

# University of National and World Economy

## GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2021—2022



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



Bulgaria is located in Southeastern Europe in the northeast part of the Balkans. It shares borders with Serbia and North Macedonia in the west, Romania in the north, Greece and Turkey in the south and the Black sea in the east. The capital city is Sofia, located in the west part of the country. The country's population is 7.1 million and its territory covers 111 000 sq.km. Administratively, Bulgaria is divided into 28 regions. The largest cities are Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, and Burgas.

Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic. It is a member of the European Union, NATO, and the Council of Europe, and founding state of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Bulgaria is a successor of ancient civilizations – Thracians, Romans Byzantines and proto-Bulgarians have left on its lands exceptionally valuable artistic and architectural evidence of their advanced culture. The country is also proud of its pristine nature and amazing biodiversity. The rich cultural and natural heritage of Bulgaria is highly appreciated by UNESCO.



# BULGARIA - FACTS



- Location – Southeastern Europe
- Official name – Republic of Bulgaria
- Capital city – Sofia
- Total area – 111,000 sq.km.
- Population - 7,364,570
- Climate - Temperate
- Time zone – EET (UTC +2)
- Official Language – Bulgarian
- Official script – Cyrillic
- Political system – Parliamentary republic
- Traditional religion - Orthodoxy
- Currency – Lev (BGN)
- Drives on the right



# SOFIA

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. The current name Sofia was first mentioned in the 14th-century and it refers to the famous Hagia Sophia Church - an ancient church in the city named after the Christian concept of the Holy Wisdom. 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'.



Sofia is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Bulgaria alongside coastal and mountain resorts. Sofia holds Bulgaria's largest museum collections, which attract tourists and students for practical studies. The National Historical Museum in Boyana district has a vast collection of more than 650,000 historical items dating from Prehistory to the modern era. The city has an extensive green belt. Vitosha Mountain is a popular hiking destination due to its proximity and ease of access via car and public transport. Two functioning cable cars provide yearlong access from the outskirts of the city.

Sofia concentrates a significant portion of the national higher education capacity, including 109,000 university and college students and 22 of Bulgaria's 51 higher education establishments. These include four of the five highest-ranking national universities among which is University of National and World Economy.



# THE UNIVERSITY

The University of National and World Economy (UNWE) is located in the capital city of Bulgaria – Sofia. It is the largest and the oldest higher educational institution for Economics and Management in Bulgaria. The academic staff of UNWE participates in numerous scientific researches and realizes a lot of publications. 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. Since its establishment 99 years ago until today, lecturers and graduates of UNWE have been prominent scientists, state figures, Prime Ministers, MPs, ambassadors, representatives of Bulgaria in various international organizations, mayors, public figures and many others.



# THE UNIVERSITY – FACTS

- Location – Sofia, Bulgaria
- Founded 1920
- 9 faculties, 3 institutes, 4 training centers, 9 research centers, 2 mobility and career centers
- bilingual university (English and Bulgarian)
- 500+ full-time lecturers
- 22 000 students (Bachelor and Master)
- 43 Bachelor programs
- 108 Master programs
- 38 PhD programs
- **6 Bachelor study programs in English:**
  - Economics
  - International Economic Relations
  - Finance and Accounting
  - Business Informatics and Communications
  - Business Economics and Management
  - Marketing and Strategic Planning
- **5 master study programs in English:**
  - International Business
  - Economy of Defense and Security
  - European Business and Finance
  - Finance and Accounting
  - Supply Chain Management

Nowadays, University of National and World Economy offers 10 Bachelor study programs that are taught completely in English, as well as 5 Master programs in English. The study programs in English are offered for all Bulgarian and international students as well as for exchange and ERASMUS+ students. Over the past few years the UNWE has initiated and successfully developed 2 joint/double master degree programs in International Business, International Business and Management, and International Tourism in cooperation with the University of Nottingham Trent in the United Kingdom.

# ERASMUS INFORMATION

If you are registered as a student at a university that has an ERASMUS+ agreement with UNWE, you may participate in an academic exchange at our university. You will attend the UNWE for one- or two-semester period, while remaining registered at your home university.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- an active bilateral agreement between your home university and UNWE -
- to be registered in a Bachelor or Master degree program in a partner university -
- at least B2 level in English (or Bulgarian) according to the CEFR

## APPLICATIONS:

Exchange students must send their completed application forms and all accompanying documents directly to the Erasmus+ Office by post or to the Erasmus+ office email. The documents can be found on the website of our university.

