



SVEUČILIŠTE U SPLITU  
MEDICINSKI FAKULTET  
UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## **MEDICAL STUDIES IN ENGLISH**

guide to integrated undergraduate and graduate university studies



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**UNIVERSITY  
OF SPLIT**



## **Facts and figures:**

- ✦ Established in 1974
- ✦ 11 Faculties, 1 Academy, 5 University Departments
- ✦ Around 20,000 students
- ✦ 79 undergraduate study programs (university and professional level)
- ✦ 10 integrated undergraduate and graduate study programs
- ✦ 66 graduate study programmes (university and specialist level)
- ✦ 29 postgraduate study programmes



**Welcome to the  
school where**

**S**tudents and

**P**rofessors

**L**earn and

**I**nnovate

**T**ogether!





**SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE**

University of Split School of Medicine (USSM) was established as an independent faculty on 26th March 1997 and it is today the most prominent faculty of the University in Split.



#### **4 university teaching programs:**

- \* Medicine
- \* Dental Medicine
- \* Pharmacy (in collaboration with the Faculty of Chemistry and Technology)
- \* Medical Studies in English

#### **3 postgraduate doctoral study programs:**

- \* Evidence-based Medicine
- \* Biology of Neoplasms
- \* Translational Research in Biomedicine



## Why study at the USSM:

- ✦ The University of Split is a young and vibrant university on the Croatian Adriatic coast, with increasing visibility in the global research and academic community.
- ✦ The University of Split School of Medicine offers teaching in small multicultural groups (students from 21 countries) in new and modern equipped classrooms close to its teaching hospitals Firule and Križine.
- ✦ USSM boasts excellence in teaching and research, culture of innovation and interdisciplinary approach, as well as extensive partnerships with the world's best universities, including formal partnerships with REGIOMED-Kliniken in Germany, Medical College of Wisconsin and Penn State University in the USA.
- ✦ School of Medicine is a dynamic School, but with experienced and motivated scientific and teaching staff.
- ✦ The School of Medicine supports student exchange and mobility and takes part in the ERASMUS+ program (incoming and outgoing students).
- ✦ As a USSM student you can spend a semester or more at one of USSM's partner institutions or do a traineeship (minimum 2 months stay) at institution of your choice.
- ✦ The Graduate school includes scientific and specialist postgraduate studies open to international students.

*Moving to Split and educating myself was quite possibly the best decision I have made so far. During my 6 years here I was able to be trained by some of the finest professors and physicians, but most importantly I have made lifetime friends from all over the world. I will miss my time here and encourage anyone to come to our school.*

*Michael Lem, USA*

# Come to Split to get connected with the global academic community

work with us in providing excellence in medical care for global needs.



- ✱ USSM has first-class infrastructure for teaching and research and an excellent living environment for students at the heart of the Mediterranean.

## USSM facilities

- ✱ basic medical sciences building (building A): 4310 m<sup>2</sup> (4 departments, 10 laboratories, 40 teaching departments)
- ✱ building for teaching and administration (building B): 4690 m<sup>2</sup> (offices, seminar halls, amphitheater, future School's outpatient centre)
- ✱ hotel for guest lecturers with a restaurant and a café for teachers and students (building C): 1100 m<sup>2</sup>
- ✱ Pathology and Anatomy Complex: 2800 m<sup>2</sup>



**MEDICAL STUDIES  
IN ENGLISH PROGRAM**

**Open to:** foreign citizens and Croatian citizens living abroad.

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**Established:** 2011

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**Academic title:** Doctor of Medicine (MD)  
366 ECTS credits

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**Duration:** 6-year curriculum  
governed by the Bologna process

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**Annual quota:** 70 students  
(two categories) \*

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**Annual tuition fee:** 12.000 EUR

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\*

**Category 1:**

40 students who attend all 6 years of the Program at the USSM and its collaborative teaching organizations in the Republic of Croatia.

**Category 2:**

30 students who attend the first 3 years of the Program at the USSM and its collaborative teaching organizations in Republic of Croatia and the last 3 years of the Program are organized at USSM's collaborative teaching organization REGIOMED-KLINIKEN in Germany.



