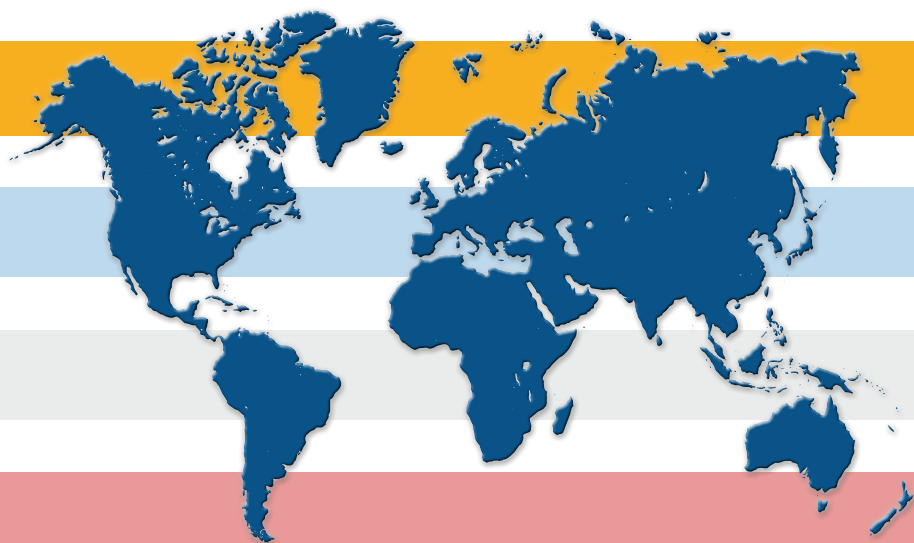




PAISII HILENDARSKI
UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV

ERASMUS STUDENTS' GUIDE





Guide for International Students



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of the European Union



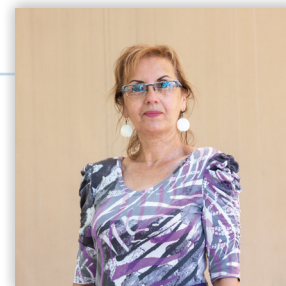
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Greetings



Prof. Rumén Mladenov, PhD
Rector

Dear Erasmus students,
Welcome to the second largest university in Bulgaria – a leading educational, research and cultural institution! Your mobility is an integral part of our mission to implement the main principles of the university idea – successful socialization of young people, renewal and transfer of scientific, cultural and historical traditions, as well as creating models of citizen behavior. We hope you will benefit from our classical university traditions of high quality education and innovative research, so that you can boost your skills and competencies, while enjoying the nice and friendly atmosphere here! Good luck!



Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD
Vice-Rector
International Relations and PR

Dear Erasmus students,
I would also like to welcome you all to our unique environment of rich experience, culture and traditions! The University of Plovdiv has always strived at enhancing its international dimensions, and your arrival here is part of this goal! Our mission to be a globally recognizable institution with sustainable and dynamic development will be achieved through your active participation! I wish you all a beneficial stay at our university!



Assoc. Prof. Boryan Yanev, PhD
Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator

Dear Erasmus students,
It is a pleasure to welcome you here! I hope you will make use of all the opportunities the Erasmus+ programme is offering you while you are with us! You will have the attention of our entire team of experts – the International Relations Officers, the faculty coordinators and the student buddies, so that you never feel at a loss! I am sure you will enjoy your stay and have a memorable time in Bulgaria! Good luck to you all!

Country

The Republic of Bulgaria lies in the south-eastern part of Europe in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula. To the south, it borders with Turkey and Greece, and to the west – with Serbia and Macedonia. The river Danube is the natural frontier with Romania on the north while the Black Sea forms Bulgaria's east border. This geographical position places the country at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa.



Time zone - (GMT +2:00)
Currency: The national currency is the Bulgarian Lev, which is equal to 100 stotinki. 1 Euro= 1.95 BGN

Several ethnic groups coexist on the territory of Bulgaria – Bulgarians, Turks, Gypsies, Armenians, and Jews.

History

Archaeological explorations have found traces of human life in present-day Bulgarian lands dating back to the Paleolithic period. The archaeological sites in which these testimonies are found are located mainly on the right bank of the river Danube and in the Rhodopes. The Devetashka cave, Samuilitsa (near the town of Vratsa), the caves near the village of Beloslav in Varna region and many caves in the Rhodopes keep objects that give us an idea of the life of the earliest human

society. In Greek sources from the 7th-4th centuries BC, there is information about one of the earliest European civilizations - that of the Thracians. The gold and silver treasures of Panagyurishte, Vulchitran and Rogozen, the frescoes of the Thracian Tomb of Kazanluk, the tombs near the villages of Sveshtari and Strelcha are unique testimonies of the advanced cultural development of the Thracians. The Thracian world was closely related to Classical Greece and later on to the Hellenistic world.



The Thracian Tomb near Kazanlak (a fresco)

During the Greek colonization (VI-II c. BC), in Thrace, Moesia and the Black Sea, many cities like Apollonia, Odessos, Messambria, Anhialo were founded, which brought Greek cultural influence to our lands.

In the middle of the 1st century AD, the territory of modern-day Bulgaria became part of the Roman Empire. Many architectural and archaeological monuments are preserved from that period – the Ancient Theatre and the Roman Stadium in Plovdiv, the remains of Roman cities such as Ulpia Eskus, Nove, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Nicopolis ad Nestum, Augusta Trayana, Abritus and others. After the decline of the Roman Empire, today's Bulgarian lands became part of the Eastern Roman Empire, later named by historians Byzantium.

In the second half of the 7th c. there was a dramatic change in the demographic, ethnic and state political system on the Balkans: the Byzantine hegemony was disturbed by the emergence of a new state. In 681, in union with the Slavs who were then living southwards from the Danube, Khan (leader) Asparuh laid the foundations of the first Bulgarian state. The city of Pliska was proclaimed its capital.

The two ethnic groups – the Slavs and the Bulgars – had different languages and different religious beliefs.

In the mid-ninth century the rule of Knyaz (grand duke) Boris I (852-889), was marked by two important and unifying spiritual events: the adoption of Christianity as the official religion in 855, and the invention of the Slavonic-Bulgarian alphabet by the brothers Cyril and Methodius in 863. These events lay the foundations of the cultural development of Slavonic peoples in the Christian world. The Slavonic enlightenment and sermon-preaching were the crucial factors in the process of consolidation of Slavs and Bulgars into a unified Bulgarian nation.

The reign of Simeon I the Great, later deemed the Golden Age of Bulgarian culture, was a time of unparalleled advancement in culture. It marked the transformation of Bulgaria into a Christian kingdom.

In 1018, after long-lasting wars, Byzantium conquered Bulgaria. The idea for a Bulgarian state, however, did not die and in 1185-1187 the uprising led by the boyar brothers Asen and Petar overthrew Byzantium's rule. As a result, the Second Bulgarian Kingdom was established, with Tarnovo as the capital city. The power of Bulgaria was restored under the rule of their youngest brother Tsar (King) Kaloyan (1197-1207). Under the rule Tsar Ivan Asen II (1218-1241) the Second Bulgarian



The Tsarevets Hill in Veliko Tarnovo (a medieval fortress)

Kingdom reached its climax, achieving political dominance in this part of Europe, expanding its borders, pushing forward economic and cultural development.

After the death of Tsar Ivan Asen II, Bulgaria fell into a deep political crisis which led to the decline of the Second Bulgarian Empire. In the beginning of the 14th century Bulgaria was conquered by Turkish invaders and, until the last quarter of the 19th century, it was part of the Ottoman Empire.

The beginning of the 18th century was for Bulgaria a period of transition from Middle Ages to Modern Times. The Bulgarian Renaissance was a process aimed at achieving economic and spiritual independence. It is commonly accepted that it started with the Paisii Hilendarski's Slavonic-Bulgarian History (Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya), which was charged with colossal patriotic energy and played a significant role in awakening the Bulgarian national spirit.

The promulgation of the Bulgarian Exarchate in 1870 was a step forward to national independence. Secular education and literature, the literary works of Petko Slaveykov, Hristo Botev, Lyuben Karavelov, Ivan Vazov and other Bulgarian Revival writers, the masterpieces of architecture and fine arts were all marked by national liberation aspirations.

The revolutionary activities of Georgi-Sava Rakovski, Vasil Levski and Hristo Botev culminated in the April Uprising of 1876 which was violently put down. The bloody suppression of the uprising outraged public opinion throughout the world. In 1878, Russia declared war on Turkey, which brought the long-awaited liberation for the Bulgarians.

As a result of the Russian-Turkish Liberation War and the decision of the San Stefano Peace Treaty, the Bulgarian state was restored. However, the Berlin Congress of 1878 divided the former Bulgarian territories into three – the Principality of Bulgaria, the autonomous province of Eastern Rumelia, and Thrace and Macedonia which were left in the Ottoman Empire.

On 6 September 1885, the Bulgarians managed to proclaim through their own efforts the Reunification of the two parts of their fatherland – Northern and Southern Bulgaria. The astounding military victory of Bulgaria in the Serbian-Bulgarian War not only preserved the Bulgarian unification but was an important step in the strengthening of Bulgaria's international position.

In 1908, in the Holy Forty Martyrs Church in Tarnovo, Ferdinand Saxe-Coburg Gotha proclaimed Bulgaria's independence from Turkey and assumed the title of Tsar (king) of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom, thus finalizing the restoration of the Bulgarian state.

In 1912, the Balkan War broke out. Along with Serbia, Greece and Montenegro, Bulgaria fought for the freedom of Thrace and Macedonia. In 1913, however, after the Second Balkan War, Bulgaria experienced the deepest crisis of its national development after the Liberation.

World War I brought to Bulgaria a new nation-

al catastrophe – South Dobrudzha, Aegean Thrace, Strumitsa and some of the Western parts were taken from its territories.

After the end of World War II Bulgaria joined the Eastern Bloc countries.

Since 1989, it has been regarded as one of the new Eastern European democracies.

Bulgaria is officially a member of the EU since 1 January 2007 and a full member of NATO.

Culture



The Thracian Horseman near the village of Madara

Bulgarian life and culture have taken millennia to form. The Slavs and Bulgars inherited the antique culture of Thracians, Illyrians and Greeks.

Among the archaeological cultural monuments known all over the world are the treasure of the Varna necropolis, the Thracian tombs and sanctuaries in Kazanlak, Sveshtari, Starosel, Aleksandrovo, Perperikon, Tatul, the Thracian gold treasures – Panagyurishte, Valchitran, Rogozen, and others.

The remains of Thracian, Hellenic and Roman culture are numerous. In dozens of revealed tombs, the Thracians have left us unique artistic specimens of material and spiritual culture. Whole urban complexes have been

found – Augusta Traiana, Trimontium, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Pautalia, Akra, Messembria, Apollonia, Serdica and many others. The traditions, holidays, customs and rituals preserved over the centuries bear witness to the rich Bulgarian spirit and culture.

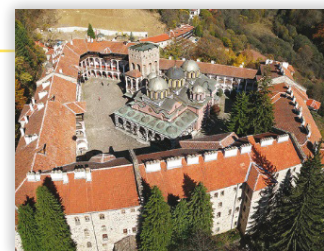


The Gold Treasure of Panagyurishte

Several architectural reserves in the country – Koprivshitsa, Tryavna, Bozhentsi, Zheravna, Bansko, Melnik and others – preserve unique Bulgarian architecture from the Renaissance (XVIII-XIX c).

In some of the ethnographic complexes – Etara, Zlatograd, the Old Dobrich, master craftsmen keep the oldest technologies for making household items, creating unique works of pottery, weaving and carving.

There are many monasteries on the territory of the country – the Rila Monastery, Bachkovo Monastery, Troyan Monastery. Other well-known monasteries are those of Rozhen, Dragalevtzi, Zemen, Glozhene, Kilifarevo, Shipka. They were educational, cultural and spiritual centres during the epoch of the Renaissance.

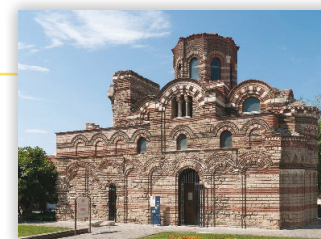


Rila Monastery

Bulgaria is also known for the national art schools of iconography and woodcarving. The most famous of them are the ones in Samokov, Tryavna, and Bansko.



The Boyana church (a fresco)



The Church of Christ Pantocrator in Nesebar

Bulgarian culture is proud of its achievements in literature, art, music and architecture.

