of the goals of the Department for International Relations. By sharing our experience with the partner higher education institutions, and by collaborating with colleagues from abroad, we can improve the strategies, policies and practices of internationalization.



# CHAPTER 3. PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

## 3.1. ADMISSION PROCEDURES

**NOMINATION.** Students must be nominated by their home university for a study, placement or research mobility at UPT. The nomination will be done by e-mail at [incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro). In the nomination e-mail the home university will specify within which programme the mobility will take place (Erasmus+, CEEPUS, bilateral agreement, double-degree programme, etc.), the name and surname of the student, his/her e-mail address, the semester in which the mobility is expected to take place and the study field of the student.

The Erasmus+ nomination deadlines are:

- Fall semester: 15th of June
- Spring semester: 15th of December

Politehnica University Timișoara has a limited infrastructure to welcome students with physical disabilities. We kindly ask you to contact Prof. Dr. ing. Lia DOLGA, Head of the Department for International Relations, to check if we can offer the proper conditions for a successful stay of a disabled student. Each case will be carefully analysed.

Late nominations will be processed if time allows. Please note that Politehnica University Timișoara does not accept free-movers, yet remains open to signing cooperation agreements with new institutions. Proposals for new agreements and proposals to extend existing agreements to new study fields should be directed to Prof. Dr. eng. Lia DOLGA ([lia.dolga@upt.ro](mailto:lia.dolga@upt.ro)).

**STUDENT APPLICATION.** After the student has been nominated, he/she needs to prepare and submit the following documents:

1. Application form
2. Accommodation form - for students who want to book a room in the student residence
3. Learning agreement - only if you come for a study mobility. Your home university will provide the form.
4. Training agreement - only if you come for a placement mobility. Your home university will provide the form.

The forms can be downloaded from: <http://www.upt.ro/international>.



The application documents will be filled in and signed by each incoming student. The learning or training agreement has to be pre-approved by the home university as well. The application file will be submitted by e-mail to [incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro). The letter of acceptance and the approved learning/training agreement will be sent by e-mail to the candidate within 5 weeks after the application deadline.

No language certificate is required for admission, however for a successful stay we recommend a minimum level of B1 for the language in which the studies/ internship / research will be carried out.

### **3.2. VISA, RESIDENCE PERMIT, INSURANCE, ENROLMENT**

**VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT.** Incoming exchange students should have a valid passport and/or identity card for the entire period of time to be spent in Timișoara:

- Exchange students who are EU citizens do not need a visa to entry or study in Romania
- Non-EU students must apply for a student visa at the Romanian Embassy in the country of their home university. The acceptance letter and the learning/training agreement will support the visa application. Upon arrival, all non-EU citizens have to register at the Immigration Office in Timișoara, Street Andrei Mocioni No. 8. The staff of the Department for International Relations can provide up-to-date information and the forms needed to obtain the residence permit.

**HEALTH INSURANCE.** We advise all incoming exchange students to apply for the European Health Insurance Card or contract an equivalent health insurance policy before arrival. The European Health Insurance Card provides international students with the same health insurance rights and benefits as Romanian citizens. In the student campus the Student Polyclinic can provide medical services, as well as referrals to specialists.

**CIVIL LIABILITY INSURANCE.** Politehnica University Timișoara will not cover the damages caused by students. Exchange students are advised to subscribe to an insurance policy that covers the risks listed below and guarantees the repair of damages that may be caused by the student to a third person, to possessions for which they are legally responsible, or to their accommodation, regardless of whether the damages were caused through negligence or not. Risks to be covered: civil liability, individual accidents, repatriation assistance. We strongly advise that you take out this insurance before arriving in Romania.

