



University of Bucharest Student Guide

Rector's Foreward

It is a pleasure for us to welcome international students to the University of Bucharest. Choosing a university may be one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

The quality of training our University provides is rated as excellent. The University of Bucharest has grown to be the most prestigious institution of higher education in the region. Our graduates are Nobel Prize winners, members of reputed Academies of Sciences, famous writers, political personalities (members of the Romanian Parliament and Cabinet ministers), and also prominent international figures.

The University of Bucharest has gained multicultural experience as a result of the interaction with its foreign students. In the last 30 years, over 10,000 graduates were overseas students, coming from all over the world. Our institution learnt a great deal about those students' needs and expectations when coming into contact with civilizations from Southern Europe. The University of Bucharest is adapting to the new global environment and to challenges in the modern world, providing graduate and postgraduate programmes in foreign languages.

In order to help you, we have tried in the following pages to set out as clearly as possible what the University of Bucharest can offer you. This guide will hopefully supply you with the information you need to make your stay at our university a pleasant and profitable experience.

Students, faculty members and administrative staff will all be happy to assist you with any problems you may have.

Rector,

Prof. Ioan MIHĂILESCU

1. The University of Bucharest: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Welcome to the University of Bucharest!

In this tour you will discover a comprehensive university. You will be introduced to the world of academic excellence, where innovative thinking, quality-driven performance and competition-oriented behaviour are set at the bottom of university culture.



Honour tradition

An 1864 decree of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza converted the former St. Sabba Academy into the University of Bucharest, which presently comprises eighteen departments. Ever since, the University of Bucharest has been considered, within Romania and abroad, the country's leading educational and research institution.

Many personalities, worldwide recognized, have graduated from the University of Bucharest. Mircea Eliade, both student and professor of the university, is one of the most important historians of religious beliefs, who also used to teach at universities such as the Sorbonne and the Chicago University. Eugène Ionesco, bachelor of French at the University of Bucharest, is the creator of the absurd theatre, while Nicolae Titulescu was an internationally respected statesman.

Our professors and graduates are experts in numerous fields of activity for national and international bodies, consultants for multinationals, high ranking officials and opinion leaders.

Recognize value

UB has taken a leader's position not only in the educational field, but also in society as a whole, since its programmes and initiatives have a high social impact. Both at a national and regional level, our university plays an important role in raising the access of the population to the new technologies, in offering equal opportunities to every social group, in promoting social inclusion and multiculturalism.

UB provides new perspectives on sustainable development, connects the scientific activity to the social needs and to the market and educates the public on issues related to globalisation, domestic and international affairs.

As recognition of its international appreciation, UB is visited every year by numerous important politicians, ecclesiastical figures, brilliant scholars, renowned artists. To some of them, the University of Bucharest has conferred the titles of *Doctor Honoris Causa*, *Professor Honoris Causa* and *Honorary Fellow of the Senate*.

Choose wisely

With its 140 years of prestigious tradition, UB is the perfect destination for everyone who wants to start or continue a prominent career. Its educational offer varies from undergraduate and graduate studies to doctoral and MBA programmes, as well as distance and eLearning opportunities.

A perpetual concern of the University of Bucharest is trying to meet the 21st century students' needs by offering high quality courses. New fields of interest have recently appeared. Discoveries in chemistry and biology, new theories in mathematics and physics, as well as new perspectives in social sciences, they have all been included in the current curricula of the University of Bucharest. These comprise over 70 first degree programmes, from traditional law, letters, sciences, history,



theology, philosophy to the more recent: information technology, ecology, genetics, political sciences, communication and public relations etc.

2. The Romanian Higher Education System

The Academic Calendar

The academic year commonly runs from October 1st through June and is divided into two semesters of approximately 14 weeks each. National standards set the total class time per week at 24 to 28 hours.

The **Autumn Semester** begins on the 1st of October and includes a Christmas holiday from December 20th till January 5th. It usually ends in February, after the winter exam session.

The **Spring Semester** starts at the beginning of March. It includes the Easter holiday and a four-week exam session in May-June. It ends in July, but the exact date varies from one faculty to another, depending upon the duration of the practical activities in each of them.

Examinations

Student evaluation is undertaken throughout the semester and also in the final examination, at the conclusion of a study discipline. There are three **evaluation periods** each academic year: a three week session in January-February, a four week session in May-June and a two week session for re-examinations in September.

