

**SOFIA UNIVERSITY**  
**“ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”**



## HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Sofia is the oldest establishment of higher education in Bulgaria. It bears the name of St. Kliment Ohridski (approx. 840-916) – one of the most illustrious disciples of the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius, founders of the Cyrillic script. The University began in 1888 as a Higher School of Education with a single department of History and Philology. With the opening of another department of Physics and Mathematics a few months later, it was transformed into a Higher School. 1892 saw the opening of the Faculty of Law. Gradually, more faculties were added to the university structure – of Medicine, Veterinary Science, Agronomy, Theology and Economics, some of them subsequently evolving into independent institutes.

The main building of Sofia University was designed by the French architect Bréasson and completed in 1937. Its construction was funded from the donation made by the brothers Evlogi and Hristo Georgiev. The statues of the two benefactors can be seen on the sides of the main entrance. The building itself is a UNESCO-listed monument of culture.



*The brothers Evlogi and Hristo Georgievi*

Over the years, Sofia University has grown into a fully developed academic institution. Today, it is the largest and most prestigious educational and scientific center in Bulgaria. It enjoys international prestige on the Balkans and within Europe.

At present, the academic structure of the University comprises 16 faculties teaching 92 major subjects to more than 22,000 undergraduates, including 1,500 international students. More than 850 PhD students from Bulgaria and about 120 from abroad are currently studying and carrying out scientific research in the University structures. Teaching and research at the University are supported by the specialized research centers and laboratories.

Sofia University maintains traditionally good contacts with the major universities of Europe, the United States, Asia and Africa. Exchange programs with these institutions for students, academic staff and research information have been in place for many years.

The **University Library** is the center of the university complex. At present its stock includes more than 2 million volumes, ranging from rare and unique editions to contemporary academic literature. The University Library was the first Bulgarian library to make accessible an electronic catalogue via the Internet: [www.libsu.uni-sofia.bg](http://www.libsu.uni-sofia.bg)

*The University Library*



Opportunities for **sports** are plentiful. The University **Sports Department** includes the Department of Sports, the Sports Rehabilitation Center, the *Akademik* University Club, the *Akademik* Stadium and all its facilities, the *Hristo Botev* Sports Hall, an indoor games hall, tennis courts, a swimming pool, a climbing wall.

*Opportunities for sports are plentiful*



*The University – now*



*The Internet Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy*



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS

### General rules for admission

The Bulgarian system of higher education is open to all foreign applicants who have a diploma for completed secondary education which makes them eligible to study at the universities in the country in which they have completed secondary education.

The Bulgarian system of higher education comprises the following three degrees for which applicants may enroll depending on their previously awarded degree (diploma).

1. **Bachelor's degree** – four years of study according to the regular curriculum.
2. **Master's degree** – **five years** of study according to the regular curriculum (for Law, Medicine, and other programs without a two-tier (Bachelor's and Master's degree) structure and where students graduate directly with a Master's degree) or **at least one year** after completing a Bachelor's degree. The length of the Master's degree course depends on the specific program, the area in which the applicant has already qualified, and on the previously obtained degree (a Bachelor's or Master's diploma).
3. **Doctoral degree** – three years of study according to the regular curriculum, or four years for part-time programs.

Students can choose from among the different modes of study (full-time, part-time, distance) depending on the program offered by the respective faculty.

Application to study at the University is possible:

- in implementation of **intergovernmental agreements** for educational, scientific and cultural exchange;
- in accordance with **Decrees of the Council of Ministers** (Regulation No 103 / 1993 for Bulgarian nationals permanently living abroad and possessing only foreign citizenship, and Regulation No 228 / 1997 for citizens of the Republic of Macedonia);
- provided they pay the **full tuition fee**.

According to Regulation No 79 / 09.05.2000 (last changed June, 2005), foreign citizens apply to study at the Bulgarian institutions of higher education **on a competition basis by submitting their documents**. Applications are ranked provided that the grade relevant to the major applied for is not lower than 62% of the maximum grade according to the grading system in the country in which the applicant has completed his/her secondary education (i.e. is equivalent to a grade of Good).

Under Article 95 (6) of the Bulgarian Higher Education Act **students with dual citizenship** (Bulgarian and foreign) pay half (50 %) the educational tuition fees if they apply to study at a Bulgarian university as foreigners. They may also compete for scholarships with other Bulgarian candidates. In this case they must have the grades from their Diploma for Secondary Education (if issued abroad) equalized in accordance with the Bulgarian system of assessment.

Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia may apply under Regulations No 103 / 1993 and No 228 / 1997 (without the right to compete for scholarships) with a tuition fee of 30% the

tuition fee for foreign students. They submit their documents for consideration at the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science in the first half of August.

Foreign citizens can apply to study at Bulgarian higher education institutions under the terms and conditions regulating the admission of Bulgarian citizens to higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria if:

- they have a permanent residence permit;
- they are recognized as refugees;
- are of Bulgarian nationality, certified in accordance with the Decree of the Council of Ministers No 103 / 1993.

Admission to Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” of BA/BSc, MA/MSc, PhD and specializing students who are **citizens of EU member countries** or who come from areas within the EU economic zone is regulated by the terms and conditions applicable to Bulgarian citizens in accordance with Art. 68, Para. 6 of the Higher Education Act.

Applicants submit their documents, officially translated and validated according to the Bulgarian laws, not later than **15<sup>th</sup> September** for the respective academic year. The application package should be addressed to the Inspector of Foreign Students and submitted at the Foreign Students Admission Office – room 214, Rectorate, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The application package can be submitted directly in the Office or by registered mail. Applications made by e-mail or containing documents that have not been duly certified will not be considered.

The University authorities will send the documents of the admitted applicants to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, so that **long-stay visas** type “D” can be issued.

The **academic year** for all full-time and part-time students is organized according to a schedule endorsed by the Rector at the beginning of the academic year. The academic year for all full-time students is divided into **two semesters**, each lasting 15 weeks:

- winter semester – from October to January (15 weeks).
- summer semester – from February to June (15 weeks).

Foreign citizens admitted to institutions for higher education in Bulgaria pay **tuition fees** set by the Council of Ministers on an annual basis. The fees are set in their total annual amount in Euro or the BGN equivalent according to the official rate of the Bulgarian National Bank. The students can pay the fees in two equal instalments at the beginning of each semester through a wire transfer to the bank account of the University.

### **Application documents required**

The tuition-fee paying students (foreign citizens applying to study under Art. 95, Para. 5 of the Higher Education Act, according to which undergraduate, doctoral and specializing students have to pay tuition fees) submit the following documents:

- a completed **Application Form** or a letter of application containing a brief CV and specifying the faculty, the major, the mode and period of study, and the **degree program** applied for. The Application Form must explicitly specify the applicant’s **Bulgarian language proficiency level**;

- foreign citizens applying for the **full period of study** are required to submit a **validated copy** and a **certified translation** of their **Diploma for completed secondary education** including a **supplement** specifying their attendance record and grades and accompanied by the full **academic record**;
- foreign citizens applying for a **part of the full period of study** submit all the documents described above and/or an academic record. Foreign citizens applying for a higher educational degree (for a Master's or a Doctoral program) are required to submit a **certified translation of their Bachelor's or Master's diploma and/or academic record**;
- a document issued by a competent body certifying the **applicant's eligibility** to continue his/her studies in higher educational institutions in the country in which he/she has completed his/her secondary education;
- a **medical certificate** issued no earlier than a month before the application procedure, validated by the respective authorities in the applicant's country;

**The Diploma and the medical certificate must be legalized, translated into Bulgarian and validated in accordance with the provisions contained in the intergovernmental agreements between the Republic of Bulgaria and the country in which these documents were issued.** If no such agreement exists, the documents must be legalized, translated and validated according to the standard procedure for the legalization, translation and validation of documents and other official papers (apostil).

- a photocopy of the applicant's **identity card or passport** with the name legibly written in the Latin alphabet and indicating the place and date of birth. Applicants with dual citizenship should also provide photocopies of their Bulgarian identity card or passport. Whenever there is a difference between the names on the two identity cards or passports, the applicant must also provide a notarized declaration of identity (or, alternatively, a certificate issued by the respective municipal authorities) stating that the different names belong to one and the same person;
- a declaration of the applicant's **financial provision** for the period of study (optional);
- four recent **photographs**.

### **Bulgarian language training**

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" provides general and specialized language training for international students. Language training is organized by the Faculty of Slavic Studies (for students in the humanities) and by the Department of Language Learning (for students in the sciences).

