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Grading system
IRO and Faculty Coordinators
International Relations Office

Visiting Hours: Monday - Friday (10:00 am - 12:00 am)

Sofia University, Rectorate
15, Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd.,
floor 1, rooms 5 and 19
intern@admin.uni-sofia.bg
WELCOME NOTE

Dear Erasmus Student,

The Team of the International Relations Office has the pleasure to welcome you at Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski!

We would like to provide you with practical information that could be necessary during your study as an Erasmus student.

We hope this information will be helpful to you and we would like you to know that we are always at your service to help you and make your participation in Erasmus Student Mobility easier and enjoyable!

We wish you a fruitful, exciting and unforgettable mobility period at Sofia University!
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Brief history

Founded in 1888 Sofia University was named after Saint Clement of Ohrid, a medieval Bulgarian scholar, who was also the first bishop to preach in the Old Bulgarian language.

Sofia University is the oldest school of higher education in the country. Its birth date is October 1, 1888, when the Higher Pedagogical Class at the First Boys' High School in Sofia was founded. The first class consisted of 43 students, all male. Two thirds of them were scholarship holders. The 7 lecturers (4 of them working full time and 3 part time) all had European degrees and scholarly achievements. A law passed on December 18th, 1888 transformed the Higher Pedagogical Class into a School of Higher Education.

The first elected Rector was Alexander Theodorov – Balan, who had degrees from the universities of Prague and Leipzig and a doctorate from Prague University, and taught linguistics, dialectology and Slavic philology. In 1891 the first class of 34 students graduated from the Department of History and Philology and the next year a class of 23 graduated from the Department of Physics and Mathematics. In 1892 a third department – the School of Law – was founded, with 67 students and professors. At the end of 1894 a royal decree approved a Law of Higher Education and the departments became faculties. The Faculties of Medicine and Theology were added to the School of Higher Education and in 1904 it was transformed into a University.

Saint Clement of Ohrid (840 – 916) was a medieval Bulgarian saint, scholar, writer and enlightener of the Slavs. He was the most prominent disciple of Saints Cyril and Methodius and is often associated with the creation of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic scripts, especially their popularization among Christianized Slavs. He was the founder of the Ohrid Literary School and is regarded as a patron of education and language by some Slavic nations. He is regarded to be the first bishop of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, one of the seven Apostles of the Bulgarian Empire (Bulgaria), the patron saint of the Republic of Macedonia, the city of Ohrid and the Macedonian Orthodox Church.
Administrative structure of the University

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<td></td>
<td>Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
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- Vice-rector of Research and Project Affairs
- Vice-rector of Education: Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs
- Vice-rector of Education: PhD Students and Continuing Education
- Vice-rector of Estates, Facilities and Economic Affairs
- Vice-rector of Information Activities, Academic Staff and Administration
- Functional Vice-rector of PhD school and International Relations

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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of History</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 987 62 92 (+359 2) 930 82 23 (+359 2) 946 30 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Philosophy</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 987 10 46 (+359 2) 930 83 51 (+359 2) 943 44 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Some of the departments of the Faculty are located at 4th Kilometer Campus - 125, Tsarigradsko shosse Blvd., bl. 1 &amp; 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 930 83 81 (+359 2) 846 82 90 (+359 2) 846 51 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Some of the departments of the Faculty are located at the Centre for Eastern Languages and Cultures, 79, Todor Alexandrov Blvd.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Slavic Studies</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 987 10 68 (+359 2) 930 83 89 (+359 2) 988 14 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 930 85 77 (+359 2) 944 32 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 930 85 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Preschool and Primary School Education</td>
<td>1574 Sofia, 69A Shipchenski Prohod Str.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 872 08 93 (+359 2) 970 62 01, 970 62 02, 970 62 03 (+359 2) 872 23 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication</td>
<td>1000 Sofia, 49 Moskovska Str.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 930 82 02 (+359 2) 986 17 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics</td>
<td>1164 Sofia, 5 James Bourchier Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 816 15 00 (+359 2) 868 71 80 (+359 2) 868 71 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Physics</td>
<td>1164 Sofia, 5 James Bourchier Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 816 14 47 (+359 2) 962 52 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy</td>
<td>1164 Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd.</td>
<td>(+ 359 2) 816 14 23 (+ 359 2) 962 54 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Biology</td>
<td>1164 Sofia, 8 Dragan Tsankov Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 865 66 41 (+359 2) 816 73 00 (+359 2) 865 66 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Geology and Geography</td>
<td>1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 930 83 85 (+359 2) 944 64 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
<td>1407 Sofia, 1 Kozyak Str.</td>
<td>(+359 2) 868 71 40 (+359 2) 962 47 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Theology</td>
<td>1000 Sofia, 19 Sveta Nedelya Sq.</td>
<td>(+ 359 2) 989 01 15 (+ 359 2) 987 25 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Economics and Business Administration</td>
<td>1113 Sofia, 125 Tsarigradsko Shose Blvd., bl.3</td>
<td>(+359 2) 873 83 10 (+359 2) 873 99 41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department of Language Teaching**

1111 Sofia, 27 Kosta Lulchev Str. | (+359 2) 872 20 41 | Buses 9, 72 Tramway 20

**Prof. Ivan Duychev Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies**

1618 Sofia, 18 Prof. Ivan Duychev Str. | (+359 2) 856 49 82; 955 45 47; 856 30 66 | Tramway 5

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**University campuses**

The main building of the University (The Rectorate) is one of Sofia’s architectural landmarks. It is designed by the Bulgarian architect Yordan Milanov, who based his conception on the design
initially proposed by the French architect Henri Breasson. The construction started on June 30th, 1924, and the building was officially opened on December 16th, 1934. The funding came from the donation made by the brothers Evlogi and Hristo Georgiev, the University’s first and biggest benefactors. The Georgiev brothers bequeathed money and land for the construction of a building to house the country’s higher educational establishment “where the future generations can learn to value, protect and make good use of the blessings that have come upon Bulgaria in these happy times of ours.” The bronze statues of Evlogi and Hristo Georgiev, the work of the sculptor Kiril Shivarov, can be seen on the sides of the main entrance.

The Rectorate houses, the offices of the Rector and the Vice-Rectors, the University administration and 7 of its 16 faculties: those of History, Slavic Studies, Classical and Modern Philology, Philosophy, Law, Education, Geology and Geography. The remaining 9 faculties are located at various places in the wider city centre.

The Rectorate, the University Library and most of the other University campuses are situated in the city centre, within a short distance from Sofia’s most popular attractions - theatres, art galleries, museums, restaurants, parks and sports facilities.
The University Library at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski is one of the biggest scientific libraries in Bulgaria. It was opened in 1888 at the same time as the Institute of Higher Education in Sofia and today it plays a major role in the development of Bulgarian science and education.

The University Library caters to the needs of students, lecturers and staff of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

The registration of users is made at the Central University Library. At your arrival you may register as a reader in the library and benefit from its services and resources. For your registration you need to go to the Central University Library building (located within the university yard), certificate of enrolment or your ISIC card and a picture of yourself. The price for the reader’s card is 5 BGN. The reader’s card is valid for a calendar year and provides the right to use the collections and the services offered by the library.

Students are allowed to borrow for home use materials from the branch libraries only. According to the Instructions for preservation of library collections, the expensive and valuable library materials such as manuscripts, archive materials, incunabula, early Bulgarian printed books, rare publications and
reference editions, dissertations and other library materials, received by means of Interlibrary Loans, are not given for home use. According to Library specifications, users can be restricted to borrowing other library materials. Please bear in mind that the collections of the Central Library can be used only in the reading rooms there.

The University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski” is a structure, consisting of a Central Library and 26 branch libraries at different faculties, departments and other specialties of Sofia University.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Central University Library is located within Sofia University yard area.

☎ 9308-554 / 209, 457
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30

Reading Rooms: Monday to Saturday, 8:00-23:00

BRANCH LIBRARIES

ARCHEOLOGICAL Library

⚑ 1043 Sofia, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, South Rotunda
☎ 02/ 9308-564;
⏰ Monday to Friday , 8:30-12:00 /13:00-17:30
Reading places: 24 (incl. 2 PC workstations)

The Archeological Library maintains a highly specialized holdings
of 14,300 volumes of books, scientific journals, reference editions, CDs, DVDs in the field of archeology of Southeastern and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

**Biblioteca NORDICA**

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, 5th floor, Room 162

☎ 02/ 9308-406;

♀ Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30

Reading places: 17 (incl. 3 PC workstations)

The thematic scope of the Library’s collections, containg over 6,000 library items, is wide and varied – encyclopedias and reference books, dictionaries and textbooks, works on literature and linguistics, fiction, geographical albums, catalogs, audio and videotapes, CDs. There is a separate on-shelf collection of the most used educational materials in various fields of Scandinavian Studies, which continues to be enriched with new acquisitions.

**BIOLOGY Library**

1164 Sofia, 8 Dragan Tsankov Blvd., 1st floor, Room 103

☎ 02/ 8167-386; 8167-253;

♀ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 23

Today the Biological Library’s holdings consist of 81,900 volumes of books, periodicals, reference editions and electronic resources.

**CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY Library**

1164 Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd., 5th floor

☎ 02/ 8161-450;

♀ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 80 (incl. 17 PC workstations)

The Library maintains rich stock of periodicals and rare reference books in the field of chemical science, currently acquired with
the support of the German publisher Springer. Library holdings are comprised of over 75,000 library items (books, encyclopedias, periodical and reference editions, electronic resources).

**CLASSICAL STUDIES Library**

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, 4th floor, Room 189

☎ 02/ 9308-490;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 10:00-12:00

Wednesday 8:00-10:00

Reading places: 10

During the years the acquisition of books, periodicals and graphic editions in Classical Greek, Latin, Byzantine and Medieval Studies, as well as in history and archeology of the Classical Antiquity was given a high priority. Currently its holdings consist of 8,000 library items.

**EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE Library**

1303 Sofia, 79 Todor Alexandrov Blvd., 2nd floor

☎ 02/ 9308-315/ 109, 118;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 24 (General Reading Room-10; Japanese Studies Reading Room-14)

The Library contains 62,000 volumes: special editions and fiction, periodicals, maps & atlases, electronic resources in more than 30 languages on the language, literature, history, religion, architecture and culture of the countries of the East.

**ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION Library**

1113 Sofia, 124 Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd., Block 3, 5th floor

☎ 02/ 800-51-11 / 427;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-20:00

Reading places: 30 (incl. 20 PC workstations)
The Library holdings contain 32,000 volumes of books, periodicals and electronic resources. The library meets users’ demand in various fields of economics and is important place for academic work and individual preparation of students from the Faculty. It provides access to academic books and periodicals, as well as opportunities for independent search in databases in the field of economics, statistics, finance, organization, management and informatics.

**FRENCH Language Library**

- **1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, North Wing, 1st floor, Room 222**
- **Phone:** 02/ 9308-459;
- **Open:** Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30
- **Reading places:** 20

The library holdings are acquired primarily through donations and book exchange. Now they are comprised of 36,900 volumes of books, periodicals and reference editions. Prevailing genre is fiction, distributed by periods (Middle Ages, XV-XIX century, contemporary writers). The collection of literary criticism of French writers from the Middle Ages till present is unique in Bulgaria, as well as the collection of Francophone literature (Belgian, Canadian, Swiss).

**GEOCHEMISTRY Library**

- **1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, North Wing, 4th floor, Room 77**
- **Phone:** 02/ 9308-405;
- **Open:** Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30
- **Reading places:** 7

The library stores and maintains a highly specialized collection in the field of crystallography, mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry and geology. It consists of 17,230 volumes of books, periodicals, imprints, maps and cartographic publications, slides of minerals.
GEOGRAPHY Library

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, North Wing, 2nd floor, Room 262
☎ 02/ 9308-396;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 16 (incl. 3 PC workstations)

The library has a leading position in library and information services provision to students and teachers from all disciplines of the Faculty of Geology and Geography. It maintains a unique collection of maps and atlases, and as a whole possesses more than 60,000 library items (books, encyclopedias, periodicals and reference books, maps, atlases, electronic resources).

GEOLOGY Library

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, North Wing, 2nd floor, Room 213
☎ 02/ 9308-391;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30

Reading places: 6

The library maintains the richest library holdings on the Balkans in General Geology, Tectonics, Palaeontology, Stratigraphy, Coal, Oil and Natural Gas. Its holdings consist of 44,000 volumes of books, periodicals, maps, atlases, CDs and DVDs.

HISTORY Library

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, South Wing, Basement
☎ 02/ 9308-407;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 25 (incl. 11 PC workstations)

The library holdings contain over 62,000 volumes of books and periodicals in the field of general history, history of Bulgaria, archeology, ethnology, archive studies, arts, history of religions, cultural studies, sociology, political studies, etc. The library
maintains a rich Reference Books Collection that contains dictionaries, language and thematic atlases, albums in Bulgarian and foreign languages as well as rare editions in the history of the Bulgarian Revival. Provides library users free access to academic periodicals, databases and electronic resources in the field.

**JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS Library**

- 1000 Sofia, 49 Moskovska Str, 1st floor
- 02/ 9308-473;
- Monday to Friday, 8:30-12:00; 13:00-17:30
- Reading places: 18 (incl. 6 PC workstations)

The library is located in an entirely renovated premises. It offers general and special educational, scientific and reference library materials, covering a broad range of interest to Faculty's students and lecturers. Its holdings contain 18,000 volumes of books, periodicals, imprints and electronic resources.

**LAW Library**

- 1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, North Wing, 1st floor, Room 223
- 02/ 9308-372;
- Monday to Friday, 8:30-19:30
- Reading places: 85 (incl. 10 PC workstations)

The library has a very rich stock of legal literature of over 85,000 library items in different languages. It provides free access to scientific periodicals, part of legal printed sources and electronic resources. The library has 2 reading rooms and.

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES Library**

- 1113 Sofia, 125 Tsarigradsko Shose Blvd., building 1, 4th floor, room 415
- 02/ 870-60-73;
- Monday to Friday, 10:00-18:00
- Reading places: 12 (incl. 7 PC workstations)
The Library maintains a valuable special library fund in the fields of library studies, library’s organization and management, book science and book publishing, information brokering and management, information and communication technologies, cultural policy and museology, electronic libraries, integration processes, regional studies and bibliography. Its holdings consist of 3,159 volumes of books, periodicals and electronic resources in the field.

MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATICS Library

1126 Sofia, 5 James Bourchier Blvd, 5th floor, Room 1

02/ 8161-571, 8161-523;

Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30

Reading places: 19 (incl. 3 PC workstations)

The library maintains valuable and rich holdings, consisting of 87,000 volumes of books, periodicals, bibliographic and reference editions. It has 2 reading rooms.

MEDICINE Library

1407 Sofia, 1 Koziak Str., 4th floor

02/ 960-75-03;

Monday to Friday, 8:00-16:30

Reading places: 38 (incl. 6 PC workstations)

The library provides information and reference services to students and teachers from the newly opened Faculty of Medicine, as well as to Lozenets Hospital medical staff. Its holdings consist of 18,000 volumes of books and periodicals, CDs, DVDs and specialized databases.

PEDAGOGICAL Library

Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, South Wing, 2nd floor, Room 64

02/ 9308-479;

Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 6
The library has 52,800 items (monographs, periodicals, audio-visual materials). Its holdings for the most part consists of Bulgarian, Russian, German, English and French literature in the field of theory of education, educational management, didactics, pedagogical psychology, social work and informal education.

PHILOLOGICAL Library

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, 6th floor, Room 191
📞 02/ 9308-494; 9308-544;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-20:00

This is the largest branch library within the structure of the University Library. Its rich holdings contain 200,000 library items (books, periodicals, reference editions, dictionaries, electronic resources) in the field of linguistics, literature, literary history, literary criticism, literature in various languages, anthropology, folklore, linguistics, psycholinguistics, hermeneutics, pragmatics, semiotics and other disciplines.

PHILOSOPHY Library

1043 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia University, South Wing, Basement
📞 02/ 9308-390;
⏰ Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 25 (incl. 11 PC workstations)

Since 2007, the library is located in new premises with modern equipment, where its users have free access to the library holdings. They consist of 45,000 volumes of books, periodicals, reference and bibliographical editions, electronic resources.
PHYSICS Library

1164 Sofia, 5 James Bourchier Blvd., 1st floor

02/ 81-61-815;

Monday to Friday, 8:30-18:00

Reading places: 20 (incl. 3 PC workstations)

The library maintains valuable collections of monographs and periodicals in all branches of physics and astronomy. Its holdings consist of over 82,000 library items (books, periodicals, encyclopedias, rare and valuable editions in Astronomy, electronic resources).

PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION Library

1574 Sofia, 69A Shiptchenski Prohod Blvd., 3rd floor, Room 322

02/ 9706-249;

Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30

Reading places: 37 (incl. 5 PC workstations)

The library is a modern library which meets the needs of students, university teachers and teachers of courses for prequalification and post-graduate studies. Its holdings contain 35,000 library items (books, periodicals, albums, electronic resources) from different fields of knowledge – theory of education, didactics, pedagogy, teaching methodology, child and developmental psychology, logaeadics, medicine, children’s literature, art, music, etc.

SLAVIC AND BYZANTINE STUDIES Library

1618 Sofia, 18 Prof. Ivan Duichev Str.

02/ 856-49-82;

Monday to Friday, 9:00-17:00

Reading places: 21

The library contains over 60,000 library items (monographs, periodicals, rare and valuable editions, microfilms). It stores an extremely valuable collection of Slavic, Greek and Oriental manuscripts (600 units), old printed books (250 titles), numismatic collection (720 Byzantine coins) and a corpus of 20,000 imprints.
SOCIAL SCIENCES Library

1113 Sofia, 125 Tsarigradsko Shosse Blvd., Block 2, 2nd floor
02/ 800-51-11 / 205;
Monday to Friday 8:30-18:00
Reading places: 37 (incl. 18 PC workstations)

The Social Studies branch library meets the best organizational standards of library and information services. It maintains library materials on the issues of globalization, integration, international relations, communications, internal policy, modernization and other social and political issues. Its holdings contain 19,400 volumes of books, periodicals and reference editions, CDs/DVDs, electronic resources.

LIBRARY IN STUDENTSKI GRAD
(Student's Dormitories)

1700 Sofia, Studentski Grad, Block 42 B
Monday to Friday, 9:00-24:00; Saturday, 10:00-22:00
Reading places: 20 (incl. 11 PC workstations)

The library holdings consist of 24,000 library items, mostly including scholarly resources in all branches of knowledge, reference books, albums and fiction. The library building was reconstructed and renovated in 2009. The library offers all types of modern library and information service to its users from the Student Town.

THEOLOGICAL Library

1000 Sofia, 19 Sveta Nedelya Sq., 1st floor
02/ 989-01-15 / 21, 22;
Monday to Friday, 8:30-17:30
Saturday 9:30-15:30
Reading places: 62 (incl. 2 PC workstations)

The library holdings contain 79,000 library items (books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, audio and video tapes, music scores) in the field of theology, philosophy and history. It stores a rich collection
of rare and valuable books – old printed Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian and Greek books, periodicals from the age of the Bulgarian National Revival, rare editions of the Old and New Testaments in various languages and other valuable editions.

Several library centres are also functioning within the structure of Sofia University:

- The British and American Studies Resource Centre
- The Francophone Centre
- The Austrian Library

University Publishing House
www.press-su.com

St. Kliment Ohridski University Press is a specialised publisher of scholarly, popular scientific and educational literature in Bulgarian and other languages, books in translation, reference materials, journals and annuals. It holds a historically established place in Bulgarian book publishing culture.