Student evaluation can be undertaken in various forms: written examinations (common subjects), oral examinations (individual subjects defended in front of a board consisting of at least three members), evaluation of the student's activity during the semester, mainly used in the case of practical disciplines, and evaluation of individual or collective essays and projects.

The same examination may be undertaken three times. If the examination field is failed at the third attempt, the student must repeat the study programme for the discipline in question.

The Romanian Grading Scale vs. the ECTS Grading Scale

ECTS grade	Romanian grade	Definition of scale interval	Percentage of students achieving the grade
A	10	EXCELLENT	10



B	9	VERY GOOD	25
C	7-8	GOOD	30
D	6	SATISFACTORY	25
E	5	SUFFICIENT	10
X	4	FAILED	-
F	1-3	FAILED	-

The standard unit of study is the semester. The normal load of a semester is conventionally 30 credits. The convention of 30 credits/semester was chosen to adjust to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The credits assess the normal volume of a student's work.

The credit system makes it possible:

- to compare curricula and recognize the compact periods of study in other units
- to build flexible programmes in the curriculum
- to include new subjects in the curriculum

Study programmes

Study programmes include **basic disciplines**, mandatory for all students within a major speciality, **optional disciplines**, which can be selected from a list of courses provided by the faculty or any other faculty with a similar profile, and **complementary disciplines**, which can be selected from among those offered in the speciality studied or from other study fields within the same university or other universities.

The contents of the study programmes are established by each department on an independent basis, with the observance of national minimal standards.

University training consists of attendance of lectures, seminars, laboratory and practical work, essays, individual study, research and final examination. The weight of these different kinds of activities depends on the study programme and is determined by each department. In the first study cycle (first two academic years), theoretical lectures and seminars carry the weight; in the second study cycle (last two academic years), the stress is laid on essays, scientific training and individual programmes.

3. Faculties within UB and Socrates / Erasmus Co-ordinators

Faculty of Biology

91-95 Splaiul Independenței, Sector 5, Bucharest 050095



Phone: +40-21-411 52 07; +40-21-411 85 26

Fax: +40-21-411 23 10

<http://www.bio.unibuc.ro/>

SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Anca DINISCHIOTU

Phone: +40-21-411 99 01; +40-21-411 52 07

Fax: +40-21-411 99 01

Email: adin@bio.bio.unibuc.ro

Department of Ecology

SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Carmen POSTOLACHE

Phone/Fax: +40-21-411 23 10

Email: carmen@bio.bio.unibuc.ro

Faculty of Chemistry

4-12 Regina Elisabeta Bd., Sector 3, Bucharest 030018

Phone/Fax: +40-21-315 92 49; +40-21-314 35 08/191

E-mail: chim@fmi.unibuc.ro

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SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Cornel RADU

Phone/Fax: +40-21-410 25 75

E-mail: rcornel@chem.unibuc.ro

Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Edgar Quinet 5-7, Sector 1, Bucharest 010018

Phone/Fax: +40-21-312 13 13

SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Dana FLOREAN

Phone/Fax: +40-21-312 13 13

Email: dfloorean@mailbox.ro

Faculty of Geography

1 Nicolae Bălcescu Bd., Sector 1, Bucharest 010041

Phone/Fax: +40-21-315 30 74; +40-21-614 35 08

Email: secretariat@geo.unibuc.ro; geografie@geo.unibuc.ro

<http://www.geo.unibuc.ro/>

SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Ileana PĂTRU

Phone: +40-21-314 35 08/ext.188



Fax: +40-21-315 30 74

Email: ileanageorgeta@yahoo.com; ileanap@pcnet.ro

Faculty of Geology and Geophysics

6 Traian Vuia Str., Sector 2, Bucharest 020956

Phone/Fax: +40-21-211 31 20; +40-21-211 73 90

<http://www.gg.unibuc.ro/>

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HistoryUBucharest@hotmail.com

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Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies

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Fax: +40-21-410 06 43

<http://www.fjsc.ro>

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Faculty of Law

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Faculty of Philosophy

204 Splaiul Independenței, Sector 6, Bucharest 060024

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Faculty of Physics

Platforma Măgurele, 405 Atomistilor Str., CP Mg – 11, Măgurele, Bucharest 077125

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Faculty of Political Science

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Faculty of Psychology and Educational Studies

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SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Nicolae MITROFAN