**ENROLMENT.** All incoming exchange students should inform the Department of International Relations ([incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro)) at least one week in advance about their exact arrival date and time in Timișoara and make an appointment for registration. Registration is done at the Department for International Relations (UPT Rectorate, Piata Victoriei n. 2

1<sup>st</sup> floor, office 105) from Monday to Thursday between 12 p.m. (noon) and 3 p.m. For registration the student will present:

- his/her identity card or passport with the required visa for non-EU citizens
- his/her health and civil liability insurance
- two identity card photos (3 cmx4 cm) for the student card
- any documents required by the home university to be signed at arrival by the host university (certificate of attendance, learning or training agreement, etc.).

### **3.3. COST OF LIVING**

Life in Romania is not expensive, so an amount of 400 EUR/ month should allow you to have a pleasant stay in Timișoara. This amount would cover your accommodation in the student residence, food, clothes, personal care products, books, attending social and cultural events and some trips.

Sample prices (1 EUR is between 4.3 and 4.5 lei):

#### **Food and drinks:**

- Sesame pretzel: 1 leu
- 0.5 l water: 2.5 lei
- Loaf of bread: 2-4 lei
- 1 l milk: 4 lei
- 1 kg flour: 3 lei
- 1 kg apples: 3 lei
- 1 pack spaghetti: 4 lei
- 1 kg rice: 6 lei
- 1 kg chicken breast : 17 lei
- 6-pack of beer: 12-15 lei (in supermarkets)
- Fast food menu : 10-15 lei
- Lunch daily offer in average restaurants: 10-15 lei
- Large pizza: 20 lei
- Sushi lunch: 40 lei

#### **Culture:**

- Opera ticket: 25 lei (with student discount)
- Theatre ticket: 10-15 lei (with student discount)
- 3-months subscription to the French Institute Mediatheque: 23 lei (with student discount)
- 6-months subscription to the German Cultural Center Library: 15 lei (with student discount)

### 3.4. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

International exchange students are cordially invited to participate in the projects of the UPT student organisations:

- Board of European Students of Technology Timișoara (<http://besttm.ro/>);
- Faculty of Architecture Student Association (<https://www.facebook.com/asociatiadela4>);
- Faculty of Automation and Computing Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liga-AC>);
- Faculty of Civil Engineering Student Organisation (<https://www.facebook.com/ostltm>);
- Faculty of Electrical and Power Engineering Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/LSFEE>);
- Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/ligaetc>);
- Faculty of Engineering in Hunedoara Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liga-Studentilor-Facultatea-de-Inginerie-Hunedoara>);
- Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/lsc.timisoara>);
- Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/lfmpt.timis>);
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Student League (<https://www.facebook.com/lfmt.timisoara>).

Other student organizations are also active in Timișoara, such as ESN - Erasmus Student Network (<https://www.facebook.com/esntimisoara>) or AIESEC - Association internationale des étudiants en sciences économiques et commerciales (<https://www.facebook.com/aiesec.tm>).

Don't hesitate to add <https://www.facebook.com/erasmuspolitehnica.timisoara> as a friend on Facebook!





Welcome day for Erasmus students - February 2014



City tour for a group of incoming students



Winter trip with exchange students at the Semenic Mountain - February 2014



Intercultural evenings



Cruise on the Danube with Erasmus Intensive Programme students







Visit of the Iron Gate I Hydroelectric Power Station



Visit of the Sarmizegetusa Museum



Welcome Party with 2014-2015 Erasmus+ students



Erasmus Open Doors event in 2015



Lunch at the UPT's student restaurant



Erasmus+ students singing Christmas carols to the UPT Management Board

### 3.5. ACADEMIC CALENDAR

#### **Fall semester:**

Late September – Mid January Teaching

(with a 2 week holiday for Christmas and New Year's Day)

Mid January – Late January Exam session

Late January – Mid February Holiday

#### **Spring semester:**

Mid February – Late May Teaching

(with a 1 week holiday for the Orthodox Easter)

