

STUDENT WORK IN SLOVENIA

What is student work?

In Slovenia students can work through the instrument called student work i.e. temporary and part time work for secondary school pupils, high-school and university students. Student work is only allowed for secondary school pupils and students and it is based on the student status (approximately from 15 till the end of the studies). They can work via a special type of contract called referral forms/referrals, which can be obtained in employment agencies specialised for student work. Student work represents 3% of the whole labour market (in 2013 that was 230 million EUR).

Brokerage of temporary and part time work to secondary school pupils and students (“student work agency”)

The agency that has concluded a concession contract for brokerage of temporary and part-time work to secondary school pupils, high-school and university students with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities can engage in the brokerage activity.

How is student work different from other types of work?

Student works is different because it is only allowed for secondary school pupils and students and because of its temporary nature. It is taxed less than regular work – the employer pays 30 % tax for student work (25 % of concession charge + value added tax) and the contribution for insurance for injuries at work and occupational diseases which is 4.58 EUR a month (data for year 2014). Its specialty is also the division of the concession charge. 25 % of concession charge is divided to 15.4 % (for state scholarship fund to finance scholarships for pupils and students in Slovenia), 3.8 % (for work brokerage), 3.8 % (for financing student organizations in Slovenia) and 2 % (for state budget to finance student housing and improvement of study conditions at universities). Lump sum contribution for the pension and disability insurance is paid yearly for each student by student work agency (9.64 EUR data 2014).

Types of student jobs and experiences

Students can perform different student jobs, from help in administration, bar service to professional work connected to their field of studies such as help in accounting services, computer programming, project work. However, regardless of the type of work students perform, they can obtain valuable skills and competencies that help them later in life. Research (Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2014) shows that 64.6 % of the students who performed student work during schooling were after finishing school employed at one of the companies where they worked as students.

ILO awarded practice

Since 2012 there is also a tool for validation and recognition of non-formal knowledge gained through student work in Slovenia called “Moje izkušnje /My experience”. In 2014 “Moje izkušnje /My experience” has been awarded second prize of the Call for good practices on decent work, an initiative launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Average income and average working days

Student work is an opportunity for students to obtain work experience already during studies, but many also have to work because of the bad financial situation of their family in order to earn money for their studies.

The number of days or hours is not officially limited, however the nature of “student work” according to legislation has to be temporary, and is subject to employment legislation limitations. The students on average work 65 days per year as their studies mostly don’t allow them to work more. Youth on average earn 185 EUR/month net earnings via student work (vs. average monthly wage for regular employment in April 2014 was 1001.03 EUR net).