**APPLICATION  
AND ADMISSION**

Applicants who completed secondary school education and passed the final exam are eligible to apply (total duration of previous education of minimum 12 years).

## Application requirements

### Obligatory:

- \* Filled application form
- \* Proof of nationality (*domovnica*) for Croatian citizens; passport or ID card photocopy (for foreign citizens)
- \* Birth certificate
- \* Originals or certified copies of degrees i.e. secondary school diplomas and the final exam diploma\*
- \* Proof of knowledge of English language\*\*
- \* CV with photography and a motivation letter for applying to the Medical Studies in English Program
- \* Proof of payment of the application fee in the amount of 200 EUR paid to the University of Split School of Medicine

\*Candidates who have completed their prior education abroad are required to submit the decision on **recognition of foreign qualification from Agency for Science and Higher Education** to the University of Split School of Medicine (USSM) after the selection procedure in case they are admitted for the purpose of being legally allowed to continue university education in the Republic of Croatia.

\*\*one of the following: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)), **unless** prior education was in English language or English is the mother tongue.

## **Additional**

**(not obligatory, but can bring advantage in the selection procedure):**

- \* Results of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) exam
- \* Transcript of records and proof of grade point average from completed university education (natural sciences college or university program with Biology, Chemistry or Physics as the major subject);
- \* SAT Reasoning Test score (Biology, Physics and Chemistry);
- \* Recommendation letters.

Applications are submitted online through the School of Medicine website. Admission portal opens end of February and closes mid-June. Applications submitted after deadline are not considered.

## **Admission**

After the preselection, candidates will be invited for an interview in front of the Selection Committee. Interviews with candidates are organized online.

Tuition fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> study year must be paid in full within one week from the date of receiving the formal notification of acceptance. Upon completion of the payment, the candidate is considered to be officially enrolled into the Program. All tuition fees are non-refundable.

## Transfers to the USSM

Transfers to USSM are also possible. Two major conditions for the transfer are the compatibility of the programs (Transfers are possible only from human medicine study programs implemented at the universities in the EU and in the EEA member states, i.e., from the universities with which the School has a collaboration agreement) and the right to enroll into higher year at the current university. The number of available slots is very limited and it is based on the number of students who failed to enroll into a higher year of education at the UUSM. Information about the number of free slots is available in September, after all exam terms. For more information for transfers, please contact the USSM Student Office.

*Participating in the Medical Studies in English in Split is a great experience and opportunity not only because of the beautiful location - University with sea view. Teaching is performed in English language with internationally recognized literature providing a good foundation and knowledge for taking USMLE or other medical licensing exams in English language. Who doesn't want to go through the trouble of taking an additional licensing exam has plenty of opportunities for working in the European Union, as the program is designed in accordance to the European Higher Education Area and Bologna Process. It is the ideal solution for somebody who wants to keep all doors open.*

*Martin Kowalski, Germany*





**CURRICULUM**

## Knowledge and skills

The curriculum is governed by Bologna regulations, recommendations and principles in accordance with the University book of regulations for higher education and with the University of Split School of Medicine Regulations on Study Programs.

The choice of this type of education is based on the perception of medical education as a source of knowledge, skills and attitudes where teaching units, at the end of the program, integrate the previously acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes into medical care for a patient. Knowledge and skills are acquired gradually during the program, and then integrated into clinical rotations which train the student for independent medical work under appropriate supervision. Knowledge is acquired through the study of natural sciences, followed by basic medical sciences and finally clinical sciences. Skills are acquired through learning clinical skills and practicing clinical medicine.

## Duration

The medical profession is a so called 'regulated profession' at the EU level and therefore it is exempt from the recommended segmentation of educational processes into undergraduate and graduate programs.

Duration of the program is six years and contains 6030 hours of direct teaching.

The academic year starts on the first Monday in October and ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September. It is not divided into semesters and classes are held in blocks for each subject.

## Exams

The first examination period begins a few days (counting weekends and holidays) after the end of each course. The second examination period is held between 16<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July, and the third and the fourth are held in September. The fourth examination period is always held in front of an examination committee.