## DEADLINES FOR APPLICATION FORMS:

- **July 31** - for students planning to attend the upcoming winter semester or full academic year;
- **December 15** - for students planning to attend the summer semester in the ongoing academic year.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- 1. Application Form
- 2. Learning Agreement
- 3. Three (3) photos



# ERASMUS+ OFFICE

The most important contact for you at UNWE is the University Center for Students and Teachers Mobility (UCSTM) or, as it's more popular among our students, **the Erasmus+ Office**. You will receive all the information you need from the staff at the Erasmus+ Office. They are responsible for issuing all the certificates and transcripts.

The Erasmus+ Office is situated in the University of National and World Economy, main building, floor 1, room 1003.

You may contact the Erasmus+ Office by the following:

**E-mail:** [erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg](mailto:erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg)

**Phone:** + 359 2 8195 389

You can find all the necessary information about your exchange period on our

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

Our post address is:

University of National and World Economy

Erasmus+ Programme (office 1003)

Studentski Grad, 8-mi dekemvri St.

1700 Sofia, BULGARIA





**ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)** is a non-profit international student organization. Their mission is to provide opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of **Students Helping Students**.

**ESN UNWE** is a local section in Sofia, Bulgaria. It helps international students coming on Erasmus in UNWE with their integration in the local community.

ESN provides exchange students with different kinds of support like:

- Assisting students with transportation, accommodation (at the dorms or in rented apartment), translation, and administration, among other things;
- Enhancing their stay in Bulgaria by organizing a variety of engaging events and trips that comply with the COVID-19 measures.

### **BUDDY SYSTEM**

Prior to their arrival all exchange students are offered the possibility to request a mentor (buddy) to help them on an even more personal level.

Some of the perks of having a buddy:

- They meet students at the airport or bus/railway station and take them to their accommodation (depends on the buddy's availability);
- They assist exchange students with all standard procedures like checking in the dorms, moving in a flat, getting a public transportation card, opening a bank account, etc.
- They know when and where the cool events take place, so will always keep exchange students informed.

### **HOW TO CONTACT ESN UNWE?**

unwe@esnbg.org

Facebook: ESN UNWE

Instagram: @esn.unwe

In order to prepare your individual study program (Learning Agreement) you'll have to choose your subjects from our List of Courses offered in English which are listed on our website!

It is important to know that courses may vary upon arrival!

### **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 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:

<https://www.mfa.bg/bg/uslugi-patuvania/konsulski-uslugi/patuvane-bulgaria/viza-bulgaria>

### **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.

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.



## ACCOMMODATION

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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.

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 ([erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg](mailto:erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg)) for the exact date and time of your arrival at least three weeks earlier.

NOTE: Arriving in weekends or during the night is not possible!

### **Working hours of the dormitory administration:**

**Monday to Friday: 8:00 – 16.30**

Lunch break: 11:45-12:45

More detailed information about the dormitories (rules, pricing, etc.) can be found on our website!



## EDUCATIONAL STYLE

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- In order to prepare your individual study program (Learning Agreement) you'll have to choose your subjects from our List of Courses offered in English which are listed on our website! It is important to know that courses may vary upon arrival!
- The Lectures and seminars are the usual way of teaching at UNWE. Students attend lectures and seminars for each subject in their individual study program, unless otherwise specified. If there is more than one option for a specific lecture and/or seminar, please select the one that is most convenient for you (regarding the day and time) and which does not cause any timetable conflicts
- The schedule for each semester is available at the beginning of the specific semester. Exchange students receive the schedule by e-mail as soon as it is available. In order to receive any important information on time, please provide the Erasmus+ Office at UNWE with your valid e-mail address.
- Any changes to the original Learning Agreement must be made within 30 days of the beginning of the semester.
- Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. In the event the student is reported as absent for more than 3 times, he/she will not be admitted to the final exam.
- Exchange students may apply for Bulgarian language course within one week of the beginning of the semester. Classes are held once a week, and the course gives you 6 ECTS credits. At the end of the course each student will receive a certificate.
- Sport classes – 12 different sport activities are available for exchange students

## Academic Calendar

/	Winter Term	Summer Term
<b>Lectures period</b>	October—mid of January	Beginning of February—end of May
<b>Exam period</b>	Mid of January—Beginning of February	End of May– Mid of June

## GRADING SYSTEM:

Your final grade can be based upon a written exam, a test, a project or any combination of these. According to the Bulgarian education system all grades are awarded using a six-point scale, where 6 is the highest score possible (excellent). The table below represents how these grades compare with the ECTS grading system.

