

CONTENTS:

RECTOR'S WELCOMING SPEECH	- Accommodation.....30
BULGARIAN HIGHER EDUCATION.....2	PRACTICAL GUIDE.....32
UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND	- Arriving in Sofia.....32
WORLD ECONOMY.....4	- Entry and Legal Residency in
- The University.....4	Bulgaria.....32
- Structure.....6	- Health Insurance.....32
- Study Programs at UNWE.....8	- Money Matters.....33
- Research Activity.....10	- Driving License.....34
- Facilities.....12	- Electricity.....34
- Making a Career.....13	- Water.....34
- International Relations.....13	- Public Transportation.....35
- University Centre for Students and	SOFIA – THE CITY THAT GROWS BUT
Teachers Mobility.....14	DOES NOT AGE.....36
STUDYING AT UNWE.....16	- Short History.....36
- Academic Year.....16	- Worth to See in Sofia.....38
- Learning Process.....17	BULGARIA – A TREASURE TO
- European Credit Transfer System..17	DISCOVER.....43
- Assessment and Grading.....18	- Geographic Location.....43
- Students and Teachers Mobility....19	- Brief History.....44
TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE	- Lifestyle and Traditions.....49
STAFF EXCHANGE.....20	- Public Holidays.....53
- Applying Procedure.....20	- Cultural and Natural Heritage.....54
STUDENTS EXCHANGE.....22	- Traditional Cuisine.....61
- How to Apply.....22	- Famous Bulgarians.....66
- Enrolment.....23	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....71
- Preparing the Study Program	
(Learning Agreement).....23	

BULGARIAN HIGHER EDUCATION



Bulgarian Higher Education has standards and high quality guaranteed by a national system which is supervised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

The types of higher education institutions in Bulgaria are Universities, Colleges and Specialized Higher Schools.

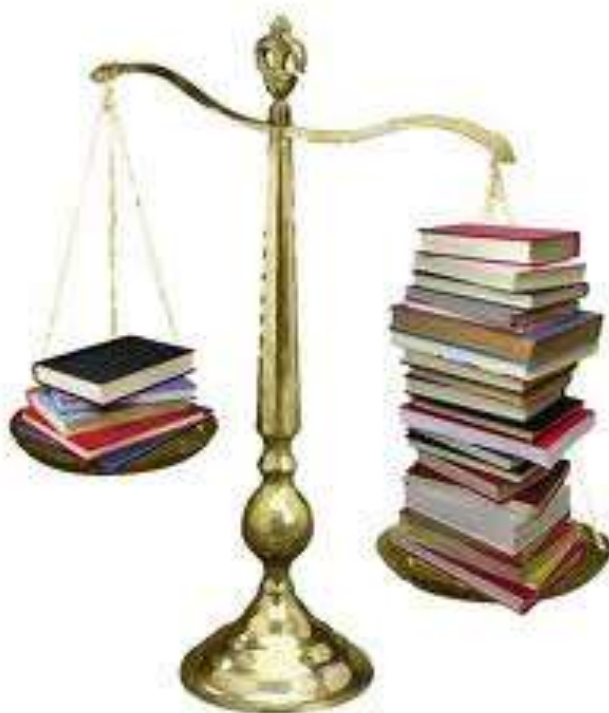
Universities, as in most countries worldwide, implements three levels of higher education: **Bachelor's** (undergraduate), **Master's** (graduate), and **Doctoral** degrees.

Undergraduate level in Bulgaria lasts at least for four years. Graduate level lasts for minimum five years after completion of secondary education. Universities offer Master's programs with one year,



one and a half or two years duration after obtaining a Bachelor's Degree. It depends on the Bachelor's Degree in the same subject area, in another subject area in the same professional direction, or in a

different professional direction. The third level of higher education results in obtaining a Ph.D. Degree.



Colleges are new established or former semi-higher institutes. They carry out three years **Bachelor's programs** in specific professional directions. Some of them are independent structures, while others are part of universities and use their equipment and facilities. In these cases the students can prolong their study period

at the university and obtain four years (full) Bachelor's degree or five years Master's degree.

Specialized higher schools offer degrees in one or more areas of science. Usually, the names of these institutions indicate the field of specialization. These higher schools may provide three and/or four years **Bachelor's programs**.

Bulgarian higher education institutions access the right to provide education in Bachelor's, Master's and/or Doctoral Programs according to the valuation of the **National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency** (NEAA). The Agency monitors the ability of institutions, their main units and branches to provide good quality of education and scientific research through an internal quality assurance system.

UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY

◆ THE UNIVERSITY

The University of National and World Economy (UNWE) is a university, located in the capital city of Bulgaria – Sofia.



University of National and World Economy is the largest as well as the eldest higher educational institution of Economics and Management in Bulgaria and Southeastern Europe and it has a history of more than 90 years.

UNWE was founded in 1920 as the Free University of Political and Economic Sciences (FUPES) with ordinance of the Minister of Public Education. In 1940 FUPES was transformed into the State Higher Education School of Finance and Administrative Sciences (SHESFA) and in 1947 SHESFA was transformed into a Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at Sofia University.



The autonomy of the higher school was regained in 1952 under the name Higher Institute of Economics (HIE). In 1953 the institute was named after Karl Marx.

On April 27, 1990 the Academic Board (AB) passed a resolution renaming the Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics into the University of National and World Economy. Officially this was done with an act of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria on the establishment and transformation of higher educational institutions (26 July 1995).

Bulgarian Leader in Economics Education



In 2011 the University of National and World Economy took the 1st place in Bulgaria, 13th place in Europe and 31st place in the world ranking of business universities worldwide worked out from the Supreme Consortium of 126 Research Centers and Institutes under the Ministry of Education of Spain. The Consortium is the largest research organization, which makes global ranking of the business schools and universities from all over the world.

UNWE is certified by Moody International (UK) in respect of the introduction of *Quality Assurance System Standard ISO 9001:2008*.

During the last two evaluation procedures, in 2006 and 2012, UNWE was awarded the highest attainable accreditation rating by the **National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency** (NEAA) among all Bulgarian universities.

The total number of full time academic staff in UNWE is about 500, of which about 300 are full professors and associate professors (docents).

Today, about 22 000 undergraduate and graduate students are studying at the UNWE – 16 000 in Bachelor's degree and about 6 000 in Master's degree.

◆ STRUCTURE

Faculties

The structure of the University of National and World Economy includes **8 faculties**:

- Faculty of General Economics
- Faculty of Finance and Accounting
- Faculty of Management
- Faculty of Business
- Faculty of Economics of Infrastructure
- Faculty of International Economics and Politics
- Faculty of Applied Informatics and Statistics
- Faculty of Law

Since 2007 UNWE has a **Regional Centre** for distance learning, located in the city of Haskovo. UNWE is the only Bulgarian university, which provides Bachelor's programs in distance learning in Haskovo and Sofia.

Institutes and specialized Centers

UNWE provides excellent opportunities for studying, teaching and research activities within its 3 institutes, 4 training centers, 9 research centers, 2 mobility and career centers.

Institutes:

- Institute of Post-Graduate Studies
- Institute of Economic Policy
- Institute of Entrepreneurship Development

Training centers:

- Centre for Distance Learning (in Sofia)
- Regional Centre for distance learning (in the city of Haskovo)
- Division for Non-degree Courses

- Centre for Languages

Research centers:

- Centre of Research and Educational Projects
- Centre of Intellectual Property
- Centre of Sustainable Development
- Centre of Agribusiness and Development of rural Areas
- Centre for Strategic Researches in Defense and Security
- Centre for Logistic Researches and Education
- Centre for Statistical Studies
- Inter-University Centre for Studies of Roman Law and Romanistic

Science

- Centre for Standardization, Analysis and Audit of Financial statements

Mobility and career centers:

- University Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility
- Inter-University Centre for Career Development



◆ STUDY PROGRAMS AT UNWE

University of National and World Economy offers Bachelor's and Master's study programs in **6 professional directions**:



- Economics
- Management and Administration
- Political Sciences
- Law
- Sociology
- Public Communications and Informatics

There is a wide variety of **Study programs at UNWE that are taught in Bulgarian**:

- 46 Bachelor Programs
- 74 Master Programs
- 34 Doctoral Programs

Nowadays, University of National and World Economy offers **10 Bachelor study programs that are taught completely in English**:

- ➔ Economics
- ➔ International Economic Relations
- ➔ Finance and Accounting
- ➔ Business Informatics and Communications
- ➔ Business Economics
- ➔ Administration and Management



- ➔ Marketing and Strategic Planning
- ➔ Intellectual Property and business
- ➔ Economics of Tourism
- ➔ Environmental Economics

5 Master study programs taught in English are also available:

- ➔ International Business
- ➔ European Business and Finance
- ➔ International Business and Management
- ➔ Macroeconomics and Finance
- ➔ European Economics and Law

Over the past few years the UNWE has initiated and successfully developed 3 joint/double master's degree programs in International Business, International Business and Management, and International Tourism in cooperation with the University of Nottingham Trent in the United Kingdom and the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale in Dunkerque, France.

The study programs in English are offered for all Bulgarian and international students as well as for exchange and ERASMUS students.

◆ RESEARCH ACTIVITY



The academic staff of UNWE implements an increasing number of scientific researches and realizes a lot of publications as articles, papers and monographs.