It is famous for its rich and unique folklore heritage. Bulgarian folk music, folk songs and dances are well known in different parts of the world. The country is home to many talented singers, musicians, composers, artists, writers, and actors.

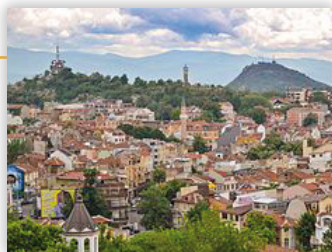


Valya Balkanska - a Bulgarian folk music singer

The City of the Seven Hills

Plovdiv is situated in the centre of Southern Bulgaria, in the flat Upper Thracian Plain, along both banks of the Maritsa River. Not far away from it are the beautiful Rhodope Mountains.

Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria, and an important commercial, cultural, scientific and transportation centre. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bulgaria. Founded as a settlement around seven syenite hills, it is one of the most fascinating European towns. The favourable climate conditions as well as the good geographical location have contributed to its ascending development from the remote past until modern times. The town has preserved extremely valuable cultural monuments from the Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Bulgarian Renaissance coexisting in harmony with contemporary culture.



Plovdiv: A General View

The Roman Stadium

The ancient stadium is situated on Dzhumaya Square, under the main pedestrian street of Plovdiv. It was modelled after the Delphi Stadium. Only 12 of this type have been preserved in the world. Its length is around 200 meters and its width – approximately 50 meters. Today, one can see only its northern part and a some of the fortified wall from the

2nd – 4th century. In Antiquity the Roman Stadium could accommodate 30 000 people who would watch games similar to the Pythian Games in Greece.

The Ancient Theatre

The Ancient Theatre in Plovdiv is located in the Old Town, in the saddle between the two hills Dzhambaz tepe and Taksim tepe. Built in the early II century AD, during the rule of Emperor Trajan (98-117), it is one of the best-preserved ancient theatres in the world and is declared an archaeological monument of culture. It was found during archaeological excavations which the Archaeological Museum of Plovdiv conducted in 1968-79. The Ancient Theatre could accommodate between five and seven thousand spectators. Sadly, a fire or an earthquake destroyed the structure to a great extent at the end of the 4th century. As a consequence, only 20 out of 28 rows of the facility were preserved. After extensive archaeological research, the totally demolished scene was reconstructed.



The Ancient Amphitheatre

Today, the antique theatre is the most emblematic monument adapted to the contemporary cultural life of the city and it accommodates about 3, 000 spectators.

Dzhumaya Mosque

Dzhumaya Mosque is the central place for Muslim worship in Plovdiv. The temple is lo-

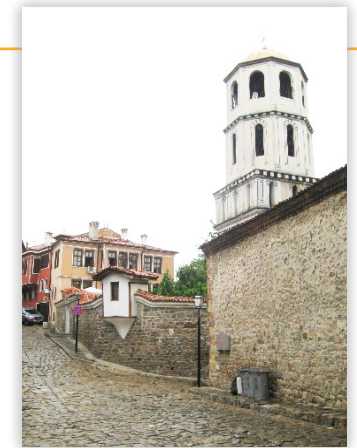
cated in the centre and was constructed in the site of the Sveta Petka Tarnovska cathedral soon after the town was conquered by the Ottoman army (1363 – 1364). During the rule of Sultan Murad II (1421 – 1451) the old building was demolished and replaced by the modern-day mosque. It used to be called Ulu Dzhumaya Mosque, i.e. Main Friday Mosque. Contrasting it to later built single-domed mosques, the Dzhumaya Mosque is an example of multi-domed mosque. It has nine domes covered with sheets of lead. Its minaret has been erected at the main façade's northeast corner. Its wall-paintings could be dated back to the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. The exterior and the interior of Dzhumaya Mosque could be compared to some of the oldest Ottoman religious monuments in Bursa, Edirne, and Sofia built in the 14th – 15th centuries.



The Dzhumaya Mosque

Churches

The Sts. Constantine and Helena Church is one of the oldest churches in Plovdiv. In the beginning of the 4th century there was a sanctuary at the spot where it now stands. The church is situated on what were once the fortress walls of the city acropolis. The church is part of the architectural complex "Old Plovdiv" In very close proximity is the so-called Hisar Kapiya which, during Roman times, was the ancient city's eastern gate, opening the way to the Far East.



Sts. Constantine and Helena Church in the Old Town of Plovdiv



The "Hisar Kapiya" Gate to the Fortress

The Old Town of Plovdiv

The old town of Plovdiv is an architectural and historical reserve located on three of Plovdiv's hills: Nebet Tepe, Dzhambaz Tepe, and Taksim Tepe.

The Old Town fascinates with beautifully-ornamented houses – masterpieces of Bulgarian Revival architecture, building, wood-carving, carpentry and icon-painting. Most of them have been turned into museums and galleries.



The Old town of Plovdiv



The Old town of Plovdiv



The Old town of Plovdiv

The Ethnographic Museum

The Regional Ethnographic Museum is the second largest museum of its kind in Bulgaria. Founded in 1917, it was moved to one of the most beautiful houses of the Renaissance period in the Old Town – the Kuyumdzhiev House in 1938.



The Ethnographic Museum

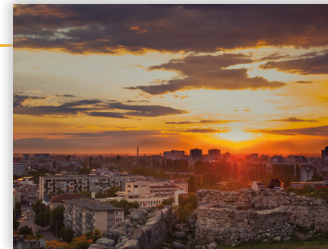
The Historical Museum

The Historical Museum was founded in 1951. The four departments – “The Bulgarian National Revival”, “Book Publishing in Bulgaria in the second half of 19th and the beginning of 20th century”, “The Unification of Bulgaria of 1885” and the Museum Centre of Modern History – trace the historical development of Plovdiv and the Plovdiv region from 15th century up to the present day.



The Historical Museum

Plovdiv views



A Sunset view of Plovdiv from Nebet Tepe hill



Night view to the Tsar Simeon's Garden and the Singing Fountains



The Main Street of Plovdiv



The Rowing Canal of Plovdiv



The "Kapana" Art District is full of craft shops, ateliers, galleries, studios, bars, restaurants and cafeterias.

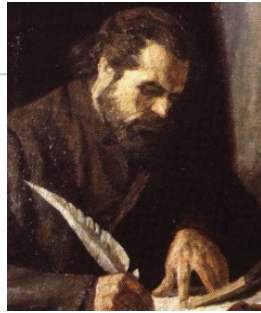


The Roman Stadium

Plovdiv University

Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv was founded in 1961. Paisii Hilendarski (1722-1773) is the author of Slavonic-Bulgarian History (1762), which marks the beginning of the Bulgarian Renaissance. The institution name in the language of the country reads Plovdivski universitet "Paissi Hilendarski".

The university is a true spiritual centre of the city, an important cultural and scientific institution in South Bulgaria. It is the largest institution of higher education in the region and the second largest in the country after St.Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.



Paisii Hilendarski

Buildings



New Campus
236 Bulgaria Blvd.
Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Faculty of Biology
2 Todor Samodrumov St.
Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Central Building
24 Tsar Asen St.
Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Technology center
21 Kostaki Peev St.
Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Governing body

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Rector

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Asst. Rector Sports

Phone: 032/261 325
e-mail: tmfv_sport@abv.bg
e-mail: tmfv_sport@pfpu.bg

Structure

There are nine faculties at the University:

- Faculty of Biology
- Faculty of Chemistry
- Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Languages and Literature
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Faculty of Philosophy and History
- Faculty of Physics and Technology

Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv has two colleges, affiliated to it:

- University College Lyuben Karavelov in the town of Kardzhali

Address: 26 Belomorski Blvd., Kardzhali 6600
tel./fax: +359 361 6 52 66;
e-mail: lk@uni-kardzhali.com
www.uni-kardzhali.com

- University College in the town of Smolyan

Address: 32 Dicho Petrov St., Smolyan 4700
tel.: +359 301 62339
e-mail: pufilial-sm@abv.bg
<https://uni-plovdiv.bg/pages/index/45>

The duration of study at the colleges is four years. Educational and qualification degree – Bachelor of Arts.

WELCOME TO
PLOVDIV UNIVERSITY
video



FACULTY OF BIOLOGY



The Faculty of Biology is accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for training in three professional fields: Biological Sciences, Teacher Training and Biotechnology.

About 1000 students are trained in 9 Bachelor's degree programmes in Biology, Molecular Biology, Medical Biology, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Bioinformatics, Ecology of Biotechnology, Biology and Chemistry, Biology and English. Pharmaceutical Biotechnology was introduced in 2017.

The Faculty of Biology offers 22 Master's degree and 12 doctoral degree programmes.

The Faculty of Biology has 7 departments: Human Anatomy and Physiology, Developmental Biology, Biochemistry and Microbiology, Botany and Methodology of Biology Education, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Zoology, Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology.

There is also a separate Molecular Biology Study Centre as a part of the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, which conducts research and training of students.

The academic staff includes 12 professors, 21 associate professors, 32 assistant profes-

sors, 5 assistants, 12 biologists, 2 laboratory technicians and 1 mathematician.

The highly qualified faculty members produce hundreds of scientific publications in Bulgaria and abroad, monographs, textbooks and handbooks. The academic staff participate in national and international projects and scientific forums. The scientific contribution, along with the high-quality teaching, creates the undisputed image of the faculty, proved by the high rating.

Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology

- Physiology of Animals and Humans (haematology, morphometry and immunity of vertebrates).
- Anthropology (somatotype of contemporary generation children and adolescents, secular changes in the rates of individual development and maturation of the organism, dermatoglyphics).
- Molecular Genomics, Gene Expression.
- Epizootology (species and spread of ticks, zoonoses).

Department of Developmental Biology

- Population-genetic and Phylogenetic Characterization of Economically Significant Insects (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombyx mori*, *Messor structor*, *Messor barbarus*, etc.)
- Cytotoxicity and genotoxicity of heavy metals, pesticides, plant extracts and priority substances in water.
- Antitumor Activity of Natural and Synthetic Components.
- Selective Genetics and Genetic Markers in Selection and Conservation Biology.
- Anther In Vitro Cultures, Direct Microspore Embryogenesis.

- Genetic and Mean Component in Male Infertility.
- Psychogenic Characterization of Different Cognitive and Emotional Styles.
- Biofunctionalization of Nanoparticles. Cytotoxicity of Biocompatible Materials and Nanoparticles.
- Autoimmune and Allergic Diseases. Mechanisms, Signalling, Vaccine Development.
- Probiotics and prebiotics. Biological Effects and Immunomodulation.
- Biomarkers Development. Applications in Clinical Diagnostics and Bio-monitoring of the Environment.
- Histopathology of Organs from Different Classes of Vertebrates under the Influence of Toxicants.
- Ecological Toxicology.
- Blood Type Antigens in Vertebrates.



Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology

- Microbial Biotechnology – development of efficient biotechnological processes for the production, characterization and application of microbial enzymes from Bacillaceae, Pseudomonadaceae and Lactobacillaceae families.
- Natural Biologically Active Substances – obtaining and determination of chemical composition, antimicrobial, cytotoxic and antifeedant activity of extracts, essential oils

and new neo-clerodane compounds from medicinal plants.

- Applied Biocatalysis – optimization of conditions and elucidation of the mechanisms of enzymatic transformation, obtaining and application of oligosaccharides with prebiotic and immunomodulatory action.
- Microbiological Monitoring – isolation and identification of pathogenic and hygienic-indicator microorganisms from aquatic ecosystems and food products and study of their virulence factors, antibiotic resistance and biofilm forming capacity.
- Bioelectrochemistry and Biosorption – possibilities of development and application of innovative microbial and plant fuel elements and new bio-composite sorbents based on waste microbial biomass for extraction of heavy metals from aqueous solutions.

Department of Botany and Teaching Methods in Biology

- Microalgae – Variability and Taxonomy, Toxicity and Ecological Status.
- Toxins and Bioactive Components Produced by Cyanobacteria and Their Effects on Different In Vitro/ In Vivo Test-model Systems.
- Freshwater Phytoplankton – Taxonomy, Monitoring and Environmental Assessment.
- Comparative Anatomy, Morphology and Systematics of Higher Plants.
- Biologically Active Substances in Higher (medicinal) Plants.
- Phytotoindication and Monitoring of Anthropogenic Pollution.
- Phytocenology and Biodiversity.
- Innovative Approaches, Methods and Forms of Biology Training.
- Person-oriented Education Strategies; Didacticology.
- Health Education in Schools and Universities.
- Environmental Education in Schools and Universities.