Its publishing activities cover the whole spectrum of contemporary scholarship, including linguistic and literary studies, philosophy, history, sociology, psychology, law, economics, journalism, mathematics and information science, physics, chemistry, biology, geology and geography.

As a result of the effort to provide the University with its own professional academic environment, The Publishing House has focused on publishing fundamental works by Sofia University lecturers in their respective disciplines.
Alma Mater TV
http://amtv.bg/c/english/

The National Bulgarian student television Alma mater is youth television for culture, education and youth policies with a status of “national public television” in Bulgaria. It started with student TV shows on Bulgarian national television - BNT1. By the time being Alma mater TV has three lines: “Atellier” - student show for art and culture, “ProActive” - student show for education and science and Ku-Ku Reloaded - satiric student show. Alma mater TV and creates every week different types of video clips on subjects which engage young people and students.

Theatre-laboratory @Alma @Alter
http://www.almaalter.com

The Theatre of Sofia University was founded in 1968. Due to ideology considerations it was later shut down. After more than 30 years, in year 2000 it is re-established as Alma Alter Theatre-laboratory by its founder - the director Nikolay Georgiev, who has always been in the avant-garde of the Bulgarian experimental theatre.

“Alma Alter” penetrates into and researches the primary, essential theatre means of expression in the context of the present day. “Alma Alter” is syncretic, creative, strongly unconventional, open, daring and is also known as “The alive theatre”. The art of “Alma Alter” is highly interactive - the audience is an active participant
in all the performances. Each performance of “Alma Alter” is different from the previous ones, because it is set on the principle of “happening here, now, with these people”. “Alma Alter” has won recognition in the cultural life of the country as a unique place, where theatre is not “produced”, but “born” and where “things happen”.

The first performance of “Alma Alter” Theatre-laboratory was entitled “Either-Or” and took place on 06.01.2001.

**University Museums**

**Museum of Sofia University**
http://www.uni-sofia.bg/museum/index.html

The opening of a permanent exhibition collection of the University Museum is one of the significant initiatives during the celebration of the 110th anniversary of Sofia University. A result of years-long efforts of the academic community, the old idea about the establishment of a museum of the first educational and spiritual center of the country thus becomes a reality.

The museum exhibition is situated in the premises beneath the rotunda in Block 6 in the Northern wing of the University. The whole exhibition covers a space of about 100m² in the main hall and four separate rooms. The exhibition is successfully enlarged by two smaller museum collections on archeology and ethnology, situated in two other separate rooms.
Museum of Mineralogy, Petrology and Mineral Resources

The show room of the museum is situated in the South wing of the University on the area of 800m². 16200 samples are now stored in the museum stocks, half of which are exposed in 7 expositions: “Taxonomy”, “Petrography”, “Mineral Resources”, “Crystallography”, “Regional Mineralogy”, “Genetic Mineralogy – Individuals and Aggregates” and “Memorial Collections”.

The museum gives its show room to visiting exhibitions on themes connected to geology, University’s educative work, collectors and fans of the mineralogy, student practice and studies.

Museum of Palaeontology and Historical Geology

The Museum of Palaeontology and Historical Geology comprises two separate expositions: Palaeontology and Historical Geology. Its most remarkable exhibit is the restored skeleton of a Deinotherium.

Department for Language Teaching
http://www.deo.uni-sofia.bg/en/news
1111 Sofia, 27 Kosta Lulchev Str.

The Department of Language Teaching offers courses in Bulgarian Language and in science subjects to international students at
Bulgarian universities. It also comprises a Foreign Language Learning Centre, which teaches English, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Greek, Turkish and Russian.

The Department offers preparatory courses for the TOEFL, SAT 1, FCE, CAE, CPE examinations.

It is an examination centre licensed in Bulgaria in the following language certificates:

- French: TCF (Test de connaissance du français)
- Greek: Test of the Centre for the Greek Language (ΚΕΓ) at the Greek Ministry of Education
- Russian: State Test of Russian as a Foreign Language (Государственный стандарт по русскому языку как иностранному /ТРКИ-1, 2, 3, 4)
- English: Test of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI);
- English: ECCE, ECPE of Michigan University.

**Sports facilities**

**Sports Department**

www.uni-sofia.bg/Sports_Department

The Sports Department at Sofia University was founded in 1949. Actually the Sports programme has considerably broadened and has been enriched with a new variety of training fields, as well as several popular sports. As a result of the new tendencies in sport, the interest shown by the students, and the increasing enrolment of students, new disciplines were introduced, such as: aerobics, calanetics, body-building, sailing, tourism, sport climbing, table tennis, jogging, ballroom dancing, rowing, arching, etc. In 1984 the Centre of Kinesitherapy was set up to promote special therapeutic programmes using the methods of physiotherapy for the students, professors and administrative staff of Sofia University.
The Sports Department offers excellent opportunities for practising sports in its facilities based in:

**FACULTY OF BIOLOGY:** Volleyball, ballroom dancing, track and field events

**MAIN BUILDING (Rectorate):** Rock climbing, tourism, therapeutic gymnastics - straightening and remedial (for treatment of posture defects and organ function recovery)

**STUDENTSKI GRAD:** Fitness for women

**ACADEMIC STADIUM** (near Festivalna Sports Hall): Basketball, korfball, judo, self-defence, aerobics, callanetics, fencing, football

**ACADEMIC STADIUM** (near the Pliska Hotel): Swimming, fitness

**FACULTY OF PHYSICS:** Tennis

**DIANA SPORTS CENTRE:** Karate

**FITNESS CENTRE:** Fitness, sauna

**Facilities for disadvantaged people**

**Vitosha Sports Club for people with disabilities**

Founded in the summer of 2001 by a group of students, its primary objective is to promote sporting activities that will engage disabled people.

**Zrenie (Vision) Non-profit Association**

The Zrenie (Vision) non-profit association is a youth organisation which seeks change and improvement in the lives of young people and students with visual impairments. Its members include both visually impaired and unimpaired students, as well as people from various areas of social life who volunteer their assistance to the association.

**University Library St. Kliment Ohridski**

Computer for the blind people in the reading-room “Mediateca”, it is installed special software - a synthesizer of speech and a Screen Reader:

- E-catalogue of the University Library ALEPH - http://aleph.libsuni-sofa.bg:8991/F/?func=find-b-0&con_lng=eng
• Web site of the University Library (http://www.libsu.uni-sofi.bg) and various e-resources
• Internet
• Scanned articles and parts of books received by Electronic Document Delivery Service
• Writing and editing texts
• Multimedia products

Section “Reading” contains e-publications which were ordered and delivered by Electronic Document Delivery Service - http://www.libsu.uni-sofi.bg/e-texts.html and are provided free of charge to people with disabilities.
System of Education

The curriculum of each programme includes compulsory, elective and optional courses. Opportunities for individually designed and integrated sets of courses are increasing, as are those for acquiring a degree with a major and a minor, or with two majors simultaneously. Distance education is about to be introduced at Sofia University. A growing variety of forms for teacher qualification and further education is also available.

Sofia University offers programmes for all three cycles of tertiary education: bachelors, masters and doctors.

• **First cycle**: a minimum of four years of study according to the regular curriculum. On completing the course, students are awarded a bachelor’s education and qualification degree. Sofia University’s 16 faculties offer 100 bachelor’s degree programmes.

• **Second cycle**: a minimum of 5 years of study after completion of secondary education or no less than 1 year after the acquisition of a bachelor’s degree. On completing the course, students are awarded a master’s degree. Sofia University offers 399 master’s degree programmes.

Several programmes at Sofia University lead straight to a master’s degree after secondary education. These are Law, Slavic philology, Balkan studies, Medicine, and Pharmacy.

• **Third cycle**: a minimum of 3 years after the acquisition of a master’s degree. On completing the course, students are awarded a doctor’s degree.

Specialising and further qualification programmes offer opportunities for improving one’s qualifications following a flexible specialized set of courses. They do not lead to a higher educational degree or a new qualification.
Academic calendar
2016/2017

Winter Semester - 03 October 2016 (Monday) - 20 January 2017 (Friday)
Exam Period - 23 January 2017 (Monday) - 17 February 2017 (Friday)
University holidays and non-attendance days:
- 25 November 2016 (Friday) - Day of St. Kliment Ohridski
- 08 December 2016 (Thursday) - Students' Holiday
- 24 December 2016 - 02 January 2017 - Christmas and New Year Holidays

Summer Semester - 20 February 2017 (Monday) - 09 June 2017 (Friday)
Exam period - 12 June 2017 (Monday) - 07 July 2017 (Friday)
University holidays and non-attendance days:
- 03 March 2017 (Friday) - Liberation Day
- 13 - 18 April 2017 - Easter Holidays
- 01 May 2017 (Monday) - International Labour Day
- 24 May 2017 (Wednesday) - Day of the Bulgarian Education and Culture and the Cyrillic Alphabet
ERASMUS PROGRAMME AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY

Sofia University’s Erasmus Charter:
67256-LA-1-2014-1-BG-E4AKA1-ECHE
ID Code: BG SOFIA06

Overview

The Erasmus+ is an European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, run for the period 2014 - 2020, that enables students to study or work abroad as part of their degree and academic personnel to teach in a country different from the one they work in. The Erasmus+ Programme builds on the achievements of more than 25 years of European programmes in the fields of education, training and youth. Erasmus+ is the result of the integration of several European programmes implemented by the Commission during the period 2007-2013:

Under Erasmus+ Programme Mobility for young people (Key Action 1), students can go abroad for 3 to 12 months (including a complementary traineeship period, if planned). The same student may receive grants for studying or being trained abroad totalling up to 12 months maximum per each cycle of study:

- During the first study cycle (Bachelor or equivalent) including the short-cycle (EQF levels 5 and 6)
- During the second study cycle (Master or equivalent - EQF level 7) and
- During the third cycle as doctoral candidate (Doctoral level or EQF level 8)

Students who follow long cycle or one-cycle study programmes, such as Medicine, can be mobile for up to 24 months.