Main goals of Scientific Research activities in UNWE are related to:

1. Development of scientific and applied knowledge in the fields of economics, economic transition, management, law, and social sciences;
2. Scientific and methodological support to improve the educational service;
3. Higher scientific qualification and competence of the academic staff of UNWE;
4. Development of creative environment in order to promote creative abilities of lecturers and students.

UNWE is a partner or coordinating institution of *over 13 international projects* within FP6 of EU, e.g.:



- Economic and Technological Intelligence Project to Facilitate SMEs in Rural Areas to Participate in FP6 /RURAL-ETINET/
- Promoting International Cooperation for Environmental Research Through Dissemination and Networking Activities /INTER-LINK/
- Managing and Infusing Research Investment and Development /MIRIAD/

- New Energy Externalities Developments for Sustainability /NEEDS/
- Resources, Rights and Capabilities: In Search of Social Foundations for Europe /CAPRIGHT/
- Challenges and Prospects of Cross Border Cooperation in the Context of EU Enlargement /CBCED/.

UNWE successfully participates in several international projects within FP7:



- Farming Transitions: Pathways Towards Regional Sustainability of Agriculture in Europe /FarmPath/
- Integrating Econometric and Mathematical Programming Models into an Amendable Policy and Market Analysis Tool using FADN Database /FADNTOOL/;
- Self-care Support for People with Long Term Conditions, Diabetes and Heart Disease: A Whole System Approach /EU-WISE/;
- Functioning of local production systems in times of economic crisis (Comparative Analysis and Benchmarking in the EU and beyond) /FOLPSEC/;
- Understanding and coping with food markets volatility towards more Stable World and EU food SyStEmS /ULYSSES/

Under the frame of the multilateral ERASMUS projects, the Institute for Postgraduate Studies - division at UNWE realizes in 2011 – 2013 the project "Creative Strategic Foresight - Study Programme /CSF/".

◆ FACILITIES



The building of UNWE is a 41 thousand square meters built up area. There are 120 auditoriums, a lot of computer rooms, offices, laboratories,

367 study rooms, a modern library where 100 computer workstations with free Internet access are situated, a ceremonial hall, some modern conference rooms, an electronic system of information services for students, a publishing and printing house, a bookshop, a website, a sports center, dormitories for nearly 5000 students and many others.

The students, academic and administrative staff of the University of National and World Economy can use the equipments of its own:

- Library
- Publishing Complex
- Sport Hall



The academic staff of UNWE, as well as exchange students and teachers, has free access to the library and the sport hall of the university with no additional payment on the basis of their registration.

◆ MAKING A CAREER

The University ranks first in Bulgaria by the realization of its graduates and the major part of them has extremely high positions at the labor market. State and private employers adopt UNWE as a synonymous with excellent training and professionalism of its graduates. It is not a coincidence that UNWE is known as *Bulgarian Harvard* - the university where state, political and business elite of Bulgaria is trained. Only in the recent few years among its graduates there are four prime ministers, vice prime ministers, some ministers, a president of the National Assembly, many members of Parliament, a President of the National Audit Office, a chief prosecutor, a lot of bankers, businessmen and many others.



The implemented Credit System allows foreign students at UNWE from all over the world to take credits from the University as well as students at UNWE to graduate foreign universities with a diploma.

◆ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNWE International Cooperation ***Strategic Goals*** are:

- To establish and develop ***cooperation and mobility activities*** of its academic staff, students and administration with leading foreign universities,

positive experience,

- To study and analyze their



- To apply it adequately *in the most appropriate* way.

The international activity of UNWE is based on cooperation agreements with more than 160 universities and related faculties from over 100 countries in the world.

UNWE has membership in **4** international university organizations (e.g. CEI, ASECU).

UNWE is active in many international and European research projects and exchange programs – FP6 and FP7 of EU, ERASMUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS, TEMPUS, LEONARDO DA VINCI etc.

The university cooperates with partner universities in the areas of:

- Students Exchange
- Academic Staff Exchange
- Administrative Staff Exchange
- Research
- Course/curriculum development

◆ **UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MOBILITY**

The University Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility (UCSTM), or **ERASMUS Office**, at UNWE was created in February 2006. UCSTM is a division of UNWE, assisting in the conclusion of bilateral agreements and realization of exchange programs.

It was formed as a result of the *recent expanding participation of UNWE* in the European program **ERASMUS**, as well as in other educational international projects, programs and initiatives.



UCSTM activities:

- Administrates the cooperation with European and other foreign universities in respect of the international mobility of students, doctoral students, academic and administrative staff;
- Organizes and coordinates the participation of students, doctoral students, academic and administrative staff in the **ERASMUS program**, the specialized **JOSZEF program** of the *Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration (WU)*, international **summer universities**, other international educational programs and projects.
- Students/teachers **mobility** is the main part of the international activities and is done on the basis of **bilateral and multilateral cooperation** agreements, contracted by UNWE through UCSTM.

UCSTM achievements:

- ERASMUS bilateral agreements with more than **140** universities and faculties in Europe;
- Possibilities for mobility in **26** European countries;
- Realization of over **200 outgoing students** mobilities each academic year;
- Carry out over **50 outgoing teaching** mobilities each academic year;
- Welcoming a growing number of **incoming students** and more than **50 incoming teachers** from our ERASMUS partner universities each academic year.

STUDYING AT UNWE



◆ ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year begins in late September and ends in mid-June and is divided into two semesters. The duration of each semester is 15 weeks. Two separate exam sessions shortly follow each semester and last 3 weeks duration each. The total duration of each semester is 18 weeks. The winter semester ends in late January and the summer semester begins in early February.

During the winter semester there are no mid-term breaks, only a one-week holiday at the beginning of January (at the end of the study period and before the start of the exam period). There is no break between the two semesters. Within the summer semester there is a one-week Easter holiday.

- **Academic calendar**



Winter semester: September – December

(Duration: 15 weeks)

Winter exam session: January

(Duration: 3 weeks)

Summer semester: February – May

(Duration: 15 weeks)

Summer exam session: May – June

(Duration: 3 weeks)

◆ LEARNING PROCESS

Lectures and seminars are the usual teaching form at the UNWE. Typically, students are expected to attend two or three sessions a week for each course module. In addition, there is a significant amount of work to do in their own time: private study, writing essays, preparing papers etc.



Students obtain information about the classes' schedule (date, time, and auditorium) from the university's internet site. **International students are advised to contact the UCSTM's officers for their classes' schedule.**

◆ EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM



The UNWE applies the *European Credit Transfer System* in all undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programs. Credits earned at our university can be transferred to other higher educational institutions in any of the participating European countries.

The courses ensure 30 ECTS credits per 1 semester, 60 ECTS credits per full academic year. One ECTS credit represents 25 to 30 hours of full-time study.

Full Bachelor's degree programs at UNWE lasts for four years and students obtain 240 ECTS per total. The Master's programs have duration of one, 1.5 or 2 years and provide additional 60 ECTS, 90 ECTS and 120 ECTS respectively.

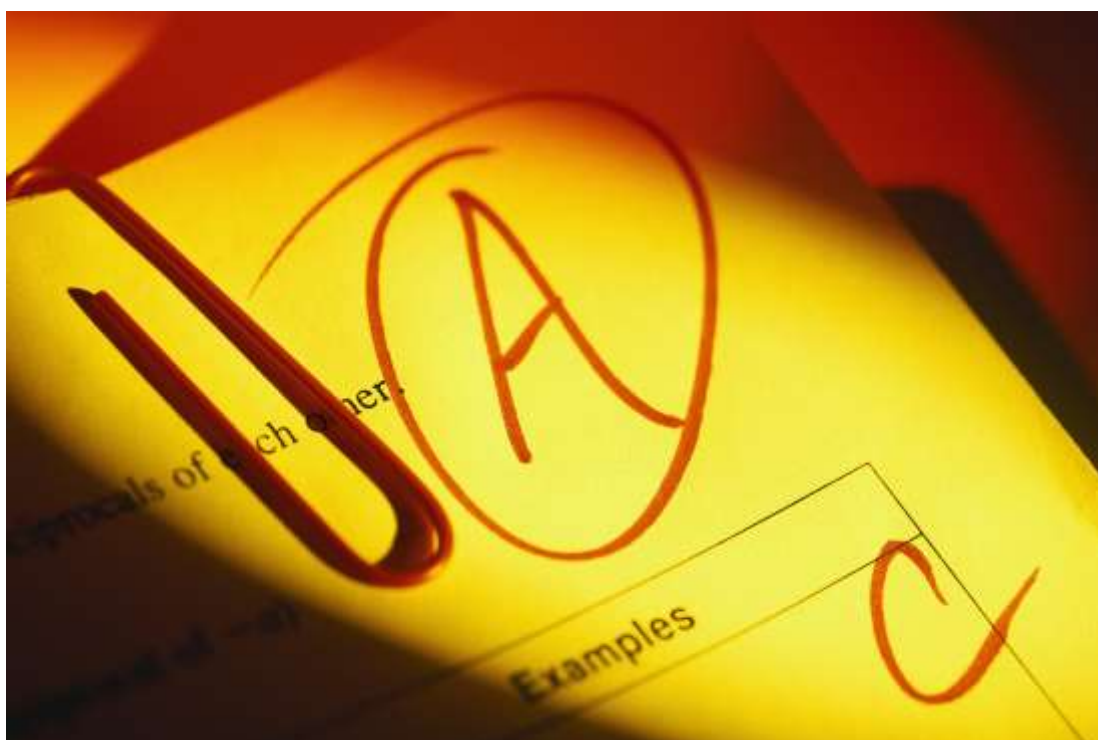


◆ ASSESSMENT AND GRADING



At the end of each course, students are awarded a grade. This can be based upon a written examination, a test, project or any combination of these. According to Bulgarian education system all marks and grades are awarded using a six-point scale, with 6 representing a 'perfect' score (excellent). The table below represents how these marks compare with other common grading systems. It also shows the average distribution of the marks.

