



# Welcome Pack



## Masters in Cognitive Sciences

Division of Cognitive Sciences  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
University of Rijeka

# Contents

---

Travelling to Rijeka	1.
When you arrive	2.
Accommodation	3.
Finance and Living Costs	4.
Student Restaurants	5.
Transport	6.
Student Jobs	7.
Student Life	8.
History	9.
Nature	10.
Culture	11.
Sport and Exercise	12.



## Contact Information

### Websites

Programme [cogsci.uniri.hr](http://cogsci.uniri.hr)

Faculty [ffri.uniri.hr](http://ffri.uniri.hr)

University [uniri.hr](http://uniri.hr)

### Emails

Programme [cogsci@uniri.hr](mailto:cogsci@uniri.hr)

Head of Studies [lj.ostojic@uniri.hr](mailto:lj.ostojic@uniri.hr)

## Welcome by Head of Studies

We are excited to welcome you as the third generation of students on our Masters programme! Over the last two years we have seen students open their minds to new things, find out the directions they want to go to, put themselves up for challenges and create lasting connections and friendships. We are looking forward to offering this to you, together with continuous changes to our programme we are making based on student feedback to facilitate your learning and growth.

Coming to a new country and an interdisciplinary programme can require some time and adjustments until you feel you have found your place and can learn and work on your goals. We are here to support you with that just as much as we are here to provide academic input and mentorship for your work.

We are looking forward to meeting you in person in autumn!

**Dr. Ljerka Ostojić**

Head of Studies  
Division of Cognitive Sciences

# Travelling to Rijeka

---

The best way for you to travel to Rijeka will largely depend on where you are travelling from. Rijeka has its own airport, bus/coach station and railway station all of which provide connections to other countries.

## Within Europe

Rijeka is within reach of other European countries through both road and rail connections. You are able to get to Rijeka by coach (without needing to transfer) from Munich, Vienna and Milan in under 9hrs. It is also feasible to drive to Rijeka from almost anywhere in Europe - and many tourists do just that for their summer holidays.

Rijeka's airport allow you to fly from other European countries (and other airports in Croatia) to Rijeka. The airport is fairly small and the number of flights and destinations served is highest in summer months. Alternative airports to fly to (all within around a 2h30 bus journey) include **Trieste** (Italy), **Ljubljana** (Slovenia), **Pula** (Croatia), and **Zagreb** (Croatia).



Rijeka has its own airport. It is located about 25km away on the Island of Krk.

## From outside of Europe

If you are flying into Croatia from outside of Europe then **Zagreb**'s airport is probably the most suited. It has daily connections with Dubai, Qatar and Turkey as well as to some of Europe's international hubs such as Frankfurt.

The airports in Split and Dubrovnik also have some international flights but require taking a bus/coach journey over 6hrs (or a second flight).

Closer than Split and Dubrovnik are both **Ljubljana (Slovenia)** and **Venice (Italy)**. Venice receives flights from all over the world including direct flights from the USA, Morocco and Tunisia.

## When you arrive

---

Once you have arrived there are a few documents that need to be submitted or obtained that are necessary for all students moving to Croatia.

**We will be here to help guide you through the process.**



Head of Studies  
**Dr. Ljerka Ostojić**



Student Team  
**Katie-Marie Wigle**



Student Team  
**Boglarka Varga**

## Documents Needed

Every resident in Croatia is given a **tax personal identification number** (referred to as your **OIB**). This can be obtained from the Croatian Tax Administration office. We will meet on the 24th September to go to the tax office together to obtain your **OIB**. You will need the **OIB** to be able to enrol.

Everyone moving to Croatia needs to have a **Temporary Residence permit**. After you have your enrolment certificate we will organise to submit your temporary residency application with you.

---

## At the Faculty

Before being able to start a university programme in Croatia you have to formally enrol at the faculty where the programme is held.

You will be able to enrol on the 25th and 26th September 2025 for the academic year 2025/2026.

We will meet together at the Faculty to fill out and submit your enrolment forms to the student office.