## Grading and credit system

The grading scheme consists of the following grades: outstanding or excellent (5), very good (4), good (3), sufficient (2), and insufficient (1). The grade insufficient (1) is not a passing grade and is written only in the registration form, test sheet and Information System of Higher Education Institutions.

## Courses and departments

### 1<sup>st</sup> study year

- \* Anatomy
- \* Clinical Skills One
- \* Croatian language I
- \* Elective courses x2
- \* Medical Biology
- \* Introduction to Medicine and History of Medicine
- \* Medical Physics and Biophysics
- \* Physical Education I
- \* Research in Biomedicine and Health I
- \* Social Medicine
- \* Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry I

### 2<sup>nd</sup> study year

- \* Basic Neuroscience
- \* Clinical Skills Two
- \* Croatian language II
- \* Elective courses x2
- \* Immunology
- \* Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry II
- \* Medical Humanities II – Medical Ethics I
- \* Physical Education II
- \* Physiology
- \* Research In Biomedicine And Health II
- \* Histology and Embryology

### 3<sup>rd</sup> study year

- \* Clinical Skills III - Clinical Propedeutics
- \* Elective courses x2
- \* Basics of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology
- \* Medical Humanities III and Medical Ethics II
- \* Pathology
- \* Pathophysiology
- \* Pharmacology
- \* Psychological Medicine I
- \* Research In Biomedicine And Health III

### 5<sup>th</sup> study year

- \* Anesthesiology and Intensive Medicine
- \* Elective courses x2
- \* Epidemiology
- \* Gynecology and Obstetrics
- \* Maxillofacial Surgery and Dental Medicine
- \* Medical Humanities and Ethics IV
- \* Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
- \* Surgery
- \* Ophthalmology
- \* Occupational and Naval Medicine with Medical Ecology
- \* Orthopaedics
- \* Otorhinolaryngology
- \* Urology
- \* Palliative Care

### 4<sup>th</sup> study year

- \* Radiology
- \* Clinical Microbiology and Parasitology
- \* Elective courses x2
- \* Infectology
- \* Internal Medicine
- \* Medical Humanities IV - Medical Ethics III
- \* Neurology
- \* Neurosurgery
- \* Nuclear Medicine
- \* Psychiatry
- \* Psychological Medicine II
- \* Dermatovenerology
- \* Laboratory diagnostics

### 6<sup>th</sup> study year

- \* Clinical Rotations
- \* Elective course
- \* Family Medicine
- \* Forensic Medicine
- \* Health Care Organization and Health Economics
- \* Laboratory Diagnostics
- \* Medical Humanities VI – Medical Ethics V
- \* Pediatrics
- \* Clinical Oncology
- \* Medical Genetics
- \* Diploma thesis



**PRACTICAL  
INFORMATION  
FOR STUDENTS**

## Welcome Day and enrolment week

The Welcome Day for first year students is organized in the last week of September. During Welcome Day students fill in the enrollment papers and receive all the necessary information about the program. Colleagues from higher years give presentations about the School of Medicine, student life and anything new students might be interested in. At the end, tour of the faculty is be organized.

Enrollment into higher years also takes place during the last week in September according to the schedule available on our website.

Academic year usually starts on the first day of October with the White Coat Ceremony.

## OIB number (personal identification number)

According to the national legislation, foreign citizens who intend to study in Croatia must regulate their temporary residence. The first step is getting an OIB number.

In order to get the OIB number, following documents have to be submitted to the Tax Department, address: Domovinskog rata 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, office no. 3, office hours: 07:30 – 14:30):

- \* Completed form for the assignment of OIB
- \* Passport – the original needs to be presented for inspection, and a copy should be attached to the application. If a foreign citizen does not hold a passport, they need to submit either the European Identity Card (citizens of the European Union) or the Identification document issued by their country with proof of citizenship

OIB number is crucial information for your registration in our educational system and you must bring it to the Office for Medical Studies in English at latest on the Welcome day.