Bulgarian Grading System			International Grading Systems		
Grade	Definition	Average Distribution	ECTS	10 point System	20 point System
6	Excellent	10	A	8.5 - 10	19 - 20
5	Very good	25	B	7.5 - 8.5	16 - 18
4	Good	30	C	6.5 - 7.5	13 - 15
3	Sufficient	25	D, E	5.5 - 6.5	10 - 12
2	Fail	10	F, FX	< 5.5	< 10



◆ STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MOBILITY

The University Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility (UCSTM) or as it is widely known among students and teachers as the **ERASMUS office** is in charge of the students, academic and administrative staff mobility at UNWE.

The UCSTM organizes and coordinates:

- *outgoing mobility* - participation of students, doctoral students, academic and administrative staff of UNWE in international exchange under ERASMUS and other mobility programs;
- *incoming mobility* – assisting international ERASMUS students, doctoral students, professors and administrative representatives at UNWE.

Contacts:

University Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility (ERASMUS)
University of National and World Economy
Studentski Grad “Hristo Botev”
1700 Sofia, BULGARIA

Tel.: + 359 2 8195 389

Fax: + 359 2 862 8672

e-mail: erasmus@unwe.bg

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EXCHANGE

ERASMUS, as well as other exchange programs, gives university teachers the opportunity to spend teaching periods abroad. Teaching mobility encourages short teaching visits by University staff so that they may contribute to the curriculum of partner institutions. According to the rules of ERASMUS program, a teaching stay consists of 5 teaching hours per week.

Teachers and administrative staff may also take part in **non-teaching mobility**. The purpose is to allow the beneficiaries to learn by transfer of knowledge or know-how from the experiences and good practices of a partner institution, and thereby to acquire practical skills relevant for their current job and their professional development.

Teachers and administrative staff mobilities are divided into two types - incoming and outgoing. The exchange numbers are fixed in the Bilateral Agreement, signed by each one of the two partner universities.

◆ APPLYING PROCEDURE



UNWE.

In order to apply for an exchange Teaching or Administrative staff mobility at UNWE, academic or administrative staff members must be sure that there is an active Bilateral Agreement in place between their home university and the

Teachers or administrative staff members apply for the mobility at the department in charge at their home university. The latter notifies the relevant department (the UCSTM/ERASMUS office) at UNWE of the nominated teacher/s or staff members. In return, the nominated

teacher/s or staff members receive a **Letter of Invitation** and specify all further details, including teaching/training program, with the officers of the UCSTM at UNWE.

For more information, please contact us on:

erasmus@unwe.bg

phone: + 359 2 8195389

fax: + 359 2 8628672



STUDENTS EXCHANGE

◆ HOW TO APPLY

Students apply for exchange mobility at their home University. All applicants must be students of UNWE's International University Partners.



ERASMUS/international students may choose between one- or two- semesters' mobility period depending on the active agreement between their home university and UNWE. Students prepare their individual study program by selecting subjects within the ten Bachelor programs or five Master programs which are taught in English.

Deadlines for submitting the applications are:

- **30 June** - for students planning to attend the upcoming winter semester or full academic year;
- **30 November** - for students planning to attend the summer semester in the ongoing academic year.

Application Forms must be sent to the following post address or e-mail:

University Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility (ERASMUS)
University of National and World Economy
Studentski Grad "Hristo Botev"
1700 Sofia
BULGARIA
E-mail: erasmus@unwe.bg

For more information about the application procedure students can also visit:

<http://www.unwe.bg/mobility/en>

◆ ENROLMENT

After the Application forms have been sent students will receive an e-mail from the UNWE's Centre for Students and Teachers Mobility (ERASMUS office) with a **Letter of Acceptance** and additional information about the exchange period.

◆ PREPARING THE STUDY PROGRAM (LEARNING AGREEMENT)

Along with the Letter of Acceptance, students will receive **List of Courses in English** and **UNWE's Learning Agreement form**. Students may choose among all the subjects offered in English.



Please, fill in the Learning Agreement form and mail it to: **erasmus@unwe.bg**



For more information regarding the courses, please look at the following tables:

BACHELOR PROGRAMS' COURSES:

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Principles of Economic Theory (C)	6	Microeconomics (C)	5
Mathematics Part 1 (C)	6	Mathematics Part 2 (C)	5
History of Economic Theories (C)	6	Labor Economics (C)	5
Marketing (C)	5	Principles of Law (C)	5
Economic Sociology (C)	6	Principles of Management (C)	5
Statistical Survey of Dependencies (C)	6	Informatics (C)	5
Macroeconomics (C)	5	Principles of Accounting (C)	5
Statistics (C)	5	Forecasting and Planning (C)	5
Intellectual Property (C)	5	Economics of the Enterprise (C)	5
Economic History of the World (C)	6	Introduction to Econometrics (C)	6
Principles of Finance	5	Corporate Finance (C)	5
Political Science (O)	5	International Economics (O)	5
Ecology and Sustainable Development (O)	5	Geo-economics and Regional Development (O)	5
Philosophy (O)	5	Logistics (O)	5
Microeconomic Theory and Analyses (C)	6	European Integration (O)	5
Organizational Behavior (C)	6	Trade (O)	5
Business Strategies (C)	6	Principles of Entrepreneurship (O)	5
Human Capital (O)	6	Macroeconomic Theory and Analyses (C)	6
Social Policy (O)	6	Principles of Econometrics (C)	6
Consumer Behavior (O)	6	Trade Law (C)	6
Business Financing (O)	6	Networks and Telecommunications (C)	6
Industrial Organization and Prices (O)	6	Business Ethics (O)	6

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Principles of Programming and Algorithms (C)	6	Business Firm Culture (O)	6
Theory of the Firm (O)	6	Economic Culture (O)	6
International Governance (C)	6	Heuristic Methods (O)	6
International Market Studies (C)	6	Business Communications (O)	6
International Trade (C)	6	Managerial and Informational Systems Projecting(O)	6
European Economic Integration (O)	4	International Management (C)	5
European Economy (O)	4	Trade Policy of the EU (O)	4
European Union Institutions (O)	4	International Trade in Services and Intellectual Products (O)	4
Bulgaria in the World Trade Organization (O)	4	International Advertising (O)	4
Transportation and Insurance (O)	4	Stock Markets (O)	4
Financing Mergers and Acquisitions (O)	4	Integrated Marketing Communications (O)	4
System of Management Standards in International Business (O)	4	Social Security Finance (C)	6
Business Communications and Negotiations (O)	4	Accounting Information systems (C)	6
Insurance in International Business (O)	4	Public Sector Accounting (O)	6
International Economic Comparisons (O)	4	Stock Exchange Law (O)	6
International Relations and Bulgarian Foreign Policy (O)	4	International Finance (C)	6
Bulgaria in the EU (O)	4	International Business Operations – Part I (C)	6
Monetary Theory and Monetary Policy – First Level (C)	6	Bulgaria in the Global Economy (C)	6
Auditing (C)	6	Banking (C)	6
Financial Accounting (C)	6	Internet Technologies (C)	6

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Operations Management (C)	6	Development Economics (O)	4
Public Finance (O)	6	Economics Statistics (O)	6
Labor Law (O)	6	Management Accounting (C)	6
Budgetary Management (O)	6	Tax Control (C)	6
International Project Management (O)	6	International Finance (C)	6
European Union Law (O)	6	Business Ethics (O)	6
Behavioral Economics (C)	6	Commercial Law (O)	6
Banking (C)	6	Business Strategies (O)	6
Firm's Investments (C)	5	Development of Application Software Systems (O)	6
Firm's Management (C)	5	Management Control Systems (O)	6
Computer Architecture (O)	6	Bank Law (O)	6
Planning and Organization of Sample Surveys (O)	6	Principles of Econometrics (O)	6
Economics of Small and Medium Enterprises (O)	4	International Trade (O)	6
Development Economics (O)	4	Competitiveness of the Firm (C)	6
Public Sector Economics (O)	4	Law of the European Union (C)	4
Controlling (O)	4	Innovations (O)	4
International Marketing (C)	6	International Strategic Management (O)	4
International Pricing Practices (C)	6	Economy of Bulgaria (O)	4
International Financial Management (C)	6	International Marketing (O)	4
Theory of Insurance (C)	6	International Strategic Alliances (C)	6
Internal Market of the EU (O)	4	International Finance Part 2 (O)	5
Research Policy and Innovation Management (O)	4	International Payments and Risk Management (O)	5
Commodity Exchange Markets (O)	4	Psychological Factors in International Economic Relations (O)	4