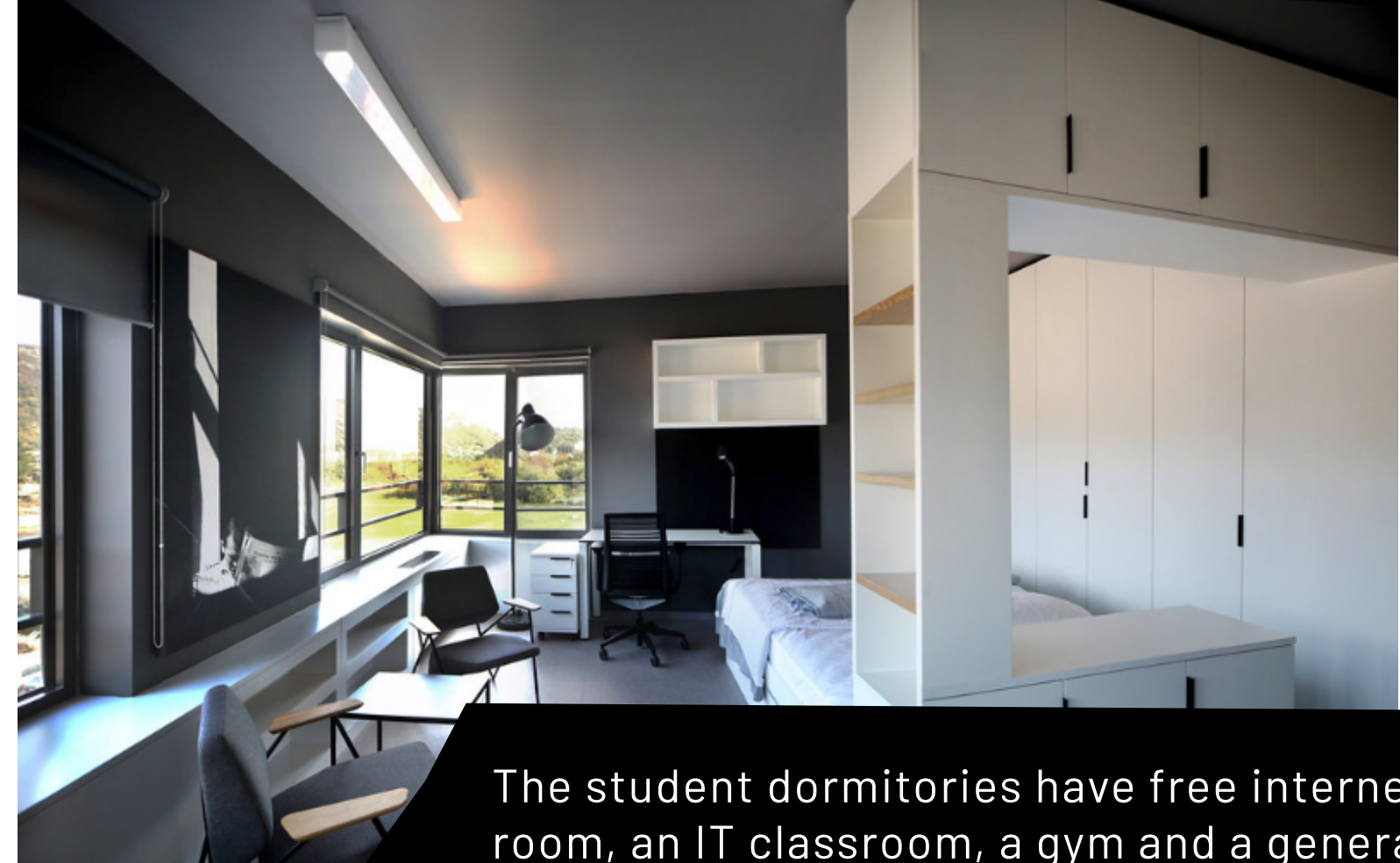
Students from our first and second generations joined us for a walk from Volosko to Opatija during the welcome week in 2024.

# Accommodation

The most affordable type of accommodation for students is a public student dormitory. The university has dormitories on the Trsat Campus and in the Podmurvice district of Rijeka (Student Dormitory Ivan Goran Kovačić).

For the 2025 intake for the Masters in Cognitive Sciences we have pre-booked dormitory accommodation for all international students joining us in October.

We pre-book accommodation because if you require a visa you need to know the address of where you will stay when you move to Croatia - so having accommodation booked before is essential.



The student dormitories have free internet, a laundry room, an IT classroom, a gym and a general living area.

## Pre-booked Rooms

Rooms in student dormitories are usually shared between two people and bathrooms are shared with one or more other rooms. The rooms we have pre-booked have two beds. You are able to choose whether you want to **share** the room or rent the entire room for yourself (so it acts as a **single room**). Prices at the time of writing are:

<b>Dormitory</b>	<b>Shared</b>	<b>Single</b>
Trsat	€175	€252
Ivan Goran Kovačić	€140	€217

## Private Accommodation

If you want to rent privately there are several accommodation-finding websites:

- Airbnb
- Erasmusu
- Njuskalo.hr (in Croatian)
- Oglasnik.hr (in Croatian)



Student dormitories on the Trsat Campus. Outdoor gym equipment, a basketball hoop and table tennis tables can be found between the two buildings.

# Finance and Living Costs

---

Living expenses in Rijeka are estimated to be between **€400** and **€700**. The amount will largely depend on the type of accommodation (student dormitory or privately rented housing) that you opt to live in.

Since 1 January 2023 Croatia has been part of the Eurozone and the Schengen area. The official currency of Croatia is the **Euro** (EUR, €).

Major credit/debit cards (American Express, Diners Club, Mastercard/Eurocard, Visa) are widely accepted. Sometimes cafes and smaller shops do not accept cards.

Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs ('Bankomat' in Croatian). These can be found throughout Rijeka, including on and around the Trsat Campus.

