

STUDENTS' GUIDE



UNIVERSITY OF
BUCHAREST

ROMANIA

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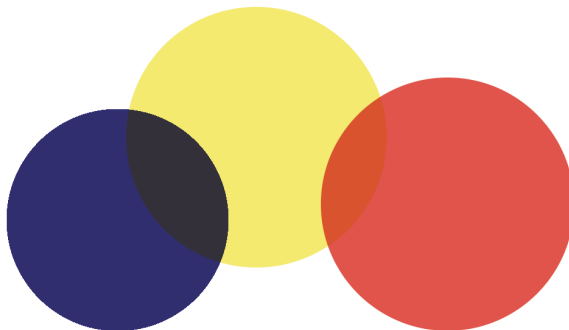
Welcome to the University of Bucharest!

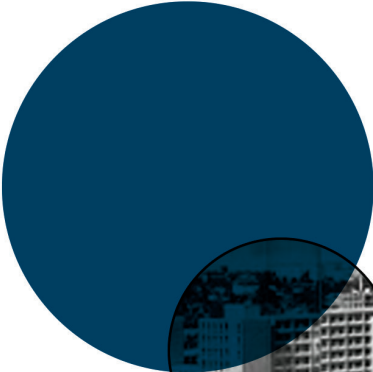
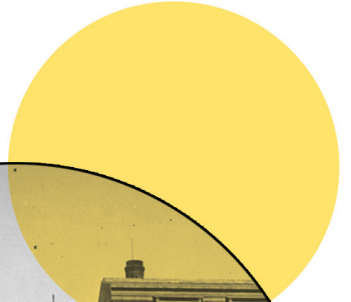
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Welcome to the University of Bucharest!

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Young people are constantly faced with truly important decisions, whose influence reverberates throughout their careers. Choosing a university is one of these decisions. Why would someone opt for the University of Bucharest? One might choose it due to the wish to train in a competitive environment, to be in touch with the world's universities, to build a solid base for one's professional training or to gain access to important positions in Romanian society – in short to obtain a true education.

Over time, the academic community at the University of Bucharest has actively sought to ensure excellent higher education, to provide high-quality educational services and to maintain its research activity at the highest international standards – all these things making the University of Bucharest stand out as one of the most important educational, research and cultural institutions in Romania.

At the University of Bucharest, there is a competitive environment, if we consider the more than 30,000 candidates fighting for the 8,000 subsidised places. There are over 27 fields of study leading to the Bachelor's Degree, with a total of nearly 100 majors. The degree granted by the University of Bucharest after final examinations is recognised all over the world and recommends graduates as being thoroughly trained in the field of study of their choice.

The Bachelor's Degree may be followed by a Master's, characterized by in-depth study, undertaken in a critical spirit, and leading to openings in research or leadership in various organizations. Master's studies may be either vocational or academic.

Doctoral and postdoctoral studies benefit from significant financing. Participation in mobility periods and conferences is encouraged, offering opportunities to young researchers, who thus align the Romanian higher education with European trends. The doctoral schools' criteria are demanding and Ph.D. students enjoy exceptional conditions for their research, which lead to a high percentage of successful theses. Researchers who have been trained at the University of Bucharest have a good reputation throughout the world.

The international relations of the University of Bucharest are based, primarily, on 330 Erasmus agreements, thanks to which around 280 students are going to study abroad for one or two semesters, while around 200 are coming here, each academic year. Moreover, around 200 bilateral cooperation agreements with foreign universities result in conferences, lectures held by invited professors, research courses and joint supervision agreements.

The University of Bucharest has granted the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* to important international figures. Exceptional intellectuals and friends of Romanian culture, they have been proud to become members of our academic community: Rolf-Dieter Heuer, General Manager of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); Jean Delumeau, the greatest French historian of Christianity; Saul Kripke, a genius in logic; Amos Oz, the most beloved and famous contemporary Israeli writer; Hélène Carrère D'Encausse, Permanent Secretary of the French Academy; Philip Kotler, the father of contemporary marketing – to name just a few.

The University of Bucharest provides a serious, solid education. An exciting tempo of life is created at the University by such things as its laboratories equipped in line with international standards, a large number of research centres, magazines, student debating societies, foreign lecturers, events organized by the Students' Association and the Information and Orientation Centre, exhibitions and concerts. We are lucky that there is still time for tennis, basketball, football, body-building, aerobics and sports dance, which are practised in the sports halls and playing fields of the University of Bucharest.

