



WELCOME TO CHISINAU!

WELCOME TO FREE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FROM MOLDOVA!

This pamphlet is addressed to academic and administrative staff who visit ULIM in the frame of Erasmus+ mobility programme and it aims to offer practical notes concerning travel arrangements, accommodation, organizing the academic programme etc.

If there are some questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Center for International Cooperation
Free International University of Moldova
Email: cci@ulim.md
Tel.-Fax: (+373 22) 205921
52 Vlaicu Parcalab street (4th floor, office 443),
Chisinau, MD-2012,
Republic of Moldova
www.cci.ulim.md

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Free International University of Moldova is situated in the centre of the capital of the Republic of Moldova – Chisinau city. Its original architectonic style, the red cupolas which crown the campus of white color, reflects a distinct image. The University facade, in the light of flags which represents the native countries of ULIM foreign students, adorns Vlaicu Parcalab street, thus creating a festive aspect throughout the year.



Accommodation

There are several hotels near ULIM:

1. **Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel** (<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/>)- 5 star Hotel, with 143 rooms. The Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel is adjacent to ULIM and to plenty of entertainment options, such as the bustling Souvenir Market, the A.P. Chekhov Theater and the Sun City Shopping Center. (It is located across the street).
2. **Jazz Hotel** (<http://www.jazz-hotel.md/>)- the hotel is located on the same street as ULIM, it is 5 minute distance from the University. It is a 4 star hotel with 76 guest rooms.
3. **Jolly Alon** (<http://jollyalon.com/>)- it is located in the government quarter. There is a bus station in 5 minutes from hotel. It is a 4 star hotel with 80 guest rooms.
4. **Europa Hotel** (<http://europahotel.md/en/>) - it is the university hotel, located near the exhibition complex MoldExpo. There is direct public transportation to University. It takes 20-25 min by Trolleybus 4 or 15-20 min by minibus 127. It is a 3 star hotel, with 56 hotel rooms.

Renting an apartment

If you want to rent an apartment or a house in the city we strongly advise you to contact a real-estate agency (agenție imobiliară). They can provide you with information about the most

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interesting offers on the market. You will have to sign a contract with them in which you agree to pay a commission fee, usually 50% of the rent for 1 month. You can find a two-room flat at **200 – 250 EUR** per month. It may or may not be furnished. You will have to pay separately for all utilities: water, electricity, gas, telephone, etc. A deposit representing the rent for the first three months is usually required. It will be refunded at the end of your stay, provided that you leave the flat in good condition.

You should sign a contract with the landlord and this should be registered at the notary. In order to register the contract, you will need the following documents:

- Your passport or the temporary residence permit (original and a photocopy);
- Your landlord's ID (original and a photocopy);
- A lease contract, in 3 copies (usually provided by the real-estate agency);

NOTE: in case you decide to rent an apartment, it is imperative that you sign a contract and have it registered at the administration, because you will need it in order to apply for the temporary residence permit.

Of course, there are also other ways to find out what's on the market, namely by reading the classifieds column of the newspapers. The "Makler" weekly magazine (the market from A to Z), available and on line <http://makler.md/ru/chisinau/real-estate> with hundreds of classifieds about home rentals or consult some other useful links: <http://999.md/category/real-estate>

Arrival

By plane

Chişinău International Airport

Chişinău International Airport is served by many airlines like AirBaltic , Air Moldova , Austrian , Lufthansa , Moldavian Airlines, Tarom , Turkish Airlines and S7 Aircompany with flights around the Europe and Asia, notably to Athens, Bucharest, Budapest, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Madrid, Moscow, Munich, Riga, Rome, Timisoara, Vienna, Vilnius, Saint Petersburg[10], Varna, Frankfurt, Paris, London, Bolognaand Surgut. In Sep 2013, WizzAir [11] will commence low-cost flights from Rome and Venice. From November 2013, FlyDubai will operate direct flights twice weekly to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

There are three taxi companies which operate at the airport. The fixed fares range from about 80 to 120 MDL depending on which sector of the city you are going. The cheaper alternative is to take minibus № 165 which takes you trough Botanica to the center, Izmail street. Tickets cost 3 lei; luggage will cost you another ticket. The minibuses are white vans leaving from the airport parking lot. If you leave the airport building from the arrivals area, turn right and walk towards the end of the building. The buses are marked with the number 165 on a sign behind the windshield and you can flag one down passing you, or walk up to the ones still parking. Don't open the sliding door

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even though you have luggage; for some reason they always use the co-drivers door to get on and off.