The duration of a traineeship by recent graduates counts towards
the 12 months maximum of the cycle during which they apply for the traineeship.

Students must be registered in a higher education institution and enrolled in studies leading to a recognised degree or other recognised tertiary level qualification (up to and including the level of doctorate).

The mobility is carried out in the framework of prior “inter-institutional agreements” between the sending and receiving institutions, both of which must be holders of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (if located in a Programme country).

Prior to the departure the Erasmus+ student is provided with:

- A grant agreement covering the mobility period and signed between the student and his or her sending higher education institution;
- A “Learning Agreement” setting out the programme of studies to be followed, as approved by the student, the sending and the receiving institution;
- The “Erasmus+ Student Charter” setting out the student’s rights and obligations with respect to his/her period of study abroad.

At the end of the period abroad:

- The receiving institution provides the student and the sending institution with a transcript of records confirming that the agreed programme has been completed and confirming the results;
- The sending institution gives full academic recognition for satisfactorily completed activities during the mobility period as agreed in the Learning Agreement, by using ECTS credits or an equivalent system. The mobility period should also be recorded in the Diploma Supplement.

Students may be awarded an Erasmus+ EU grant to help cover the travel and subsistence costs incurred in connection with their study period abroad. Erasmus+ students - whether or not
they receive an Erasmus+ EU grant - are exempted from paying fees for:

- Tuition
- Examinations
- Enrolment at the hosting institution
- Access to laboratories and libraries

The payment of any national grant or loan to outgoing students should be maintained during the study period abroad.

If the main language of instruction or work during your period abroad is English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Polish, Czech, Greek, Swedish or Danish, you will be asked to (except if you are a native speaker of that language). The results of this assessment test will only be available to you, your sending higher education institution (the receiving higher education institution will not get access to your test results) and the European Commission. The results will not be used to decide whether the student is allowed to study/train abroad. Depending on the language level, the sending institution may offer a free online language course in the above mentioned languages. Alternatively, the sending institution could offer another type of linguistic support, for instance if the main language is not covered by the online language service.

At the end of the mobility period abroad, the student will take a second assessment test that will allow to know how much the student improved his/her language skills. For more information on the linguistic assessment tests, please contact your home university Erasmus+ coordinator. It will also allow the European Commission to know to which extent participation in Erasmus+ has an impact on students’ language skills.

It is possible to study or train in your country of origin as an Erasmus+ student, provided that your country of origin is not the country you live in during your studies.

The receiving institution or organisation must be located in one of the countries taking part in Erasmus+ mobility for higher education.
- all the Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

You can request an extension of the duration of your period abroad at the latest one month before the foreseen end date upon which you had agreed in your Learning Agreement.

Provided that you have not reached the 12-month limit mentioned above, your sending and receiving institutions may agree to extend the duration of your period abroad.

If you had a grant from EU funds, your institution may propose that the extension of your period abroad is considered as a period of “zero-grant”, in case it has already distributed all the available budget or it may agree to modify your grant agreement so that it covers the extended duration of your period abroad. In any case, you will need to modify the Learning Agreement and receive an e-mail confirming these changes both from your sending and receiving institution.

In the case of traineeships, if the receiving organisation grants the student an allowance or any kind of remuneration, including contributions in kind such as meals or accommodation, it is compatible with the Erasmus+ EU grant.

A mobility period is compatible with a part-time job and, if the student receives an Erasmus+ EU grant, compatible as well with the revenue that the student would receive as long as he or she carries out the activities foreseen in the agreed mobility programme.

The Erasmus Programme guarantees full academic recognition of the period spent at the hosting institution. This is made possible through the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). ECTS credits are based on the workload which is needed to achieve expected learning outcomes during the students’ period of study.

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski has more than 500 Erasmus Inter-institutional agreements with partner universities in Europe.

Among the 51 Bulgarian universities participating in the Erasmus Student Exchange Programme, Sofia University holds the top position in the number of students hosted and sent abroad - with 450 up to 500 students per academic year.
European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

The Erasmus Programme provides students with access to other European higher education systems without any additional tuition fees and guarantees full academic recognition of the period spent at the hosting institution. This is made possible through the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). ECTS credits are based on the workload which is needed to achieve expected learning outcomes during the students' period of study.

ECTS makes teaching and learning in higher education more transparent across Europe and facilitates the recognition of all studies. The system allows for the transfer of learning experiences between different institutions, greater student mobility and more flexible routes to gain degrees. It also aids curriculum design and quality assurance.

Institutions which apply ECTS publish their course catalogues on the web, including detailed descriptions of study programmes, units of learning, university regulations and student services.

Course descriptions contain 'learning outcomes' (i.e. what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do) and workload (i.e. the time students typically need to achieve these outcomes). Each learning outcome is expressed in terms of credits, with a student workload ranging from 1 500 to 1 800 hours for an academic year, and one credit generally corresponds to 25-30 hours of work.

A series of ECTS key documents help with credit transfer and accumulation - course catalogues, learning agreements, transcript of records and Diploma Supplements (DS).

Although ECTS can help recognition of a student's studies between different institutions and national education systems, higher education providers are autonomous institutions. The final decisions are the responsibility of the relevant authorities: professors involved in student exchanges, university admission officers, recognition advisory centres (ENIC-NARIC), ministry officials or employers.

The European Commission has established a network of Recognition experts (ECTS/DS) and developed the ECTS and DS labels to
recognise excellent application of either system. ECTS is closely related to other efforts to modernise higher education in Europe. In particular, it has become a central tool in the Bologna Process which aims to make national systems converge.

**Grading system:**

(1) Description of the institutional grading system:
6 = Excellent - outstanding performance
5 = Very good - above the average standard but with some errors
4 = Good - generally sound work with notable errors
3 = Satisfactory - fair but with significant shortcomings
2 = Fail - considerable further work is required

(2) ECTS grading scale:
A = Excellent - outstanding performance with only minor errors
B = Very good - above the average standard but with some errors
C = Good - generally sound work with a number of notable errors
D = Satisfactory - fair but with significant shortcomings
E = Sufficient - performance meets the minimum criteria
FX = Fail - some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F = Fail - considerable further work is required
IRO and Faculty Coordinators

International Relations Office
Sofia University, Rectorate
15, Tsar Osvoboditel blvd., 1504
Sofia, Bulgaria
South wing, floor 1, rooms 5 & 19
inter@admin.uni-sofia.bg
Visiting hours for Erasmus+ students:
Mon – Fri, 10:00 – 12:00

IRO TEAM
Mrs. TATYANA TSANEVA
T: +359 2/ 930 84 16
ttsaneva@admin.uni-sofia.bg
Head of IRO and Administrative Coordinator of Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Coordinators
Mr. TSVETAN BOGDANOV
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 87 00
tsvetan@admin.uni-sofia.bg
(Operative coordinator for: Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Malta, Macedonia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK)

Mrs. OKSANA MLADENOVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 84 22
omladenova@admin.uni-sofia.bg
(Coordinator for Belgium and Italy)

Mrs. STANISLAVA STOYANOVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 84 22
khd@admin.uni-sofia.bg
(Coordinator for Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Luxembourg)

Ms. JENNY IVANOVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 82 20
ila@admin.uni-sofia.bg
(Coordinator for France, Poland, Portugal, Spain)

Ms. KRASIMIRA KRIVOROVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 82 20
kkrivorova@admin.uni-sofia.bg
(Coordinator for Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)

Mrs. IRENA ATANASOVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 82 20
protocol_su@admin.uni-sofia.bg

Ms. SVETLANA FILCHEVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 87 00
protocol_su@admin.uni-sofia.bg

Ms. SLAVKA KARAKUSHEVA
Tel.: +359 2/ 930 82 20
skarakusheva@admin.uni-sofia.bg
Erasmus+ Faculty Coordinators:

Faculty of History
Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova: mira_markova@hotmail.com

Faculty of Philosophy
Prof. Sonya Karabelyova: sonyakarabeliova@gmail.com, karabeluov@phls.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology
Assoc. Prof. Galina Russeva-Sokolova: sokol@techno-link.com

Faculty of Slavic Studies
Prof. Amelia Licheva: licheva@yahoo.com

Faculty of Law
Assist. Prof. Martin Belov, martinbelov@yahoo.com

Faculty of Education
Prof. Siyka Chavdarova-Kostova, schkostova@abv.bg

Faculty of Preschool and Primary School Education
Assoc. Prof. Rozalina Engels, rozalinae@yahoo.com

Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication
Assoc. Prof. Efrem Efremov: efremov@mail.orbitel.bg

Faculty of Theology
Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Naydenov: naydenov@theo.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Alida Rizova, alida@feb.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Soskova, asoskova@fmi.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Physics
Prof. Valentin Popov, vpopov@phys.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy
Assoc. Prof. Ivayla Pancheva, ipancheva@chem.uni-sofi.a.bg, ahip@chem.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Biology
Prof. Veneta Grudeva: vgr@biofac.uni-sofi.a.bg

Faculty of Geology and Geography
Assoc. Prof. Nikola Botusharov, botnd@gea.uni-sofi.a.bg
Republic of Bulgaria is located in South-Eastern Europe. With a territory of 110,994 km² Bulgaria is Europe’s 14th and world’s 105th largest county.

As of 31 December 2012 the population of Bulgaria is 7,282,041 persons or 1.5% of the EU population.

The population is predominantly urban and mainly concentrated in the administrative centres of its 28 provinces. Most commercial and cultural activities are concentrated in the capital Sofia. The strongest sectors of the economy are heavy industry, power engineering, and agriculture, all relying on local natural resources.

The current political structure dates to the adoption of a democratic constitution in 1991. Bulgaria is a unitary parliamentary republic with a high degree of political, administrative, and economic centralization. It is a member of the European Union, NATO, and the Council of Europe; a founding state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and has taken a seat at the UN Security Council three times.