- Reflection in Biology Education.
- Bioethics and Environmental Ethics.
- Distance Education; Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection

- Ecological Toxicology – toxicology of heavy metals and pesticides in aquatic ecosystems, bioindicators and biomarkers for heavy metals and pesticides in mussels and fish.
- Environmental Monitoring – monitoring of aquatic ecosystems; bioindicator species of bryophytes and fish, monitoring of air pollution in the urban environment, passive and active phytomonitoring.
- Ecology of Animals – systematics, zoogeography and ecology of terrestrial snails and birds, nutritional spectrum and trophic niche of amphibians and reptiles, trophic spectrum and ecological niche of small mammals, ecology of epigeobionts.
- Human Ecology – ecological and social aspects of waste management.
- Urban Ecology – synanthropic species, biodiversity of urban fauna and characterization of habitats in urban environment, gradient analysis.
- Conservation Ecology.
- Paleoecology.
- Ecology of Cave Organisms – characterization of habitats and species.

Department of Zoology

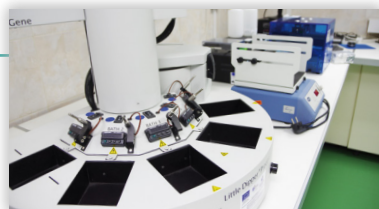
- Faunistics and Taxonomy of Chalcidoidea Hymenopterous Insects (Eulophidae, Eupelmidae, Eurytomidae, Torymidae, Ormyridae and Mymaridae).
- Faunistics, Taxonomy and Zoogeography of Dipterous Insects (Bolitophilidae, Diadocidiidae, Ditomyiidae, Keroplatidae and Mycetophilidae).
- Ecological Research and Food Specializa-

tion of Insect Parasitoids.

- Karyosystematics and Cytogenetics of Small Mammals.
- Infections in Rodents Important for Human Pathology.
- Small Rodents, Mosquitoes and Ticks as Transmitters of Diseases in Humans.
- Zoomonitoring in Anthropogenically Affected Areas.
- Assessment of Genotoxicity and Cytotoxicity in Situ and Ex Situ Cytotoxicity in Vertebrates.

Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology

- Molecular Mechanisms of Plant Resistance to Abiotic and Oxidative Stress and Genetics of Programmed Cell Death.
- Production of Pharmaceutical Proteins and Viral Nanoparticles and Antibodies through Transient Expression in Plants.
- Epigenetic Control of Gene Expression by Methylation of DNA and Involvement of Small RNA (siRNA, miRNA).
- Development of Bioinformatics Software for Genomic Analysis.
- Molecular Ecology and Genotyping – evaluation of genetic diversity; molecular markers.
- Genomic and Ecophysiological Studies of Balkan Relict Endemic Species and Resurrection Plants *Haberlea Rhodopensis* Friv. and *Ramonda Serbica* Panc.
- Molecular Psychiatry.
- Molecular Mechanisms of Action of Cry15Aa and the Related 40 kDa Protein.



FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY



In 2016, the Faculty of Chemistry marked its 25th anniversary as a separate faculty and the 55th anniversary of chemistry training at the University of Plovdiv.

It is the only independent Chemical Faculty in Bulgaria which is accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency to train students and grant Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees in two professional fields: 4.2 Chemical Sciences and 1.3 Pedagogy of Chemistry Education.

The faculty offers undergraduate programmes in Chemistry, Computational Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Chemistry and Marketing, Chemical Analysis and Control, Chemistry and Physics; Master's degree programmes in Medicinal Chemistry, Spectrochemical Analysis, Computational Chemistry, Chemistry and Ecology, Food Chemistry, Chemistry Teaching, and Doctoral programmes in Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Chemical Kinetics and Catalysis, Technology of Animal and Vegetable Fats, Soaps, Essential Oils and Perfumery-cosmetic Preparations, Technology of Inorganic Substances, Theoretical Chemistry, Chemistry Education.

The faculty is proud of its alumni who are excellent specialists in the country and abroad in areas related to medicine and pharmacy, environmental protection, development, im-

plementation and improvement of technologies, development of new and improvement of existing methods for control and testing of materials, raw materials, semi-products in industry, medicine, biochemistry, agriculture, engineering, ecology, servicing the production activities in chemical, food, metal and other industries.

The faculty members are qualified and internationally recognizable specialists in their scientific fields.

It has 15 specialized chemistry laboratories and 3 computer labs.

There are 5 departments in the faculty:

Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry with Chemistry Teaching Methodology

Scientific and Research Themes

- Preparation, Characterization and Application of Coordination Compounds.
- Optimization of Chemistry Training through the Application of Student-centred Approaches (learning through research, problem-based learning, learning through discovery, etc.)

Department of Analytical and Computational Chemistry

Atomic Spectrometry Research Team

- Development and validation of spectrochemical methods for determination of trace elements in different objects by: flame atomic absorption spectrometry (FAAS), electrothermal atomic absorption spectrometry (ETAAS), atomic emission spectrometry with microwave plasma (MP-AES), optical-emission spectrometry with inductively coupled plasma (ICP-OES) and mass spectrometry

with inductively coupled plasma (ICP-MS).

- Investigation and characterization of pre-separation and concentration systems for analytical purposes: coagulation temperature extraction; solid phase extraction; micro-extraction techniques.
- Adaptation of chemical analysis to the principles of Green Chemistry.
- Characterization of composition and size distribution of nanomaterials.
- Evaluation of the quality of analytical results.



Molecular Spectroscopy Research Team

- Creation of IR, Raman and ¹³C-NMR / MRS spectral libraries of organic compounds.
- Computer interpretation of IR, Raman and ¹³C-NMR/MRS spectra using haemometric methods.
- Determination of the structure of natural compounds by interpreting their spectra.
- Reference of MRS spectra of the newly synthesized compounds.

Chemical Informatics Research Team

- Fast and efficient search in large structural bases.
- Computer-based automatic generation of all tautomeric forms of an organic compound.
- Computer-based presentation of chemical

reactions and automated retrosynthetic analysis.

- Development of computer models for physicochemical modelling and biological activity (QSPR / QSAR) of organic compounds and nanomaterials.
- Development of databases which describe nanomaterials.

Atmospheric Chemistry Research Team

- Development and implementation of numerical methods for the creation of new kinetic models applied in the study of heterogeneous processes occurring in the atmosphere.
- Investigation of adsorption and diffusion of lower organic acids, aldehydes and ketones on ice at temperatures of about 200K. Experimental determination of kinetic and thermodynamic parameters describing the ice surface and the ice volume behaviour.

Organic Chemistry Department

- Scientific and applied research in the field of synthetic and natural biologically active substances.
- Phytochemistry.
- Synthesis, spectral and structural characterization of dyes with potential application in modern technologies. Organic photochemistry.

Department of Physical Chemistry

- Biological Electrochemistry – development of bio electroanalytical methods and devices (biosensors) for the selective determination of biologically active substances (sugars, metabolic products, vitamins, pesticides)
- Ecological Catalysis – production of catalytic materials with adjustable and preset properties with application in environmental protection by eliminating the harmful emis-

sions of organic substances in water sources and the atmosphere.

- Computational Chemistry – modelling of processes with/in organic molecules using ab initio methods included in the GAUSSIAN, GAMESS, MOLPRO and TURBOMOLE program packages. Computational photochemistry - study of the photostability of bio-organic compounds
- Solid State Chemistry – synthesis, characterization and properties of nanocrystalline lanthanide monoaluminates. Semi-empirical studies of crystals containing lanthanides.

X-ray Analysis Laboratory

The laboratory carries out X-ray phase and structural analyses of nanocrystalline samples. Detection of crystalline structure is performed by means of special software for powder radiology indexing.

Chemical Technology Department

Inorganic Chemical Technology Section

- Energy, technology and environmental analyses in non-ferrous metallurgy and chemical industry.



- Synthesis, characterization and application of optical materials.

Organic Chemical Technology Section

- Analysis of lipids (physicochemical indicators, fatty acids, sterols, tocopherols, carotenoids, phospholipids, etc.)
- Autoxidation, oxidative stability and stabilization of lipids.
- Chemical modification of lipids.
- Methods for isolation and purification of biologically active lipid components.
- Food chemistry (studies on the composition of food products).

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Founded in 1994 as one of the main structural units of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilen-darski", the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (FESS) rapidly became a leading regional and national educational centre in the field of economics and social sciences. The success in its development is based on the established traditions of academic freedom and creativity, encouragement of innovations and introduction of the best practices in higher education.

FESS provides Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree programmes in the fields of Economics, Administration and Management, and Political Science. The faculty's ambition is to continuously improve the quality of teaching and research.

In the field of Economics, the faculty offers Bachelor degree programmes in Macroeconomics, International Economic Relations, Marketing, Finance, Accounting, and Master degree programmes in Accounting and Analysis, Financial Management, International Trade, Economic Modelling and Business Analysis, Business Economics.

In the field of Administration and Management, Bachelor's degree programmes are offered in Business Administration, Public Administration and Tourism Business Management, as well as Master's degree pro-

grammes in Business Administration, Business Communication and Public Relations, Human Resources Management, Business Psychology, National Security Management and Counterterrorism, and Corporate Management.

In the field of Political Sciences, there is a Bachelor's Degree programme in Political Science and Master Programmes in Applied Political Analysis, and Global Policy, International Security and Crisis Management.

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences offers training in Doctoral Programmes "Economics and Management", "Social Management", "Finance and Accounting", "Marketing", "Political Economy", "History of Economic Studies" and "Political Science".



Department of Economics

Scientific fields

- Macroeconomics and Applied Macroeconomic Analysis
- Microeconomics
- International Economics
- Economic Theories
- Labour Economics
- Labour Markets and Employment
- Economic, Social, and Regional Policy
- Social Security

Department of Marketing and International Economic Relations

Scientific fields

- Marketing Management;
- Brand Management;
- Distribution Policy;
- Prices and Pricing Policy;
- Marketing and PR Communications;
- Consumer Behaviour and Customer Relationship Management;
- International Finance;
- International Competitiveness.

Department of Finance and Accounting

Scientific fields

- Public and Corporate Finance
- Bank Financing
- Financial Markets
- Econometrics
- Modern Methods of Investment Analysis
- Big Data Analysis
- Risk Analysis
- Public Sector Accounting
- Accounting Analysis
- Accounting and Financial Audit

Department of Management and Quantitative Methods in Economics

Scientific fields

- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation
- Competitiveness
- Human Resource Management
- Applied Mathematics
- Statistics and Probabilities
- Demographics and Demographic Policies
- Intelligent Methods for Processing and Analysing Data
- E-commerce
- Agent Technology

Department of Political Science

Scientific fields

- Theory of Politics, Democracy and International Relations
- Methodology of Political Research
- Empirical Political Research
- Sociology of Politics
- Political Culture
- Regional Foreign Policies and Diplomatic Relations
- Political Leadership
- Government, Civil Society and the Non-governmental Sector



FACULTY OF EDUCATION



The Faculty of Education was founded in 1984. It is situated in a five-story complex of the university's new building, located at 236 Bulgaria Blvd. The Faculty of Education is a renowned centre for scientific research and training of highly qualified specialists in the field of education, psychology, and arts. It trains 4000 students in 14 BA programmes and 25 MA programmes. The faculty trains international students as well – from Greece, Turkey, Germany, Moldova, UK, Macedonia, Kuwait, etc.

There are more than 120 lecturers at the Faculty of Education, half of them being habilitated (professors and associate professors), and two thirds have scientific degrees (PhD and DSc). A great part of the academic staff have specialized in renowned scientific institutes and universities abroad.

The Faculty of Education has a large specialized library, an English teaching section, a webinar hall for on-line monitoring of lessons, 7 halls for team work training; 9 halls for e-learning, including the creation of electronic educational resources, three computer halls, a non-stop free Internet access hall and a hall for conferencing with other educational and scientific institutions, a video hall, modern seminar halls, auditoriums and ceremonial halls, a conference hall.

The Faculty has partnerships with universities in Amsterdam (Netherlands), Malmo (Sweden), San Diego (USA), Skopje, Stip (Macedonia), Zagreb (Croatia), Istanbul (Turkey), Edinburgh, Edinburgh (Scotland), Bradford College (UK), Aveiro (Portugal), Ioannina University, Rhodes University (Greece), Jerusalem University (Israel), etc. Students have the opportunity to spend a period of studies (a semester or two) at universities in Paris, Lyon, Lille, Ghent, Bremen, Göttingen, Florence and Venice, the Institute of Psychology at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Moscow State University of Psychology and Education (Russia), Thomas More University (Antwerp), the University of Nice (France), The University of Lisbon, the University of Almeria (Spain), "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia, "Neofit Rilski" South-Western University, the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the Institute for Population Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the University of Emden (Germany).