The general and specialized language training for foreign citizens is organized according to an officially endorsed curriculum and syllabus. The training lasts no less than **9 months** (1 academic year) and is conducted in groups of no more than ten people. It includes compulsory courses divided into two groups with a minimum duration in academic hours as follows:

- for students in the humanities: 800 hours of Bulgarian;
- for all other students (in the sciences): 650 hours of Bulgarian;  
350 hours in specializing subjects.

The language training of doctoral and specializing students lasts no less than **6 months** and is organized in groups not exceeding ten people.

The Bulgarian language training courses end with **a written and an oral examination** in Bulgarian. The specialized training courses end with examinations in all subjects taught. Students who have successfully completed the general and specializing courses receive standard certificates, officially approved by the Ministry of Education and Science and mandatory for the enrollment of foreign citizens as first-year students at Sofia University.

Applicants who are already proficient in Bulgarian can sit the examinations without necessarily going through the language training courses (including examinations in specializing subject areas).



*Student life during and after classes*



## UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ADMISSION OFFICE

Bachelor and Master's Degree Programs  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
15, "Tzar Osvoboditel" Blvd  
Room 214  
Tel. (+359 2) 93 08 548; 846 35 46  
fax (+359 2) 946 02 55  
e-mail: [foreignstud@admin.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:foreignstud@admin.uni-sofia.bg)  
Mrs. Elena Tsenkova (Inspector)

### PHD STUDENTS AND POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION DEPARTMENT

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
15, "Tzar Osvoboditel" Blvd  
Room 18  
Tel. (+359 2) 46 21 85; 93 08 445,  
fax (+359 2) 946 02 55  
e-mail: [doctoranti@admin.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:doctoranti@admin.uni-sofia.bg)  
Mrs. Nadezhda Prodanova  
(Head of PhD Students and Postgraduate Qualification Department)

### LLP / ERASMUS STUDENTS

Centre of European Educational Programs  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"  
15, "Tzar Osvoboditel" Blvd  
Room 5  
Tel. (+359 2) 944 6423; 93 08 700,  
fax (+359 2) 9861597  
e-mail: [socrates@admin.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:socrates@admin.uni-sofia.bg)  
Mr. Roumen Grigorov  
(Head of International Relations Department)

## ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” offers foreign students accommodation in student halls of residence situated in *Studentski grad*. Depending on availability, accommodation consists of a double room with a bathroom and shared kitchen facilities (for approximately EUR 35 a month) or a triple room with a bathroom and shared kitchen facilities (for approximately EUR 30 a month).

Better quality rooms supplied with Internet connection are available to foreign students at the recently renovated university hostel (Block No 8 in *Studentski grad*) at a monthly rent of EUR 150 for a double room (EUR 75 per person if shared).



### Unit responsible for the accommodation in student hostels:

1700 Sofia, Studentski grad  
Hristo Botev Blvd. Block 42-B  
Rooms: 103 and 105  
Tel. (+359 2) 868 92 74; 963 42 38  
fax (+359 2) 963 42 38  
e-mail: [goranov@sbo.uni-sofia.bg](mailto:goranov@sbo.uni-sofia.bg)  
[p.goranov@uni-campus.net](mailto:p.goranov@uni-campus.net)  
Mr. Petko Goranov  
(Head of Student Social Affairs)

### Useful links

Further information about SOFIA UNIVERSITY ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’ can be found on the University’s official Web site: [www.uni-sofia.bg](http://www.uni-sofia.bg)

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria – [www.minedu.government.bg](http://www.minedu.government.bg)

Sofia Municipality – [www.sofia.bg/en/index\\_en.asp](http://www.sofia.bg/en/index_en.asp)

## **BULGARIA IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Bulgaria has become full-fledged member of the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007. Situated in South-east Europe the country occupies the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. The neighboring states are Romania to the North, Macedonia and Serbia to the West, Greece to the South and Turkey to the Southeast. To the East the country touches the Black Sea. Bulgaria is a medium-sized country.

Geography: Area: 110 993, 6 sq. km. Population: 7 680 000 Capital: Sofia  
Cities (2006 est.): Sofia 1 377 531; Plovdiv 375 137; Varna 346 944, Burgas 203 422.

Bulgaria's capital Sofia is located in the central part of Western Bulgaria, at a strategic crossroad, through which the connection between Western Europe (through Belgrade – Skopje – Plovdiv – Istanbul) and the countries of the Middle East; between the Danube and the White Sea areas; from the Black Sea to the Adriatic Sea.

The total area of Sofia field is about 1050 sq. km of which Sofia occupies nearly 120 sq. km.

