

СОФИЙСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
„СВ. КЛИМЕНТ ОХРИДСКИ“

СТОПАНСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ



SOFIA UNIVERSITY
ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ACADEMIC YEAR
2022/2023

in partnership with



FINTECH
BULGARIA



FINTECH AND E-BANKING COURSE

PART OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE
IN FINANCE, INVESTMENTS
AND FINTECH



ABOUT THIS COURSE

FINTECH AND E-BANKING

The Fintech and E-Banking course is part of the Master's degree in Finance, Investments, and Fintech at the Faculty of Economics and Business administration at Sofia University. This 45-hour English language course investigates how Fintech is transforming financial services across Europe and the World. By acquiring an up-to-date understanding of the current financial landscape, students will learn how to engage with and think about the future of financial services innovation across industries, and the challenges it faces. The course's main goal is to produce a critical mass of highly qualified specialists with a proven interest in the financial sector who will eventually join or establish a Fintech business located in the region of Southeast Europe.



Duration

45 teaching hours



Starting hour

Working days after 18h and weekends



Lecturers

in collaboration
with the private sector



Informal learning

Fintech hackathons
and conferences



I liked the practical orientation and introduction to real Bulgarian fintech companies, as well as the theoretical part which gave a good basis for understanding the topics. Also, the attitude of the lecturers towards their subjects made a great impression on me.

STUDENT IN THE FINTECH AND E-BANKING
COURSE, 2021-2022



WHAT THE COURSE COVERS

PROGRAM

The course will provide a large number of examples of how Fintech has challenged and transformed businesses across industries, and the globe. By exploring Fintech's consolidation and maturation, students will gain insight into financial ecosystems and how the industry has created the need for new regulatory frameworks. Gaining in-depth knowledge about the space, they will then be equipped to evaluate which actors are driving future innovation, and which technologies will have a lasting impact on the industry. The course will investigate the impact of Fintech in countries that are traditionally considered to have highly developed financial industries, as well as the innovation and adoption within Emerging Europe and Asia.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

During the Fintech and E-Banking course, students will have the opportunity to attend numerous lectures by professionals from the Bulgarian Fintech Association, who will present real-life examples of Fintechs across Europe.



FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE BUILT?

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

As part of the Master's degree in Finance, Investments, and Fintech, the Fintech and E-Banking course is created for both professionals and graduates who want to acquire new skills and knowledge in analyzing the latest developments in the financial world. The Master's degree applicants for the 3-semester programme should hold a Bachelor's degree in either Economics or Business Management. Students without a Bachelor's or a Master's in Economics and/or Business Management will study several additional economics classes within the Master's degree across 4 semesters.

THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU IF YOU WANT TO:



Learn more about the current development of the financial sector



Meet with the Bulgarian banking and Fintech communities



Validate your Fintech expertise with a premier diploma

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

MODERN CURRICULUM

Apart from traditional lectures, the process of acquiring new skills and knowledge will be augmented with real-life case studies, conferences, etc. This approach will ease the transition from the university's bench to a professional career in the Fintech industry.

Module 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE RISE OF FINTECH

We will discuss the place of Fintech in the finance and growth nexus, the evolution of Fintechs, their main types, as well as regional and global trends in the field.

Module 2

CREATIVE DISRUPTION: RESHAPING THE BANKING AND PAYMENTS INDUSTRY

We will analyze the sources of banking vulnerability and the current wave of digitalization in banking. We will also discuss how Fintechs improve payment systems and how they facilitate financial and economic development through p2p and p2b lending.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Module 3

REGULATING FINTECHS

We will discuss what the rise of Fintechs implies for the stability of the financial system, how authorities try to regulate the field and whether regulation can foster financial innovation instead of impeding it.

Module 4

MEGATRENDS IN FINANCE I: BLOCKCHAIN

We will discuss how blockchain has changed financial services through its different applications. We will try to gauge the long-term implications of this technology for financial services and monetary policy.

Module 5

MEGATRENDS IN FINANCE II: AI AND MACHINE LEARNING

We will analyse the impact of artificial intelligence and machine learning on the financial system and how they affect the broader economy. We will discuss several applications of AI and ML, including the analysis of big data and customer behavior.