By train

There is one Central Railway Station which recently received rehabilitation and has all necessary facilities for a traveller. The main hall has a board of arrivals and departures plus an ATM which accepts foreign cards and providing both Euro and Moldavian Leu. An other ATM is located in the right side of the station sided with an exchange office. Next to the main hall there is a manned luggage storage office which works 24 hours with very low prices. Also international ticket counters are all accepting foreign credit or debit cards (April 2016). The trains depart to Europe through Romania and to CIS (Community of Independent States), especially to Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia.

The most popular route is from Bucharest, daily overnight trains leave Gara de Nord station at 7:15 PM and arrive at 09:04 AM (April 2016). The 'couchette' - shared sleeper cabin, cost approximately 120 Romanian Lei purchased the day of in Bucharest (feb2013). The 2 berth sleeper ticket cost 191.74 Lei for the train ticket and a compulsory reservation for an additional 47.67 Lei purchased a few days in advance (Sep 2013)

Another useful route is from Warsaw, departing every second day taking two nights (38 h). Chişinău is also has frequent departures for Moscow and several cities in Ukraine also have daily connections.

By car

Note that the quality of the roads in Moldova is quite bad. The road leading from Chişinău to Leuseni is pretty nice. You are likely to be sharing the road with trucks, cars, and livestock, all moving at various speeds without a lot of regard for safety. It is thus better to rely on public transport, which is very cheap and (mostly) reliable.

By bus

Note that Chişinău has three bus stations - the central one (serving mainly in-country destinations), Gara de Nord (for in-country destinations on the northern part of the country like Sorocca, Rezina, Ocnita, for travel to Odessa, Kyiv and elsewhere in Ukraine) and the larger Gara de Sud (for in-country destinations in the southern part of the country like Comrat, Cahul and for journeys to Romania). You can reach Gara de Sud from central Chişinău on rutieră (minibus) number 120, 124, 180 or 192 for 3 lei. Gara Nord is served by rutieră 163 and trolleybus #9, along with a bunch of others. You can check bus timetables (both in-country, and international destinations) at this website: <http://www.autogara.md/>

There are several buses throughout the day from Bucharest, Odessa, Iasi, Chernivtsi, and Lviv. The journey to/from Odessa takes around five hours and costs around \$10 US. Most Odessa-bound buses go through southern Moldova, avoiding the Transnistrian region - these will be marked as going through Palanka or Causeni. The journey to Iasi is three and a half hours long, with travel on to Brasov (price to Iasi:100 lei). There are many buses and rutierele headed to Bender and Tiraspol in Transnistria, about one every forty minutes (25 lei for a ninety minute journey).

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Local Transport

There are 40 taxi services operating throughout the city and its suburbs. Call 14222, 14333, 14444, 14747, 14448 or other 14xxx numbers to get a taxi. Taxi service 14700 frequently has an English speaking person though this is not guaranteed.

It is highly recommendable as a non Russian or Romanian speaking person, to have a local person/hotel or restaurant call your taxi, as few Taxi drivers speak proper English. In case you need a receipt for your travel, you need to ask for this specifically when ordering. Also, payment by credit card is impossible.

Please remember to bring small cash, as sometimes they will not be "able" to give back on anything larger than 50 bills, but this is rare. Average prices vary across company/individual taxi driver, and it is fairly inconsistent. Expect prices between 30-60 for shorter rides and 50-150 Lei for longer rides.

For budget travelers, there is an interactive public transport map, clicking on Travel & Transport: bus, minibus, trolleybus. A trolley-bus ride costs 2 lei while a bus ride costs 3 lei, collected by a conductor who walks up and down the bus after each stop. Minibuses cost 3 lei, which is paid to the driver upon entry. There are few set stops for minibuses: and it is usually OK to just tell the driver when you want to get off, although recently introduced rules mean that drivers may not do this so much any more but will stop on street corners etc. Flag him down with your hand (just like you would with a taxi) when the vehicle approaches you on the street. Some minibuses numbers correspond to more than one service line, running roughly parallel to each other, that is why they also have a sign with main route shown on the windscreen, besides their number.

Visitors arriving by air must fly into the [Chisinau Airport](#), which is 12 km from the city center. The national airline, [Air Moldova](#), together with several foreign airlines, operates regular routes from Chisinau to cities in Europe and neighboring countries. From there travelers can connect to destinations worldwide. A [complete flight schedule for Chisinau Airport](#) is available on the airport's website. Direct flights to Frankfurt, Istanbul, Moscow, Munich, and Vienna offer some of the best connections. Below you will find information for selected airlines that fly into Moldova. A [complete list of destinations and airlines](#) is available on the Chisinau Airport website.