Department of Education and Educational Management

Scientific fields: Theory of Education, Didactics, History of Education, Philosophy of Education, Educational Management, Special Education, Education of Inclusion.

Department of Psychology

Scientific fields: Positive Development and Education, Socio-emotional Development, Moral Development, Social Competence, Development of Empathy and Gratitude in Juveniles and Youths.

Department of Social Activities

Scientific fields: Improvement of the Organization and Management of Social Work, Development of Social Services for User Target Groups, Exploring the Social Protection System in Terms of Social Insurance and Social Assistance; Developing Social Policies for Integration and Social Inclusion of the Separate Target Groups; Developing Marketing Approaches in the Social Sphere, etc.



Department of Primary School Education

Scientific fields: Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature, Mathematics, Natural and Social Sciences, IT and Working in a Digital Environment, Innovations in Education.

Department of Pre-School Education

Scientific fields: Pre-school Education, Interaction Children – Environment, Methodology

of Forming Mathematical Notions in Kindergarten, Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian, Technology of Games and Foreign Language Training, Development of up-to-date Educational Programmes for Kindergartens.

Department of Aesthetic Education

Scientific fields: Art Education (Art and Theatre), Theory of Art, Aesthetics, Methodology of Teaching Arts, Methodology of Teaching Technologies and Entrepreneurship.

Department of Music

Scientific fields: Theory of Music, History of Music, Methodology of Teaching Music in Kindergartens and Secondary Schools, Methodology of Teaching a Musical Instrument / singing, music performance, composition and arrangement, Bulgarian music folklore, musical psychology, etc./



Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education

Scientific fields: Methodology of Teaching Physical Education and Sports in all Educational Degrees, High-level Sports Training and Grassroots Sport, Psychological and PhysicalIT.



E-Learning Centre / Webinar Centre

There is a functioning webinar and on-line class observation system at the E-Learning Centre.

<https://net.uni-plovdiv.bg/bg/services>

There is a multifunctional hall for e-learning (webinar hall). It is accessible at: <http://e-seminars.uni-plovdiv.bg>.

Full integration with Moodle has been implemented, so the system can be used in combination with other educational on-line content.

Scientific fields: Digitalization and Modernization of the Educational Environment and the Teaching Process, Educational Problems at Pre-school and Primary School Age, Career Development of Educational Specialists.

Partnership: Bank Street College – New York; St. Cloud University of Minnesota; Jump Math – Canada; the University of Toronto; Jump Math – Bulgaria, the America for Bulgaria Foundation, State Agency for Child Protection, the Teach for Bulgaria Foundation, Institute for Progressive Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Centre for Creative Training, Bulgarian Academy of Science, etc.

Doctoral School at the Faculty of Education

Its purpose is to organize and coordinate the studies of PhD students according to a unified curriculum framework with the Faculty and to offer them training in topics outside their curriculum.

The school supports the scientific research and publications of PhD students, maintains the relations between the departments, assists scientific supervisors in the supervision of PhD students, coordinates the participation of PhD students in teaching students.



FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE



The Faculty of Languages and Literature is the largest among the nine faculties. It trains 2500 students in 19 BA programmes, 30 MA programmes, and 2 specializations.

There are 8 departments: Bulgarian Literature and Theory of Literature; History of Literature and Comparative Theory of Literature; Bulgarian Language; General Linguistics and History of Bulgarian Language; Russian Language and Literature; Slavistics, English Language and Literature; Romanistics and Germanistics.

The Faculty has 10 specialized libraries, centres and laboratories: a library of Modern Greek language and culture, a library of Slavistics, a library of West-European languages, an American corner, a Centre for languages and intercultural communication, a Russian language and culture centre, a Confucius classroom, a research laboratory for studying Bulgarian, a laboratory for communicative competences and educational services.

The Faculty of Languages and Literature aims to:

- affirm in a contemporary way the important idea that Bulgarian language, literature, and culture have a century lasting presence in Europe and the world, being a key element in the formation of the Bulgarian identity;

- bridge old and new ideas about the role of languages, literature, and culture in order to preserve the humanitarian notion as a main platform for sharing identities in a globalized modern world.



Scientific fields:

Bulgarian Literary and Cultural History, Poetics, Rhetoric; Nationalism and Culture; Intercultural Communication; Translation and Cultural Transfer; Feminism and Literature; Media and Culture, Comparative Aesthetics and Intermediality; Discourse Analysis, Narrative Strategies, Narrative Typology, Historical Poetics, Genre Studies; Problems of the Novel – Modernity and Postmodernity; History of Slavonic Literatures, Comparative Linguistics; Modern German, Austrian, and Swiss Literature; Interculturality, Intertextuality as Phenomena of Postmodern Literature; Literary Research of Topics from the Middle Ages and Renaissance Related to the Anglo-Saxon Heroic Epic; Bakhtinology; Hermeneutics, Existential Ethics, Receptive Aesthetics and Literary Anthropology /Gadamer, Ricœur, Bakhtin, Derrida, Lévinas, Jauss, Koselleck, Iser/ in the Context of English Literature of the 19th and 20th c.; General and Comparative Linguistics, Cognitive Linguistics,

Psycholinguistics; Onomastics; Balkan Linguistics; History and Historical Grammar of Languages; Cognitive Linguistics; Pragmatics; Old Bulgarian Language, Paleoslavistics, Bulgarian Mediaeval Epigraphics; Historical Linguistics of the Revival, Theory of Literary Languages and Standardology, Textology and Biblical Books Linguistics, Manuscripts and Old Prints from 16th, 17th and 18th c.; Modern Bulgarian – Phonetics, Lexicology, Stylistics, Modern Grammar, Functional-semantic Grammar, Verb Morphology, Generative Syntax, Comparative Research of Slavic Languages; Formal Interpretations of Linguistic Structure, World Reference and General Philosophical Analyses of Linguistic Matter; Syntax of Modern Languages – Argument Structure, Syntactic-semantic Interface, Formal Description of Verb Meanings; Computational Linguistics and NLP – Lexical-semantic Networks, Semantic Relations, Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Annotation; Syntactic Formalism and Functionalism; Comparative Linguistics – Lexical Semantics; Conclusive Modality of Language; Comparative Phraseology; Ethnolinguistics; Sociolinguistics; Modern Methodology of Teaching – IT, Computational Linguistics, Experimental Phonetics, Methodology of Language Teaching; Theory of Translation.



FACULTY OF LAW



The Faculty of Law was established in 1992. It is one of the first law faculties in the country founded after the legal education liberalization. Adopting the achievements of the Institute of Legal Sciences at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, it laid the foundations of its own tradition in Bulgarian legal education. Over the years, the faculty has created its distinctive image which attracts the interest of most promising candidates motivated for achieving supreme results in the different law disciplines. Faculty's alumni are accepted as undisputed experts in their professional area. Many of them are prominent judges, prosecutors, investigators, attorneys, legal consultants, etc. – a testimony to the high standards of the offered legal training and the appropriate policies of the faculty management.



Civil Law Studies

- Research and training in the areas of civil and family law;
- Proposals for the change of European directives during the EU presidency of Bulgaria.

Public Law Studies

- Improvement of procedural legislation as a guarantee of the rights and interests of individuals;
- Improvement of procedural legislation as a way of optimizing the work of the judiciary and the executive.



Criminal Law Studies

- Fighting against modern forms of crime;
- Reform of state criminal policy;
- Protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizens in the improvement of the state criminal repression.



Theory and History of Law

- Examination of law from a historical, philosophical and theoretical point of view;
- Foundations of modern legal systems and the genesis of modern legal doctrines;
- Interdependence between existing law and other social phenomena.



International Law, International Relations and EU law

- Research and training in the areas of international law, international relations and EU law.



FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATICS



The Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI) was founded in 1961.

Today, FMI is a well-established research and training centre by international standards and provides a range of degree programmes in the fields of Mathematics, Informatics and Information Technology. Many faculty members have studied, done research or have been guest lecturers at accredited universities in the USA, Japan, Africa, and Europe. The academic staff has ample experience with highly reputable international scientific events, as well as with research and education projects in joint cooperation with universities all over the world. FMI is involved in the exchange of students and lecturers under various academic programs with universities in England, Greece, Spain, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, and many others. Every year, FMI trains more than 2,000 students pursuing Bachelor's or Master's degrees in the professional fields of Mathematics, Informatics and Computer Science, and Pedagogy of Teaching ... It also offers doctoral training programmes.

All study programmes at FMI are accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency and have been given the highest accreditation rating of "Very Good" up to 2020. FMI is very proud of its alumni who are very successful in their careers, whether in Bul-

garia or elsewhere in the world. They are scientists and university lecturers, heads of departments, faculties and universities; thousands of them are wonderful teachers, school directors, experts and managers in the field of education. A large number of them are top experts in various informatics and information technology companies, in banks and insurance companies, in business and trade, or on R&D teams.

The faculty is based in a modern university campus with a park with abundant vegetation and cosy open-air cafeterias, a canteen, an academic bookstore, up-to-date lecture halls, auditoriums, seminar rooms, and specialized libraries, 12 computer rooms with over 200 seats, multimedia, a video hall, a laboratory of interactive mathematics.

Department of Algebra and Geometry

- Differential Geometry of Smooth Manifolds with Additional Tensor Structures (complex, contact, hypercomplex, hypercontact, para-complex, paracontact, product, paraproduct) Compatible with Riemannian and Pseudo-Riemannian Metrics (mainly of Norden type) – Bibliography of the Bulgarian School on Norden-type Metrics.
- Associative Rings and Algebras. Commutative Rings and Algebras. Group Theory and Generalizations. Group Rings of Abel Groups and Crossed Group Rings. Crossed Products of Groups and Rings.
- Applications of algebra and geometry in other scientific fields.

Department of Mathematical Analysis

- Real and Functional Analysis
- Fixed Point Theory

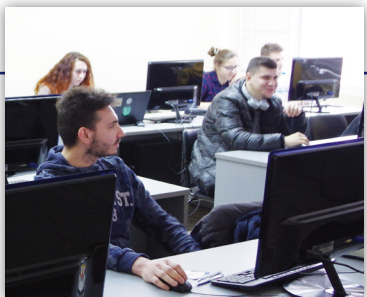
- Iteration Methods in Metric and Banach Spaces
- Geometry of Banach Spaces
- Banach Sequences Spaces
- Distribution of the Zeros of Polynomials and Entire Functions. Orthogonal Polynomials.
- Extremal Problems in the Approximation Theory – theoretical research and computation
- Analytic Number Theory – additive problems involving primes, sieve methods, Dirichlet L-functions

Complex Analysis and Topology

- Local Theory of the Analytic Functions. Uniform Coverings
- Meromorphic Functions and Power Series
- Algebraic Topology

Department of Applied Mathematics and Modelling

- Qualitative Methods of Impulsive Equations
- Impulsive Models in Population Dynamics
- Models with Random Impulses
- Analytical, Statistical and Numerical Modelling of Gas Lasers
- Modelling of Gas Discharge and Break-down Curves
- Mathematical and Statistical Modeling in



Food Technologies

- Spherical Codes and Designs
- Statistical Treatment of Information

Computer Science Department

TECHNOLOGIES OF NATURAL LANGUAGES: study and implementation of information technologies related to computer modelling of language structures and processes:

- Creation of e-resources related to the presentation of Bulgarian lexis and grammar.
- Realization of methods and means for studying Bulgarian computer texts and experimenting with environments for morphological, lexical, syntactic and semantic analysis and synthesis of the text.
- Examination and extraction of knowledge and language data corpuses.
- Implementation of “text-speech” type systems and their application in the information technologies.
- Linguistic modelling in virtual learning environments.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES are directed to the development of e-learning environments supporting a wide range of activities inherent to distance learning. The latest studies of the department are focused mainly on:

- Adaptive E-learning;
- Accessibility Standards and Software Solutions for People with Special Educational Needs;
- Application of Gaming-based Models in E-learning Environments;
- Collaboration in E-learning;
- Modelling of E-courses.

OTHER APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- Information Security – standards, types of threats, risk analysis, cryptography, application security, etc.;
- Quality Assurance – assessment of educational quality (including e-learning); implementation of software solutions for quality

assessment;

- Programming and Use of Microcontrollers;
- Applied Cryptography;
- Applied Mathematical Models and Software Tools;
- Research on Individual Aspects of Computer Informatics Teaching.