## Opening a Bank Account

You will need to bring with you to the bank:

- either your Passport, ID or Croatian Identity Card
- personal identification number (OIB)

There are usually no charges for students opening a bank account.



Rijeka's market is a good place to buy fruit, vegetables and fresh fish.



The Croatian Government subsidises meals for Croatian and EU students eating at the university run restaurants (the number of meals subsidised per day depends on a number of factors).

For international (non-EU) students the faculty will match this subsidy for one meal per day. International students from low and lower-middle income countries will be able to purchase two subsidised meals per day.

At the time of writing a **subsidised** 3-course meal costs **€0.92**

## Student Restaurants

---

All students entitled to subsidised meals by submitting the student card (X-ica) can eat daily at student cafeterias (menza) at affordable prices (currently €0.92 for a subsidised meal).

Menus for different students restaurants can be found [online](#).

### Locations

Student cafeterias are usually located near faculties and student dormitories. There are three student restaurants in Rijeka: Kampus, Indeks and Mini. They offer different menu options, individual meals, pizzas and take-out. The student restaurant "Kampus" is a few minutes' walk from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

### EU Students

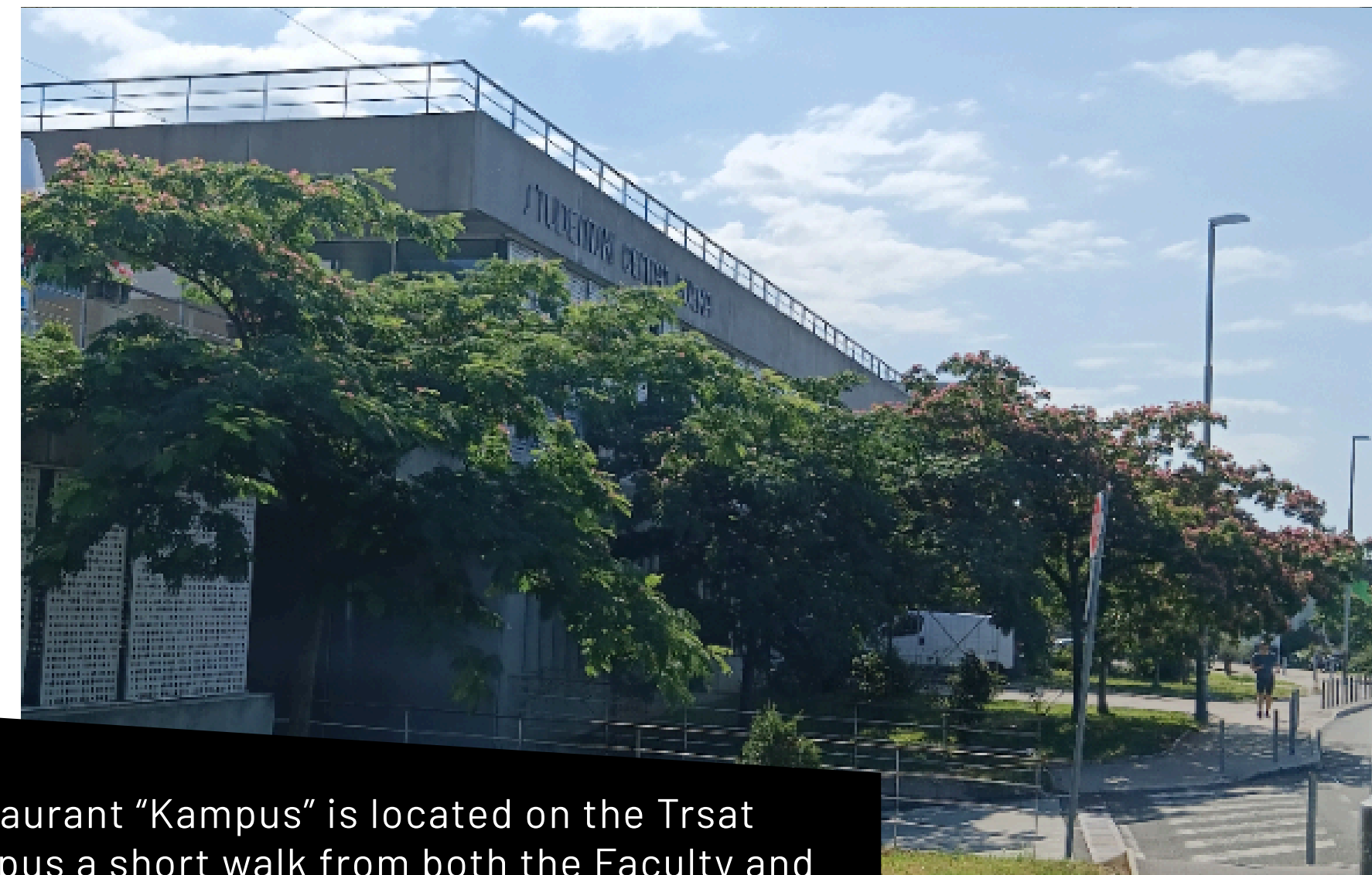
EU students (and Croatian Students) are provided with subsidies for food purchases at student restaurants. Every month, a specific amount of money per student card is authorised for meals. This amount cannot be exceeded or accumulated over more than one month. The amount of the subsidy / number of meals that can be subsidised is calculated based on a number of factors.