Early June – Late June Exam Session

Early July – Late September Holiday

#### **Public holidays:**

- January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day
- January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Day after New Year's Day
- January 24<sup>th</sup> - Union of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859
- Orthodox Easter (Sunday, Monday)
- May 1<sup>st</sup> - Labour Day
- Pentecost
- Whit Monday
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Dormition of the Mother of God
- November 30<sup>th</sup> – St. Andrew's Day
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Union of Transylvania with Romania. National day.
- December 25<sup>th</sup> – First Christmas Day
- December 26<sup>th</sup> – Second Christmas Day



# CHAPTER 4. PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

## 4.1. INCOMING ERASMUS+ STAFF MOBILITY FOR TEACHING

Internationalisation is one of the priorities of Politehnica University Timișoara. We are constantly interested in receiving visitors, in creating new contacts and in reinforcing the existing cooperation with our partners.

Guest teaching assignments can be arranged at Politehnica University Timișoara under the existing agreements. With the Erasmus+ Programme the sending out-principle holds, which means that in each case the university sending a teaching staff finances his or her stay abroad. Regarding the financing of travel expenses, foreign teaching staff must approach their home university.

Teaching assignments can take several forms: open-lectures targeting students from a variety of study years, study levels and areas of specialisation; lectures included in the regular coursework of the students; intensive workshops; etc.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- The guest lecturer comes for teaching purposes (at least 8 teaching hours per week) from one of our Erasmus+ partner universities;
- The mobility takes place during the teaching periods of the UPT academic calendar if the lectures target bachelor or master degree students, or between October and June if the lecture targets PhD students.
- The Department for International Relations is informed of the intended Incoming Teaching Staff Mobility. A standard form has to be filled in and submitted by e-mail to [incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro).





#### **PROCEDURE:**

- The future incoming staff member contacts the Department of International Relations of Politehnica University Timișoara ([incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro)) and sends the visiting staff form.
  - The Department for International Relations issues and sends a letter of invitation to the guest lecturer in electronic format.
- The teaching plan is set by the guest lecturer in cooperation with the host UPT department. If the incoming lecturer does not have a contact person in the appropriate department at UPT, DRI will find and provide him/her with a contact person. The teaching plan will be agreed upon and signed in electronic format before the start of mobility.
  - During the teaching mobility, a visit to the Department for International Relations will be planned.
  - The Department for International Relations issues an official letter of confirmation for the Erasmus+ Teaching Staff Mobility.

## **4.2. INCOMING ERASMUS+ TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MOBILITY FOR TRAINING**

We are happy to welcome teaching and administrative staff visitors for training according to the rules of the Erasmus+ Programme.

If you are employed at a university in one of the Erasmus+ programme or partner countries and wish to spend a training period at our university, please contact your Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator and check what the requirements are for you to apply for an Erasmus+ staff training grant at your home institution. The duration of a training mobility can be between 5 days and 6 weeks.

For a good organization of your training mobility at Politehnica University Timișoara, we kindly ask you to contact us by e-mail, mentioning your areas of interest. The procedure is similar to the one regarding Erasmus+ staff mobilities for teaching.

For details please contact us by e-mail at [incoming@upt.ro](mailto:incoming@upt.ro).

### 4.3. ACCOMMODATION



Incoming exchange staff can choose to stay in the hotels owned by Politehnica University Timișoara. Both hotels are centrally located and offer single/double rooms with TV, refrigerator and Internet connection. Prices for single rooms vary between ~25 EUR (breakfast included) and ~35 EUR (breakfast, sauna and fitness facilities included).



More details here:

Casa Poli 1: [http://www.upt.ro/Informatii\\_hotel-style-accomodation-1\\_273\\_en.html](http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_hotel-style-accomodation-1_273_en.html)

Casa Poli 2: [http://www.upt.ro/Informatii\\_hotel-style-accomodation-2\\_413\\_en.html](http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_hotel-style-accomodation-2_413_en.html)





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ROMANIA

[www.upt.ro/international](http://www.upt.ro/international)

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