Module 6

FUTURE OF BANKING AND FINANCE

We will discuss the future of money, markets and marketplaces, and the growing field of Insurtech.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Module 7

FINTECH HACKATHON

The course will conclude with a hackathon where students will solve real-world problems under the mentorship of professionals from the Fintech industry.

Grading

1. Course project (hackathon): 50%
2. Final exam: 50%
3. Bonus for active participation throughout the course: 20%

Professional Prospects

Graduates of the Master's Degree in Finance, Investments, and Fintech will greatly improve their professional prospects in the sphere of management and development of banking and non-banking institutions, as well as in the public sector, in entities such as municipalities, ministries, agencies, etc.

FINTECH HACKATHON

CREATE THE FINTECH OF YOUR DREAMS

The Fintech hackathon is the next step of the Master's degree program in Finance, Investment and Fintech at Sofia University. It provides students with the opportunity to turn their Fintech dreams into reality.

The core of the hackathon is a series of workshops conducted by some of the most prominent experts in the field of marketing, sales, and investments in Fintech solutions in Bulgaria and Europe. A legal expert will touch upon regulations, and investors will shed light on financing and access to venture capital.

The event is open to anyone interested in the field of digital finance. It aims at giving everything an entrepreneur needs for a flying start in Fintech: knowledge, network, access to finance, and, of course, stimulating prizes.

Check out the 2022 Fintech Hackathon:
<https://fromzerotofintech.com/>



Team up

Find the right people



Traction

Test your Fintech dream



Prizes

Be awarded and begin your journey

NEW BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTO COURSE

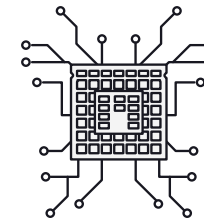
FOR THE MOST CURIOUS ONES

In addition to the course in Fintech and E-Banking, the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University has launched a course in blockchain and crypto assets. This course is created for the tech-savvy, who are intrigued to learn more about how blockchain technology is changing the global financial sector. Throughout the course, students will learn how the infamous cryptocurrencies work on a technical level. The course is taught by associate professor Angel Marchev, PhD and by blockchain and crypto masters from the private sector, supported by the Bulgarian Fintech Association.



Duration

30 teaching hours



Technology

Teaching the latest in tech



Lecturers

Taught by industry leaders

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM

THE TEACHING DREAM TEAM

The Fintech and E-Banking course will be guided by an expert in the subject matter from Sofia University. Various industry professionals will support the teaching process.

ACADEMIC LECTURER



Deyan Radev, PhD

Petar Beron Fellow in Economics and Assistant Professor of FinTech and Banking at

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Deyan Radev received a PhD in Economics at Goethe University Frankfurt, an MBA at the University of Konstanz, and a BSc in Economics at FEBA at Sofia University. Dr. Radev has more than 10 years of research and teaching experience at the universities of Frankfurt, Bonn, and Mainz and has taught courses in empirical banking and corporate finance. His research interests lie in the fields of fintech and banking, financial stability, corporate finance, and applied econometrics.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



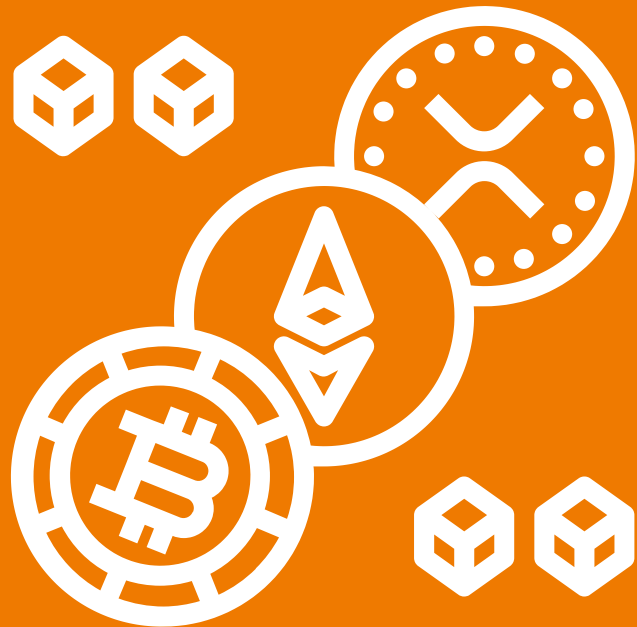
**Gergana
Stoichkova**

Investment Associate at

eleven

Gergana holds a BSc in Business Administration from LMU in Munich and MSc in Finance from Bocconi University in Milan. She is an experienced investment analyst who has been working on a strategic level for many Fintech companies in Bulgaria and Europe. She has a particular interest in fintech, payments, blockchain, startups, and project management. Gergana is also one of the co-founders and current Advisory Board member of 180 Degrees Consulting Sofia – a student-driven consultancy assisting socially conscious organizations. She will contribute to the Fintech and E-Banking course with her immense knowledge in starting and developing a Fintech company from zero in the SEE region.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Kosta Kantchev