I wish all young people who choose the University of Bucharest the enjoyment of enthusiastic college years, full of hopes and ambitions!

**The Rector of the University of Bucharest,
Prof. Mircea Dumitru, PhD.**

June 2016

A brief history

An 1864 decree of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza converted the former St. Sabba Academy into the University of Bucharest, which presently comprises nineteen faculties. 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 in universities such as the Sorbonne and the Chicago University. Eugene 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.

In 2000, the University of Bucharest was awarded the Diploma of Excellence by the Ministry of Education.

In 2007, the survey conducted by the newspaper “The Times Higher Education Supplement” placed the University of Bucharest in its TOP 500, the UB being the only university in the country included in this classification. Furthermore, in April 2009, the External Institutional Evaluation Committee of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) gave the University of Bucharest the qualification certificate indicating a “*high degree of trust*” in the institution regarding the management of the institution concerning the education programs and the academic standards.

In 2011, University of Bucharest was ranked by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport as the first university for advanced research and education - Order of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport no. 5262/2011 regarding the results of the classification of universities.

In the University Charter, approved in July 2011, the University of Bucharest is declared an advanced research and education institution, whose mission of training, research and social development defines the institutional functionality within a national and European context. The mission of the UB will be analyzed along its components: education, scientific research, management, administration and infrastructure, social development programs.

Faculties

1. Business And Administration (www.faa.unibuc.ro)
2. Biology (www.bio.unibuc.ro)
3. Chemistry (www.chimie.unibuc.ro)
4. Law (www.drept.unibuc.ro)
5. Philosophy (www.filosofie.unibuc.ro)
6. Physics (www.fizica.unibuc.ro)
7. Geography (geo.unibuc.ro)
8. Geology And Geophysics (geologie.unibuc.ro)
9. History (www.unibuc.ro/e/facultati/istorie/)
10. Journalism And Mass Communication (www.fjsc.ro)
11. Foreign Languages And Literatures (www.limbi-straine.ro)
12. Letters (www.litere.ro)
13. Mathematics And Computer Science (www.fmi.unibuc.ro)
14. Psychology And Educational Sciences (www.fpse.ro)
15. Sociology And Social Work (sas.unibuc.ro)
16. Political Science (www.fspub.ro)
17. Baptist Theology (www.unibuc.ro/e/facultati/teologie-baptista/)
18. Orthodox Theology (www.ftoub.ro)
19. Catholic Theology And Social Work (ftrc.unibuc.ro)
20. Distance Learning Department (www.credis.ro)
21. UNESCO Department for intercultural and interreligious exchanges (www.interculturel.org)
22. Department of Sport (www.defs.ro)
23. Department for Education Pedagogy (http://www.unibuc.ro/ro/dep_cinstb_ro)

Center of Excellence in Image Study (www.cesi.ro)

Ecole Doctorale Francophone en Sciences Sociales (www.edss.ro)



The Academic Calendar

The academic year starts on October 1st, running until 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 mid February, after the winter exams session.

The Spring Semester starts in mid February or at the beginning of March. It includes the Easter holiday and a four-week exams session in May-June. It ends in July, but the exact date varies from one faculty to another, depending on 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 reexaminations 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 is failed at the third attempt, the student must repeat the course for the discipline in question.

The Romanian Grading Scale vs. the ECTS Grading Scale

ECTS Grade	Romanian grade	Definition
A	10	EXCELLENT - outstanding performance with only minor errors
B	9	VERY GOOD - above the average standard but with some errors
C	7-8	GOOD - generally sound work with a number of notable errors
D	6	SATISFACTORY - fair, but with significant shortcomings
E	5	SUFFICIENT - performance meets the minimum criteria
FX	4	FAIL - some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F	1-3	FAIL - considerable further work is required

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

Exchange students, independent students

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

– **An exchange student** is nominated by his or her home university. This implies that the home university has an exchange agreement (ERASMUS or another bilateral protocol) at either a central or faculty level, with the University of Bucharest. The exchange agreement stipulates that the study period in the signatory institutions will be mutually recognised and that the student will not pay any fee at the host university.

– **An independent student** applies for courses or programmes, for which he / she will have to pay a tuition fee. Proficiency in Romanian is in most cases a prerequisite. A preparatory year is provided to this effect. For more information on independent students, please see www.unibuc.ro.