For more information about the history of Bulgaria:
http://bulgariatravel.org/en/brochure/5883#/28/
Geography

Bulgaria occupies a portion of the Eastern Balkan Peninsula, bordering five countries—Greece and Turkey to the south, Macedonia and Serbia to the west, and Romania to the north. The land borders have a total length of 1,808 kilometres and the coastline has a length of 354 kilometres.

The most notable topographical features are the Danubian Plain, the Balkan Mountains, the Thracian Plain, and the Rhodope Mountains.

The southern edge of the Danubian Plain slopes upward into the foothills of the Balkans, while the Danube defines the border with Romania.

The Thracian Plain is roughly triangular, beginning southeast of Sofia and broadening as it reaches the Black Sea coast.

The Balkan Mountains run laterally through the middle of the country. The mountainous southwest of the country has two alpine ranges — Rila and Pirin, which border the lower but more extensive Rhodope Mountains to the east. The highest point of the Balkan peninsula (Musala, 2925m) is in one of the mountains in the country, while the lowest point is the sea level. Plains occupy about one-third of the territory, while plateaus and hills occupy 41 per cent. The country has a dense network of about 540 rivers, most of which are relatively small and with low water levels. The longest river located solely in Bulgarian territory, the Iskar, has a length of 368 kilometres. Other major rivers include Struma and Maritsa in the south. Bulgaria has a dynamic climate as a result of its location at the meeting point of Mediterranean and continental air masses and the barrier effect of its mountains. Temperature amplitudes vary significantly in different areas. The lowest recorded temperature is −38.3°C, while the highest is 45.2°C. Precipitation averages about 630 millimetres per year, and varies
from 500 millimetres in Dobrudja to more than 2,500 millimetres in the mountains. Continental air masses bring significant amounts of snowfall during winter.

**Weather**

You can enjoy four lovely and tender seasons in Bulgaria: beautiful blooming spring, dry and hot summer, long and pleasant autumn and mild winter with lots of opportunity for skiing.

Always lit by the sun Bulgaria has between 2200 and 2500 hours of sunlight per year. Average temperature (April - September): +23 °C. The average yearly temperature is 14.7 °C.

The climate is exceptionally favourable for growing vines, fruits and vegetables, and oil yielding rose for which Bulgaria has been renowned in Europe for centuries.

The climate in Northern Bulgaria is moderate continental, while the climate in Southern Bulgaria is intermediate continental tending to Mediterranean. The climate in the regions with an altitude of 1900-2000 m above sea level is mountainous and along the Black Sea coast it is maritime.
Political Structure

Bulgaria is a parliamentary democracy. The political system consists of separated legislative, executive and judicial powers, with universal suffrage for citizens at least 18 years old.

Elections are supervised by an independent Central Election Commission that includes members from all major political parties. Parties must register with the commission prior to participating in a national election. Normally, the prime minister-elect is the leader of the party receiving the most votes in the parliamentary elections.

Political parties gather in the National Assembly, which consists of 240 deputies elected to four-year terms by direct vote. The National Assembly has the power to enact laws, approve the budget, schedule presidential elections, select and dismiss the Prime Minister and other ministers, declare war, deploy troops abroad, and ratify international treaties and agreements.

The President serves as the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and has the authority to return a bill for further debate, although the parliament can override the presidential veto by a simple majority vote of all members of parliament.

Bulgaria has a typical civil law legal system. The judiciary is overseen by the Ministry of Justice. The Supreme Administrative Court and Supreme Court of Cassation are the highest courts of appeal and oversee the application of laws in subordinate courts. The Supreme Judicial Council manages the system and appoints
judges. Law enforcement is carried out by organisations mainly subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. The National Police Service (NPS) combats general crime, maintains public order and supports the operations of other law enforcement agencies. NPS fields 27,000 police officers in its local and national sections. The Ministry of Interior also heads the Border Police Service and the National Gendarmerie — a specialised branch for anti-terrorist activity, crisis management and riot control. Counterintelligence and national security are the responsibility of the State Agency for National Security, established in 2008.

**Bulgarian language**

Bulgarian is the official language in the Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgarian is an Indo-European language, part of the Southern branch of the Slavic languages. Other languages belonging to that family are Russian, Polish, Czech and Macedonian. Bulgarian is a language with about 12 million speakers mainly in Bulgaria, but also in Ukraine, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Greece, Romania, Canada, USA, Australia, Germany and Spain. Bulgarian is mutually intelligible with Macedonian, and fairly closely related to Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Slovenian.

Bulgarian is the first “Slavic” language attested in writing. It is written in Cyrillic script (unlike English - in the Latin script). Nowadays the national languages of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, etc., use the Cyrillic script. With the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union on 1 January 2007, the Cyrillic became the third official alphabet of the EU.

The basis of the Cyrillic alphabet is the Glagolitic. The Glagolitic script was developed by the brothers St. St. Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century A.D. and later on - elaborated by their disciples. They used to call it “Slavic language”. In 11th - 12th century A.D. it was officially renamed to Bulgarian language. In the late 19th century, the Bulgarian language has adopted a large number of words from Western European languages, transcribed phonetically into Cyrillic (French and German per instance).
The current Bulgarian alphabet consists of 30 letters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulgarian alphabet</th>
<th>Official transliteration</th>
<th>Name of Letter</th>
<th>English equivalent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>А а</td>
<td>A a</td>
<td>а</td>
<td>a as in “palm”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Б б</td>
<td>B b</td>
<td>бь</td>
<td>b as in “bug”</td>
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<td>В в</td>
<td>V v</td>
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<td>v as in “vet”</td>
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<td>G g</td>
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<td>g as in “good”</td>
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<td>Д д</td>
<td>D d</td>
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<td>d as in “dog”</td>
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<td>Е е</td>
<td>E e</td>
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<td>e as in “best”</td>
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<td>s as in “treasure”</td>
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<td>z as in “zoo”</td>
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<td>i as in “machine”</td>
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<td>Й й</td>
<td>Y y</td>
<td>и-кратко</td>
<td>y as in “yes” or “yoyo”</td>
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<td>К к</td>
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<td>sh as in “shot”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Щ щ</td>
<td>Sht sht</td>
<td>щь</td>
<td>sht as in “shtick”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ъ ъ</td>
<td>A a</td>
<td>ер-голям</td>
<td>u as in “turn”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ы ь</td>
<td>Y y</td>
<td>ер-малък</td>
<td>y as in “canyon”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ю ю</td>
<td>Yu yu</td>
<td>ю</td>
<td>u as in “menu”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Я я</td>
<td>Ya ya</td>
<td>я</td>
<td>ya as in “yarn”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Religion

Bulgaria has been traditionally a Christian state since the adoption of Christianity as state religion in 865, and therefore the dominant confession is Eastern Orthodoxy of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. During the Ottoman rule of the Balkans Islam established itself in the territories of Bulgaria, Roman Catholicism has roots in the country since the middle Ages, and Protestantism arrived in the 19th century.

The Constitution of Bulgaria designates Orthodoxy as the “traditional” religion of the country, but guarantees the free exercise of religion. Bulgaria has not experienced any significant-scale ethnic-religious confrontation as was the case in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and 2000s. The religious communities in the country coexist peacefully.

In fact, the capital Sofia is known for its so-called Triangle of Religious Tolerance, where temples of three different religions are located within few meters of each other in the very centre of the city.

St Nedelya Church

Sofia Synagogue

Banya Bashi Mosque
THE BULGARIANS

Gestures

The Bulgarian gestures for “Yes” and “No” often confuse people from other countries. 😊

Shaking your head from side to side indicates “Yes” and an Up and Down movement means “No”.

“No” is also expressed with a sudden downward jerk of the head and a clicking sound made with the mouth. Many children use this method.

Bulgarians greet each other by shaking hands. Close female friends may kiss one another on the cheek. The most common formal greetings are: Как сте? [kak ste] (“How are you?”) and Здравейте! [Zdraveite] (“Hello”)

Bulgarian cuisine

The traditional Bulgarian cuisine is a mixture of classic Bulgarian meals, intertwined with heritage from Slavonic, Greek, Turkish, and lately, other central and western European cuisines.

Owing to the relatively warm climate and diverse geography affording excellent growth conditions for a variety of vegetables, herbs and fruits, Bulgarian cuisine is diverse.

Famous for its rich salads required at every meal, Bulgarian cuisine is also noted for the diversity and quality of dairy products and the variety of wines and local alcoholic drinks such as rakia, mastika and menta. Bulgarian cuisine features also a variety of hot and cold soups, an example of a cold soup being tarator. There are many different Bulgarian pastries as well such as banitsa.

Banitsa  Tarator
Restaurants serving international cuisine have also made a presence in the country, offering various options such as Chinese, French, Italian and other international meals.

**Bulgarian customs**

- On the 1st of March Bulgarian people celebrate a traditional holiday called *Baba Marta* and it is related to welcoming the approaching spring. People all over the world meet spring with joy and new hopes but in Bulgaria it is saved as an ancient tradition.

  On that day, Bulgarians exchange, so called “Martenitsi” and tell each other, “Chestita Baba Marta!”. This custom is essentially to wish great health, good luck, and happiness to family and friends. The name “Martenitsa” is taken from the Bulgarian word for March, or, as a legend tells, an angry old lady called Grandma Marta - *Baba Marta* in Bulgarian.

- *Tsvetnitsa or Vrabnitsa* (Palm Sunday) is one of the biggest Bulgarian holidays – “a Holiday of flowers and trees” rich in a variety of customs, songs and melodies. Palm Sunday is held annually on the last Sunday before Easter and it is the people’s belief that this is the day of the fields, meadows and forests. Being one of the most beautiful spring holidays it celebrates the day of the entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, when he was welcomed with palms and olive branches. Bulgarian Orthodox tradition
uses more readily-available willow branches instead of palm ones, and people wind them into small crowns they put on the heads of the children for health and blessing

- **Nikulden** - The Day of Saint Nicholas - a great winter festival celebrated by all Bulgarians on December 6th. It is the name day for everyone named Nikola, Nikolay, Kolyo, Nikolina, Neno, Nenka, Nikolina or Nina.