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Bank Management (O)	4	International Business Analysis (O)	4
Price and Pricing Policy (O)	4	Forecasting Financial Markets (O)	4
Private International Law (O)	4	Markets, Investments and Marketing-simulation Games (O)	4
International Negotiations (O)	4	Theory and Implementation of Operating Systems (O)	6
Conflict Resolution (O)	4	Technique and Communications Standards (O)	6
Preventive Diplomacy (O)	4	Statistical Analysis with Statistical Software (O)	6
Business Correspondence (O)	4	Regional Marketing (O)	4
Database Design and Implementation (O)	6	International Accounting Standards (O)	6
Organizational Behavior (C)	6	Principles of ERP-systems (C)	4
Accountancy of Insurers and Pension Insurers (O)	6	Principles of Business Intelligence Systems (C)	4
Bank Risk Management (O)	6	Information Systems Development and Administration (O)	4
Local Finance (O)	6	Information Technology in Financial Systems (O)	4
Bank Accounting (C)	6	Client Server Applications (O)	4
Stock Exchange Markets (C)	6	Case Technologies (O)	4
Communications Infrastructure (O)	6	E-Business (O)	4
Theory of Probability and Statistics (O)	6	Audit of Information Systems and Technology (O)	4
Information's Systems Analysis and Design (C)	6	Multimedia Applications (O)	4
Visual Programming (C)	6		
Database Programming (O)	6		
Principles of Business Analysis (O)	6		
Technologies for Building WEB-systems (O)	6		
Business Communications (O)	6		

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Implementation Programming Models in WEB-systems (O)	6		
Business Process and Models (O)	6		

MASTER PROGRAM COURSES:

WINTER SEMESTER		SUMMER SEMESTER	
Course name	ECTS credits	Course name	ECTS credits
Global Economics – Contemporary Issues (C)	5	Global Strategic Management (C)	4
International Business – Regional Practices (C)	5	Corporate Governance in International Business (C)	4
Quantity Methods in International Management (C)	5	Portfolio Management (O)	4
Project Management (O)	5	Leadership and Ethics in International Business (O)	4
Global Supply Chain Management (O)	5	Marketing Information Systems – Methods and Data (O)	4
International Financial Management (O)	5	Innovation Management (O)	4
Negotiations and Cross-cultural Competence (O)	5	Competitive Law (O)	4
International Human Resource Management (O)	5	International Trade Law (O)	4
Applied Macroeconomics (C)	5	Applied International Economics (C)	5
Monetary Policy (C)	5	Modern Institutional Economics (C)	5
Taxation and Fiscal Policy (C)	5	Systematic Risk (C)	5
Financial Intermediation and Financial Markets (C)	5	Financial Programming (C)	5

Commercial and Investment Banking (O)	5	Investments (O)	5
Financial Crises (O)	5	Financial Markets Forecasting (O)	5
Applied Mathematical Analysis (C)	5	European Economic and Financial Integration (C)	5
Institutional Economics (C)	6	Economic Policies for Sustainable Development (C)	6
Economic Analysis of Laws (C)	6	European Economic Integration (C)	6
Commercial Law (C)	5	International Commercial Law (C)	5
Public Economics (O)	5	Private International Law (C)	5
New Public Sector Management (O)	5	European Company Law (O)	5
Banking Institutions and Banking (O)	3	European Public Procurement Law (O)	3
Applied International Economics (O)	3	Human Resource Management Systems (O)	3

PLEASE NOTE: Courses marked with (C) are compulsory for all full-time students of the UNWE. They will be offered to ERASMUS/international students every year. Courses marked with (O) are optional (elective) and their availability is subject to course selection made by full-time students.

◆ ACCOMMODATION

Exchange students may apply for accommodation in the university's dormitories. There is an "Accommodation" section in the Application form where students indicate their wish regarding the accommodation.



All rooms at the dormitories are shared, so students will have one or two other roommates.

Rooms are equipped with the most necessary furniture – bed, table, chair and a small wardrobe. There are no kitchen facilities.

Students will be supplied with a pillow and blankets but we recommend bringing their own linens and towels.

It is the students' responsibility to clean their rooms, the toilet and shower and the other areas that they have access to. It is also the students' responsibility to buy their own cleaning tools.

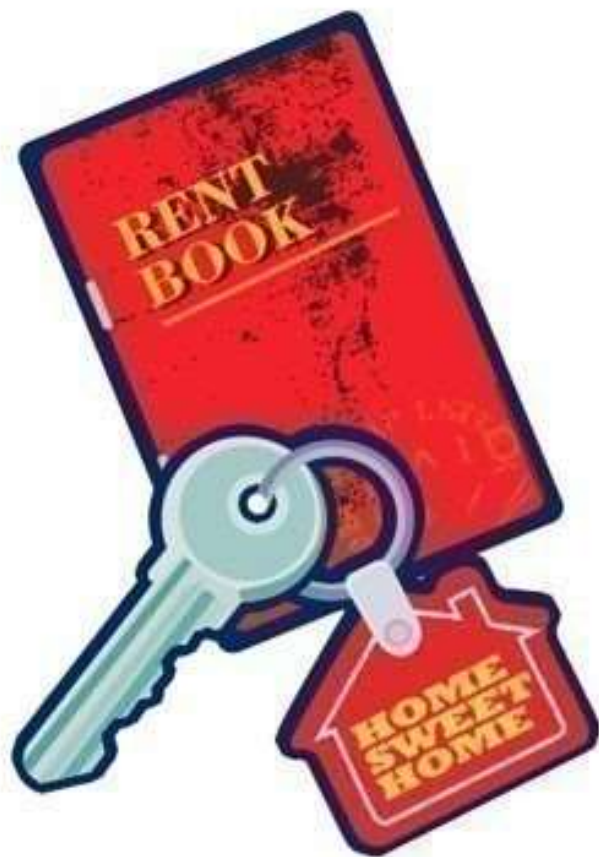
Originally, rooms are not equipped with Internet connection. Nevertheless, there are a lot of local Internet providers in the campus area and students may sign an individual contract at an exercise fee for the period of their stay.

Students pay in advance the rent for the entire period of their stay. In addition, students pay a security deposit. The "security deposit" authorization shall be cancelled after inspection and determination by the dormitories' officers that no damage, loss or injury (other than from reasonable wear and tear) has been done to the premises or property therein.

We are trying our best to get rooms ready for our exchange students before their arrival.

In order to do that, please be kind to inform our ERASMUS office for the exact date and time of your arrival at least tree weeks earlier.

NOTE: Arriving in weekends or during the night: Normally, students will be in contact with a buddy who lives on campus. Please, arrange with him/her on how to get access to the room. Students will receive more information about this a few weeks after they have applied.



PRACTICAL GUIDE

◆ ARRIVING IN SOFIA

Most students arrive in Sofia at Sofia Airport, Central Railway Station or Central Bus Station depending on the preferred transport.

Normally, we arrange for someone to meet the student and escort him/her to the dormitories or to the UNWE. **In order to do that, please inform the ERASMUS office at UNWE for the exact date and time of your arrival at least three weeks earlier.**

◆ ENTRY AND LEGAL RESIDENCY IN BULGARIA

Visa

Depending upon the nationality, students may need to obtain a long-stay entry visa before coming to Bulgaria.

Residence permit

Unless the students are an EU/EEA or Swiss citizens, they may also need to finalize their application for a residence permit.

For more information and to find out whether one needs a visa or residence permit please, visit:

http://www.mvr.bg/en/AboutUs/StructuralUnits/National%20Mol%20Services/Police/dir_migracia.htm

◆ HEALTH INSURANCE

If the student is a citizen of an EU member state or of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, and plans to stay temporarily (up to 90 days) in Bulgaria, he/she might consider obtaining the European Health Insurance Card.



Presentation of the European Health Insurance Card guarantees reimbursement of the medical costs on the spot, or soon after the student returns home.

For more information please, visit:

<http://www.en.nhif.bg/web/guest/home>

If the student is not a citizen of any of these countries, he/she should check with his/her national authorities if there is entitlement to free or subsidized health treatment in Bulgaria.

Please, note that public health care security does not cover all kinds of medical services, so students might consider supplementing it with private health Insurance.

◆ **MONEY MATTERS**

Bulgarian currency

The official currency is the Bulgarian Lev (BGN). It is fixed to the Euro and one Lev is worth around 0.50 euro. The Lev is divided into 100 stotinka. Coins worth one, two, five, ten, twenty and fifty stotinka and one Lev are in circulation. Notes come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.



Cash and electronic money

Most everyday payments are settled in cash or using electronic debit cards with PIN codes.

Cash dispensers (ATMs)

Most debit and credit cards are accepted at any of the numerous cash dispensers. In order to be sure whether a specific card will work in Bulgaria, please consult your bank about the availability of this service, its conditions and the charges involved.

Credit cards

Credit cards are not as widely accepted in Bulgaria as in some countries. For example, supermarkets, small shops and cafes rarely accept them, so make sure to always have cash on hand. Nevertheless, students are strongly advised to carry a credit card so that they always have an alternative source of funds.

Cheques

Personal cheques are not used in Bulgaria and traveler's cheques are not accepted for retail purchases.

◆ DRIVING LICENSE

Home country driving license may be used for up to one year in Bulgaria.

◆ ELECTRICITY

Household electricity is supplied at 220/240 volts (V) with a frequency of 50 hertz (Hz). If the home country supplies 110 V, the electrical equipment will require a convertor or a transformer to convert it to 240 V.

◆ WATER

Tap water is safe to drink in most cities, while in many rural areas it is used only for washing. Bulgaria is famous for its mineral water, which is not only of high quality but also of reasonable price.

◆ PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

There is a wide variety of public transport means in the city of Sofia – from buses to trolleys, trams and subway (metro). The latter is relatively fast option and in rush hours (8:00-9:00 in the morning and 17:30-19:00 in the evening) it is advisable to use this type of transportation.