## Health insurance

Prior to approving your application for temporary stay, you will have to arrange your health insurance.

Health insurance rights, for students arriving from European Union countries, can be gained by obtaining the EU Insurance Card. Please be aware that some private health insurances will make you ineligible for the EU Insurance Card. In that case you will have to purchase health insurance from a Croatian Health Insurance Agency ([www.hzzo.hr](http://www.hzzo.hr), cost **60 Euro/monthly**). Make sure to check with your insurance before arriving to Split.

**NOTE:** In the event of unforeseen illness, injury or accident, the EHIC enables access to health care that cannot be postponed until the holder's planned return to the home country. The costs are covered by the national health care provider in the holder's country of permanent residence, and the holder is obligated to cover only the participation fees in Croatia, if they are mandatory for Croatian insurance holders as well. The EHIC does not cover the costs of planned medical treatment or health care services with private providers.

## Visa and temporary stay permit

Foreign students are required to obtain an approval for temporary stay. All students must report their stay in Croatia to the Central Police Station.



Students who need a Visa to enter Croatia are obligated to start the procedure in their home country, prior to their arrival in Split. For more information whether you need a visa and how to obtain it please contact **Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices of Croatia** (<http://www.mvep.hr>).

**NOTE:** If you have Croatian citizenship, you don't need to get temporary stay permit. You will just have to go to the Police station together with your landlord and they will register your stay in Split.

### **EU countries + Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and the Swiss Confederation**

The following documents must be presented for temporary residence for the purpose of studying:

- \* application form (1B)
- \* valid passport or ID-card;
- \* confirmation of enrolment at a higher education institution in Croatia (you will get it in the student office)



- \* copy of the EU health insurance card (some private insurances are recognized as well)
- \* declaration of financial capacity – for example last statement of your bank account or form, that you can get at the police station,
- \* a proof of accommodation in Split (contract certified by Public Notary)
- \* OIB number (if you already have it)
- \* **NOTE:** 1 photo 30 x 35 mm is needed for issuing of Croatian ID card for foreign citizens.

Students are strongly advised to get all relevant original documents prior to arrival in Croatia.

### **Non EU countries**

You will need the following documents:

- \* application form (1A)
- \* 1 photo 30 x 35 mm
- \* valid passport
- \* documentation of financial capacity – statement from bank
- \* proof of accommodation in Split (contract certified by Public Notary)
- \* health insurance valid in Croatia (some private insurances are recognized)
- \* confirmation of enrolment at a higher education institution in Croatia (you will get it in the student office)
- \* OIB number (if you already have it)

Passport of citizens from of non EU countries citizens seeking a temporary residence permit must be valid for at least three months longer than the date of the temporary residence permit.

Students who already have the temporary residence permit and need to prolong it, have to submit their requests for prolongation one month before the expiry date of the permit at the latest.

Non-EU citizens have to renew their stay each academic year.

## Student identity card

Student identity card (X card, or so called „*iksica*“) is a document that proves the student status and provides student with certain benefits such as subsidized meals at Student restaurants and cafeterias all over Croatia (only EU citizens), subsidized public transport, discounts on tickets for bus and rail transport, discounts on tickets to the cinema and theatre etc. X-card can be used only by the person to whom it was issued and it is valid until the date by which the student has a valid registration of the year/semester at the institution. Student will get the X-card in the student office within one month upon registration in educational system (enrollment).



## Student organizations at USSM

Students have organized a Facebook group for helping potential candidates and current students. It is a closed group, but every USSM student can join.

**Facebook group:** Medical Studies in English - International Students' Association - ISA

ANSA Croatia – an organization of Norwegian and all other international students who actively participate in the organiza-

tion of students' life and entertainment. It also gives great support and insight to life in Split for all incoming students.

**Facebook group:** ANSA Croatia | @ANSAkroatia



## Accommodation

Foreign students will have to get private accommodation. There are various private agencies that can assist in this process. For help in finding an apartment in Split you can contact real estate agencies. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure to sign a contract for the whole period of stay to avoid problems with accommodation during the tourist season (starting after Easter)

Croatian citizens are permitted to apply for student housing which is partially covered by Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.