Information for exchange students

1. Erasmus Exchange Students:

a) NOMINATION FROM HOME UNIVERSITY:

After the selection in your university, you are nominated as an exchange student by your home university.

The first step for any exchange student interested in coming to UB from abroad is always to contact the International Coordinator from your university.

Your home International Office must send us the official nomination by e-mail to contact@erasmus.unibuc.ro, with the details about your study in the University of Bucharest:

- your name
- period of study
- subject / field of study
- year of study and level (undergraduate / postgraduate / doctoral)
- your e-mail address

b) REGISTRATION:

If you have been selected to come to UB, you must send to the Erasmus+ Office of the University of Bucharest the following documents:

- Erasmus Application Form, signed by your Erasmus Coordinator(s)
- Learning Agreement Form (if the courses are available)

- ERASMUS certificate signed from your home university, stating your ERASMUS status at UB, the period of your stay (number of months and which semester) and the field of study
- a photocopy of your identity card or passport

Deadline for sending the documents:

- 30th of June for the Autumn Semester
- 30th of October for the Spring Semester

c) ARRIVAL:

When you arrive in Bucharest, contact the Erasmus+ Office.

You have to bring to the Erasmus+ Office the following documents:

1. the certificate specifying the ERASMUS status to our university, signed and stamped by your university
2. a photocopy of your identity card or passport
3. 3 photos

You will get a registration certificate for the secretary of the faculty where you will study.

At the faculty, you will receive a student ID card of great help during your stay in Romania.

Then you must also contact the ERASMUS Responsible from that faculty in order to decide the list of courses to follow here or to modify the initial *Learning Agreement* (Form *Changes*).

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Erasmus Student Network (www.esn.org) is one of the biggest interdisciplinary student associations in Europe, founded in 1989 for supporting and developing student exchange, in order to create a more flexible education environment.

ESN focuses mainly on current exchange students, who often face problems in their new environments. Therefore ESN offers help in academic, social and practical integration process.

ESN UniBuc

Founded in August-September 2009, ESN UniBuc is mostly formed of former Erasmus students, who are aware of the opportunities and experiences which the Erasmus programme can offer a student and want to make sure that Erasmus students in Romania are welcomed as well as they were in the countries they have visited. They are working side by side with the Erasmus+ Office to create the appropriate environment that an Erasmus student should enjoy during his or her stay in Bucharest and Romania.

Some of the activities are: a mentorship programme (BE-Buddy) for Incoming Erasmus students with students as mentors, sport, social and cultural events, all kinds of theme parties, trips, presentations and round tables for promoting the Erasmus programme and many more. For more information, please visit <http://unibuc.esn.ro/>.

Romanian Language Course for ERASMUS Students

Provided that you are ERASMUS student, you can attend a Romanian language course, which is composed of three groups: beginners 1 (French speaking students), beginners 2 (English speaking students) and intermediate (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 (6 ECTS awarded). 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:

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

2. CEEPUS Exchange Students:

As soon as you receive the letter of confirmation from the Romanian Ministry of National Education, you should contact the CEEPUS network responsible from the University of Bucharest to announce your arrival and the CEEPUS responsible for UB to arrange the accommodation and arrival in Bucharest.

Estimated Annual Costs for exchange students

As an exchange student (Erasmus, CEEPUS etc), you do not have to pay any tuition fees. The following table should give you an idea of the average cost of living. The figures may vary according to your personal lifestyle.

Subsistence

Meals 200 EURO / month

Local transportation 15 EURO / month

Pocket money 80 EURO / month

Accommodation in town (in private apartments rented)

Rent 250–400 EURO / month (depending on the area)

Facilities 100 EURO / month

Medical Insurance is to be paid in each applicant's native country.

Emergencies are free of charge.

Study conditions for independent students

As an independent student, you apply for courses or programmes at UB individually. You are not part of any exchange or bilateral agreement. 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 National Education**, the Department of 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 in the following pages.

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 our University. Then we will send our approval to **Ministry of National Education** in Bucharest so that you would receive the Acceptance Letter.