Tickets for all types of public transportation are very cheap. One single-trip ticket costs 1 lev (0.50 Euro). There are also five-trip and ten-trip voucher tickets at the price of 4.50 lev and 10 lev respectively.

More information is available to the following link:

<http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/transport/121/marshrutna-mrezha>



SOFIA – THE CITY THAT GROWS BUT DOES NOT AGE



◆ SHORT HISTORY

Founded seven thousand years ago Sofia is the second oldest city in Europe. It has been given several names in the course of history and the remnants of the old cities can still be seen today.



Serdika was the name of the central dwelling of the ancient Thracian tribe known as ***Serdi***. It bore that name when it became part of the Bulgarian state at the beginning of the ninth century and was soon recognised as one of the most important feudal towns, acquiring the Slavonic name ***Sredets***.

The current name **Sofia** was first used in the 14th-century *Vitosha Charter* of Bulgarian tsar Ivan Shishman and in a Ragusan merchant's notes of 1376; it refers to the famous *Hagia Sophia Church*, an ancient church in the city named after the Christian concept of the Holy Wisdom. Although the name Sredets remained in use until the late 18th century, the name Sofia gradually overcame the Slavonic name in popularity. During the Ottoman rule the city was called **Sofya** by the Turkish conquerors of Bulgaria.

The decline of Sofia during the Ottoman Empire was followed by the rejuvenation after the liberation in 1879, when Sofia was chosen as the capital of Bulgaria at the First National Constituent Assembly.



In 1900 the City Council approved the emblem of Sofia and the motto ***"It Grows but Does not Age"***.

In 1992, in honour of the celebration of St. Sofia the Martyr, the Government chose September 17th as the Day of Sofia. The flag of Sofia Municipality was also consecrated on that day.

Curiosity: The city's name is pronounced by Bulgarians with a stress on the 'o', in contrast with the tendency of foreigners to place the stress on 'i'. Interestingly, the female given name "Sofia" is pronounced by Bulgarians with a stress on the 'i'.

◆ WORTH TO SEE IN SOFIA

The yellow pavement



The yellow pavement is the most typical symbol of the city. The yellow mile is in the very heart of Sofia. It starts at the *Presidency*, goes by the *Archeological Museum* (where one of the most interesting collections of Thracian, Greek and Roman monuments and gold

handicraft articles are exhibited), the former *Communist Party House* and the building of the *National Bank*, and takes to the former *Royal Palace* that houses at present the *National Art Gallery* and the really unique *National Ethnological Museum*. One of the most interesting sights is the *Russian Orthodox Church* – a magnificent example of a Byzantine style cathedral, surrounded by a picturesque garden. On the same side of the street visitors may see the *Military Club*, the beautiful neoclassical buildings of the Italian and Austrian embassies and the *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*. The yellow mile ends at the *Parliament Square* where visitors can see the monument of the famous tsar Alexander II the Liberator. At the end of the Yellow pavement is situated the resorted *Yablaski House* – a beautiful neo-baroque palazzo, also a famous club where many DJs and bands perform.



St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral and St. Sofia Church

Next to the Yellow pavement and the Parliament, the main temples of



the city are to be found. The golden domed *St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral* is one of the most impressive monuments of Orthodox Christianity. It is one of the biggest in Europe. Its crypt houses the *Iconographic Museum* – an absolutely marvelous and

unique place to visit. There may be bought Orthodox chant CDs and DVDs.

On the same square is the *St. Sofia Church* after which the city is named. It is a typical basilica surrounded by a garden where 2 monuments are raised – the St. George monument and the national poet Ivan Vazov monument. At the back of the church is the *Sofia*



Municipality building and Moscovska Street with some of the most beautiful *art deco* houses of the Bulgarian elite before WWII some of which now housing cafes and restaurants. Across the street is situated the *International Art Gallery* where masterpieces of Matisse, Degas and Rodin are exposed.

The National Theater



The National Theater is one of the most beautiful neo-baroque buildings in Sofia. Opened in 1907, it was destroyed by the air-raids over Sofia in 1943-44. It was restored after the end of WWII. It has a beautiful garden with fountains, called the *City Garden*.

Nearby are situated the buildings of the Bulgarian *Ministry of Defence* and *Ministry of Justice*, many banking offices, the *City Gallery of Modern Art*, some nice open-air cafes and the classy *Grand Hotel Sofia*.

Sveta Nedelya Cathedral and Square

Sveta Nedelya Square is one of the main places in Sofia. Named after the cathedral, it is some kind of religious center of the city. Within easy reach of the cathedral are situated the



Theology Department of Sofia University, the *Banya Bashi Mosque* and the *Synagogue*. Next to the square is also the *TZUM* department store. *Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan* is situated on the very Sveta Nedelya Square. In its backyard is positioned the most ancient building in Sofia. It is the *St. George Rotunda* built in the 4th century AD. It was made by the Roman emperor Constantine I the Great. He used to say: "***Sofia's the Rome of mine***".

Vitosha Boulevard and the NDK

Vitosha Boulevard takes its start from Sveta Nedelya Square. It is the main shopping area in the city with some high end boutiques and nice cafes. The street goes straight to the *Vitosha Mountain* that is



overviewed from all the city's central points. The main building on the Vitosha Boulevard is the *National Palace of Culture*, called shortly by the locals NDK. It was rated No.2 congress center in Europe.

The palace is the place where big concerts and other events take place. It is surrounded by a big park. A pedestrian bridge unites the NDK Park with the *South Park*, the prestigious *Lozenets* residential area and the *Hilton Sofia Hotel*.

Borisova Gradina and the Ariana Lake

The favorite place to relax in Sofia is the so called *Borisova Gradina* – the oldest and biggest park area in Sofia, named after the Bulgarian tsar Boris III. It starts at the



famous *Orlov Most* (Eagles Bridge), the former Eastern gate of the city. The Ariana Lake is located in the northeast corner of the park. It is surrounded by modern cafes and restaurants. Nearby is the *National Stadium Vassil Levski* with the *National Sports Museum*. Bulgaria is a small country, but is considered a significant power in sports with many Olympic champions. The Park is famous for its *Alley of the Greats* where

little monuments of all the significant persons in Bulgarian history are placed – military generals, poets, revolutionaries. In the park are also the *Army stadium*, some tennis courts, carting and football playgrounds.

Vitosha Mountain and the Lyulin Mountain spa resorts

Sofia is surrounded by *Vitosha* and *Lyulin* mountains. *Lyulin Mountain* is



famous for its spa resorts. *Bankya* and *Gorna Banya*, both at a 15 minutes distance from the city center, are some of Bulgaria's healthiest places for their clean air and mineral water springs.

Vitosha is a favorite place for tourism and winter sports. Convenient bus lines

and rope ways render the mountain easily accessible. The territory of the mountain includes *Vitosha National Park* that encompasses the best known and most frequently visited parts. In the foot of the mountain are *Boyana*, *Dragalevtsi* and *Simeonovo* residential areas where the rich and famous live.

Two of the most attractive places in Sofia are to be found in Boyana, the first being the *National History Museum*. It is situated in the former presidential residence. Some of the most ancient and very rare and



precious gold Thracian, Greek and Roman pieces of treasures are exposed. Another famous sight to visit is the *Boyana Church*. The monument is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Program

for its pre-Renaissance frescoes.

BULGARIA – A TREASURE TO DISCOVER



◆ GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Bulgaria is located in Southeastern Europe, in the northeast part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is a European, Balkan, Black Sea and Danube country. This geographic location places the country on the crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa. Bulgaria is situated closer to the Equator than the pole. It falls within the southern part of the temperate climate zone with

subtropical influence. Its location on the transition line between two climate zones influences the climate, soils, vegetation and animal species. All of them are characterized by great diversity. The country's geographic position also determines the relatively wide angle of

sunlight that falls on the country, making the country predominantly sunny. The official time in Bulgaria is Eastern European Time, which is two hours ahead of Greenwich Time.

Key Facts

- Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic;
- Sofia is the biggest city and the capital of the country;
- Population – 7.3 million (2011);
- Covers 22% of the Balkan Peninsula;
 - 110 510 sq. km land and 333 sq. km water surface;
 - 35% of the territory consists of forests;
 - 41% by plains and valleys;
 - 30% - by mountains.
- The country has a network of about 540 rivers and 378 km coastline along the Black sea.
- Bulgaria ranks FIRST in Europe by diversity of wildlife spread in three national parks, eleven nature parks and seventeen biosphere reserves.
- Rila Mountain is the highest mountain in Bulgaria (peak Musala 2925m high).

◆ BRIEF HISTORY

The territory of Bulgaria has been inhabited since antiquity, as the country's many ancient settlements and burial mounds attest. Present-day Bulgaria was a cradle of some of the earliest civilizations in Europe – the oldest gold ornament ever discovered, unearthed in the Chalcolithic necropolis near Varna, is evidence of that.

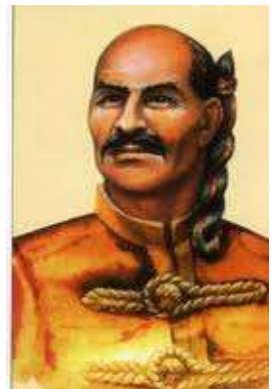




In the middle of the 1st century AD, the present Bulgarian lands became a part of the Roman Empire. Many architectural and archaeological monuments have been preserved from this period, such as the Ancient Theater and the Roman Stadium in Plovdiv, and

remains of the Roman cities Ulpia Oescus, Novae, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Nicopolis ad Nestum, Augusta Traiana, and Abritus.