Phone: +40-21-410 27 40

Fax: +40-21-411 68 90

Email: nmitrofan@hotmail.com

Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

9 Schitu Măgureanu Bd., Sector 1, Bucharest 010181

Phone/Fax: +40-21-314 03 26; +40-21-315 83 91

www.sas.swork.unibuc.ro

SOCRATES/ERASMUS contact person: Poliana ȘTEFĂNESCU

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4. Exchange Students. Independent Students

International students are accepted to study at UB either as exchange or independent students:

Exchange students - you are nominated as an exchange student by your home university. This implies that your home university has an exchange agreement (Socrates/Erasmus, CEEPUS or another bilateral protocol) at either a central or faculty level, with the University of Bucharest. The first step for any exchange student interested in coming to UB from abroad is always to contact the



International Co-ordinators from both universities. The exchange agreement stipulates that the study period in the signing institutions will be mutually recognised.

Independent students - you apply for courses or programmes at UB individually. You are not part of any exchange or bilateral agreement, as a student at the University of Bucharest. Proficiency in Romanian is in most cases a prerequisite for you. A preparatory year is provided to this effect. There are two types of independent students:

- a. scholarship holders, who come to UB through international government agreements; further information for independent scholarship holders is available at [the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth](#), the Department of European Integration and International Relations: 12 Spiru Haret Str., Sector 1, Bucharest 010176, Romania, tel. +40-21-313 10 13; fax +40-21-312 66 14,
- b. tax-paying students; further information for independent tax-paying students is available on our website or at the [International Relations Office of UB](#).

Information for Exchange Students

Required documents

If you have decided to come to UB, send a letter or an e-mail to the [Erasmus Department](#) and motivate your choice.

If the reply is a yes, you must:

- fill in the [Erasmus Application Form](#);
- get a letter of recommendation from your home university;
- get a health certificate.

Send all these documents to the Erasmus Department, by ordinary post, before the deadlines (15th of August for the Autumn Semester and 15th of January for the Spring Semester).

When you arrive in Bucharest, contact the Erasmus Department; they will help you with your registration and accommodation in Bucharest. You will get a registration form to fill in and you will also receive a student ID of great help during your stay in Romania.

Romanian Language Course

Within the Erasmus programme, UB organises two Romanian language courses, as it follows:

1. an intensive Romanian language course, called EILC (Erasmus Intensive Language Course), in 1-30 September (for the Autumn Semester) and in mid January-mid February (for the Spring Semester). All Erasmus students coming to various universities in Romania may take this course. It is not delivered exclusively for the UB Erasmus students. In this case, you must apply for the



participation, with the approval of your university, through your Socrates National Agency, since it implies receiving a grant for this period.

2. a Romanian language course, which is composed of three modules: beginner's, intermediate and advanced (the advanced module is normally held for exchange students who have studied Romanian in their home universities, before coming to Romania). Each module lasts for one semester and it is evaluated through two language tests: an oral and a written one. Each semester, there are at least one beginner's and one intermediate modules starting. You will attend this course in the same period of time with your usual courses at UB and only if you are an Erasmus student at our university.

The Romanian language course starts in:

- September (for the autumn semester)
- February (for the spring semester)

If you choose to participate in this course, you will also receive a Romanian language manual, from the Erasmus Department, as soon as you arrive at UB. The application form for this course is included in the [general Erasmus application form](#).

If you are an Erasmus student at UB, you may take both Romanian language courses (1 and 2). The Romanian language courses and the Romanian language manual are free of charge for all Erasmus students.

Information for Independent Students

1. Undergraduate and Master students

Documents you need for registration

As a rule, the request for admission to study at the University of Bucharest has to be sent to [the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth](#) in Bucharest so that you would receive the Acceptance Letter.

The documents you need for this are as follows:

- the application form;
- one photocopy and one legally certified translation into Romanian, French or English of: the baccalaureate diploma for undergraduate studies / graduation certificate (Bachelor's diploma) for postgraduate applicants; transcripts of records.

The submitted documents should have the approval with the official stamp of the Romanian Embassy in the applicant's country of residence.



On your arrival in Romania, you will have to be present in person for registration, to the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, holding the following documents:

- letter of acceptance;
- school certificate (mentioned above), in original and its legally certified translation;
- a photo-copy of your birth certificate, translated and officially endorsed;
- health certificate including AIDS test (translation in Romanian, French or English);
- 2 photos $\frac{3}{4}$ cm;
- passport.