The traditional Nikulden meal in each household is based upon a fish meal - “ribnik” - a carp in dough.

**Fire dancing (Nestinarstvo)**

The rite of fire dancing is one of the oldest Bulgarian folk traditions and was once practiced by ancient Thracians living near Aegean Sea. It is performed today in only a few mountain villages in the Strandzha region. In 2009, the ritual was included as a UNESCO World Heritage legacy of non-material culture. According to a number of scholars, the ritual was performed by a Thracian cult that worshipped the sun.

The dance is performed barefoot on live coals, and this unique rite is now connected with groups whose patron saints are Constantine and Elena. During the day of June 3, the icons that are sacred to the fire dancers are “clothed” - a bright red cloth is placed over them that has old
silver coins sewn on it and is colorfully decorated. The whole village then takes part in a procession to transport the icons to the holy spring of Saint Constantine, where the handles used to carry the icons are washed. The preparation of the fire for the dance starts before noon. The fire must be laid in a symmetrical circle, so that those in attendance can all observe the rite. Before evening, the fire dancers and a representative of the church go to a chapel that is dedicated to Saints Constantine and Elena, where they breathe deeply of the incense and pray before the icons. Later, after it gets dark, the whole village gathers at the chapel, including musicians – a gayda (Bulgarian goatskin bagpipe) player and a drummer. In a trance, the fire dancers move into the circle of celebrants, and after the first dancer traverses the coals in the pattern of a cross, the other dancers enter the fiery circle. The movements that the dancers make on the burning coals are intricate and orderly, but nevertheless their bare feet are not burned. When the ritual dance concludes, all of those present again perform the Kostadin Horo, as a kind of prayer for good health.
Bulgarian Holidays

Official national holidays in Bulgaria:

1 January - New Year’s Day

3 March - National Holiday /Bulgaria’s Liberation from the Ottoman Empire/

1 May - Labour and International Worker’s Solidarity Day

6 May - Gergyovden (St. George’s Day) and the Bulgarian Army’s Day

24 May - The day of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, who created the Cyrillic alphabet. Bulgarian Education, Culture and Slavic Script Day

6 September - Unification Day

22 September - Independence Day

1 November - Day of the Bulgarian Enlighteners (Holiday for all educational institutions)

24 December - Christmas Eve

25, 26 December - Christmas Days

Easter Holidays - 4 days /Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday and Monday/ according to the Orthodox calendar of the year

University Holidays:

25 November - Celebration of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

8 December - Official holiday of Bulgarian students
**Currency**

The monetary unit in the Republic of Bulgaria is the LEV (BGN), which is equal to 100 STOTINKI (st.). Since 1997, the country has been governed by a currency board and the value of the LEV has been pegged to the Euro, at a fixed rate of 1 EUR – 1.95583 BGN.

You can find current currency information on the site of the Bulgarian National Bank: www.bnb.bg.

Currency can be exchanged in banks or in any of the country’s many currency exchange offices. Some of these exchange offices also work on holidays. Euro-cheques can be exchanged in banks.

Credit cards: Most Bulgarian hotels and stores now accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Diners Club credit cards.

**Local time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard time zone:</th>
<th>UTC/GMT +2 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daylight saving time:</td>
<td>+1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current time zone offset:</td>
<td>UTC/GMT 3 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time zone abbreviation:</td>
<td>EEST-Eastern European Summer Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Basic Bulgarian Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Greetings</th>
<th>Bulgarian Greetings</th>
<th>Asking for Help and Directions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Hello!</td>
<td>- Zdrawei!</td>
<td>- I'm lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Good morning!</td>
<td>- Dobro utro!</td>
<td>- Can I help you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Good evening!</td>
<td>- Dobar wecher!</td>
<td>- Can you help me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes/No</td>
<td>- Da/Ne</td>
<td>- Where is the (bathroom/ pharmacy)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What's your name?</td>
<td>- Kak se kazvash?</td>
<td>- Go straight! Then turn left/ right!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How are you?</td>
<td>- Kak si?</td>
<td>- I'm looking for John.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm fine, thanks! And you? Good. Thank you!</td>
<td>Dobre, blagodaria! A ti? Dobre. Blagodaria!</td>
<td>One moment please!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Good night!</td>
<td>- Leka nosht!</td>
<td>How much is this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- See you later!</td>
<td>- Do po-kasno</td>
<td>- Excuse me...! (To ask for smth.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Good bye!</td>
<td>- Dovijdane!</td>
<td>- Excuse me! (to pass by)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Zagubih se
- Moje li da Vi pomogna?
- Moje li da mi pomognete?
- Kade e (baniata/apteka)?
- Varvete napravo!
- Poise zavivate na liavo/ diasno!
- Tarsia John.
- Edin moment, molia.
- Kolko struva tova?
- Izvinete...
- Izvinete moje li...
Some of the interesting places you may visit:

**Balchik**
Balchik is a small seaside town in Northern Bulgaria which combines the romance of its steep streets with the beauty of the sea. For a long time it has been known as the White Town for the mainly white colour of its lime rocks. Balchik has a 21 centuries history and has preserved traces of many cultures. All that can be seen in the Historical museum situated in the town centre.
The nearest big town is Varna /40 km/. Albena, one of the biggest Bulgarian resorts is only 10 km away. On the north /35 km/ the furthest eastern point of Bulgaria - cape Kaliakra juts out deep into the sea.

**Varna**
Today Varna is the largest city on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast and is the main port for both naval and commercial shipping. Because it is a close neighbor to the popular coastal resorts of Golden Sands, St. Constantine & Helena, and Albena, Varna has a cosmopolitan atmosphere. Varna is also the host city of numerous prestigious cultural events. It is the administrative centre of the homonymous province and Varna Municipality.
Albena
One of the purpose-built resorts on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Albena has a uniform and unique architectural style. Many of the hotels are situated on the beach itself, exposed to maximum sunlight and providing direct access to the beach and sea. Albena is located close to other tourist, cultural and commercial centres and in the same time remains within well-preserved natural surroundings.

Cape Kaliakra
Cape Kaliakra is one of the most beautiful and historic Capes in Europe. Situated close to the Romanian border, it is a favourite stop for tourists looking for pretty sights and interesting historic places to visit north of Varna.

Belogradchik
A town in North-western Bulgaria, administrative centre of the homonymous Belogradchik Municipality. The town, whose name literally means “small white town,” is situated in the foothills of the Balkan Mountains just east of the Serbian border and about 50 km south of the Danube River. The town is famous for its unique and impressive rock formations, the Belogradchik Rocks, which cover an area of 90 square kilometres and reach up to 200 meters in height.
Burgas
The second-largest city on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast and the fourth-largest in Bulgaria. It is the capital of Burgas Province and an important industrial, transport, cultural and tourist centre. The city is surrounded by the Burgas Lakes and located at the westernmost point of the Black Sea, at the large Burgas Bay. The Port of Burgas is the largest port in Bulgaria, and Burgas Airport is the second-most important in the country. Burgas is the centre of the Bulgarian fishing and fish processing industry.

Koprivshtitsa
Koprivshtitsa is one of the characteristic Bulgarian towns, still preserving the atmosphere of the Bulgarian National Revival period of the 19th century. The town is huddled in the mountain folds 111 km east of Sofia. The town boasts a large number of architectural monuments from the period, 383 in all, most of which have been restored to their original appearance. Collections of ethnographical treasures, old weapons, National Revival works of art, fine fretwork, household weaves and embroidery, national costumes and typical Bulgarian jewellery has also been preserved.

Melnik
Melnik is a town in Blagoevgrad Province, south-western Bulgaria, in the south-western Pirin Mountains, about 440 m above sea level. The town is an architectural reserve and 96 of its buildings are cultural monuments.
Plovdiv
Plovdiv is the second-largest city in Bulgaria after the capital Sofia. Plovdiv is situated in south-central Bulgaria on the two banks of the Maritsa River. The city has historically developed on seven hills, some of which are 250 m high. Because of these hills, Plovdiv is often referred to in Bulgaria as “The City of the Seven Hills”.

Rila Monastery
The Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, better known as the Rila Monastery is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated in the south-western Rila Mountains, 117 km south of the capital Sofia in the deep valley of the Rilska River at an elevation of 1,147 m above sea level. The monastery is named after its founder, the hermit Ivan of Rila. Founded in the 10th century, the Rila Monastery is regarded as one of Bulgaria’s most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments and is a key tourist attraction for both Bulgaria and Southern Europe.

Seven Lakes
The Seven Rila Lakes are a group of lakes of glacial origin situated in the north-western Rila Mountains in Bulgaria. They are the most visited group of lakes in Bulgaria. The lakes are located one above the other and are connected by small streams, which form tiny waterfalls and cascades. The lakes are situated between 2,100 and 2,500 metres elevation above sea level.
**Shipka Peak**

Shipka Peak is a Monument of Liberty and national monument that symbolizes liberation and freedom - the final birth of the Bulgarian nation and independence. Its outline resembles a medieval Bulgarian fortress and can be seen from dozens of kilometres. It was built with donations from the people from all over Bulgaria and was inaugurated on 26 August 1934. It is 31.5 m tall and 890 steps lead up to it. The powerful bronze lion - symbol of the Bulgarian state - guards the entrance to the Memorial.