The relief of its land surface is various, with 550 m average height above sea-level.

The climate is moderate continental with well-marked seasons of the year and strong anthropogenic influence. The average annual temperature for Sofia is 10,5°C, the average temperature for January being minus 1,7°C and the average July temperature – 21,2°C.

Government Type: Republic;

Head of State: President - Georgi Parvanov;

Head of government: Prime Minister - Sergey Stanishev;

Local divisions: 28 provinces.

Official language: Bulgarian

Religions: Orthodox, Catholics, Muslim and others

Finance: Monetary unit: Bulgarian Lev (LV)

Rate of Exchange: 1 EUR = 1, 9558 LV

[www.bcci.bg/services/currency/](http://www.bcci.bg/services/currency/)

### **Land of culture and traditions**

Bulgaria is a land of rich historical and cultural heritage: the magnificent gold Thracian treasures, Greek and Roman antic remains, Orpheus' music, original folklore dances and songs, plethora of impressive monasteries and monuments. It is also famous with the traditional Bulgarian yogurt, the aromatic Thracian wine -Mavrud and the popular Bulgarian rose oil.

### **Unique language**

Bulgarian language belongs to the group of the Slavonic languages. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century the brothers Cyril and Methodius overthrew the traditional trilingual dogma and created the Cyrillic alphabet, which laid the fundamentals of contemporary Bulgarian language.

### **Medical care**

If you are an EU/EEA citizen you are entitled to free health care in Bulgaria on the basis of E-111 form or of the European Health Insurance Card both issued in your home country. In case of medical care needed you have to present one of these documents together with your ID document.

If you come from a non EU/EEA country you should arrange for health insurance documents in your home country before visiting Bulgaria. According to Bulgarian health regulations foreign students have to pay for any medical consultation or help. After you return the costs will be reimbursed by the health insurance company.

### **Being Erasmus student in Bulgaria**

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski has more than 374 Erasmus Bilateral agreements with partner universities in Europe.

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 home university and Sofia University. If yes, you can apply for study mobility period in Bulgaria in your subject area.

Your home institutions has to select you as an Erasmus participant and then you can prepare your stay in Bulgaria by visiting the web-site of the Bulgarian host university and other WebPages concerning the country, the region an the city.

If you want to learn Bulgarian language check if there are language courses at the Bulgarian host university or you can apply for Erasmus Intensive Language Courses provided in Bulgaria.

### **Living costs**

The living costs in Bulgaria are still relatively low compared to the other member states. Public services and restaurants offer reasonable prices feasible for young people and students. There are various opportunities for accommodation on decent rates and lots of places to relax and recreate - impressive mountains and Black Sea costs with plenty winter and summer resorts for skiing, hiking, climbing, rafting, yachting, driving, swimming or just resting.

### **Practical issues**

#### **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 obtain this permit.

#### **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 in Europe.

For more information see: [www.mfa.government.bg](http://www.mfa.government.bg)

## ARRIVAL INFORMATION

### Arrival by plane (at Sofia Airport)

There is a regular public bus link from Sofia Airport to the city centre. The bus stop is just outside the Arrivals terminal 2. Bus number 284 goes to Sofia University. There is an inscription

**Софийски университет  
“Св. Климент Охридски”**

You may buy ticket from the driver but it's better to do it from the kiosk in the bus station. The price for one ticket is 0.80 leva /about 40 cent/

Just outside the Arrivals terminal, next to the bus stop there is a cross-town minibus (van, called marshrutka in Bulgarian) number 30, which will take you to the Sofia University. There aren't any tickets: simply jump in, pass 1.5 Leva (approximately EUR 0.8) to the driver and say Sofia University.

You can take a taxi from the airport which will drive you directly to our University. It should cost approximately EUR 10 (20 Leva).

### Arrival by bus (Sofia Central Bus Station)

There are many companies, both international and Bulgarian, 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 on Maria Louiza Blvd.

Just opposite of the building of the Central Bus Station there is a cross-town minibus (van, called marshrutka in Bulgarian) number 2 which will take you to our University. There aren't any tickets: simply jump in, pass 1.5 Leva to the driver and hand out your address to the driver.

**Софийски университет  
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### Arrival by train

Sofia has one major train station called Central Railway Station (Централна гара /Tzentralna Gara/ in Bulgarian). It is next to the new Central Bus Station.

**Authors:**

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Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski* 2009