Co-founder of



Kosta is an early cryptocurrency adopter and blockchain entrepreneur. Kosta is also a co-founder and board member of Credissimo, the leading international Fintech group founded in 2007.



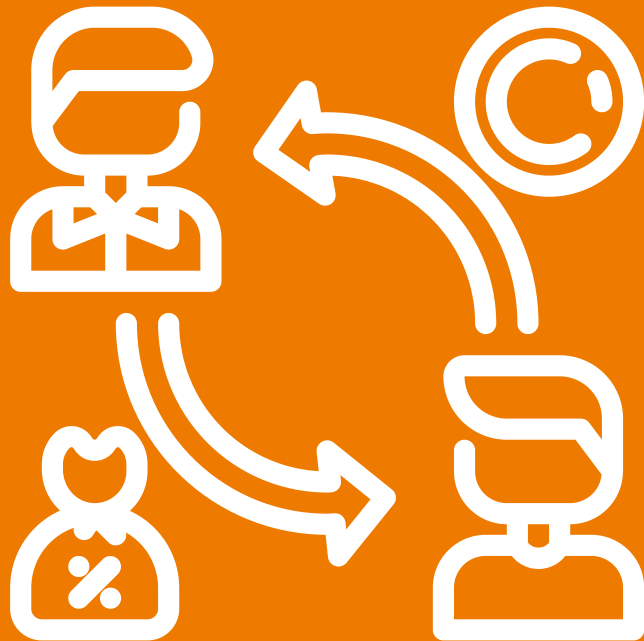
Georgi Manolov

Business Development Executive at



George is working full-time in the blockchain industry since 2017. He is convinced cryptocurrencies will transform the whole financial industry just like the internet transformed traditional media. George is currently leading business development, partnerships, and payments at Nexo.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Ivaylo Ivanov

Former Chief Executive Officer of



Ivaylo is a Fintech expert with experience in financial services, business development, consulting, project management, and a passion for entrepreneurship. He has worked at EY, Leinonen Group, and PWC in the areas of assurance, M&A and management consulting. He also held a position on the Board of Directors of the European Equity Crowdfunding Association (EECA). Ivaylo holds a Bachelor's degree in Business administration from Sofia University and an MBA from Cotrugli Business School. He is a member of the UK Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Ivo Vasilev

Chief Executive Officer of



Ivo is the Founder/CEO of Reloyalty, a new generation loyalty platform turning every bank card in Europe into a personal loyalty card. During the Covid19 lockdowns, Reloyalty helps businesses secure cash flow via crowdfunding campaigns and payback to customers when they make card purchases in the future. Previously Ivo gained 10 years of experience building technology companies and products, as a founder of tech startups, operator in companies like Groupon, and part of the team of 2 seed venture funds. Before retiring to Bulgaria, he spent time living in London, Sydney, Barcelona, and Buenos Aires and in 2014 was selected as 30under30 by Forbes Bulgaria.

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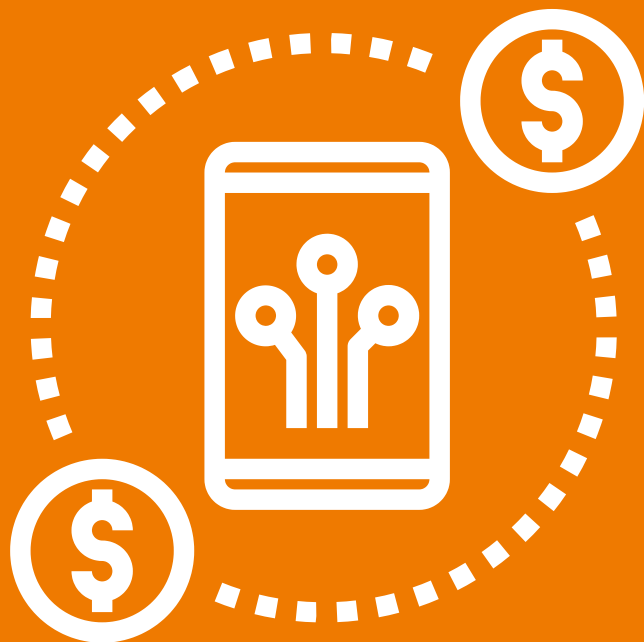
Konstantin Djelebov