The status of the student card can be checked at the bottom of each receipt or on the University Computer Centre (SRCE) webpage.

## International Students

For international students (who are not eligible for government subsidies) the Faculty has elected to provide subsidies such that international students can purchase at least one full meal per day at the same price as EU students.

International students who are from countries classified as low or lower-middle income will receive two subsidised meals



Restaurant "Kampus" is located on the Trsat Campus a short walk from both the Faculty and student dormitories.

# Transport

---

Rijeka is well connected by a public bus service.


## Regular use of the city bus transport

The most affordable option if you travel by bus frequently is to purchase the City Card (Torpedo) at the Autotrolej transport service, located on Jelačićev trg 3, Rijeka. With this card you can purchase monthly student tickets.

When purchasing the initial City Card you should bring:

- A certificate of enrolment
- - A certificate of registered temporary residence in Rijeka – this certificate is issued by MUP (Administrative police department)

After purchasing the City Card, you can purchase the monthly ticket either at Autotrolej transport service or at kiosks, such as Tisak or iNovine.



The majority of Rijeka's buses run on gas to be more eco-friendly and efficient

---

## Occasional use of the city bus transport

If you are residing near the Faculty and you do not plan to use the city bus transport on a daily basis, you can always buy individual tickets, such as single-use tickets, dual-use tickets, daily tickets or weekly tickets, which can be bought from the bus driver, at the Autotrolej transport service or at a kiosk.



### Price List (Zone 1)

Single	€2.00
Weekly	€12.74
Monthly	€21.37 (with student discount)

### Notes:

i) the monthly ticket is valid from the first to the last day of the current month. Thus, it is best to buy the ticket at the beginning of the month or in advance.

ii) Both student dormitories are located within Zone 1.

Please check the [Autotrolej website](#) for the latest prices and information

# Student Employment

International students can find work in Croatia using the Student Service administered by the Student Centre. The Student Service provides matchmaking services, connecting students with prospective employers. The positions available through the Student Service are part-time and temporary, allowing students to adjust their work engagement to their student obligations.



## Minimum Student Wage

For 2025 the minimum net wage is €6.06 per hour. Work during Sundays, public holidays and nights (from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM) is paid 50 % more.

## Student job offers

After you have become a member of Student Service, you can check out the student job offers on the Facebook account "Student servis - Studentski centar Rijeka", where new student jobs are posted regularly ([website](#)).

You will need the following if you want to become a member of the Student Service ([website](#)):

- A certificate of enrolment - you can print it out using Studomat machine at the Faculty or you can request it at Studentska služba, located on the second floor of the Faculty
- X-ica (student card) - you will receive your student card at the start of academic year
- ID card/passport
- OIB- personal identification number (PIN)
- Personal bank account - an IBAN is required for the student job payment. You can show your Bank card, bank certificate, contract signed with a bank in Croatia or online banking.
- Filled out membership questionnaire ([questionnaire](#))
- Student statement ([statement](#))
- Student statement - translation of the contract ([translation](#))
- Compulsory health insurance in Croatia or European Health Insurance Card

You can either submit the required documents in person at Student Centre Rijeka, located at Campus (Ul. Radmile Matejčić 5), or you can send an e-mail with attached scanned documents to [studentservis@scri.uniri.hr](mailto:studentservis@scri.uniri.hr).

# Student Life

---

Croatia is an extremely popular tourist destination with over 21 million tourists visiting in 2024. There are a number of reasons for Croatia's popularity, these include its natural beauty, rich history and culture, and proximity to other European countries. Croatia is also considered to be one of the safest countries in the world (safer than both the UK and USA) and Croatian culture lends itself to being welcoming, friendly and helpful.

The features that make Croatia a popular tourist destination contribute to a high quality of student life.

## Language

Due to the high levels of tourism and foreign language education almost everyone in Croatia can speak some English and likely have regular interactions with non-Croatian speakers. Within student populations English language competence is exceptional and in social settings students readily switch to speaking in English when a non-Croatian speaker is present.

**Note:** Students at the faculty are able to take (free) Croatian language lessons offered by the Faculty as part of the Rijeka School of Croatian

---

## Cafe Culture

There are so many cafes in Rijeka that it would be almost impossible to count them all. When you take the short walk from the Faculty to Trsat castle (under 1000m) you will pass over 10 cafes. Of course there is also a cafe located in both the Faculty and the castle!

So it will be quite common to find fellow students or lecturers having a coffee in one of these cafes



## Smoking

Smoking is **banned** within Universities and Education Facilities in Croatia.

Be aware that many cafes/bars still allow smoking.