Department of Computer Systems

- Intelligent Agents, Multi-agent Systems, Agent-based Architectures, Personal Assistants;
- Ontological Engineering, Semantic Web, Ontologies;
- Service-oriented Software Engineering, Software Architectures, Micro-services and Modules;
- Cyber-physical Spaces, the Internet of Things, Ambience-oriented Intelligence and Modelling, Formal Systems;
- Cognitive Robotics;
- Machine Learning;
- Virtual, Augmented, Enriched Reality;
- E-learning, Software Tools for E-learning, Virtual Learning Space;
- New Communication Paradigms for Next Generation Wireless Networks, 3P-AAA, WBC, Surrounding Networks, Simulation and Modelling of Complex Telecommunication Systems;
- Internet Tomography;
- Computer Graphics – Geometric Modelling, Realistic Visualization Algorithms, OpenGL.

Department of Computer Technologies

- Online Education
- Methodology of Education in Informatics and Information Technologies
- Distributed Applications and Systems
- Information Modelling

- Econometrics
- Graphical User Interfaces

Department of Software Technologies

Contemporary Technologies for Creating Software Systems

- Modelling and building of extendable modular information systems;
- Modules for building web-based software systems;
- Design and architecture of software systems for game-based learning.

Automatic Processing of Natural Language.

- Morphological processor;
- Grammatical marker;
- Automatic check for syntax reconciliation.

Algorithms and Applications:

- In education;
- In mathematics.

Applications of Informatics and Information Technologies:

- In mathematics;
- For building business information systems;
- in education.
- E-learning
- Adaptive e-learning environment for Bulgarian language;
- Adaptive games for e-learning of Bulgarian language.

Methodology of Education in Informatics and Information Technologies.

- Methodological tools for active training in basic computer science disciplines;
- Didactic model for implementation of developmental training in computer science;
- Developing a training model for object-oriented programming and web technologies;
- Implementing knowledge and realizing interdisciplinary teaching in mathematics, informatics, IT, computer linguistics and other subjects.

Development of Books, Textbooks and Teaching Aids:

- Algorithms and applications;
- Programming and data structures (C++, C#, Delphi, Java);
- Associated lecture courses led by lecturers in the Department.

Department of Methodology of Teaching Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Technology

- Reflective and synergistic approach to teaching mathematics, informatics and information technology;
- Models of activities involving mathematical, computer science and information technology problems;
- Methods and methodologies for solving and constructing mathematics, computer science and information technology problems;
- Innovation, innovative activities, innovative educational technologies in teaching mathematics, computer science and information technology;
- Development of methodologies for the use of information and communication technologies in mathematics and informatics;
- Development of spatial intelligence in teaching mathematics;
- Applied linguistics;
- Interdisciplinary project-based approaches in mathematics, computer science and information technology;
- Development of methodology for preparation of talented schoolchildren and students for successful participation in mathematics, informatics and information technology Olympiads and competitions.



FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY



The Faculty of Philosophy and History carries out training according to accredited programmes for BA, MA, and PhD degrees, distributed into five professional fields: History and Archaeology, Philosophy, Religion and Theology, Sociology, Anthropology and Culture Studies, and Education.

- There are six scientific centres at the Faculty:
- Critical Social Research Institute with a status of a joint unit of the University of Plovdiv and the Criticism and Humanism Foundation;
 - Science, Technologies and Innovations Research Centre;
 - University Centre for Christian Art and Culture;
 - Anthropological and Ethnosociological Research Centre;
 - Philosophy and Mental Health Centre;
 - Scientific Centre for War History and Archaeology.

The Faculty of Philosophy and History is one of the faculties with the greatest number of signed international agreements with foreign research units (it has 32 signed partnership agreements to date).

Improving the quality of education and competitiveness of the Faculty of Philosophy and History is closely related to the constant promotion of academic mobility and fostering

the participation of lecturers and students in international educational programmes and scientific research projects, as well as participation in the Erasmus+ and CEEPUS programmes.

The unique combination of programmes and academic staff of the Faculty offers resources for developing interdisciplinary scientific and educational projects.

Department of Ethnology

The Department of Ethnology carries out research and training on current issues of ethnical, religious, cultural and social differences, cultural heritage, borders, identities, migration, community and group interactions, crises and conflicts, tolerance and dialogue between cultures; social and cultural mediation, intercultural communication and field work with ethnic, religious, marginalized and disadvantaged groups and migrants, work at museums and cultural institutions, etc.

The teaching staff and students draw up expert reports which serve for formulating policies and decision making in the social and cultural sphere; patterns for working with ethnic, religious, marginalized groups and migrants, aiming at adaptation, admission, integration and social inclusion; and training experts to apply these patterns.



The department is a dynamic scientific centre which develops and implements their own scientific and applied science projects and participates as partner in a number of national and international researches, initiatives and networks. The ethnologists and anthropologists have a huge publication activity in prestigious national and international editions.



Department of History and Archaeology

Scientific areas:

- Bulgarian State and Political Traditions
- History and Civilization of the Old and New World
- Christian Art and Culture
- History and Archaeology of War
- Study of the National Documentation and Archives Heritage



Department of Applied and Institutional Sociology

Scientific fields:

Social Research of Science and Technology (STS): Heterogeneous Communities in Scientific and Engineering Practice, Innovation and Large Technical Systems; Economics of Technical Change Focusing on Power Industry, Health Care, ICT; Sociology of Law and Modern Institutions: Historical Tracing of the Processes of Emergence and Emancipation of Economics, Emergence and Development of State, Genesis and Specificity of Modern Law as Prerequisites for Understanding Modern Society; Sociology of Youth: Studying Youth Transitions from Education to Employment, Civil Participation and Orientation of Values, Social Movements; Semiotics and its Application in Social Science; Statistical Methods for Processing and Analysis of Information in Social Sciences, Focusing on Cluster and Network Approaches.

Department of Sociology and Human Science

Scientific fields:

- Socioanalysis of Inheritance, Research of Social Exclusion and the Insecurity Thresholds of Disadvantaged Groups; Social Inequality, Mobility, Migrations; Solving Social and Demographic Problems and Quality of Life Improvement; Preclinic Practice and Therapies, Public Health and Quality of Life;

- Sociological Expert Analysis Centred on Personality and Carrying out of Practical Interventions Aiming at Optimization of Human Relations and Supporting Individuals, Communities and Institutions in Disadvantaged Environment;

- Research of Modern Health Care Social Effects, Combining Health Care with Biotechnologies, Hygiene Practice, Statistics, Capital, Birth Control Policies, Mortality, Sick Rate, Life Expectancy and Other Indicators for the Vitality of a National, Local or Socially Determined Population.

Department of Theology

The department trains competent, qualified and motivated specialists in theology. The key competitive advantages of the department are related to the ample application of classical Orthodox theology with innovative methods of teaching; building up a close connection between theory and practice; carrying out up-to-date scientific research.

The scientific research activity of the department encompasses the four-section structure of theology (with focus on the Bible, church history, systematics, church practice) and the broad profile of humanities. The lecturers are permanently engaged with internal project activities and actively participate in national and international projects with a narrow theological profile or a wider humanitarian one.



Department of Philosophy

Scientific fields:

Logic of Social Research, History of Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Problems of the Humanities, Research in the Sphere of Philosophical Dialogue, Philosophy, and Cinema and Interactive Philosophy of Education.

FACULTY OF PHYSICS AND TECHNOLOGY



The Faculty of Physics and Technology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" was established in 2017 as a result of a merger of the Faculty of Physics at the same university with the Technical College in the town of Smolyan, with the aim of uniting the positive sides of both units. Thus, the students in the engineering disciplines in the faculty can obtain more profound knowledge in physics, and those of physics have the opportunity to increase the practical aspects of their education. As a result, the faculty produces professionals good both in theory and in practice, which gives them excellent opportunities for better realization on the labour market. The graduates of the Faculty of Physics and Technology can work as engineers, physics teachers, researchers and specialists in the fields of electronics and communications, laser technology, polymer materials and nuclear physics.

The teaching process corresponds to the needs of our society and the fast development of science and technology. The application of modern methods of education is an important characteristic of the faculty policy.

The teaching staff also carry out a wide range of scientific and research activities. There is a very active exchange of scientific knowledge and academic staff with oth-

er scientific institutions in the country and abroad.

Department of Physics

Scientific and Research topics:

- Physical and Physico-chemical Properties of Condensed Matter – polymer materials and composites, liquid crystals, nanostructured materials, electrets;
- Dielectric Spectroscopy;
- Laser Refractometry, Interferometry and Spectroscopy;
- Biophysics and Medical Physics;
- Linear and Nonlinear Effects in the Propagation of Wide-spectrum and Narrow-spectrum Optical Pulses in Isotropic Dispersing Media;
- Investigation of Physical Properties of Foodstuffs;
- Physics of the Earth;
- Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency;
- Modelling of Electromagnetic and Thermal Waves Propagation in Multilayer Anisotropic Optical and Biological Media.

Laboratory of Physics of the Polymers

Research topics

- Obtaining and Investigation of Nanostructured Polymer Materials with Application in Medicine and Food Technologies;
- Investigation of Physico-chemical and Rheological Properties of Polymer and Composite Materials;
- Investigation of Physical Properties of Food.

Laboratory of Physics of Dielectrics

Research topics

- Preparation of Polymer Films and Nanocomposites by Solution and Spin Casting;
- Fabrication and Characterization of Corona-electrets and Thermo-electrets;
- Investigation of Electric Properties of Dielectric Materials: specific surface and volume conductivity, dielectric permittivity, dielectric loss, impedance;
- Investigation of the Surface Properties of Transparent Dielectric Films by Contact Angle Measurements and Surface Free Energy Determination;
- Optical Properties of Dielectric Films.

Laboratory of Optics and Spectroscopy

Research topics:

- Determination of Optical Characteristics of Materials – measurement of the transmittance and reflectance spectra;
- Measurement of Fluorescence and Phosphorescent Spectra;
- Measurement of the Refractive Index and Dispersion Dependencies Construction in the Visible Range with Accuracy ± 0.0001 .

Department of Electronics, Communication and Information Technologies (ECIT)

The ECIT Department (Electronics, Communications and Information Technologies) was established in 1964. The department has 5 laboratories equipped with modern apparatuses in the field of electronics, electrical engineering, communications, microprocessor technology, sensors and actuators. The academic staff of the Department develops research activities in several scientific fields:

- Performance Support Learning;
- e-Learning;
- m-Learning;
- Embedded Microprocessor Systems;
- Optoelectronics;

- Wireless Communication Systems;
- Thermal Forecasting and Management of Electronic and Telecommunication Equipment;
- Renewable Energy Systems;
- SCADA and PLC Remote Monitoring and Control Systems;
- Mathematical Modelling, Simulation and Optimization of Systems.

DIPSEIL Laboratory

Head of a Laboratory: Prof. Nevena Mileva

The DIPSEIL Laboratory is a centre where a distributed individualized performance support learning approach is used. The developed electronic system DIPSEIL (Distributed Internet-based Performance Support Environment for Individualized Learning) (<http://env.dipseil.net/v3>) provides performance-support learning in which educational content is presented in the form of tasks to perform and assessment is done on the basis of their performance. DIPSEIL is geographically distributed in several servers and a single communication server. The DIPSEIL system is implemented in different types of training: distance, traditional, workplace training, training of certain disadvantaged groups. This method is used in courses in the field of engineering, telecommunications, physics, medicine (orthopaedics and anaesthesiology), management, e-security, tourism, etc.



Department of Educational Technologies

Research topics:

- Modern Methods and Approaches in Physics Education;
- Trends in Teaching Physics Teachers;
- Statistical Mechanics and Theory of Critical Phenomena;
- Atomic and Nuclear Physics, Radiation Biophysics;
- High Energy and Particle Physics;
- Convergence Theorems, Iterative Methods, Simultaneous Methods, Polynomial Zeros, Fixed Point Theorems, Differential Geometry;
- Analytical Descriptions of Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Earthquake Sequences;
- Investigation of Fractal Properties of Seismicity.

Department of Mechanical Engineering and Transport

The Department of Mechanical Engineering and Transport was established in 1989. On the territory of the town of Smolyan the department has 8 modern laboratories equipped in the field of:

- CAD / CAM / CAE systems;
- Automotive Equipment and Electrical Equipment of Vehicles;
- Internal Combustion Engines, Diagnostics and Control Systems;
- Material Science and Metallographic Analysis;
- Cutting, Metal Cutting Machines and Technology of Machine Building;
- Programming of CNC and CNC Machines.