Further information is available at the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, the Department of European Integration and International Relations: 12 Spiru Haret Str., Sector 1, Bucharest 010176, Romania, tel. +40-21-313 10 13; fax +40-21-312 66 14.

The candidates are requested to register before October 1st, the official opening date of the academic year.

Steps to be taken for registration

1. Send copies of the study documents and their translation to the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth in order to receive the Acceptance Letter;
2. Based on the Acceptance Letter (and payments where requested), applicants will receive the Entrance visa from the Romanian Embassy in their country;
3. Upon your arrival in Bucharest, submit the original study documents and their translated copies to the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth for diploma equivalences;
4. Contact the [International Relations Office](#) of the University of Bucharest.

2. PhD students

Documents needed for registration within doctoral programmes

Only university graduates with a Bachelor degree are entitled to enroll as doctoral students. The enrollment is based on the written agreement of the future scientific advisor, which is also available via e-mail.

The registration file must contain:

- written approval of the scientific advisor;
- birth certificate, legally certified photocopy or translation into Romanian, English, or French;
- school certificates, legally certified photocopy or translation;
- university graduation diploma, legally certified photocopy or translation;
- postgraduate diploma (master degree), if available;
- Curriculum vitae;
- medical proof of fitness to study;



- marriage certificate, if available.

Scholarships

The admission to studies is also granted on the basis of scholarships offered by the Romanian government. Those interested are invited to contact the Romanian Embassy in their home country.

Language Options

Some of the faculties deliver courses in English or French (such as Faculty of Mathematics, Faculty of Physics, Faculty of Chemistry, Faculty of Political Sciences). In this specific case, the candidates can be enrolled directly by the International Relations Office of the University of Bucharest, provided they have the prior acceptance of the dean of the chosen faculty and the language test.

Candidates who can prove that the official language of their country is also English or French and that they have studied in this language are exempted from the language test.

Candidates who already speak Romanian can skip the preparatory year, after having passed a test of Romanian language. The candidates who can formally prove that they have done their studies in Romanian for at least four years in a row, do not need to pass the Romanian language test or to attend the courses of the preparatory year.

Considering that most of our faculties deliver the courses in Romanian, a preparatory year for the study of Romanian language is compulsory. The duration of the preparatory programme takes one academic year for undergraduate students and six months for postgraduate students. At the end of this course the candidate will have to pass the language examinations.

Estimated Annual Costs for Studying in Romania

A. The Preparatory Year (Romanian language course)

During the preparatory year, independent students learn Romanian language. The tuition fees for the preparatory year depend on the domain of interest.

Tuition Fees for the Romanian language course

Pre University Programmes	215/month x 9 months = 1935 USD
Technical Profile, Economics, Humanities, Agronomy, Sports	320/month x 9 months = 2880 USD
Medicine and Pharmacy	360/month x 9 months = 3240 USD
Music and Art	470/month x 9 months = 4230 USD



Subsistence

Meals	150 USD/month
Local transportation	10 USD/ month
Pocket money	60 USD/ month
TOTAL	220 USD/ month x 12 months = 2640 USD

Accommodation

Rent	150 USD/month
Facilities	100 USD/month
TOTAL	250 USD/month x 12 months = 3000 USD

Visas

Min. 60 USD/year

Max. 180 USD/year

Medical Insurance is to be paid in each applicant's native country. Emergencies are free of charge.

TOTAL COSTS

Max. 10,050 USD/year

B. Undergraduate Studies

Tuition Fees

320 USD/month x 9 months = 2880 USD

The academic year lasts for 9 months. The full time courses last for 4 academic years, the part time courses last for 5 academic years.

Those fees are available **for full time courses**. For **part time courses** the fees for one academic year are **960 USD**.

Subsistence

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): USD/month x 12 months = 2640 USD

Accommodation

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): 250 USD/month x 12 months = 3000 USD

Visas

Min. 60 USD/year

Max. 180 USD/year



Medical Insurance is to be paid in each applicant's native country. Emergencies are free of charge.

TOTAL COSTS

Max. 8700 USD

C. Postgraduate Studies – Master's Programme

Tuition Fees

340 USD/month x 9 months = 3060 USD

The academic year lasts for 9 months. Depending on the faculty and the area of study, the Master's programme lasts between one or two academic years.