After the dissolution of the Roman Empire, the present Bulgarian lands came under the control of the East Roman Empire, later called Byzantium. In the second half of the 7th century, the Bulgarians settled in what is now Northeast Bulgaria. They united with the Slavs to form the Bulgarian state, recognized by Byzantium in 681. The head of the state was the leader of the Bulgarians, Khan Asparukh, and the city of Pliska was declared the state's capital.



During the reign of Khan Krum (803-814), Bulgaria bordered on the west by the empire of Charlemagne the Great, and on the east Bulgarian armies reached the gates of the Byzantium capital, Constantinople.



In 864, during the reign of Prince Boris I (852-889), Bulgarians adopted Christianity as their official religion, which makes Bulgaria one of the oldest Christian states in Europe.

At the end of the 9th century, the brothers Cyril and Methodius created and disseminated the Slavonic alphabet. The cities of Ohrid and Veliki Preslav became centers of the Bulgarian and Slavonic culture. From the Bulgarian territory, the Slavonic alphabet spread to other Slavonic states as well.



In 1018, after protracted warfare, Bulgaria was conquered by Byzantium. In 1186, the uprising led by the boyar brothers Asen and Peter, resulted in the liberation of Bulgaria from Byzantine rule and establishing the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, with the city of Tarnovo as its capital. The former might of Bulgaria was restored during the rule of their youngest brother Kaloyan (who ruled from 1197-1207).

During the reign of Tsar Ivan Asen II (1218-1241) the Second Bulgarian Kingdom reached its zenith achieving political hegemony in Southeastern Europe. It expanded its borders to the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic Sea, and greatly developed its economy and culture. Some of the most important monuments preserved from that time are the wall paintings in the Boyana church, the churches in Veliko Tarnovo and the Ivanovski Rock Churches.



At the end of the 14th century, the country was conquered by the Ottoman Empire. In the first years of Ottoman rule there were scattered attempts to liberate the country. Later the Hajduk movement created the preconditions for an organized national liberation movement.

The Bulgarian Revival began in early 18th century, when the Bulgarian church, educational institutions and cultural centers were re-established. The beginning of the organized national liberation movement to throw off the Ottoman yoke is marked by the activities of Georgi Rakovski (1821-1867), and other key figures in the liberation movement such as Vasil Levski (1837-1873), Lyuben Karavelov (1834-1879), Hristo Botev (1848-1876), among others.

In April 1876, the April Uprising took place. This was the largest and the best organized attempt to liberate Bulgaria from Ottoman domination. The uprising was brutally suppressed, but it placed the struggle for Bulgarian sovereignty at the center of international political discussions.

In 1878, with the Russian defeat of Turkey, the Bulgarian state was restored. The Berlin Congress (1878) divided the former Bulgarian territories into three parts – the Principality of Bulgaria, ruled by a prince, Eastern Rumelia, with a Christian governor appointed by the sultan, and Thrace and Macedonia remaining under Ottoman control. Alexander Battenberg was selected as the first prince of the Bulgarian Principality.



Bulgaria's first constitution was adopted in 1879, and was one of the most democratic constitutions of its time. In 1885, the Principality of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia united. In 1908, the Bulgarian Prince Ferdinand Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha proclaimed Bulgaria's independence from Turkey, and was then declared Tsar (King) of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom.

After the Second World War, Bulgaria came under the political and economic influence of the USSR. In 1946 the country was declared a republic and the Bulgarian Communist Party came to power. All political

parties except for the so-called Fatherland Front (Otechestven Front) were forbidden, the economy and the banks were nationalized, and the agricultural land was organized as collectives.

The democratic changes in Bulgaria started at the end of 1989, when multi-party elections were held and a new constitution was adopted. At this time Bulgaria began its transition to democratic development and a market economy. Its foreign policy was redirected towards rapprochement with European institutions.

Since 1991, Bulgaria has been a member of the Council of Europe and in 2004 became a member of NATO. In 1995, the Bulgarian government filed an application to join the European Union, with negotiations commencing in 1999. On 25 April 2005, the Accession Treaty granting the Republic of Bulgaria the right to join the European Union was signed in Luxemburg. On 1 January 2007, after fulfilling all membership criteria, Bulgaria became a full-member of the European Union.



◆ LIFESTYLE AND TRADITIONS

Lifestyle and traditions in what is now Bulgaria have developed over thousands of years. The country is located at the crossroad between Europe and Asia, and the lands of Bulgaria have been populated since antiquity. Bulgarian customs are closely tied to the country's history and particular expression of Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Especially well-respected in Bulgaria are traditions related to the circle of life – birth, christening, wedding, and funeral. Saints' name days are also highly respected in the country, the most famous ones being St. John's day, St. George's Day, and St. Dimitar's Day.

Dancing on live coals is an ancient Bulgarian ritual still practiced in a few villages in the Balkan Mountains. The ritual in its authentic form is performed on the day of Saints Konstantin and Helena – 21 May (3



June according to the old calendar). Fire dancers prepare for their dance by spending hours locked in a chapel, venerating the icons of these two saints while listening to the beating of drums and the music of gaidas (Bulgarian bagpipes), which is a special melody associated with fire dancing. In the evening they perform their special dance on live coals. During their dance they always hold aloft in both hands an icon of Saint Konstantin and Saint Helena. Amazingly, they never get hurt or burn their feet.



The holidays that are most honored by Bulgarians are undoubtedly Christmas and Easter when relatives all celebrate together, united by the feeling of belonging to the harmonious Bulgarian family.

A very interesting and uniquely Bulgarian tradition is **Martenitsa**. Martenitsa is a small piece of adornment, made of white and red yarn and worn from March 1 until around the end of the month. The month of March, according to Bulgarian folklore, marks the beginning of springtime. Therefore, the first day of March is a traditional holiday associated with sending off winter and welcoming spring.



Martenitsi are always given as gifts. People never buy martenitsi for themselves. They are given to loved ones, friends, and those people to whom one feels close. They are worn on clothing, or around the wrist or neck, until the wearer sees a stork or swallow returning from migration, or a blossoming tree, and then removes the Martenitsa and hangs it on a tree branch.



The Rose is the symbol of Bulgaria. The country is famous for its rose-growing industry which have been cultivated there for centuries, and which produces 85% of the world's rose oil. The centre of the rose oil industry is the city of Kazanlak, which is

situated in the Rose Valley - a region in Bulgaria located just south of the Balkan Mountains.

The picking season lasts from May to June. During this period, the area gives off a pleasant scent and is covered with multi-colored flowers. The gathering process, traditionally a women's task, requires great dexterity and patience. The flowers are carefully cut one by one and laid in willow-baskets which are then sent to the distilleries.



During the centuries Bulgaria's people preserved a wide range of handicrafts.



Hand-woven carpets from the time of the Bulgarian Revival are now highly valued works of art. The major centers of carpet weaving in the cities of Chiprovtsi, Kotel and Samokov are still functioning today.



During the Bulgarian Revival, the monasteries served as centers of artistic and educational activity. There are still many working monasteries in the country – Rila Monastery, Bachkovo Monastery, Troyan Monastery, Glozhene Monastery, Kilifarevo Monastery, Shipchenski Monastery, and others. Our

country is also famous for its well-established national traditions of icon painting and wood carving. The best known icons and carvings are from the cities of Samokov, Tryavna and Bansko.



An important part of the Bulgarian culture is folk music and national dances.



Instruments typically used to perform Bulgarian national music are the fiddle, the mandolin, the kaval (wooden flute), the gaida (bagpipe), the pipe, the dvoynka (double pipe), the drum and the tarambuka (another percussion instrument).

Bulgarian folksongs are passed on orally from one generation to the next. The ensembles “Cosmic Voices”, “The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices” and the folklore ensemble “Pirin” are internationally famous.

Bulgarian traditional dances are exceptionally vivid forms of artistic expression. Most often they are performed by a group of people touching palms in a closed or open circle, semicircle, serpentine

pattern, or in a straight line. Participants perform similar movements in unison, along with gestures and steps to a specific melody (the horo).



Depending on the rhythm and the steps, there are a number of horo types: the standard horo, the rachenitsa, the paydushko horo and the improvised horo.

Bulgarians have developed and enriched their culture over the millennia, and they preserve it and continue to develop it to the present days.

◆ PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1st January – New Year's Day

3rd March – National Holiday (Day of Liberation from the Ottoman Rule)

1st May – Labor Day

6th May – St. George's Day, Day of the Bulgarian Army

24th May – Day of Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture and of the Slavonic Alphabet

6th September – Bulgaria's Unification Day

22nd September – Bulgaria's Independence Day

1st November – Enlightenment Leaders Day – holiday for education institutions

24th December – Christmas Eve

25th and 26th December – Christmas

Easter – two days (Sunday and Monday); moveable holiday

◆ CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bulgaria is a successor of ancient civilizations - Thracians, Romans, Byzantines and proto-Bulgarians have left on these lands exceptionally valuable artistic and architectural evidence of their advanced culture. They are scattered throughout the country and make it one of the most attractive destinations for people, interested in history and culture. Besides these treasures, Bulgaria is proud of its pristine nature and amazing biodiversity which is preserved in the parks and reserves of the country. The rich cultural and natural heritage of Bulgaria is highly appreciated by UNESCO - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The UNESCO List of the Global Cultural and Natural Heritage includes sites, which are of great importance to humanity, therefore their conservation and preservation is a priority. This list includes nine Bulgarian sites - seven cultural and two natural.