# History

---

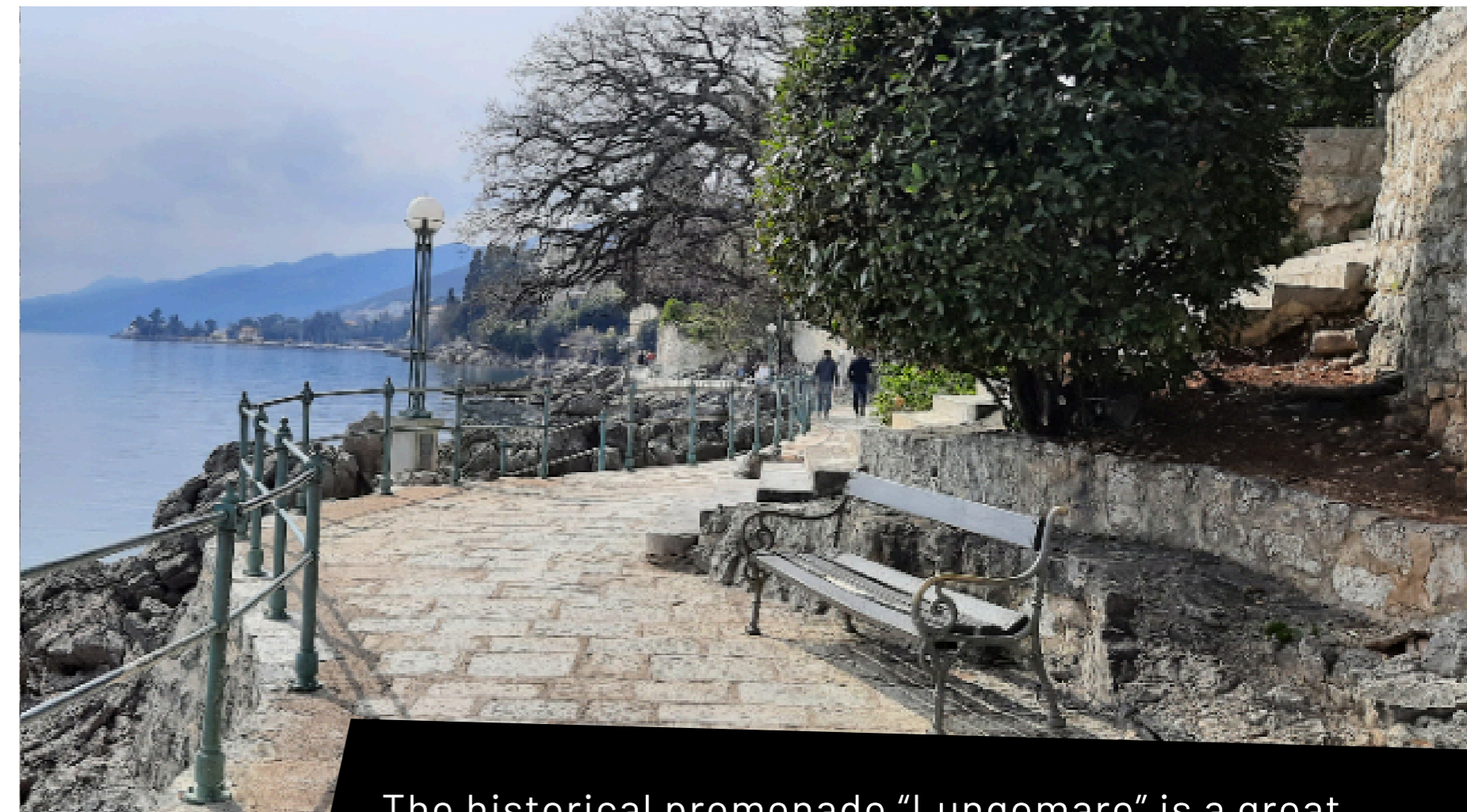
Croatia and Rijeka have a rich history. This has produced a diverse tapestry of historic buildings and infrastructures that can be seen throughout the city and the country as a whole. Many parts of the city have been heavily influenced by Italian, Austro-Hungarian and Yugoslavian styles and a free app ([Rijeka in Flux](#)) allows you to explore these details further.

On Trsat is a castle that has formed part of a defensive structure since the Romans. The current castle was originally built by the Frankopan family in 1500 and rebuilt in the 1800s.

A firm favourite among tourists and locals alike is the **'Lungomare'** a coastal path built during the Austrian-Hungarian Empire that connects a variety of towns including Opatija (which was declared the first Austrian seaside resort in the 1880s) and Volosko - a smaller fishing village.



The walls of Trsat castle offer great views over the city centre and the Kvarner bay



The historical promenade "Lungomare" is a great place to take a walk along the seaside.

## Further afield

**Dubrovnik** is so famous for its city walls, architecture and use in multiple movies that it needs no introduction from us. Instead we'd like to draw your attention to the city of **Pula** and the National Park of the Islands of **Brijuni** (accessible via a regular boat from Pula). Pula has a Roman amphitheatre, an aquarium in a fort and Brijuni has everything from dinosaur footprints, Roman ruins (above and below water) and a small safari park consisting of animals (and their descendants) that were gifted to Tito (who was the president of the Yugoslavia).