Co-founder and CEO of



Konstantin Djelebov is a co-founder and CEO of Phyre - a platform for digital banking. He holds a master's degree from the University of National and World Economy with a profile in Business Informatics. He started his career as a bank employee and for several years gaining experience in all units of the Information Technology Directorate. His most exciting projects are related to innovations in internet banking. Only 24 years old, Konstantin entered the startup ecosystem as a technical director and co-founder of Getti. In just a few years, the company became the largest platform for loyalty programs in Bulgaria. Ivo Georgiev, Valeri Valchev, and Konstantin founded Phyre - one of the Fintech leaders in the region.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Yana Prodanova

Chief Risk and Compliance Officer at



Yana Prodanova is part of the Card Payments/FinTech business since 2007. During that time, she had the chance to get thorough experience in the field, especially from a Risk and Compliance point of view, solving many regulatory/compliance/risk problems and real situations, going through the dynamic of all Regulatory changes. During her working experience, she has always been trying to look for the most optimal solution that will ensure a compliant and secure environment that, in its turn, will foster business. She believes that sharing this experience can be helpful for young people who are interested in the field and would like to know more about the processes related to compliance, risk assessment and fraud prevention in one FinTech company.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Loic Le Pichoux

Co-founder and CEO of



Loic Le Pichoux is the CEO and a Co-Founder of Klear, a unique platform combining Peer-to-Peer Lending and Financial Education. Loic brings in 20 years of experience in Cetelem and BNP Paribas Personal Finance, having occupied various C-Executive positions in many countries. He had been the CEO of Cetelem in Algeria and was the CEO of BNP Paribas Personal Finance in Bulgaria just before leaving this big banking group. Gathering a team of experienced professionals from the industry having previously worked with him, Klear was created in Bulgaria with the idea to build a sustainable activity, fair and transparent.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Martin Bogdanov

Co-founder and CEO of



Martin Bogdanov is among one of the co-founders of Paysera Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Fintech Association. He holds a BSc at UNWE-Sofia and has over 25 years of experience in finance, occupying management positions in leading Bulgarian and foreign banks. He also worked at the Bulgarian National Bank, participating in the establishment of the modern securities market, after which in 2005 he undertook the Management of First Investment Bank - Albania, as CEO. His last engagement before his current activity was in Eurobank Bulgaria, where he created the segment of Affluent Banking, took responsibility for retail deposits, fees and commissions. He has numerous international specializations in economics, debt instruments, money and FX markets, lending and sales techniques.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM

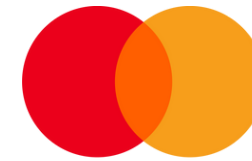


INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Ivan Hadzhov

Business Development Manager at



mastercard.

As a Business Development Manager at Mastercard, Ivan Hadjov builds strategic partnerships by helping banks, fintech, merchants, and governments to optimize their performance and achieve their goals through the latest Mastercard technologies such as digital payment and transfers, mobile wallets, tokenization, biometrics, eID / digital identity, big data, AI and other cyber and intelligence solutions. Ivan has more than 5 years of experience at C-level positions in software development and publishing companies from the games, gambling, and financial trading verticals. He has a proven track record in managing cross-functional teams and international projects, including B2C and B2B products development, management, and distribution.