# ABOUT SPLIT

**Split** is the second largest city in Croatia, situated in the heart of Dalmatia, a Croatian region characterized by warm and pleasant climate and the Mediterranean culture. The town itself is 17 centuries old, with the Roman emperor Diocletian's palace in the core of today's town. Diocletian's Palace and the entire historical core of Split have been on the World Heritage UNESCO list since 1979, not only for the extraordinary preservation of the Palace, but also because the Palace and its city continue to live a full life. Today, Split is an important Croatian cultural, tourist and sport center, international port and the second largest university center in Croatia.

- \* County: Split – Dalmatia
- \* Population: 161 312 (2021 census)
- \* Postal code: HR-21000
- \* Sunny days per year: 108
- \* Average temperature: 15.8°C
- \* Average sea temperature: 17.3°C
- \* Warmest month: July (25.4°C)
- \* Coldest month: January (7.4°C)

## How to reach Split and the USSM

Split is served by an airport located in the city of Kaštela (about 25 km outside of Split), ferries, buses and trains (train and long-haul buses stations are located in the city center, at the port).

### Reaching the city center from the airport:

- \* By airport shuttle - The official airport bus is organized in cooperation with Pleso prijevoz company and is located in front of the airport building. Bus timetable is available online on the bus station website [www.ak-split.hr/en/](http://www.ak-split.hr/en/) (search timetable for arrivals to

Split, selecting airport shuttle bus). You can buy the ticket from the driver. This bus does not have any stops before Split, and it takes about 40 min to get to Split. It takes you to the city port and close to the city centre.

- \* By taxi - Multiple taxis are available in front of the airport (Radio Taxi, Green Taxi, Cammeo).
- \* By UBER - There is also Uber service for this region so you can download the app.
- \* If you are travelling by car, you can reach Split via A1 Highway (approximately four-hour drive from Zagreb).

### **Local transport**

Split has bus lines numbered from 1 to 19. Day buses 1 through 18 run from 05:00 to 23:00. There is only one night bus, number 19, which runs on Fridays and Saturdays. Maps and schedules for each line can be found at the bus stops and online at Promet Split website [www.promet-split.hr](http://www.promet-split.hr). Promet Split also has an app for bus schedules and purchasing tickets. Split is covered by one zone, so the ticket is good for one trip anywhere in the city.

The School of Medicine address is **Šoltanska 2**. If you take a bus from “Pazar” (the green market), exit at the 5th stop “Križine” (not counting the 1st one). You can take buses number 3, 5, 8, or 17 (17 takes a slightly different route but you still exit at the 5th stop)

## Practical tips

- \* **Tap water** in Split is safe to drink. Numerous public places have water fountains with potable water as well.
- \* In Croatia the power sockets are of type C and F like in the rest of Europe. The **standard voltage** is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.
- \* Split is generally a **safe city**, but exercise caution and common sense. Protect your valuables.
- \* **Official language** is Croatian, but most people speak English.

For more information about Split:

[www.visitsplit.com](http://www.visitsplit.com)

[www.split.info](http://www.split.info)

[www.total-croatia-news.com/destination-split](http://www.total-croatia-news.com/destination-split)

*Studying Medicine at MEFST whilst surrounded by sun, sea and Islands is a decision I do not regret. I have found the quality of teaching excellent with professors using many creative ways to reinforce our knowledge throughout the different modules. The small classes and practical groups allows us to have more opportunity for 1-1 patient and teacher contact. The structure of the degree at MEFST is designed to ease us in to clinical practice whilst ensuring we go in with a strong theoretical background. Having the opportunity of meeting people from all walks of life has made my experience at MEFST a memorable one.*

*Hishaam Ashraf, UK*

## Tourist attractions

- \* Diocletian's Palace and Cathedral of Saint Domnius in Split
- \* Marjan hill and forest
- \* Historic old city of Trogir (located 27 kilometres from Split)
- \* rafting on Cetina river and sightseeing in Omiš (an old port, reminder of the pirate history)
- \* Krka National Park with waterfalls
- \* Day trips to one of the nearby islands