Research topics:

- Examination of the Tribological Characteristics of Hard Thin Coatings;
- Study of the Parameters of Gerotor Hydraulic Motors;
- Examination of Wear Resistance of Recovered Parts from Automotive Equipment;

- Research and Design of Machine Elements and Mechanisms;
- Tribology in Mechanical Engineering;
- Static and Dynamic Behaviour of Production Equipment;
- Nanotechnology.

Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications

The Department of Power Engineering and Communications has laboratories with modern equipment in the field of power engineering, computer, communication and hardware systems.

Research topics:

- Development, Adaptation and Implementation of Modern IT Solutions, Applied in Industry, Science, Education, State and Private Sector, Banking, Transport, Ecology;
- Application of Modern Software Environments for Modelling and Simulation of Dynamic Systems of Computer and Communication Devices in Simulink Module of Matlab, OrCAD, NI Multisim;
- Next Generation Telecommunication Networks;
- Design of Embedded Microcomputer Systems with Microcontrollers;
- Renewable Energy Sources;
- Energy Saving Systems;
- LabView Design Automation;
- Sensors and Actuators.

LABORATORIES OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

New Materials Development Laboratory

Scientific and Research topics:

- Formation of Porous Polymer Structures;
- Polymer Thermal Analysis;

- Investigation of Vapor and Gas Permeability of Polymer Films;
- Investigation of Polymers Using the Thermally Stimulated Polarization and Depolarization Method.

Laboratory of Molecular Biosensors

Scientific and Research topics:

- Mechanical and Textural Properties of Polymers and Foodstuffs;
- Fluorescence Microscopy;
- Microfluidics by Quartz Crystal Microbalance.

Laboratory of Information and Communication Technologies

Scientific and Research topics:

- Embedded Microprocessor Systems;
- Optoelectronics;
- Electrical Measurements.



Academic calendar

The academic calendar is divided into two terms as follows:

Winter semester

27.09.2021 - 15.01.2022

Christmas holidays: 24.12.2021 - 2.01.2022

Examination session: 16.01.2022 - 13.02.2022

Summer semester:

14.02.2022 - 29.05.2022

Easter holidays: 22.04.2022 - 25.04.2022

Examination session: 30.05.2022-30.06.2022

ECTS Grading Scale

Bulgarian grading scale	Evaluation	ECTS grade	Positive/Negative
6	Excellent: outstanding performance with only minor mistakes	A	Positive
5	Very good: above the average standards, but with some errors	B	
4.5	Good: generally sound work with number of notable errors	C	
4	Satisfactory: fair but with significant shortcomings	D	
3	Sufficient: performance meet the minimum criteria	E	
2	Fail / Very weak: Considerable further work is required / Unsatisfactory	F/FX	Negative

Erasmus +

International relations office

Rectorate, office 118
24 Tsar Asen Str.
Plovdiv 4000

Vice-Rector**International Relations and PR****Assoc. Prof. Nadya Cherneva, PhD**

E-mail: vice.ir@uni-plovdiv.bg

tel. +359 32 261 241; +359 32 261 417

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Inter-institutional Agreements**Administrator Outgoing Students and Staff Mobilities advisor****Radosveta Mishevskva**

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tel. +359 32 261 363

Incoming Students and Staff Mobilities advisor**Tsanka Spasova**

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Erasmus +

Faculty coordinators

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Telephone: +359 32 261 435

e-mail: meglena.zlatkova@uni-plovdiv.bg

Chief Asst. Prof. Stanimir Manolov, PhD**Faculty of Chemistry**

Telephone: +359 32 261 348

e-mail: manolov@uni-plovdiv.bg

Assoc. Prof. Angel Shopov, PhD**Faculty of Law**

Telephone: +359 32 261 339

e-mail: a_shopov@uni-plovdiv.bg

Prof. Elena Nikolova, D.Sc.**University College in the town of Smolyan**

Telephone: +359 301 623 44

e-mail: elenakanik@uni-plovdiv.bg

Chief Asst. Prof. Vania Ivanova, PhD**University College Lyuben Karavelov - Kardzhali**

Telephone: +359 884 280 113

e-mail: vanya_ivanova75@abv.bg

Student affairs department

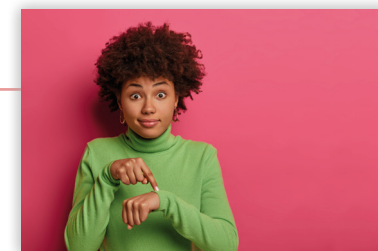
Head of Student Affairs Department**Grozdanka Pevicharova**

Central Building, 2nd floor,
office 213, tel. 032/261 311
danny@uni-plovdiv.bg

Applicatation deadlines

30 June for autumn semester

30 November for spring semester



Travel preparations

Before leaving your country you should take the following things with you:

- a passport or any other identity document
- 5 passport-size photographs
- a European health insurance card (travel insurance and personal insurance)

You should also check that:

- you have sufficient money (you will need some cash in Bulgarian leva for immediate expenses when you arrive).
- you have arranged accommodation for your study period in Plovdiv
- you have informed the International Relations Office in Plovdiv about the exact date of your arrival
- you have sent the Learning Agreement, Application Form and Transcript of Records to the International Relations Office.

VISA

Students coming from EU countries do not need visa. Other international students can get information about visa application procedure at the Bulgarian embassies or consulates in their home countries or they can consult the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria:



Health insurance

In case of students from EU member states medical care is ensured on the basis of the

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For more information, visit:



Students from non-EU countries must have a private health insurance for the period of their stay in Bulgaria.

Accommodation

The University of Plovdiv has new dormitories. Built a few years ago, they offer affordable yet comfortable accommodation, providing students with the most essential utilities, so that they can carry out their training in a relaxed and agreeable environment.

The dormitory is right next to the University's New Campus, on 236 Bulgaria Blvd., Plovdiv, where the faculties of Education and Mathematics and Informatics are based.



- The rent per month is 80 leva (40 Euro). Student dorms typically offer a double room with bathroom facilities in each room.

- No bills for electricity, water, heating, Wi-Fi Internet (24/7), etc.
- Premises expenses of 50 leva (25 Euro) for the whole period of stay.
- Laundry on the ground floor with a charge of 25 leva (13 Euro) for the whole period of stay. (Washing with your own detergent.)
- Students need to bring their own bed linen (or they could purchase from the nearby store). Bed size - 200/100 cm

Keeping rooms clean and tidy must be a priority for students.

*Prices are subject of annual update



Food & drinks

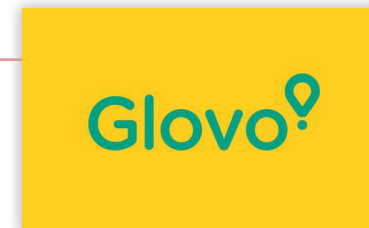
- No kitchen available.
- You cannot cook meals in the rooms.
- You can find a canteen which offers lunch at the new campus.

On the other hand, the closest big food stores are 2 kilometers away, and you can find liter-

ally everything there – from food to domestic and household essentials.

There are also many food delivery companies which offer a great variety of meals.

To name a few:



The remoteness of the dormitories from the city center (approximately 6-7 kilometers away) is a factor that helps with one's training as it offers less distractions but there are also students who prefer self-accommodation nearer to the center.

Public transport is available. Regular buses take you to the heart of the city for a quarter of an hour. The cost of ticket is 1 lev (0,5 Euro). Buses 4, 20, 44 connect the dormitories and the center, and 20, 222 can be used if you want to reach the Central Railway Station.

Each year the IRO tries to reserve as many rooms as possible for our foreign students. But there is still no guarantee that everyone

will be accommodated. If you are interested in university accommodation, please fill in the Accommodation section of the Application Form and send it to the Incoming Students Adviser. The first to apply have higher chances of securing a room.

After IRO receives your application form, we check the availability of rooms in the student dormitories and inform you directly about the opportunities.

Some foreign students prefer private accommodation and they themselves look around for appropriate places. The IRO gives information and advice to students to help them in their search for suitable accommodation.

How to travel to Plovdiv

Those arriving by plane at Sofia Airport can take bus line 84 and then transfer to buses #213 or 305 at Hotel Pliska bus stop for the Central Railway and Bus Stations which are located in close proximity to each other. The bus ticket costs 1.60 BGN /0.80 EUR/.

Another possibility of reaching Sofia Central Railway/ Bus Station is by using the underground from Sofia Airport Metro Station, located next to Terminal 2. Metro line 1 connects the airport with Serdika Metro station where you should transfer to line 2. The price of a single ticket is 1.60 BGN (0.8 EUR) and it is valid for the transfer to line 2, so there is no need to buy a new one.

If you prefer to travel by taxi, we recommend the services of the taxi operator OK Supertrans as contract partner of Sofia Airport: tel. +359 2 973 2121; www.oktaxi.net.

To avoid the risk of overcharging, we advise you not to use taxi services offered in front of the terminal.



Central Bus Station Sofia

Buses to Plovdiv leave from the Central Bus Station every hour on the hour from 7 am till 8 pm. The price of the bus ticket is approximately 14.00 BGN (\approx 7 EUR).

The trip duration by rail is two and a half hours. The approximate price of the train ticket to Plovdiv is 12.00 BGN (\approx 6 EUR).

The buses arrive at the South ("Yug") Bus Station in Plovdiv, and the trains – at the Central Railway Station. The two stations are at a distance of 250-300 m. from each other along Hristo Botev Blvd.

By car, you can get from Sofia to Plovdiv for about an hour and a half.

The bus ticket for the public transport in Plovdiv costs 1 BGN. You pay the conductor on the bus.



Bus Station "South" Plovdiv



Metro Station "Sofia"



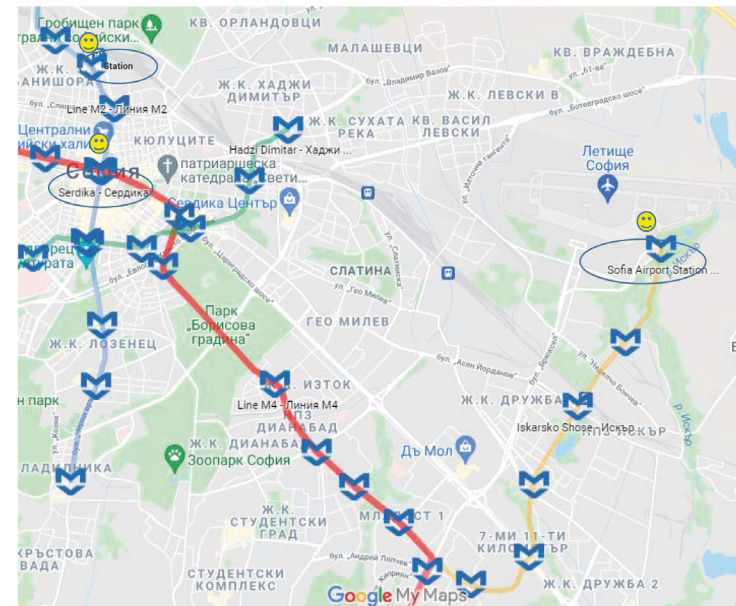
"Serdika" Metro Station Sofia

How to get from Sofia Airport to the Central Railway/Bus Station and then to Plovdiv?

Once arrived at Sofia Airport, you will have to get the Underground (Metro). The Metro station is close to Terminal 2. There is a (free) shuttle bus connection between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 (in case you have arrived at Terminal 1).

Line M4 runs to the center. You will have to change the lines at "Serdika" Station. Take line M2 for the Central Railway/Bus Station.

Buses for Plovdiv leave from Sector 6. Tickets are sold at the Desk in front.



Student buddy service

Before arrival and during their first weeks international students usually have a lot of questions and concerns. That is why the IRO offers a student buddy service to incoming Erasmus students. The "buddies" are local students from the Students' Union who, on a voluntary basis, assist the incoming students in adapting to social, academic and cultural life. Local buddies welcome the incoming students at Plovdiv's Central Bus (or Railway) Station and help them get to their living place.

Orientation week

At the beginning of the academic year, the International Relations Office organizes an Orientation Week to help students integrate in the university life and get to know the city. During these days Erasmus+ students receive practical information related to accommodation, police formalities, enrolment procedures, Bulgarian language courses, etc. Therefore, students are strongly advised to arrive in time to attend this event.



Erasmus students in Plovdiv, 2019

Admission

The Incoming Students' Adviser, the respective secretary at the Student Affairs Department, the Faculty/ Departmental Coordinator and the "buddies" take care of the incoming students during the whole procedure of enrolment, accommodation and registration.