Subsistence

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): USD/month x 12 months = 2640 USD

Accommodation

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): 250 USD/month x 12 months = 3000 USD

Visas

Min. 60 USD/year

Max. 180 USD/year

Medical Insurance is to be paid in each applicant's native country. Emergencies are free of charge.

TOTAL COSTS

Max. 8880 USD

D. Postgraduate Studies – PhD Programme

Tuition Fees

Full time courses

340 USD/month x 11 months = 3060 USD

One-month vacation. The PhD programme (full time courses) lasts for 4 calendar years.

Part time courses

The PhD programme (part time courses) lasts for maximum 7 calendar years. The amount for the whole period is minimum 3225 USD that includes:

- The fee for admission examination - 340 USD
- The fee for each oral examination and for each written report – 340 USD (at least 3 oral examinations and 3 written reports)
- The fee for the final dissertation – 845 USD



Subsistence

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): USD/month x 12 months = 2640 USD

Accommodation

TOTAL (see detailed scheme up): 250 USD/month x 12 months = 3000 USD

Visas

Min. 60 USD/year

Max. 180 USD/year

Medical Insurance is to be paid in each applicant's native country. Emergencies are free of charge.

TOTAL COSTS

Max. 8880 USD (full time courses)

Practical Information

Visa

The following information is valid for both exchange and independent students.

Citizens arriving from the EU countries and from Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and USA, are exempted from visa requirements. As a student coming from one of these countries, you can enter the Romanian territory only with a simple customs stamp and you can reside here for up to 90 days. After this period, your residence is to be extended by the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs, for periods, which shall not exceed one year.

Citizens arriving from all the other countries are obliged to apply for study visas in due time, at a Romanian diplomatic mission or consular office from their native countries. In order to get the necessary papers for visa extensions, you should contact our International Relations Office, after your arriving here.

Accommodation

Unfortunately, the UB has no special housing system for **independent students**. If you are a scholarship holder, you might receive housing in the students hostels, if places are available. However we cannot guarantee anything. The alternative for all independent students (scholarships holders or self-paying students) is to find your own room or flat on the Internet (<http://rent.a.home.ro> or www.hostelromania.com). The prices vary depending on the season, the area (central or suburbs), and the housing conditions. The monthly rent may be around 150 USD for a one-/two-room accommodation, with kitchen and bathroom included.

As an exchange student (Erasmus), you have two alternatives:



- you can either ask for accommodation from UB (by contacting in advance the [International Relations Office – Erasmus Department](#)). In this case, UB will book a room for you in the University guesthouse, Academica, for maximum 10 days, at the price of 10 euro/night. During this period, the Erasmus Department may help you find private accommodation. However, the number of rooms in Academica is limited; therefore, UB can not guarantee your temporary accommodation there; or
- you can find your own room or flat on the Internet (see *independent students* above)

Meal Service

Student restaurants are the most convenient places where you can have your meals. Most of the students go there.

You can also go to a great many small restaurants, cafeterias, fast food that you can easily find everywhere in Bucharest.

The main student's restaurant is located on 36-46 Kogălniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107.

Medical Assistance

You should have a health insurance the moment you enter Romania.

Still, here you will benefit from free medical assistance on account of your student ID at the Students' Polyclinic of the University. The polyclinic has 8 wards: dermatology, gynecology, family planning, dentistry etc. Otherwise, free medical assistance is assured only in case of emergency.

Address: 36-46 Mihail Kogălniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107

University Libraries

The students of the University of Bucharest have access to a major library where they can find books from any domain they are interested in. This is the Central University Library, one of the most modern in Europe (www.bcub.ro).

It has 12 specialized reading rooms, a reference section, a lending division and department for textbooks and other facilities.

The Central University Library is fully computerized and offers full permanent INTRANET access. It offers to its users access to Search-OCLC (Online Computer Library Center). The Central University Library is located in Piața Revoluției.

Each department of the University has its own library where you can find books in the domain studied there. It is a good idea for you to make yourself acquainted both with the central and the departmental libraries.

Student life

A free weekly guide named *Șapte seri* (Seven Evenings) will tell you everything you want to know about cinemas, theatres, nightclubs, restaurants, pubs, sport rooms, art events, music, concerts,



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exhibitions and many other things. The guide is available in most public places, from the University building to cinemas and restaurants. (www.sapteseri.ro)

Besides, all newspapers in Bucharest offer in their cultural pages information on cinema and theatre performances.