Rila Monastery



Rila Monastery was listed as a UNESCO List of Global Cultural Heritage in 1983. It is the largest monastery in Bulgaria. The monastery is located in the heart of the Rila Mountain. It was founded in the 10th

century and over the decades of its existence the monastery has been guardian of the Christian faith and the Bulgarian education and culture. The Rila Monastery is one of the symbols of Bulgaria and one of the most visited attractions. The monastery complex



covers an area of 8,800 square meters; it has nearly 300 rooms, 100 of

which are monastic cells. The monastery has a museum where visitors can learn the remarkable story of the cloister. The monastery is situated on the territory of the natural park Rila.

Madara Rider



The Madara Rider is a unique rock relief, located in the northeast of the country, 18 kilometers east of the town of Shumen and 10 kilometers south of Pliska. An unknown artist has carved an impressive image on the cliff at a height of 23 meters. Although more than 1,000 years have past since its creation, the image of a horseman with a spear, a wounded lion, fallen at the feet of the horse and a hunting dog, is still visible on the stone. The exact year of the relief creation is unknown, and scientists disagree on the personality of the rider depicted. In 2008, after the nationwide vote, the Madara Rider was elected a global symbol of Bulgaria. A full-size copy can be seen in the National Archaeological Museum in Sofia.

Boyana Church “St. Nicholas and St. Panteleimon”

This unique temple is located in the Sofia residential section of Boyana, at the foot of Vitosha Mountain. It was built around the end of the 10th and the beginning of the 11th century. Its greatest values are the



several layers of frescoes. Among the images on the walls of the church visitors can see various images of Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary,



Bulgarian kings and queens, saints. The unknown master painters were summarized with a general term *Boyana master*, although the murals were created by different people in different periods of the Bulgarian history. The Boyana Church is one of

the sites of the National History Museum and is open for tourist visits throughout the year.

Ivanovo Rock Churches



A complex of rock churches near the village of Ivanovo. The monastery complex, which unites the rock temples, was named after St. Michael and was founded in the early 13th century. The most impressive temple is the one of St. Mary, whose beautiful frescoes are well preserved and known

worldwide.

The complex is located in a picturesque area, 20 kilometers south of the town of Ruse. The Rusenski Lom Park is a popular destination for eco tourism and bird observation. Near the Ivanovo rock churches stands the beautiful Orlova Chuka cave. Another famous landmark is also situated at the territory of the park – the Basarbovski Monastery, which is the only operating rock monastery in Bulgaria.



Kazanlak Thracian Tomb



The Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak is located in a small park in the town of Kazanlak. The original tomb was sealed in order to preserve its unique murals, but an exact copy of the tomb was built near it, which is now available for tourist visits. The tomb was built around the 4th - 3rd century BC. It

belonged to an unknown Thracian ruler. The worldwide fame of the monument is due to the remarkable murals in the hall and the dome room - one of the best preserved ancient works of art from the early Hellenistic age. The original tomb can also be visited, but only for a few minutes and under certain conditions. The access to the copy of the Kazanlak Tomb is year-round.

Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari



The Thracian tomb of Sveshtari is part of the historical and archaeological reserve Sboryanovo, located 8 kilometers northwest of the town of Isperih. The tomb was built in the 3rd century BC and impresses

visitors with

its architecture and decoration. Here was laid the body of a Thracian ruler from the Getae tribe. The ceiling of the burial chamber is supported by statues of women with raised hands - *caryatids*, whose faces and hair still preserve the remains of colorful decorations.





Not far from the Sveshtari tomb another popular attraction can be seen - Demir Baba Tekke, that is revered by both Muslims and Christians.

The Old Town of Nessebar



The town of Nessebar is situated 36 kilometers northeast of the city of Burgas on the Black Sea coast. Due to its unique combination of ancient history, ancient ruins and Revival architecture, the Ancient Nessebar was included to the UNESCO list. The archaeological

reserve is situated on a small peninsula connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. The seaside town keeps countless evidences of its history, many of which are kept in the Archaeological Museum in the town. Nessebar is one of the oldest towns in Europe. It was founded 3,200 years ago. During the antiquity, the town was called Mesambria, during the Middle Ages - Mesembria, and later - Nessebar. An important part of the reserve are the remains of fortress walls, the early Byzantine baths, the temples of St. Stephen, Mary Eleousa, Christ Pantocrator, St. Spas, etc. Over 100 houses have been restored in the town, and the Ethnographic Museum is located in one of them, built in 1840.



National Park Pirin



The National Park Pirin is located in the Pirin Mountain, in southwest Bulgaria, and preserves many natural attractions, glacial lakes, pine forests and a rich biodiversity. There are two reserves within the park - Bayuvi Dupki-Dzhindzhiritsa and Yulen. Its biodiversity is represented by 1,315

species of higher plants, 2,000 species of invertebrates, 200 species of vertebrates and 159 bird species.

There are many hiking routes in the park, which give access to numerous tourist sights. Here stands the oldest tree in Bulgaria - Baykusheva fir, whose age is over 1,300 years. Tourists can learn more about the park and its



diversity in the visitor center, which is located in the town of Bansko.

Srebarna Lake and Reserve



The Lake Srebarna is popular due to the rare and endangered bird species which nest or rest here on their way south.

The biosphere reserve near the village of Srebarna is located 2 kilometers south of the Danube River and 16 kilometers west of the town of Silistra, covering an area of 600 hectares. It covers the lake Srebarna and the territories near it. Its fame is due to the fact that the lake is just under the migratory path of the

birds from Europe to Africa, the so called Via Pontica, which causes the unique and diverse species of waterfowl birds in it. Some of the most interesting species which inhabit the lake are Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*), ducks (*Anatidae*), the Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*), the great egret (*Ardea Alba*), and the mute swan (*Cygnus olor*).



◆ TRADITIONAL CUISINE



Bulgarian cuisine is a representative of the cuisine of Southeastern Europe. Essentially South Slavonic, it shares characteristics with other Balkans cuisines. Due 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. The main products for which Bulgaria is internationally known are **yoghurt** and white brine (feta) cheese called “**sirene**”. These are almost always present on Bulgarian tables in one form or another.



Bulgarian cuisine features also a variety of hot and cold soups. There are many different Bulgarian pastries as well.

Appetizers



Tarator is a traditional Balkan dish. It is a cold soup (or a liquid salad). It is made of yoghurt, cucumber, garlic, walnuts, dill, vegetable oil, and water, and is served chilled or even with ice. Local variations may replace yogurt with water and vinegar, omit

nuts or dill, or add bread crumbs. The cucumbers may on rare occasions be replaced with lettuce or carrots. Tarator is also a type of summer salad.

Shopska salad is a traditional Bulgarian cold salad popular throughout the Balkans and Central Europe. Shopska salad derives its name from the regional group called *Shopi* living mostly in parts of Bulgaria. It is made from tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, raw or roasted peppers (preferably roasted), sirene (white brine cheese), and parsley.



Main Dishes

Most Bulgarian dishes are oven baked, steamed, or in the form of stew. Deep-frying is not very typical, but grilling - especially different kinds of meats - is very common. Pork meat is the most common meat

in the Bulgarian cuisine. Fish and chicken are widely eaten and while beef is less common, as most cattle are bred for milk production rather than meat, veal is a natural byproduct of this process and it is found in many popular recipes. Bulgaria is a net exporter of lamb and its own consumption of the meat is prevalent during its production time in spring.



A very popular, as well as favorite and frequently served Bulgarian dish is **baked beans**. It is traditionally cooked in an earthenware pot. This meal is basically meatless, although in some regions of the country it is prepared with the addition of bacon or other smoked meats and sausages. What makes this meal really exceptional is the variety of typical Bulgarian spices, such as savory, thyme, fenugreek and spearmint.

One of the most popular Bulgarian dishes is **kebapche** - grilled minced meat with spices. The meat is shaped into an elongated cylindrical form, similar to a hot dog. Typically, a mix of pork and beef is used, although some recipes involve only pork.



Various stews and dishes in clay pots are also a regular part of the Bulgarian cuisine (hotchpotch and casseroles). These include **Chomlek**, **Kavarma**, and **Kapama** (in the Bansko region).

Another favorite Bulgarian dish is **sarmi**, prepared with cabbage or vine leaves – the leaves used may be either small or broad. The dish, which is prepared by leaves rolled around a filling usually based on minced meat, is very popular in the Thracian region.



Breads and Pastries



The most popular pastry in Bulgaria with countless varieties is **banitsa**. Banitsa is served for breakfast with plain yoghurt and may be eaten hot or cold. This is a traditional food prepared by layering a mixture of whisked eggs and cheese between filo pastries and baking it in an oven. Some varieties include banitsa with spinach or the sweet versions, banitsa with sugared milk or pumpkin filling.

On certain occasions, particularly on New Year's Eve, into the pastry are put lucky charms. These charms may be coins or small symbolic objects. More recently, people have started writing happy wishes on small papers and wrapping them in tin foil. Wishes may include happiness, health, or success throughout the upcoming year.

Another traditional pastry in Bulgaria is **kozunak** usually prepared for Easter. Kozunak is a type of sweet bread, to which milk, sugar, eggs, butter and raisins are added. The Italian *Panettone* is very similar to the basic kozunak, the most visible difference being their shapes.