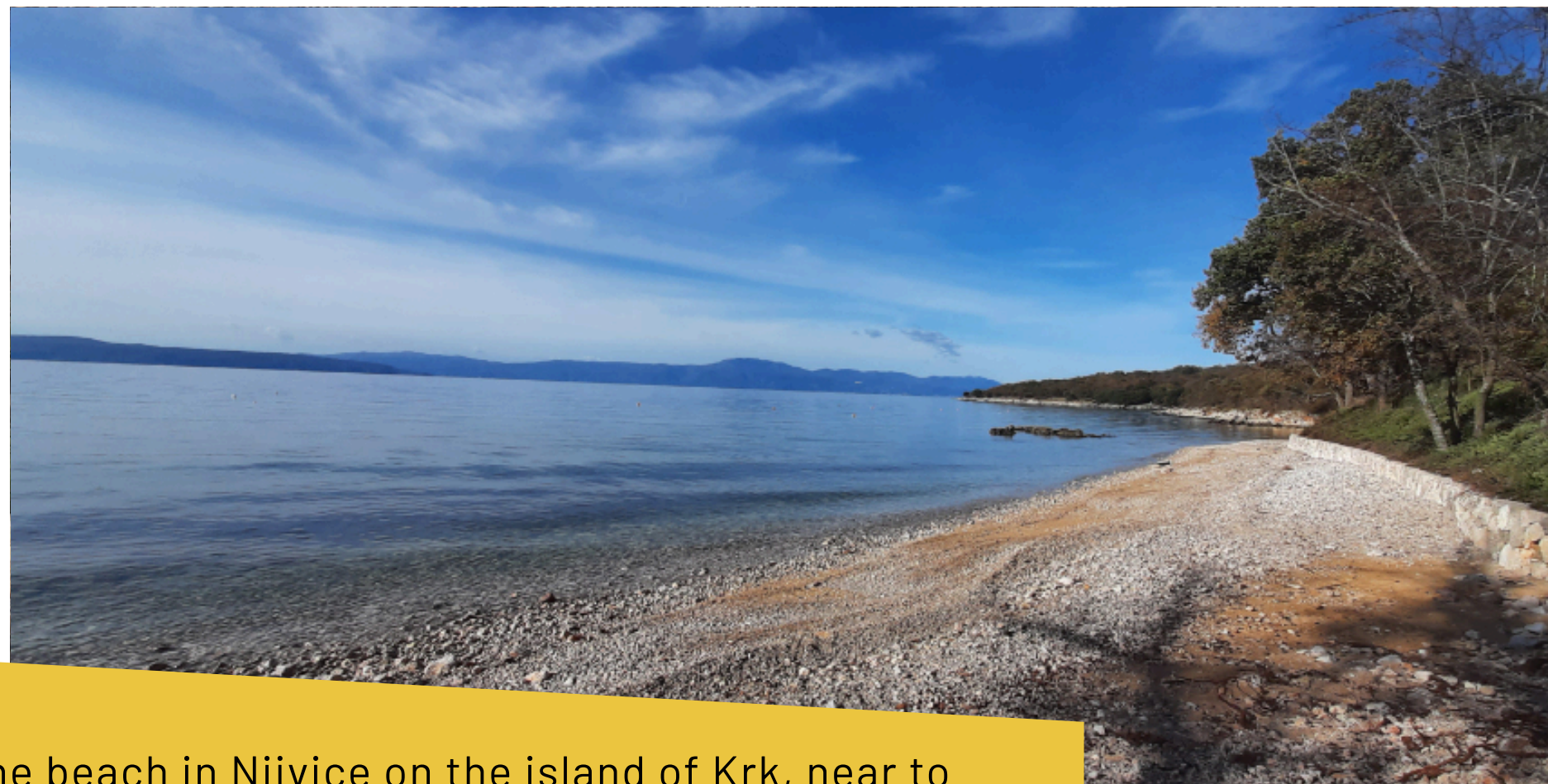
# Nature

---

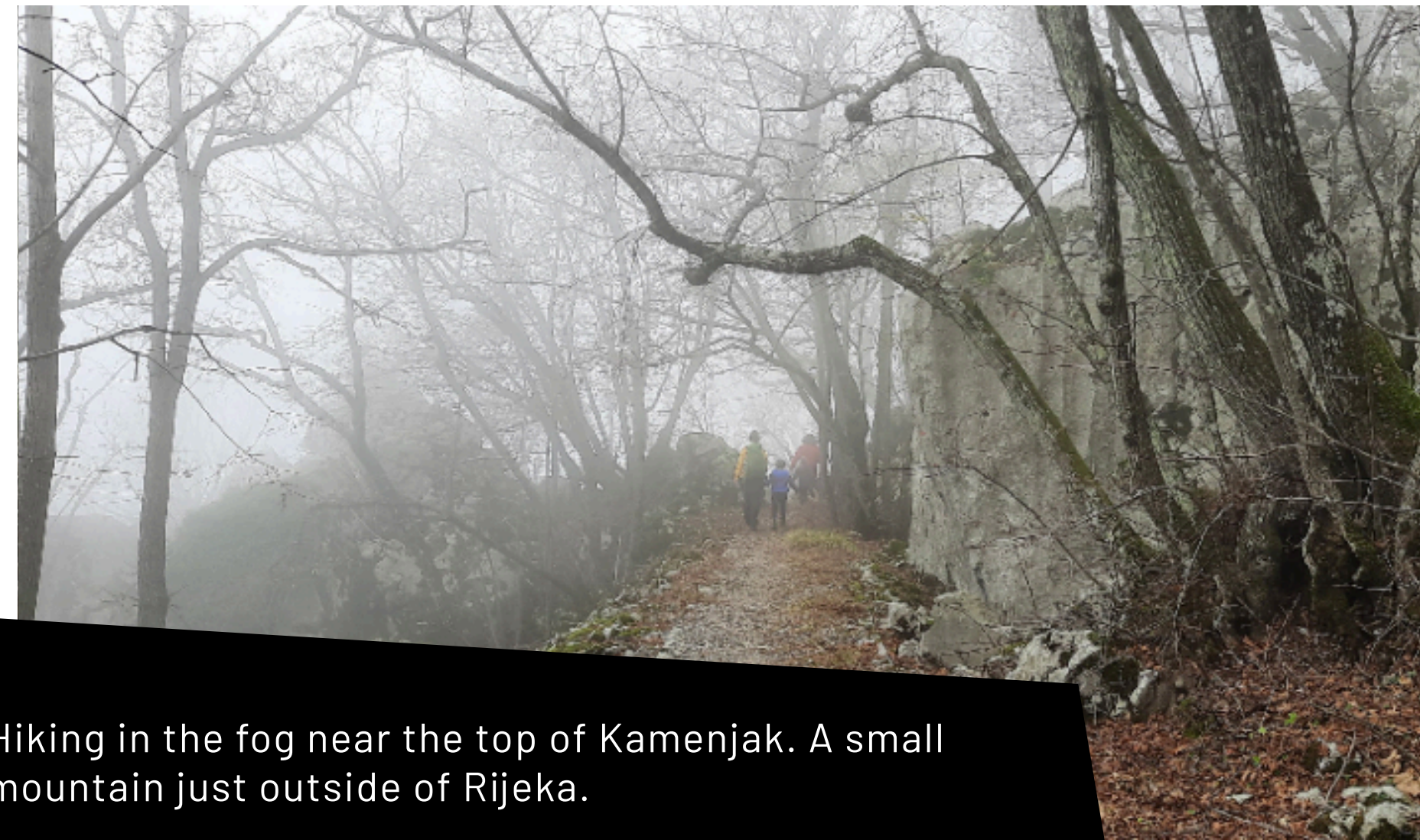
Croatia's terrain is diverse and offers a range of opportunities for adventurers and nature lovers.

## Beaches

As a coastal city Rijeka is surrounded by a number of beaches. Beaches at Sablićevo and Pecine can be walked to from the Trsat Campus (20-30mins; ~2km). Other beaches can be reached with a short bus trip and include Kostrena, Kantrida and Preluk. If you are happy to take a longer bus trip you can take route 32 to reach beaches in Mošćenička Draga and Brseč.



The beach in Njivice on the island of Krk, near to Rijeka's airport. [Note the photo was taken in November]



Hiking in the fog near the top of Kamenjak. A small mountain just outside of Rijeka.

## Mountains and National Parks

Croatia has a large number of national and nature parks and the region surrounding Rijeka is no different. To the north of Rijeka is the mountain of Učka and inland (to the East) are mountains including Platak and Snježnak that sit on the edge of the Risnjak National Park. These are popular destinations for hiking and mountaineering activities.

## Further afield

The world famous Plitvice Lakes National Park is a series of crystal clear lakes with hundreds of waterfalls, wooden pathways connect the lakes and allow you to walk next to the waterfalls (~4hrs away by coach).

# Cultural Events

---

Rijeka was the 2020 European Capital of Culture and has a vibrant cultural scene that caters to a large range of tastes.

## Theatre and Concerts

Regular theatre productions and concerts are put on in Rijeka's National Theatre and the Croatian Cultural Center (HKD) and many smaller productions are organised at other venues (such as the Sports Centre on Trsat).

## Seasonal Events

Numerous seasonal events happen annually including the International Carnival (in February) and the Advent Market (in December).