Police registration

EU citizens may enter and leave the territory of Bulgaria with a valid ID document. If their stay in the country does not exceed 3 months, they do not need temporary residence permit from the local police administration department. All non-EU citizens can enter Bulgaria on the basis of a valid passport and a visa and must register at the police station, Administrative Control of Foreigners Service, not later than 48 hours after arrival.

Registration service address:
70 Volga St., Plovdiv
tel.: 032 932 897; tel.: 032 932 898
Working hours:
Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm



Police Station, Volga St., Plovdiv

Bulgarian language courses

Bulgarian language courses are offered for incoming Erasmus students at the beginning of each semester.

Contact person: Tanya Neycheva
e-mail: tanja_sp@yahoo.com
New Building, 2nd floor, room 409;
tel.+359 32 261 789

The University Library

The University Library has two locations:

- 24 Tsar Asen St. (Central Building)
- 236 Bulgaria Blvd. (New Campus)

There are a number of specialized libraries, namely a Law Library, an Economics Library, a Mathematical Library, a Pedagogical Library, etc.

Working hours:
Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday:
9:00 am – 1:30 pm (during exam session only)

Ivan Vazov municipal library



Ivan Vazov municipal library

Library hours change from summer to winter time and vice versa according to the official annual change of astronomic time in the country:

Monday – Friday
08.00 am – 5.45 pm (winter)
08.00 am – 7.45 pm (summer)
Saturday – Sunday
Closed

For more information visit:



Canteens

Canteens are open from Monday to Friday, 11 am – 3 pm. The menu is standard – starter, main course and dessert.

The University Sports hall

New Campus
238 Bulgaria Blvd.
Plovdiv



Mobile operators and internet providers

Vivacom, A1 and Telenor are the three big companies which provide Internet and mobile services in Bulgaria. There are two options for your mobile communications: prepaid and contract services. More information on tariffs you will find here:
www.a1.bg/en; www.vivacom.bg; www.telenor.bg.

Before your departure

Before getting back home, you should contact the International Relations Office for the Certificate of Attendance and ask the Faculty Erasmus Coordinator to prepare your Transcript of Records.

Before you leave, you must pay all dormitory fees and return all books borrowed from the university libraries.

Useful links and contacts

Emergency Telephone Number - 112

Hospitals

St. George University Hospital: 66 Peshtersko Shose Blvd., tel. 032/602 211; 032/602 911

Hospital Plovdiv: 234 Bulgaria Blvd., tel. 032 95 92 21

Kaspella University Hospital : 64 Sofia St., tel. 032 645 997

Pulmed University Hospital: 1A Perushtitza St., tel. 032 607 300

Hotels & Hostels in Plovdiv

Hotels



Hostels



Transport

<https://www.sofia-airport.bg>
<http://www.plovdivairport.com/en/home>
<http://www.varna-airport.bg>
<http://www.bourgas-airport.bg>

Bulgarian State Railways – “BDZ passenger services” <http://www.bdz.bg/en/>

Sofia Central Bus Station – <http://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/index.php>

Plovdiv Central Railway Station:
46, Hristo Botev Blvd., tel. 032 643 120

Plovdiv Yug (South) Bus Station:
47, Hristo Botev Blvd., 032 626937

Plovdiv guides



Interesting places in Bulgaria you may visit



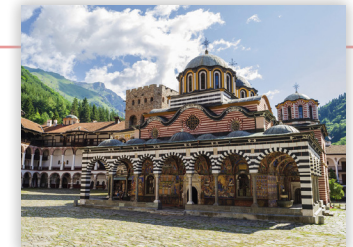
Tsarevets Fortress in Veliko Tarnovo



Etar Architectural-Ethnographic Complex near Gabrovo



The Seven Rila Lakes in Rila Mountain



Rila Monastery (The Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila)



The Ancient City of Nessebar



Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria

Erasmus students share their experience at Plovdiv University



Angelica Girardelli

An Interview with Angelica Girardelli

*Home university: University of Bologna, Italy
Study: Translation and Interpretation
Intercultural and Linguistic Mediation*

*Stay in Plovdiv: 02.2019 - 07.2019
Studied: Foreign Languages and Cultures*

How did you choose to carry out your ERASMUS+ mobility in the University of Plovdiv?

During my second year I had the possibility to join the Erasmus+ Program and I absolutely wanted to use this great opportunity. I decided to go to Plovdiv and Bulgaria for multiple reasons. Firstly, because I study Russian and I wanted to get to know another Slavic language and culture. Secondly, because Plovdiv was chosen to be European Capital of Culture 2019 and this nomination was of great value. Finally, I met some professors from the university "Paisii Hilendarski" who

came to visit my university in Forlì to speak about their university and the city and I decided Plovdiv would be my Erasmus destination.

How did your study period / training go?

I enjoyed my study period a lot. The university and small classes made the lectures very enjoyable and friendly. I had the opportunity to study some Bulgarian and met a lot of students who came from different countries like France, Moldova, Spain, Greece, and Germany.

What impressed you most about Plovdiv and how much did you get to know the city?

I had the opportunity to get to know Plovdiv in depth. It is a small university-city which always gave me a peaceful feeling. Also, all the Bulgarians I met there and in Bulgaria in general were nice and friendly. I got to know this city well, because since it was named the European Capital of Culture 2019, Plovdiv was full of events and exhibitions.

Did you succeed in getting to know Bulgaria? What did you like most?

Thanks to trips organised by the university and the ESN organisation for Erasmus students I went to Sofia and Veliko Tarnovo, the old capital. A very special day was the Bulgaria Liberation Day, when many Bulgarians came from all over the country to celebrate on the Shipka peak their national freedom and we could sense and feel with them the enthusiasm.

How did your stay in Bulgaria (particularly in Plovdiv) affect your life?

Since Bulgaria was my first international experience, I discovered how beautiful it is to travel and get to know different cultures. For instance, I went on exchange after one year to Moscow and could deepen my knowledge of Russian culture and language.

Would you come back again and would you recommend "destination Bulgaria" to your relatives and friends?

Absolutely, as you can read from the answers above, I would recommend destination Bulgaria. It's a place with nice weather, good vibes and it gives you many opportunities for personal development and outstanding experiences.



Batuhan Alişoğlu

An essay by Batuhan Alişoğlu

*Home university: Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey; History Department, PhD Degree
(I was doing my MA degree when I was in Plovdiv)*

*Stay in Plovdiv: 09/2018 - 03-2019
Study interests: Balkan studies, Turkish minority in Bulgaria, History of Political Thought, Turkish Education History*

I had an emotional attachment to Bulgaria because of my father's migration from Bulgaria to Turkey in 1973. As a matter of fact, the majority of people in the neighbourhood where I grew up in Turkey consisted of immigrants from Bulgaria. So, I thought I was partly accustomed to Bulgarian culture. However, I had never had the opportunity to go and see Bulgaria. When I learned that my university has a contract with the University of Plovdiv, I thought this was an excellent opportunity for me. After my Erasmus was over, I realized that I was not wrong about this.

I spent an excellent 5 months in Plovdiv. The city appeals to students in many ways. The historical beauties of the city and its undisturbed structure affect the communication between students very positively. In addition, Plovdiv can be easily reached from many cities of Bulgaria due to its location. During my days in Plovdiv, I had the opportunity to make friends from many different countries. Years later, I still keep in touch with them. I liked the city so much that I visited it once more after my 5 months in the city was over. Also, the professors at the university made a very positive contribution to my education. After I expressed my curiosity about exploring Bulgaria to them, they gave me the opportunity to travel the country. As a result of these travels, I witnessed the benevolence of the Bulgarian people, and this was one of the best impressions I got about Bulgaria. Also, due to its location, Bulgaria is in a very central position which is good for the creation of a nice route for people who want to travel in the Balkans. Accordingly, I had the opportunity to visit many Balkan cities with the route I created during my Erasmus process and I collected excellent memories.

I know that after all these beautiful memories, our paths with Plovdiv will cross once again.



Daniel Huertas

After this trip, you will not only have made great memories and friends from all over the world, but you will also visit Plovdiv every year after that one to collect more memories and friends. You will take your family, your friends and your girlfriend to allow them to enjoy this wonderful place.

Nothing more. Just enjoy the experience.

All the best,
Daniel from 2021



Jasmine Jolliot

An Interview with Jasmine Jolliot

Home University: Université Lumière Lyon 2, France

Faculty: UFR ASSP Anthropologie/Sociologie/Sciences Politiques

Degree: Licence (3) Sciences de l'Homme, Anthropologie, Ethnologie

Stay in Plovdiv: 21.09.20 - 03.07.21

Study interests: Anthropology of mobilities, migrations/nomadism/movement, space and time, intersectionality, gender and queer studies

Pourquoi as-tu choisi de réaliser ta mobilité ERASMUS+ à l'Université de Plovdiv?

Plovdiv a été un hasard choisi, je dirais. J'avais déjà vécu à l'étranger et dès que je suis rentrée en France pour mes études, j'attendais avec impatience l'année où je

pourrais partir en mobilité. Une partie de ma famille est croate donc j'ai toujours voulu en connaître un peu plus sur les pays de l'Est, et notamment sur les Balkans. J'avais plusieurs options mais la Bulgarie était le pays dont j'avais le moins entendu parler alors je me suis dit "pourquoi pas ?" (comme la plupart des étudiants en mobilité que j'ai rencontré.e.s). Le fait d'être si proche de la Grèce et de la Turquie n'a fait que confirmer mon choix. Quant à Plovdiv, au départ c'était avant tout pour ne pas être à Sofia. Je ne voulais pas vivre dans une capitale. Maintenant que je connais bien Plovdiv, je referais ce choix sans hésiter, pour plein d'autres raisons.

Comment s'est passée cette période d'études?

Je pense avoir vécu un Erasmus un peu particulier et ça a finalement été une véritable chance. Tous les cours se sont fait en distanciel et comme j'étais la seule Erasmus de ma faculté au premier semestre cela s'est traduit par un encadrement personnel des travaux que j'avais à réaliser pour chacun de mes cours. J'ai eu l'opportunité de travailler avec beaucoup plus d'autonomie, ce qui a déjà été en soi un apprentissage, et avec plus de liberté dans la manière dont j'abordais les différents enseignements. L'anthropologie est une science où la subjectivité fait partie intégrante de la production de savoir et j'ai l'impression de l'avoir d'autant plus compris et expérimenté cette année. J'ai été accompagnée par chacun.e de mes professeur.e.s de manière attentive, à mes questionnements, à mes difficultés, à mon ressenti de cette année si particulière pour tous. Et ces échanges sous le mode de la conversation, beaucoup plus personnels, ont été extrêmement enrichissants et rassurants pour moi. En plus d'apprendre et de découvrir d'autres facettes de cette discipline, cette année m'a permis d'en comprendre d'autres enjeux, de par les récits de recherche et de vie que m'ont partagé certain.e.s.

J'en profite pour remercier ces professeur.e.s qui ont fait preuve de beaucoup de compréhension à mon égard et qui ont réellement participé à cette très belle année que j'ai passée dans ce pays, qui n'a d'ailleurs fait que confirmer mon engagement dans cette voie professionnelle.

Qu'est ce qui t'as le plus impressionnée à Plovdiv et à quel point as-tu réussi à connaître la ville?

Je suis venue en Bulgarie avec en tête l'idée que je déménageais pour un an ou deux. Donc les premiers mois, plutôt que de faire les circuits touristiques, je suis surtout restée à Plovdiv et je me suis beaucoup baladée. J'ai rencontré des ami.e.s bulgares et mon quotidien s'est vite mis en place. J'ai découvert la ville à mesure que je prenais mes marques et mes habitudes, en ayant la chance de vivre pas loin du centre.

Plovdiv, c'est une ville avec une histoire impressionnante, avec un centre historique et culturel dynamique et malgré les restrictions liées à la Covid-19, il y a toujours des choses à faire et à voir. Je pense que chaque ville, de par son histoire, sa population, son urbanisme, a une atmosphère particulière. A Plovdiv, dans ce que j'en ai vécu, c'est la tranquillité qui prime. C'est une grande ville et un centre économique et culturel important en Bulgarie, mais même dans le centre ville, personne n'a jamais l'air pressé et il y en a toujours en train de boire un café sur un banc à regarder passer le temps et les gens, en écoutant le musicien du coin de la rue. C'est vraiment une ville agréable à vivre, très paisible et c'est pour moi ce qui fait tout son charme. Ensuite, et cela vaut pour la Bulgarie en général je pense, plus on l'a découverte, plus on comprend la complexité et la richesse (multi-)culturelle du lieu. Et Plovdiv en ce sens est une ville pleine de surprises.