Drinks



Grape growing and wine production have a long history in Bulgaria, dating back to the times of the ancient Thracians. Wine is among the most popular alcoholic beverages in the country. **Mavrud**, **Gamza** and **Melnik** are unique Bulgarian red wines.

Rakia is an alcoholic beverage, produced by distillation of fermented fruits. Common flavors are **grozdova**, produced from grapes and **slivovitsa**, produced from plums. The alcohol content is normally 40 % ABV, but home-produced rakia can be stronger (typically 50 % to 60 %). It was believed that rakia was first created in the 16th century in the Balkans, the location unknown, but recent discovery of wording on a shred of pottery, which reads ***I have drunk rakinya at the celebration*** (rakinya being the old word for rakia), may indicate its presence in 14th century Bulgaria. This discovery may strengthen the case for rakia's Bulgarian origin and allow its designation by the EU as a national drink.



◆ FAMOUS BULGARIANS

HISTORICAL FIGURES



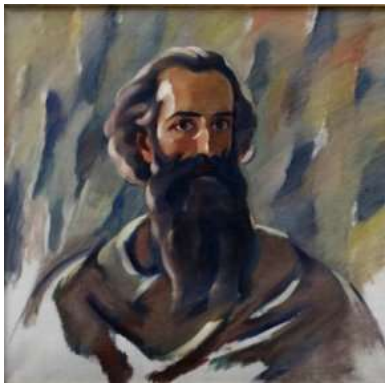
Tsar Simeon I The Great – The greatest ever ruler of Bulgaria from year 893 to 927, who was the driving force for the Golden Age of Bulgarian medieval Civilization.

Paisiy Hilendarski (b.1722 – d.1773) is the father of the Bulgarian Renaissance and author of the first Bulgarian history. Paisiy was a scholar and clergyman in Hilendar monastery on Mount Athos. The *Zografou* draft of his *Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya* (Slavonic-Bulgarian History) is depicted on the reverse of the Bulgarian 2 leva banknote, issued in 1999 and 2005.



Hristo Botev (b.1848 – d.1876) was called **the genius** of the Bulgarian literature. Brilliant Bulgarian poet and revolutionary who gave his life for the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule in the April Uprising. A verse of Hristo Botev is written in golden letters in the Sorbonne – Paris, as an example of his poetry masterpiece.

Ivan Vazov (b.1850 – d.1921) – one of the most prominent figures in Bulgarian literature after the Liberation. His novel “Under the Yoke” depicts the Ottoman oppression of Bulgaria and is the most famous piece of classic Bulgarian literature. “Under the Yoke” has been translated into more than 30 languages.

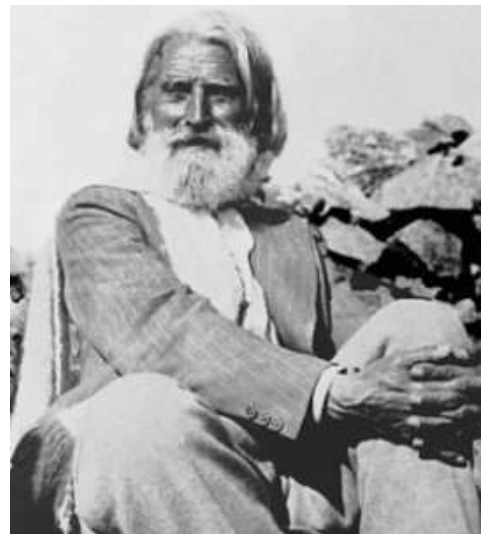


Vladimir Dimitrov “The Master” (b.1882 – d.1960) – the most famous Bulgarian painter. His portraits and compositions have expressive color, idealistic quality of the image and high symbolic strength.

Petar Danov (b.1864 – d.1944) was a spiritual master and founder of a School of Esoteric Christianity called the Universal White Brotherhood. He is called **Master Beinsá Dunó** by his followers.

“The entire world renders homage to me and I render homage to the Master Petar Danov from Bulgaria”

Albert Einstein



John Atanasoff (b.1903 – d.1995), the creator of the first electronic digital computer, was proud of his Bulgarian origin. It was he who came with the idea of abandoning mechanics and designed electronic calculating circuits operating

through a binary system of numbers. His invention opened the door to world information revolution.



Christo (Hristo Vladimirov Yavashev) was a Bulgarian artist who created environmental works of art in collaboration with his wife Jeanne-Claude. Their works include the wrapping of the Reichstag in Berlin and the Pont-Neuf in Paris, the 24-mile-long art work

called *Running Fence* in Sonoma and Marin counties in California, and *The Gates* in New York City's Central Park.

TODAY'S GENERATION

Teodosiy Spasov is a Bulgarian jazz musician who plays the kaval (Bulgarian wooden flute). Newsweek Magazine recognized Teodosiy Spasov as one of the most talented Eastern-European musicians in its "best of the East" article, noting that "Spasov... is not merely surviving the post-communist cultural wasteland. He has actually invented a new musical genre."



Vasko Vasilev – a world famous violist and concertmaster, creative director of the Royal Opera House in London, UK. Teacher of Vanessa May.



Upsurt is a Bulgarian rap-band founded in the beginning of 1996 by four childhood friends. Currently the band consists of three members. *Upsurt* have released four albums so far. In

the tradition of true hip-hop, *Upsurt* criticizes politicians and popular artists, mocks the status quo and points out what the real, unspoken problems of the Bulgarian society are.



Dimitar Berbatov – a Bulgarian football player who is currently a striker for Manchester United. Berbatov won the Bulgarian Footballer of the Year a record seven times. He is the first non-Englishman in Premier League to have scored five goals in a single match, having done so in Manchester United's 7-1 win over Blackburn Rovers in November 2010.

Tsvetana Pironkova is a Bulgarian tennis player. In September 2010 she achieved her career high of world no. 31. Pironkova is best known for defeating Venus Williams three times at Grand Slam



tournaments. Currently, Pironkova is the Bulgarian no. 1, and has won six ITF titles in her career. She has been recognized as one of the most beautiful women in sports by MSN.



Veselin Topalov is a Bulgarian chess grandmaster. In 2005 Topalov became the FIDE World Chess Champion. He currently has the sixth highest rating in the world and was the challenger facing world champion Viswanathan Anand in the World Chess

Championship 2010, losing the match 6½–5½.

Stanislav Ianevski – Bulgarian actor, mostly known for his role of **Viktor Krum**, the Bulgarian *quidditch* player, in the Harry Potter movies - *Harry Potter and the Goblet of fire* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.



Nina Dobrev is a Bulgarian-Canadian actress and model. She played the role of Mia Jones, the single teenage mother, on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, from the show's sixth to ninth season. She currently stars as Elena Gilbert and Katherine Price on the CW television teen drama, *The Vampire Diaries*. In April 2011, she was cast as Candace in the film adaptation of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, alongside Logan Lerman, Emma Watson and Paul Rudd.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. Do I need a visa to enter Bulgaria?

- For residents of the EU and the USA, no visa is required for up to a 90-day stay in Bulgaria. For information about other countries, see the following site:

www.mfa.bg/en/pages/view/85

2. Is the use of credit cards wide spread?

- In large stores, hotels, and catering and entertainment establishments, the following credit cards are generally accepted: Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club. In smaller stores, hotels, and catering and entertainment establishments, it is necessary to pay in cash.

3. What currency is used for daily transactions in the country?

- At present, only BGN (lev) is accepted. The official currency of the country is the lev, which is equal to 100 stotinki.

4. What is the best way to exchange currency?

- All banks and licensed exchange offices are suitable for exchanging currency.

5. Where are the international airports in the country?

- There are international airports in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas. Direct charter flights are available to the Black Sea airports in Varna and Burgas during the summer season.

6. Which are the mobile operators in the country?

- Vivacom, Globul and Mtel. They cover the entire territory of the country. They maintain 2G and 3G networks and GSM 900/1800.

7. What are the speed limits for motor vehicles in Bulgaria?

- 50 km/h in populated areas; 90 km/h outside populated areas; 130 km/h on limited access highways.



8. What is the country's emergency telephone number?

- 112.

9. Bulgaria is located in which time zone?

- Bulgaria is located in the Eastern European Time Zone, which is GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) +2 hours.

10. What is the electric voltage in the country?

- 220 V, 50 Hz.

11. Can I rent a car in Bulgaria?

- Visitors can hire motor vehicles from one of the international rent-a-car companies such as Hertz, Budget, Eurocar, and others. Also, many hotels now offer this service through licensed Bulgarian car rental companies.

12. What is the climate in Bulgaria?

- The climate in the country is temperate continental, with Mediterranean influence in the southern parts. The Black Sea influences the climate in the eastern part of the country. There are about 2,000 sunny hours from May to October. During the winter, the mountains are particularly suitable for winter sports.

13. Which season is best for visiting the country?

- The most appropriate time for a visit depends on the reason for your trip. The most suitable months for skiing are December, January, February and March. If you are interested in visiting the Black



Sea beaches – June, July, August and September are most appropriate. If you are a hiker or camper, the most appropriate times are the late spring, the beginning of summer and early autumn. Any time of year is a good time to visit one of Bulgaria's many spa resorts.

14. Which are the largest sea resorts?

- Sunny Beach, Golden Sands, Albena, Dyuni, Elenite, MMC Primorsko, St. Konstantin and St. Helena and the cities of Varna and Burgas.

15. Which are the country's best-known mountain resorts?

- Borovets, Pamporovo, Bansko and Vitosha.