Taxis are readily available at the airport. SkyTaxi and 14700 are the authorized airport taxis, however many other taxis also wait to pick up passengers. Visitors are advised to accept rides from only marked taxis. There is no standard taxi color, so look for taxis clearly marked as such and bearing their company's telephone number - a five digit number beginning in 14. Moldovan taxis may or may not have meters which may or may not function. Fares from the airport are typically between 70-100 lei (approx. €4.50 to €7.00 EUR) - 90 lei (approx. €6.00) to the city center.

Fares from the city center to the airport will cost a bit more, typically 100-150 lei, especially if originating from a hotel. The Chisinau Airport website has information about [airport taxi services](#).

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For more information click:

http://moldovaholiday.travel/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=172&Itemid=52&lang=en

Money

The Moldovan economy is traditionally cash-driven, you may not always be able to pay by card (particularly outside of the capital city Chisinau). When paying by card, ensure that you maintain sight of it at all times.

The most widely accepted foreign currencies are the US Dollar and the Euro. You should carry some Euro cash. Notes should be in perfect condition or they may not be accepted. It is not always easy to exchange Sterling for local currency.

Moldovan Lei can be obtained from a number of ATM machines in Chisinau, but only a very limited number will accept 'chip and pin' cards. ATMs outside Chisinau will not accept 'chip and pin' cards. There have been incidences of credit card fraud and fraud involving ATMs in Moldova. Where possible only use ATMs inside banks. Make sure your PIN is not seen by others when withdrawing money.

What to see in Chisinau

Cathedral Park - Better known as Central Park, is in the very centre of the city. The centre is adorned with the Nativity Cathedral, the main church for the city. To the Southwest is the Triumph arch constructed in 1841 which is the center piece of The Great National Assembly Square. Across Stefan cel Mare Boulevard is the Government House. The city's biggest flower market is on the north side of the park along Banulescu Bodoni street. At the intersection of Stefan cel Mare and Banulescu Bodoni is a statue of Stefan cel Mare.

Stefan Cel Mare Monument. The monument to Stephen III of Moldovia who in the 15th century achieved European fame by resisting the Turkish advances. The monument is the gateway to the beautiful park of the same name.

Rose Valley Park. A nine hectare park featuring three major lakes and several restaurants. To get here use lines T2, T3, T7, T9 or T10.

Riscani Park. A big, 32 hectare wooded park offering you pleasant, almost secluded walks. Use bus 5 or A.

Botanica Park. The most beautiful and the largest in Chişinău, situated near the Gates Of The City. Next to Botanica - if you head west after you exit the gates - cross Strada Aeroportului, and then you can find a path which will take you towards the first, and so far only building, that is on the land designated as the 'Village Museum' - Muzeul Satului. This first building is well worth the visit. It is a wooden church built in the 1600's brought piece by piece to Chişinău from the village of Hiriseni (74 km north of Chişinău). There is a new wooden gate with traditional carvings leading up to the museum.

Valea Morilor Park. Very large park with a recently renovated lake and which offers acres of largely untouched countryside scenery in the heart of the city.

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Dendrariu Park - A large park in Buiucani (which costs 4 lei to enter). Nice gardens, lake, forests and sports field.

Alunelul Park - Situated near a former Soviet theme park, this contains a strange door-less and window-less house, as well as a memorial to the pogroms in Chişinău in the first part of the 20th Century.

Pushkin Museum, Str Anton Pann 19 - you can visit the house where Pushkin lived when in exile from Russia during the years 1820-23.

National Archaeology & History Museum, 31 August 1989 Str, 121A . 1000-1700, 10 MDL+10MDL photo pass, closed on Fridays(April 2016). Spend a few hours exploring the exhibits.

National Ethnographic and Nature Museum, M. Kogălniceanu 82 Str.

National Museum of Fine Arts, 31 August 1989 Str, 115

Memorial Park - A little way-out of the center is the is a memorial commemorating the victory of the Soviet army in WWII. There is also an eternal flame in memory of Chişinău's unknown soldiers who died in WWII. It's behind the military and civilian cemeteries.

The Chisinau City Museum- Walking 2 minutes after visiting the Archaeological Museum, the city Museum is a must if you want simply to have an aerial view of Chisinau. Museum context is consisted of items used in the daily life of the inhabitants focusing on dictionaries and typewriters without however explanations in English. What it makes the museum interesting is that it is located inside a former water tower which is sided to the Chisinau University. In the top there is an observation room and balcony where you can see the city from above. Open from 10 am till 5:30 pm, Monday to Friday. The price of entrance 10 lei (April 2016).