As-tu réussi à connaître la Bulgarie ? Qu'est-ce qui t'as plu le plus ?

Il faut bien plus qu'un an pour bien connaître ce pays mais je suis très heureuse d'avoir déjà pu en avoir un bel aperçu. Puisqu'il n'y a pas eu de restrictions vis-à-vis des déplacements, j'ai pu visiter les plus grandes villes, et des beaucoup plus petites. J'ai eu la chance de pouvoir aller dans presque toutes les régions et d'y découvrir certaines des richesses naturelles (voyages en train, randonnées dans des parcs naturels), historiques (musées et monuments emblématiques) et culturelles (fêtes religieuses, lieux de culte, Azis !) de la Bulgarie. Mes cours de bulgare et mon petit niveau ont permis plus d'échanges avec des gens de différents âges et de différents milieux mais c'est surtout par les récits de famille que j'ai compris un peu plus l'histoire du pays. Il y a beaucoup de choses qui m'ont impressionnée mais il y a des endroits et des moments qui vous touchent plus que d'autres bien sûr. Le sud de la côte en hiver (entre Nessebar et la frontière turque) et le lac Batak m'ont émerveillée. Mais les conversations dans le train ou autour d'une rakija dans un bar de village dans les Rhodopes m'ont d'autant plus inspirée. Encore une fois, plein de surprises et d'inattendu (même quand on a feuilleté un ou deux guides de voyage).

Comment ton séjour en Bulgarie, et notamment à Plovdiv, a changé ta vie ?

En plus de la découverte d'un pays et de sa culture en tant qu'étrangère, notamment quand elle est possible malgré la pandémie, je crois que la Bulgarie m'a confirmé l'importance et la richesse de la multiculturalité et des lieux-carrefours. Ce sont des situations complexes que ce pays m'a donné envie d'approcher d'autant plus dans mes études. Cette année en Erasmus a définitivement nourri mon envie de voyage et de mouvement, notamment dans cette région des Bal-

kans et Plovdiv m'a donné un petit goût d'une mode/rythme de vie que j'aimerais cultiver par la suite.

Reviendrais-tu et recommanderais-tu la Bulgarie comme destination à ta famille ou tes ami.e.s ?

Un retour est déjà prévu pour l'année prochaine et j'ai déjà recommandé à plusieurs personnes de venir si ils/elles en ont l'occasion. Une amie est venue me rendre visite en octobre. Elle vit maintenant à Sofia et n'a pas prévu de repartir de si tôt ! Je crois que cette anecdote suffit!



Jelena Pavlović Jovanović

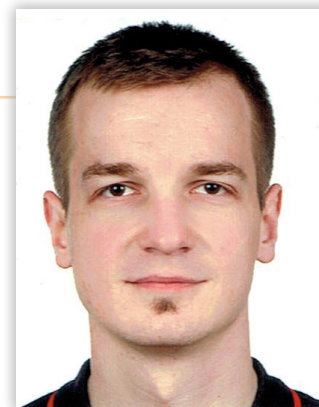
An essay by Jelena Pavlović Jovanović

Home University: University of Kragujevac, Serbia; Faculty of Philology and Arts, PhD candidate

Stay in Plovdiv: 04.2017 - 06.2017

A professor from my PhD program recommended the University of Plovdiv to me. I spent three months in Plovdiv studying syntax, Bulgarian language, German language

and Russian language. Also, I participated in one conference with a paper very important to my PhD. The knowledge gained in Plovdiv was very significant to me when I continued my scientific journey later, especially when I was in Germany. In addition to all that, I was very impressed by city rich history, especially by its Roman heritage. I explored the city and enjoyed historical places very much, especially the old town. Also, I travelled to Aseonograd and to Perperikon, which I find very fascinating. My stay in Plovdiv improved my work life, here I became a European scientist. Later, I published six papers in Bulgaria, five in Plovdiv and one in Sofia. Also, I participated in four conferences in Plovdiv. As soon as the situation allows it, I will come back and I will recommend visiting Plovdiv to all my friends and family. Until then, I will continue to participate in scientific conferences online.



Jonathan Walther

An Interview with Jonathan Walther

Heimatuniversität: Technische Universität Dresden

Fakultät: Sprach-, Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften

Abschluss: Bachelor of Arts: Geschichte und Slavistik

Aufenthalt in Plovdiv: September 2013 – Juni 2014

Studieninteressen: Geschichte (Alte Geschichte, Osteuropäische Geschichte), slavische Sprachen und Kulturen

How did you choose to carry out your ERASMUS+ mobility in the University of Plovdiv ?

Für mein Studium der Slavistik musste ich einen Aufenthalt im russischsprachigen Ausland vorweisen. Mangels Alternativen wurde mir ein Erasmus-Aufenthalt mit Russisch-Studium in Plovdiv als solcher anerkannt. Der Erasmus-Beauftragte in Dresden, Martin Henzelmann, hatte mir Bulgarien und Plovdiv empfohlen, da er selbst auch schon dagewesen ist und davon begeistert war.

How did your study period / training go ?

Ich habe an der PU Russische Philologie studiert. Zu Beginn habe ich vom Unterricht (auf Bulgarisch) nur wenig verstanden. Durch Vermittlung von Dr. Yanev konnte ich am Sprachkurs für Ausländer an der PU mitmachen und dadurch dann mehr verstehen. Die Belastung war somit etwas größer, als bei den anderen Erasmus-Studenten, deren Unterricht hauptsächlich auf Englisch stattfand (und deren Bulgarisch-Kenntnisse leider rudimentär blieben). Im zweiten Semester habe ich dann mehr verstanden und mit der entsprechenden Sprachpraxis konnte ich mich zum Ende meines Aufenthalts gut auf Bulgarisch verständigen und dem Unterricht besser bis gut folgen. Für mein Studium zuhause hatte der Erasmus-Aufenthalt neben der Möglichkeit einige Leistungen anerkennen zu lassen (u.a. die erlernte Sprache) gute Kenntnisse einer slavischen Kultur gebracht.

Did you succeed in getting to know Bulgaria? What did you like most?

Ich war inzwischen an einigen Orten in Bulgarien und kenne das Land relativ gut. Am besten gefallen mir Plovdiv und die Rhodopen. Veliko Tarnovo und die Gegend um Shumen gefallen mir sehr gut, wenn es um Geschichte geht.

How did your stay in Bulgaria (particularly in Plovdiv) affect your life?

Ich habe in Plovdiv meine Frau kennen gelernt. Sie kommt aus Plovdiv und hat an der PU studiert und mir bei meiner Ankunft die Stadt und Universität gezeigt. Wir haben 2016 in Plovdiv geheiratet und natürlich viele Freunde und Bekannte in der Stadt und wollen später eventuell nach Plovdiv umziehen.

Would you come back again and would you recommend "destination Bulgaria" to your relatives and friends?

Ja, auf jeden Fall. Ich bin fast jedes Jahr (manchmal mehrmals) in Bulgarien und in Plovdiv gewesen und kann jedem einen Besuch empfehlen. Meine Freunde und Familie aus Deutschland hatten in Bulgarien eine gute Zeit.



Kevser Karademir

An essay by Kevser Karademir

Home University: Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Faculty of Science and Literature

*Bachelor's degree
Turkey
My department is history*

Plovdiv'de olduğum sürece çok güzel hatıralar biriktirdim. dünya görüşlerim değişti. Bulgaristan'ın kültürünü yakinen tanıdım aynı zamanda farklı ülkelerin kültürlerini de tanımış oldum. Bulgaristan ziyaret etmek istediğim ülkelerden biriydi. Plovdiv'i seçme sebeplerimden biri de bu olmuştur ve seçimimden dolayı şuan mutluyum. Özellikle buraya erasmus öğrencisi olarak gelmemi kesinlikle bir şans olarak görüyorum. Burada kesinlikle kendimi özel ve değerli hissettim, değerli hocalarım ve yetkili olan herkesin oldukça fazla ilgisi oldu. Burada üniversitemden aldığım derslerden memnunum ve mutluyum. Üniversitenin yurdu da oldukça rahat, güzel ve uygun fiyatlı. Plovdiv'de olmak ve burada erasmus yapmak çok güzel.



Laura Hostyn

An Interview with Laura Hostyn

Home University: Ghent University (Belgium)
Master's Degree

Stay in Plovdiv: 2003-2004

Study interests: Bulgarian/Russian language/culture/literature + thesis research

How did you choose to carry out the ERASMUS+ mobility in the university of Plovdiv?

I was 20 years old at that time and I really

looked forward to new encounters. I was also very curious to see if I would be able to integrate with the Bulgarian students at the University. In the end, I could definitely say that I met a lot of people with different backgrounds in Plovdiv. Unfortunately, it was hard to stay in touch with all of them. It was an era without online social networks and mobile communication and the internet were not all around. People came and went back home or left for other universities. I still have two good friends, Radosveta and Alexander, in Plovdiv and we have boys at approximately the same age. We often take a holiday together in Bulgaria. I look forward to seeing them again, which is impossible now because of the pandemic.

How did your study go?

I managed to speak and understand Bulgarian quite fast and found a lot of interesting literature that I needed for my thesis. These were my primary goals on the educational level.

What impressed you most of Plovdiv and how much did you get to know the city?

I was really impressed by the rich history of the city.

The open-air concerts in the amphitheatre on summer evenings were unforgettable and dreamy.

The great places to eat everywhere.

The location between the hills.

The architecture.

Central Park and the squirrels.

My frequent trips to the main post office to make calls and buy stamps.

The markets and book/food stalls.

The lovely traditions like Martenitsa.

How democratic cultural activities were.

And I can go on and on...

I think I missed the swimming pool, though...

Did you succeed in getting to know Bulgaria?

What did you like the most?

Every weekend, when my Bulgarian roommates went home, I left the student hostel to discover other places. Sometimes with friends, sometimes alone.

How did your stay in Bulgaria affect your life?

My stay in Plovdiv definitely changed me as a person. I got stronger and independent there. I realised how lucky I was to have the opportunity to spend a semester in the mysterious country of Bulgaria. Of course, I fell in love and got heartbroken there too.

Would you come back and recommend Bulgaria to your friends and relatives?

Without a doubt! The last couple of years we visited Sofia, Plovdiv, Sandanski and the Black Sea coast...



Pedro Díaz Cabral

An essay by Pedro Díaz Cabral

Faculty of Education

Primary school education in English

Stay in Plovdiv: 09.2020 - 02.2021

Study interest: education.

I am from Spain and my name is Pedro, in Latin it is Petrus which means stone. My

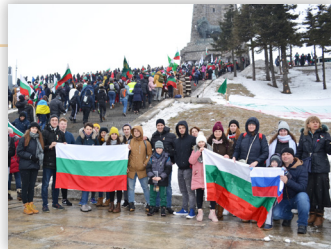
strong and heavy personality made me travel and learn a little bit more of the planet Earth. Thanks to the journeys, I have discovered that we are all unique, but the world is giant. Europe is just a tiny spot in the world. I chose the University of Plovdiv because it was one of the farther and unique places I could find. Before going there I didn't know anything about Bulgaria, Plovdiv made me think outside the box.

I studied education at the University of Plovdiv, and it has been one of the most interesting and valuable years of all my studies. I studied not only pedagogy, but also about all type of Bulgarian traditions. I experienced the Bulgarian cuisine and mood. I discovered wonderful spots all around Bulgaria and more specifically in Plovdiv. All those narrow, medieval streets in the city centre, those traditional Bulgarian bars and canteens, those 7 or even more hills from which you can see how little human beings are... Plovdiv is a breath-taking spot in the wonderful country of roses.

Bulgaria is not just a country but a way of being. Not every country has seven crystal lakes in the same area, or Kukeri festivals in which you feel like in a horror film, or cities in which you can feel the history in every breath you take. What I liked most is how Bulgarians defend and maintain their culture as it is a new country. That country really changed my point of view and my whole life. In Plovdiv I felt loved and hated (because of my strong personality) but one of the most important things is that I felt free and full of joy. Each day I was up to learn and experience a new challenging thing.

I will surely come back to the country that gave me so much in only five months. I strongly recommend everyone to visit it as it is completely different from what Spanish people are used to. Going to Bulgaria will

change your point of view about it. It is an amazing country with infinite possibilities. If I have to recommend something more specific, try to experience the thermal water, the trains that go between the mountains and the unique traditional cuisine and yogurt.





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