**Veliko Turnovo**

Veliko Turnovo is a city in north central Bulgaria. The city is located on the Yantra River and is famous as the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire, attracting many tourists with its unique architecture. The old part of the city is situated on the three hills Tsarevets, Trapezitsa, and Sveta Gora. Veliko Tarnovo is an important administrative, economic, educational, and cultural centre of Northern Bulgaria.
THE CITY OF SOFIA

Sofia is the capital and largest city of Bulgaria. It is located at the foot of Mount Vitosha in the western part of the country. The city occupies a strategic position at the centre of the Balkan Peninsula. Sofia’s history spans 2,400 years. Its ancient name Serdica derives from the local Celtic tribe of the serdi who established the town in the 5th century BC. It remained a relatively small settlement until 1879, when it was declared the capital of Bulgaria.

Sofia is among the largest cities in the European Union with a population of around 1.3 million people.

Sofia has been ranked by the Globalization and World Cities Research Network as a Beta- city. Many of the major universities, cultural institutions, and businesses of Bulgaria are concentrated in Sofia.

Places to visit in Sofia

Churches

Church of St George
The Church of St George is a late Roman rotunda dated from 4th century situated in the courtyard of the Sheraton Sofia Hotel. It was constructed with red bricks and is considered the oldest building in Sofia. It is known for its Medieval frescoes in the central dome dating from 12-14th centuries.

Church of St Sophia
The early Byzantine Church of St Sophia was built in the 6th century on the place of an ancient Roman theatre and several earlier churches. During the Second Bulgarian Empire the structure served as the cathedral of the city but was later converted to a mosque by the Ottoman Empire.
Boyana Church
The Boyana Church is a medieval Bulgarian Orthodox church situated on the outskirts of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, in the Boyana quarter. The monument was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979.

St. Sedmochislenitsi Church
It was open between 1901 and 1902 through the conversion of an abandoned Ottoman mosque, and was inaugurated on 27 July 1903. The so-called Black Mosque was built in 1528 on the order of Suleiman the Magnificent with the intention to be more impressive and beautiful than the Christian churches in the city. The mosque is believed to be constructed by the famous Ottoman architect Sinan. It was constructed at the place of a former nunnery of the Rila Monastery and an Early Christian temple from the 4th-5th century, the ruins of which were excavated in 1901.

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
The gold-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral was built in the early 20th century in memory of the 200,000 Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian and Bulgarian soldiers, who died in the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-1878. It is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world. The cathedral's gold-plated dome is 45 m high, with the bell tower reaching 50.52 m.

Church of St. Paraskeva
The church, dedicated to Saint Paraskeva, is located on 58 Georghi Rakovski Street in the centre of the city. It is the third-largest church in Sofia. The construction of the Church of St Paraskeva was complete by 1930, but the finishing works on the porticos did not cease until 1940.
St Nedelya Church
St Nedelya is a medieval church that has suffered destruction through the ages and has been reconstructed many times. It was razed in the assault in 1925 that claimed over 150 victims. After the assault, the church was restored to its modern appearance. Today St Nedelya is a cathedral of the Sofia bishopric of the Bulgarian Patriarchate.

Church of St Petka
The tiny Church of St Petka of the Saddlers from the 14th century featuring some fine frescoes. It is a one-nave edifice dedicated to St Petka, an 11th-century Bulgarian saint.

Russian Church
The Russian Church or the Church of St. Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, built in 1914 is dedicated to the patron-saint of the Russian Tsar at the time Nicholas II. The construction was supervised by the architect A. Smirnov, who was building the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral nearby.

National Historical Museum
The National Historical museum is among the largest museums in Eastern Europe and possesses more than 650,000 artefacts. Ancient Thracian treasures, old armoury and weaponry, medieval church plates are among the most valuable objects in the collection.
National Archaeological Museum
The National Archaeological Museum occupies the largest and oldest former Ottoman mosque in the city built in 1474. It has a large collection of archaeological artefacts from all over the Balkans including some of the golden Thracian treasures. The museum is among Bulgaria’s oldest and was inaugurated in 1905.

National Museum of Military History
The National Military History Museum is a Bulgarian museum based in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and dedicated to military history.

Earth and Man National Museum
It’s one of the biggest mineralogical museums in the world. It was founded on 30 December 1985 and opened for visitors on 19 June 1987.

National Art Gallery
It is located on Battenberg Square in the capital city of Sofia, occupying most of the historic and imposing edifice of the former royal palace of Bulgaria, having been established in 1934 and moved to the palace in 1946, after the abolition of the monarchy.

National Gallery of Foreign Art
The National Gallery of Foreign Art occupies an imposing 19th century building. The gallery’s permanent exposition features European, Asian (Buddhist, Japanese and Indian) and African art, as well as separate contemporary art and engraving sections.
National Museum of Natural History
The museum's collection includes over 400 stuffed mammals, over 1,200 species of birds, hundreds of thousands of insects and other invertebrata, as well as samples of about one quarter of the world’s mineral species. Today’s National Museum of Natural History was founded in 1889 as the Natural History Museum of Knyaz Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

Places of Culture

Ivan Vazov National Theatre
The Ivan Vazov National Theatre is Bulgaria’s national theatre, as well as the oldest and most authoritative theatre in the country and one of the important landmarks of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

Central Military Club
The Central Military Club is a multi-purpose monument of culture building in the centre of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, located on Tzar Osvoboditel Boulevard and Georgi Rakovski Street. It serves the Bulgarian Army and is administered by the Executive Agency of Military Clubs and Information.

National Opera and Ballet
The first opera company in Bulgaria was founded in 1890 as part of the Capital Opera and Drama Company. The National Opera and Ballet's building was designed in 1921 and mostly built between 1947 and 1953, when it was opened.
St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library
Founded on 4 April 1878, the library received the status of Bulgarian National Library three years later and the Bulgarian National Revival Archive was merged into it in 1924.

Slaveykov Square
The outdoor book-market on Slaveykov Square.

National Palace of Culture
The National Palace of Culture cultural and congressional centre — the largest multi-functional complex in South-eastern Europe, inaugurated in 1981 and situated in a lush green park surroundings.

Administrative Places

National Assembly of Bulgaria
The National Assembly of Bulgaria was established in 1879 with the Constitution of Bulgaria.

Sofia Court House
The need for a common building to house all the courts in Sofia was raised in 1926 with the foundation of the Judicial Buildings fund. Construction began in 1929 and finished in 1940.
Borisova gradina
In 1882, the then-mayor of Sofia Ivan Hadzhigenov brought Swiss gardener Daniel Neff from Bucharest with the intention to create a garden for the capital of Bulgaria. The mayor’s initial plans included first establishing a large nursery where trees, shrubs and flowers for the future garden would grow, also providing material for the already existing gardens and for the streets.

City Garden
The City Garden is Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria’s oldest and most central public garden, in existence since 1872. It is located between Tsar Osvoboditel Boulevard to the north, Knyaz Alexander Battenberg Street to the west and Joseph Vladimirovich Gourko Street to the south, in the historical centre of the city.

Vitosha park and Mountains
Vitosha Mountains, one of the symbols of Sofia, just a short drive or lift trip away, open year round. Ski and snowboard are popular in the winter, and hiking in the summer.

Shopping places:
https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g294452-Activities-c26-Sofia_Sofia_Region.html
http://www.sofia-guide.com/biz/shopping/shopping-centers/
https://www.inyourpocket.com/sofia/shopping
HOW TO PREPARE YOUR STUDY

Before your arrival

If you chose Bulgaria as your Erasmus destination you have to contact the Erasmus coordinator of your University to check if there are signed bilateral agreements between your University and Sofia University. If yes, you can apply for study mobility period in Bulgaria in your subject area.

Your Home Institution has to select you as an Erasmus participant and to send the International Relations Department of SU an Erasmus Nomination. After Official nomination of the Erasmus coordinator at Home University, the Incoming student receives an Application and an Accommodation Form, which have to be filled in and sent to the relevant contact person at the host university.

Application Deadlines at Sofia University:

- For the winter semester: 30th June
- For the summer semester: 30th November

After your arrival at Sofia you need to register at the International Relations Office and meet the Erasmus+ coordinator at the faculty where you will realize the mobility. S/he will sign your Learning Agreement and all changes in your academic programme.

After your arrival – Upon arrival

Welcome Activities

During the first days after arriving in Sofia you can rely on the support of the students from the Erasmus club and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) at Sofia University. You are met at the airport/bus station etc. and are accompanied to the student campus. A welcome meeting organized by the International Relations Office and ESN with all of the exchange Erasmus incoming students is organized during the first week after the beginning of the academic year. A welcome package and necessary documents for enrolment are given to the students. Organizing a great variety of activities during the whole academic year, the
ESN helps the foreign students to integrate in the social and cultural life in Bulgaria.

**Before your departure**

Before getting back home, you should contact and ask the International Relations Office for the Transcript of Records and a confirmation of your ERASMUS Mobility (if applicable).

If you need a Confirmation of ERASMUS Mobility, please contact the International Relations Office.

**Visas and Residence Permits**

**EU/EEA citizens**

If you are an EU/EEA student you can enter Bulgaria with your ID document. If your stay exceeds 3 months you will have to obtain a temporary residence permit from the local police administration department. The ERASMUS coordinator at your host university in Bulgaria will help you in this process.

**Non EU/EEA citizens**

If you come from a non EU/EEA country you can enter Bulgaria on the basis of a valid passport and a visa. The visa can be obtained from the Bulgarian consulate in your country of residence. You should apply for a visa covering the whole planned period of stay in Bulgaria. Detailed information is available at all Bulgarian consulates.

A foreign person can enter the Republic of Bulgaria with a valid passport or other alternative document allowing the travel abroad, or an entry permit.

For information about the visa procedure for EU and non EU citizens, please contact the Bulgarian Consulate in your home country.
Accommodation

http://uni-campus.net/

As an Erasmus Incoming Students you have the opportunity to stay in building/block number 8 in the student dormitory campus. A room is guaranteed for all ERASMUS students for the entire period of their stay. If you want to live there please fill the Accommodation form. The accommodation is provided not earlier than 10 days before the beginning of the semester.