## Events in Split

- \* JazZima (jazz concerts) / *January & February*
- \* Museum Night (free entrance to most Croatian museums), Carnival and Split half marathon / *February*
- \* Festival of Flowers in the Diocletian's Palace and Celebration of Saint Domnius (Sveti Duje), patron saint of the city / *May*
- \* Mediterranean Film Festival Split / *June*
- \* Ultra Europe (EDM three-day festival) and Split Summer Festival (Theatre) / *July*
- \* Sinjska Alka in Sinj (an equestrian competition held since 1715 which commemorates a Croatian-Venetian victory over Ottomans) / *August*
- \* Split Film Festival and Mrduja Regatta / *October*
- \* Christmas Market (Advent) in Split / *December*





# NOTES

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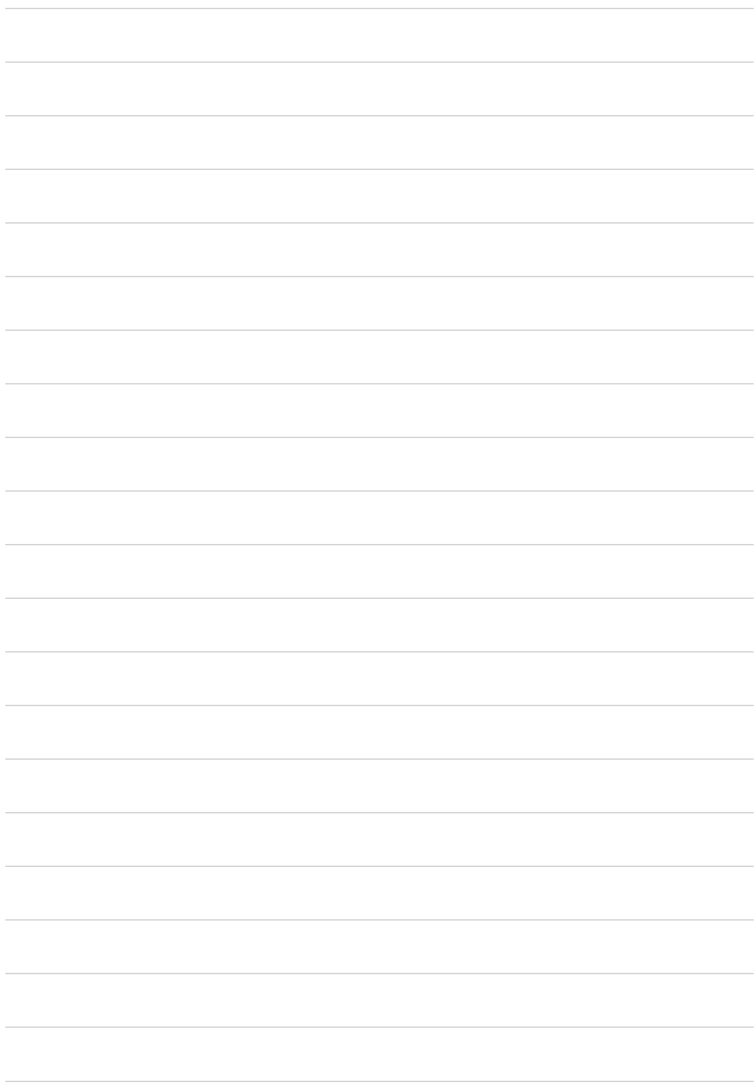
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*Be part of our family, be part of our university, and be the change!*

*Melissa Schwalb, Germany*

## CONTACT

Office for Medical Studies in English

[www.mefst.unist.hr/en](http://www.mefst.unist.hr/en)

**e-mail:** [student\\_office@mefst.hr](mailto:student_office@mefst.hr)

**tel:** +385 21 557 824, +385 21 557 924

### **International Relations Office**

Erasmus coordinator

[erasmus@mefst.hr](mailto:erasmus@mefst.hr)

### **Address:**

University of Split School of Medicine

Šoltanska 2, 21000 Split, Croatia