Bulgarian Grading System*		ECTS Grading System
Grade	Definition	ECTS Grade
6	Excellent	A
5	Very Good	B
4	Good	C
3	Sufficient	D, E
2	Fail	F, FX

\*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

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 stotinki. Coins worth one, two, five, ten, twenty and fifty stotinka and one and two Lev are in circulation. Notes come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.



Prices in shops and markets are fixed, so no bargaining. You have to pay what is written on the price tag.

Typical prices of some beverages and food:

- Coffee/Tea – 1-2 leva
- Sandwich – 3-5 leva
- Soup – 2-4 leva
- Salad – 4-7 leva
- Main course – 8-16 leva
- Mineral water – 1 lev
- Loaf of bread – 1,50 leva



## USEFUL INFORMATION

### LIVING EXPENCES montlly):

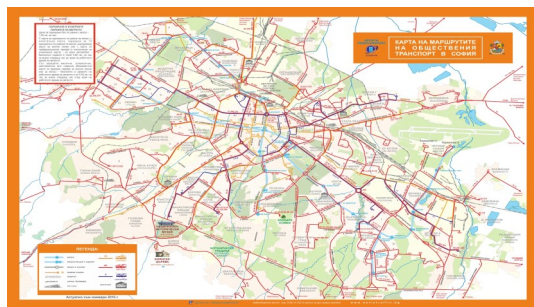
- Accommodation – 150 leva (dormitory) + 500 leva (deposit which is being returned at the end of your stay or 500-800 leva (free rent)
- General living expenses – 400-600 leva
- Printing, stationary, photocopying, text books – 50 leva
- Internet – 20 leva
- Mobile phone – 20 leva

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

One-way ticket for the public transport costs 1.60 lev. You must punch the ticket immediately after you get on the vehicle. It's done manually by pushing the puncher up. Upon arriving you can get a student card with a discount for the whole web of the public transport (21.50 leva for 1 month).

More information is available to the following link:

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



### WATER:

Sofia is one of the few European capitals where the tap water is safe to drink!

## BULGARIAN ALPHABET

Bulgarian is a Southern Slavic language with about 12 million speakers mainly in Bulgaria, but also in Ukraine, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Greece, Romania, Canada, USA, Australia, Germany and Spain. Bulgarian is mutually intelligible with Macedonian, and fairly closely related to Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Slovenian.

Bulgarian was the first Slavic language to be written: it start to appear in writing during the 9th century in the Glagolitic alphabet, which was gradually replaced by an early version of the Cyrillic alphabet over the following centuries.

### BULGARIAN PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

LETTER	PRONUNCIATION	LETTER	PRONUNCIATION
А а	like a in bath	П п	like p in power
Б б	like b in boat	Р р	like Spanish r (rolled)
В в	like v in victory	С с	like s in supper
Г г	like g in great	Т т	like t in tell
Д д	like d in dent	У у	like oo in boot
Е е	like e in let	Ф ф	like f in fever
Ж ж	like s in measure	Х х	like h in hot
З з	like z in zipper	Ч ч	like ch in chat
И и	like i in hit	Ц ц	like ts in cats
Й й	like y in yes	Ш ш	like sh in cash
К к	like c in gold	Щ щ	like sht (sh+t)
Л л	like l in love	Ъ ъ	like ea in earnings
М м	like m in mother	Ь ь	softens consonants before o
Н н	like n in never	Ю ю	like you in you
О о	like a in ball	Я я	like you in young



## 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



## ERASMUS EXPERIENCE



# ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

„I think I could say for all of us, that it was one of the best experience and best choices we have ever made. It is already one year since it started. Unbelievable. Sofia and Erasmus has brought together awesome people, memories and stories to tell. Millions of thanks to Erasmus programme, kind coordinators, UNWE and Bulgaria to let us enjoy it fully.“ - Silvia, Slovakia



“I liked the Erasmus environment, the city, the public transports, the destinations from Sofia Airport. I think is the best place to live my Erasmus experience.“ - Juan, Spain



## ERASMUS INFORMATION

### Institutional Coordinator:

Prof. Ekaterina TOSHEVA, PhD

### Vice-Director:

Chief assist. Dimitar DAMYANOV,  
PhD

### Erasmus Officers:

Mrs. Detelina ANGELOVA  
Incoming Students Coordinator

Mrs. Slavina LAZAROVA  
Staff Mobility Coordinator

Mrs. Kremena RADULOVA  
Outgoing Students Coordinator

### Address:

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Erasmus+ Office  
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1700 Sofia  
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### Phone:

+ 359 2 8195 389

### E-mail:

erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg  
erasmus@unwe.bg

### Web:

[www.unwe.bg/mobility/en](http://www.unwe.bg/mobility/en)



# Erasmus+