Rooms in the student dormitory are furnished with desk, bed, wardrobe, lamps, chair and shelves. There are only two-bed rooms. There is a cable internet in each room. Bedding is available. The monthly price is about 50 EURO (appr. 100 lv.) with utilities included (water, central heating and electricity). You could make use of fitness hall, hair-dresser’s, solarium, launderette and a café.

For your accommodation you must pay a deposit of one month in case of any damages.
**Contacts:**
Sofia 1700, Studentski Grad (Students’ Town) block 42 B  
Phone/Fax: (+359 2) 963 42 38  
E-mail: sbo@uni-campus.net  
Website: www.uni-campus.net  
Mrs. Evgeniya Gogova, Director – Campus Housing:  
Room 103  
Phone: (+359 2) 868 92 74  
E-mail: e.gogova@uni-campus.net

**Canteens**
Student restaurants – Sofia University has 3 Canteens located at the following addresses:
- **Canteen 1** – Rectorate Building – serves lunch and dinner  
- **Canteen 4** – Studentski grad, near block 35 - serves lunch and dinner  
- **Canteen 35** – 69A Shipchenski Prohod Str. (in the building of the Faculty of Pre-school and Primary school education) - serves lunch only

**Transport**

**Arrival by plane (at Sofia Airport)**

Sofia Airport (Летище София [letishte Sofia] in Bulgarian) is the main airport in Bulgaria which operates in two terminals - Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

**Inter-terminal transfer**

Sofia Airport provides free-of-charge transportation services between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 at every 30 minutes between 07:00 h. and 19:00 h. The stop locations of the shuttle bus in front of both terminals are designated by signage and pavement markings. Between 19:00 h. and 07:00 h, free-of-charge transportation between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 can be requested at the Information Desk or at telephone:
+359 2 937 2211;  +359 2 937 2212;  +359 2 937 2213;  
https://www.sofia-airport.bg/en/passengers
Arrival by bus (at Sofia central Bus Station)
There are many companies, operating regular bus lines between major European cities and Sofia. Both international and domestic buses arrive at the Central Bus Station in Sofia, next to the Central Railway Station.
http://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/

Public transport

Underground
Sofia Metro Line 1 connects Sofia Airport to the city centre and provides direct connection from the airport to the large residential complexes in close proximity as well as to more distant complexes to the west.
The journey from the airport to the city centre lasts around 18 mins. The university main building (the Rectorate) is located at the metro station called Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
The trains operate between 5:30 a.m. and midnight on weekdays and weekends/public holidays.
Buses

There are 2 bus lines operating between the airport and the city.

**Bus № 84** goes through both airport terminals and reaches the city centre in approximately 30-40 mins. It operates between 5:00 a.m. and midnight. To arrive at the university you need to get off at Eagle’s Bridge (Orlov Most)/Sofia University.

**Bus № 384** goes between the airport and Druzhba 2 for around 20-25 mins.
Tickets and baggage
Tickets for the public transportation in Sofia are two types – 1) for buses, trams and trolleybuses and 2) for the underground. Tickets for busses, trams and trolleybuses can be purchased at the newspapers kiosks or the ticket machines at both Terminal 1 and 2.

Tickets for the underground can be found at the entrance of the underground. The price of the single ticket for all transportation is 1.60 BGN. Any piece of baggage exceeding 60x40x40 cm requires additional ticket.

For further details on the routes, timetables, and tariffs, please refer to Metropolitan Sofia (http://www.metropolitan.bg/en/) or Sofia Urban Mobility Centre (https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/).

Health Insurance

For EU citizens:
If you are a citizen of an EU member state or of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, and you plan to stay temporarily (usually up to 90 days) in Bulgaria, you might consider obtaining the European Health Insurance Card. Showing the European Health Insurance Card guarantees you reimbursement of the medical costs on the spot, or soon after your return home.

For more information, see: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=509&langId=en

For Non - EU citizens:
If you are not a citizen of any of the above mentioned countries, you should check with your national authorities if you are entitled to free or subsidised health treatment in Bulgaria as part of a reciprocal health agreement between your home country and Bulgaria. If you are not, it might be a good idea to obtain health insurance for the period of your stay in Bulgaria.
Costs of living
In the list of the top 100 countries in the world, published by Newsweek magazine, Bulgaria ranks 38th. The ranking takes into account health, economic dynamism, education, political environments and quality of life.

Transportation
One-way Ticket (Local Transport) 1.60 lv
Monthly Pass (Regular Price) 50.00 lv
Students’ monthly pass 21.50 lv
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff) 0.78 lv
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff) 0.78 lv
Gasoline (1 litter) 2.60 lv

Restaurants
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 8.00 lv
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course 40.00 lv
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar 7.00 lv
Domestic Beer (0.5 litter draught) 2.00 lv
Imported Beer (0.33 litter bottle) 3.00 lv
Cappuccino (regular) 2.00 lv
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litter bottle) 1.50 lv
Water (0.33 litter bottle) 1.00 lv
Food coupon for the student canteens 2.00 lv

Markets
Milk (regular), 1 litter 1.90 lv
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g) 1.00 lv
Rice (1kg) 2.00 lv
Eggs (12) 3.00 lv
Local Cheese (1kg) 8.00 lv
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg) 9.50 lv
Apples (1kg) 2.00 lv
Oranges (1kg) 2.00 lv
Tomato (1kg) 2.00 lv
Potato (1kg) 1.00 lv
Lettuce (1 head) 0.88 lv
Water (1.5 litter bottle) 0.90 lv

Utilities (Monthly)
Basic (Electricity, Heating, Water, Garbage) for 85m² Apartment 170.00 lv
1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans) 0.32 lv
Internet (6 Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL) 15.00 lv

Sports & Leisure
Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult 50.00 lv
Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend) 17.75 lv
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat 9.75 lv

Rent Per Month
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre 500.00 lv
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre 350.00 lv
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre 800.00 lv
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre 600.00 lv

Mobile operators and Internet providers
There are three big companies providing mobile services in Bulgaria: **Vivacom, M-Tel & Telenor** have got a larger share of the market.
You have two options when it comes to paying for your mobile communications; Pre-Paid (pay-as-you-go) and Post-Paid (contract services).

Pre-Paid Services – You must register any pre-paid SIM cards at the time of purchase. This means you must have valid ID when taking your new pre-pay SIM card. This is the best choice for a short stay in Bulgaria.

*Documents you will need: National ID (passport, etc.)*
Post-Paid Services – As an international student you will be asked to provide proof of residence and you are allowed (as a foreigner) to sign a contract of between 12 and 24 months. There are many different tariffs to choose.

*Documents you will need: National ID (passport, etc.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobile Operator</th>
<th>Services provided</th>
<th>Web-site</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tel</td>
<td>Mobile services, Internet, Digital TV, Home phone</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mtel.bg">www.mtel.bg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telenor</td>
<td>Mobile services, Mobile internet, Home phone</td>
<td><a href="http://www.telenor.bg">www.telenor.bg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIVACOM</td>
<td>Mobile services, Internet, Digital TV, Home phone</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vivacom.bg">www.vivacom.bg</a></td>
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</tbody>
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ERASMUS STUDENTS NETWORK (ESN)

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) - Bulgaria represents a non-profit students association whose main goal is to provide support to the exchange students in different universities of Sofia and other cities of Bulgaria. Their members assist the social and practical integration of these students in our country under the principle of the intercultural dialogue and also reintegration of homecoming Bulgarian students, who have taken part in mobility program abroad. In order to achieve these goals the Erasmus clubs:

- provide the exchange students with relevant information for their better orientation at the hosting environment
- create a mentor system under the principle of “Students Helping Students”
create informal contacts between the Bulgarian and the exchange students
organize various events and activities as:
excursions and visits to various cultural and historical places within Bulgaria and the country from the region
Erasmus parties every week
sports and urban orientation games
international dinners
days of international universities
... And many more social exchange activities...

We want to achieve even more:

Strengthen our International activities and representation
Attract more exchange students to Bulgaria
Organise international events in Bulgaria - seminars, meetings, conferences
... And make Bulgaria a preferred Erasmus destination!!

ESN Cards

The special ESN card is designed for Erasmus and international students who want to participate in the activities of ESN. The card gives the following rights to its owner:

☐ Special discounts for national and local trips, Erasmus events and parties;
☐ Privileges for the events organized by all ESN Sections and National Events;
☐ Sentimental use - a good memory after the exchange period;
☐ Support ESN to organize more and more amazing events;
☐ ... And a lot more surprises...

The card will be valid for the whole stay of the student in Bulgaria.

For more information, please visit: http://esnbg.org/info/
## USEFUL LINKS and CONTACTS

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<tr>
<td>Sofia University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uni-sofia.bg">www.uni-sofia.bg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>(acting as National Agency)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hrdc.bg">www.hrdc.bg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Erasmus programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uni-sofia.bg/index.php/eng/students">http://www.uni-sofia.bg/index.php/eng/students</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Diplomatic Club</td>
<td><a href="http://sdc.uni-sofia.bg">http://sdc.uni-sofia.bg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bisclub.org">www.bisclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Club Bio Vision</td>
<td><a href="http://bio.topvisia.net">http://bio.topvisia.net</a></td>
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<td>Sociology Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asssu.eu">http://www.asssu.eu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balkan Youth Club</td>
<td><a href="http://ww.balkan-youth-club.org">http://ww.balkan-youth-club.org</a></td>
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### Emergency numbers: 112

### Other:
- Road service - 146, 91146
- Mountain rescue service - 9632000
- Central Bus Station - (+359 2) 0900 21000, [http://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/index.php](http://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/index.php)
- Central Railway Station - (+359 2) 9324190, [http://razpisanie.bdz.bg/site/search.jsp](http://razpisanie.bdz.bg/site/search.jsp)
- Airport - [http://www.sofia-airport.bg/default.aspx](http://www.sofia-airport.bg/default.aspx)