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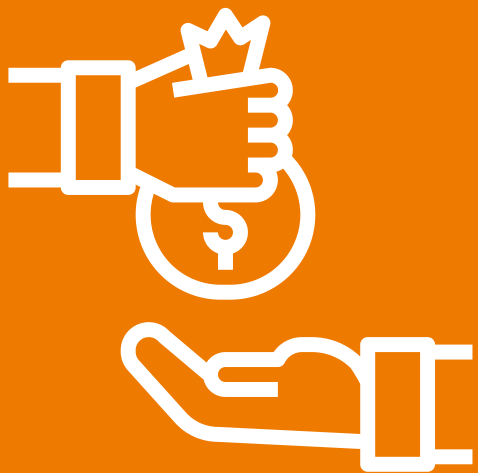
Stefan Stankov

Chief Commercial Officer at



Stefan Stankov is the Chief Commercial Officer at myPOS, where he utilizes strategic planning to build a Next-Gen payments ecosystem dedicated to empowering SMEs to grow and thrive. He brings in knowledge and experience in the development of products and services, gained over the past 9 years across more than 30 countries. Stefan is devoted to driving consistent growth of the myPOS brand by introducing a different concept to the payments industry, based on smart technology, simple process, and a customer-centric approach to the business.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Zornitsa Yanakieva

Chief Executive Officer of



Zornitsa Yanakieva is a successful professional with a focus on business operations in the financial and fintech industry. She has experience in start-up as well as corporate environments, both in Bulgaria and abroad. At the beginning of her career, she gained experience in companies like Raiffeisen Bank, PwC and KPMG. At present, Zory works for the fintech company Cash Credit and has taken different positions throughout the years – finance, operations and executive director, now is the CEO of the company. Mentor of the Visa Innovation Programme. Zory has graduated FEBA, Sofia University, Bachelor of Business Administration and MSc. Finance and Banking. At present, she is studying Global Executive MBA at INSEAD.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Pavel Kaminsky

Partner, CEO of



PCI QSA, CISSP, CISA, CEH. Information Security expert, auditor, penetration tester, regular lecturer at various IT security conferences, founder and CEO at 7Security - a QSA company authorized by the PCI Security Standards Council to provide PCI DSS certification to merchants and payment services providers in Europe and CEMEA.



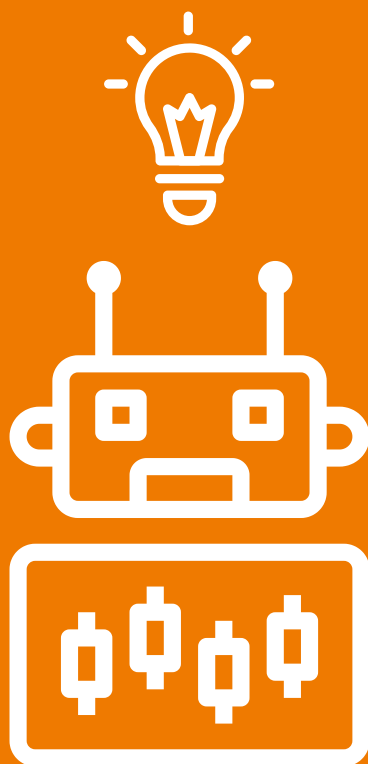
Nora Petkova

Board Member at



Nora Petkova is a board member in CREDiPORT with 20 years of experience in the financial area. Hardworking enthusiast and realistic optimist.

WHO YOU'LL LEARN FROM



INDUSTRY LECTURERS



Krasi Yuriev

Co-founder and CEO of



Krasi is a founder of the FinTech startup iRobotInvest—the first Robo-advisor in Bulgaria. It's a digital investment advisor that helps people without financial knowledge to start investing hassle-free. Before this, he has been a FinTech private equity investor in London. Krasi has lived in several countries in Europe and Asia and loves new disruptive technologies.

APPLICATION PROCESS

INFORMATION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

Early-intake-phase interview with candidates:

25.07.2022 at 18.00h through this link:
<https://bit.ly/3AwYSdw>

Regular-intake-phase interview with candidates:

15.09.2022 at 18.00h through this link:
<https://bit.ly/3AwYSdw>

29.09.2022 at 18.00h through this link:
<https://bit.ly/3AwYSdw>

Commission:

assoc. prof. Marselen Yovogan (chairman),
assoc. prof. Bozhidar Nedev, PhD and
assoc. prof. Nadya Sokolova, PhD

DEADLINES FOR WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023

1st round: July 1st - July 20th 2022
(incl.)

2nd round: July 26th - September 10th
(incl.)

3rd round: Sept 19th - September 27th
(incl.)

Application platform:

<https://feba.kmk.uni-sofia.bg/>

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CONTACT DETAILS

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LEARN MORE

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