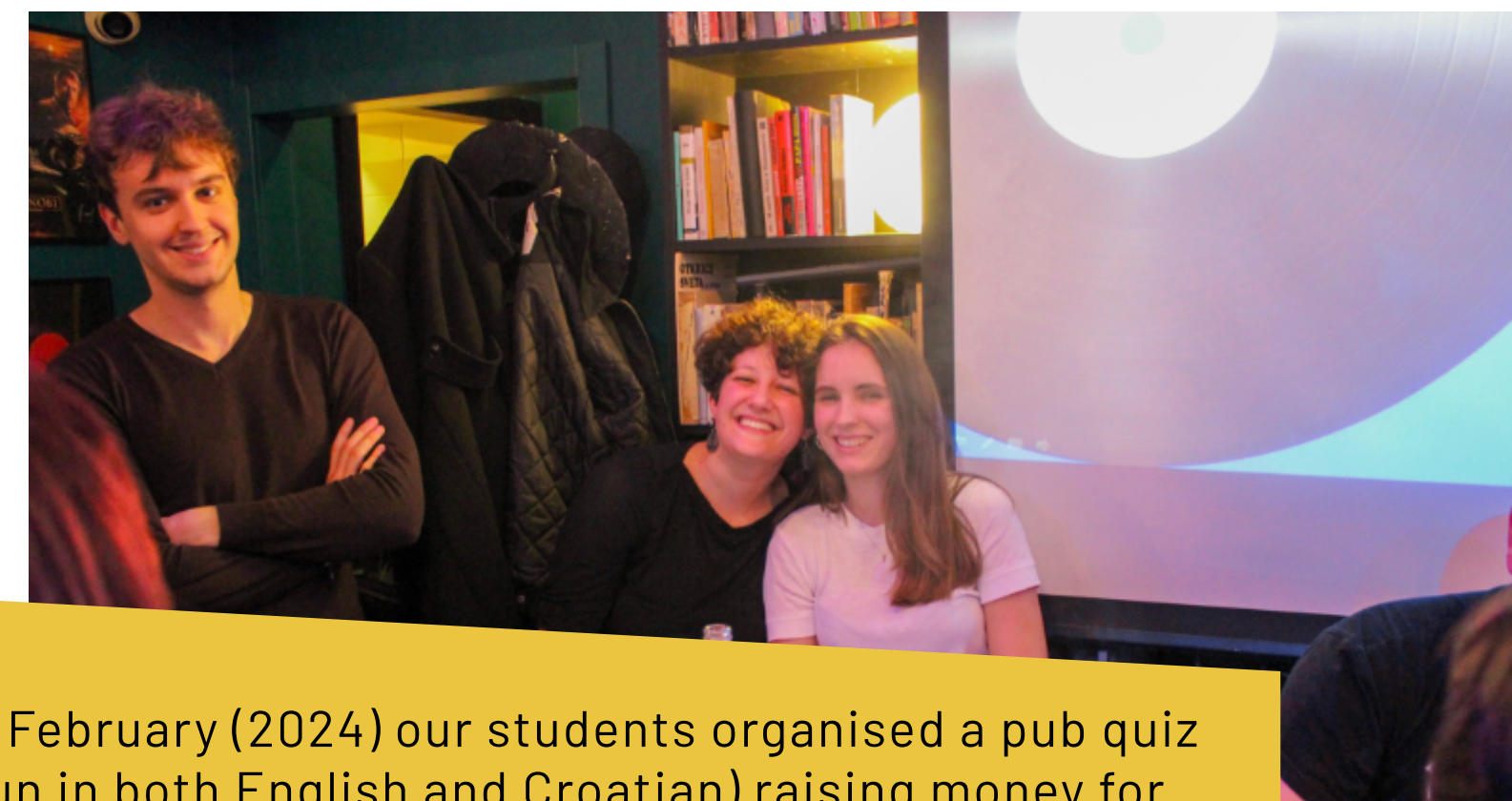


Props from a play held in the ruins of a large church in Kastav

## Student Oriented Events

---

Rijeka's Student Union (Studentski zbor) and numerous Student Associations put on a range of events for students including trips, pub quizzes and music events. You can choose to join whichever Student Associations take your interest.



In February (2024) our students organised a pub quiz (run in both English and Croatian) raising money for the local charity Portić

## Further afield

In the neighbouring region of Istria many towns put on events throughout the year that attract international visitors. These include the Motovun Film Festival and Rovinj Spring Jazz festival.

# Sport and Exercise

---

Sports are a big part of Croatian life. The most popular team sports include Football, Handball, Water Polo and Basketball. In Rijeka, there are a large number of sports clubs, organisations and facilities that will allow you to take up almost anything you want.

Next to the Faculty is an outdoor running track - that can be used at any time. Trsat also has the Dvorana Mladosti Sports hall which hosts a gym for weightlifting and rooms used for martial arts, table tennis and billiards. The main hall is also used for handball, basketball, volleyball and badminton.



Public swimming pools and a diving pool can be found in Kantrida - useful for when it is too cold to swim from the beach below the complex.

Other major sports infrastructure around Rijeka include the public swimming (and diving) pools in Kantrida, football pitches, tennis courts, indoor athletics centres, climbing walls and a chess hall. There is also a ski resort on the nearby mountain of Platak that can be used in the winter.



The former stadium of Rijeka's football club is now used for athletics and football

## At home

If you opt to stay in the student dormitory there are basketball hoops and table tennis tables located outside. You can also use the gym, that is located in the dormitory.