The documents you must send for this are:

- application form ENGLISH / application form FRANCAIS;
- 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
- birth certificate (translated and officially endorsed).
- **Medical certificate**
- transcripts of records (translated and officially endorsed)
- 2 photos $\frac{3}{4}$ cm;
- copy of the passport

On your arrival in Romania, with a student visa, you will have to be present in person for registration, to the University of Bucharest, holding the following documents:

- letter of acceptance (in original);
- school certificate / diploma (mentioned above), in original, and legalized translated copy;
- a photo-copy of your birth certificate, translated and officially endorsed;
- health certificate (translation in Romanian, French or English) – original;
- 3 photos $\frac{3}{4}$ cm;
- passport and visa (copy);
- proof of payment (if necessary) – in original.

Further information is available at the University of Bucharest, the International Relations Office, tel. +40-21-307.73.21; fax +40-21-315.19.42.

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

Steps to be taken for registration:

- Send your documents and the application form to the University of Bucharest. Then we will send our approval to the **Ministry of National Education in Bucharest** so that you would receive the Acceptance Letter.
- Based on the Acceptance Letter (and payments where requested), applicants will receive the study visa from the Romanian Embassy in their country;
- Upon your arrival in, contact the International Relations Office of the University of Bucharest to submit the original study documents and their translated copies to the University of Bucharest in order to get enrolled;

2. PhD students

Documents needed for registration within doctoral programmes:

Only university graduates with a Bachelor degree and a Master degree are entitled to enroll as doctoral students. The enrollment is possible after passing a preliminary examination.

The registration file must contain:

- letter of acceptance and proof of payment (in original);
- 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);
- Curriculum vitae;
- medical proof of fitness to study;
- marriage certificate, if available.
- written approval from the future coordinating professor and a written project.

Since most of our faculties deliver courses in Romanian, **a preparatory year for the study of Romanian language is compulsory**. The duration of the preparatory programme is one academic year for undergraduate students and six months for postgraduate (MA and PhD) students. However, some of the candidates are exempted from the Romanian language course, as it follows:

- candidates who already speak Romanian; they have to prove their knowledge through a language test;
- candidates who can formally prove that they have done their studies in Romanian for at least four years.

Some of the faculties deliver courses in English or French (Faculty of Physics, Faculty of Chemistry and 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 letter of the dean of the chosen faculty and the language test and all the other necessary documents.

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.

For more information on Romanian language course, please contact the International Relations Office of the University of Bucharest, http://www.unibuc.ro/e/n/admitere/Romanian_Language_Course.php

Estimated Annual Costs for Studying in Romania

Tuition Fees (Preparatory Year, Bachelor, Master and PhD programmes)

Study domain	Bachelor, Master Residency	Post-doctoral studies
Technical, Agronomic*, Sciences, Mathematics and applied mathematics, Sports*	270 euro / month	290 euro / month
Architecture*	350 euro / month	370 euro / month
Socio-human, Psychology, Economics,	220 euro / month	340 euro / month
Medicine*	360 euro / month	380 euro / month
Music and arts*	420 euro / month	440 euro / month
Musical interpretation*, theater*	750 euro / month	770 euro / month
Film*	950 euro / month	970 euro / month

*available only for the Preparatory Year courses.

The academic year takes 9 months. The full time courses last for 3 academic years (except for Law, and Geology -engineering specializations, which last for 4 years).

These fees are available for full time courses.

Subsistence

Meals: about 200 Euros / month

Local transportation: about 15 Euros / month

Pocket money: about 80 Euros / month

TOTAL: 295 Euros / month x 9 months = 2655 Euros

Accommodation (in University Campus)

Rent & Facilities: about 150 Euros / month

TOTAL: 150 Euros / month x 9 months = 1350 Euros

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

Study Conditions for EU students, European Economical Students and Swiss Confederation Students

According to actual laws, more precisely OM 3331/04.03.2009 Cap. II (4), EU, European Economical Region and Swiss Confederation citizens are entitled to stand for the admission in all college study fields and levels, respecting the same conditions as Romanian students. The studies followed in their residence country will be accredited by the specialty direction – National Center of Diplomas Equivalence (CNRED) from the Ministry of National Education in Bucharest, Romania.

We mention that, for citizens we referred to above, CNRED issues equivalence certificates which are necessary to be registered at state universities and approved private universities in Romania.

Therefore, the Letter of Acceptance released by the International Relations General Direction is no longer necessary in this case.

Documents required by CNRED for equivalence:

- Application form
- Certificate of high school graduation
- Certificate of academic studies and records – if any
- Personal Identification Document
- Passport: please copy pages 1,2,3,4
- any other ID

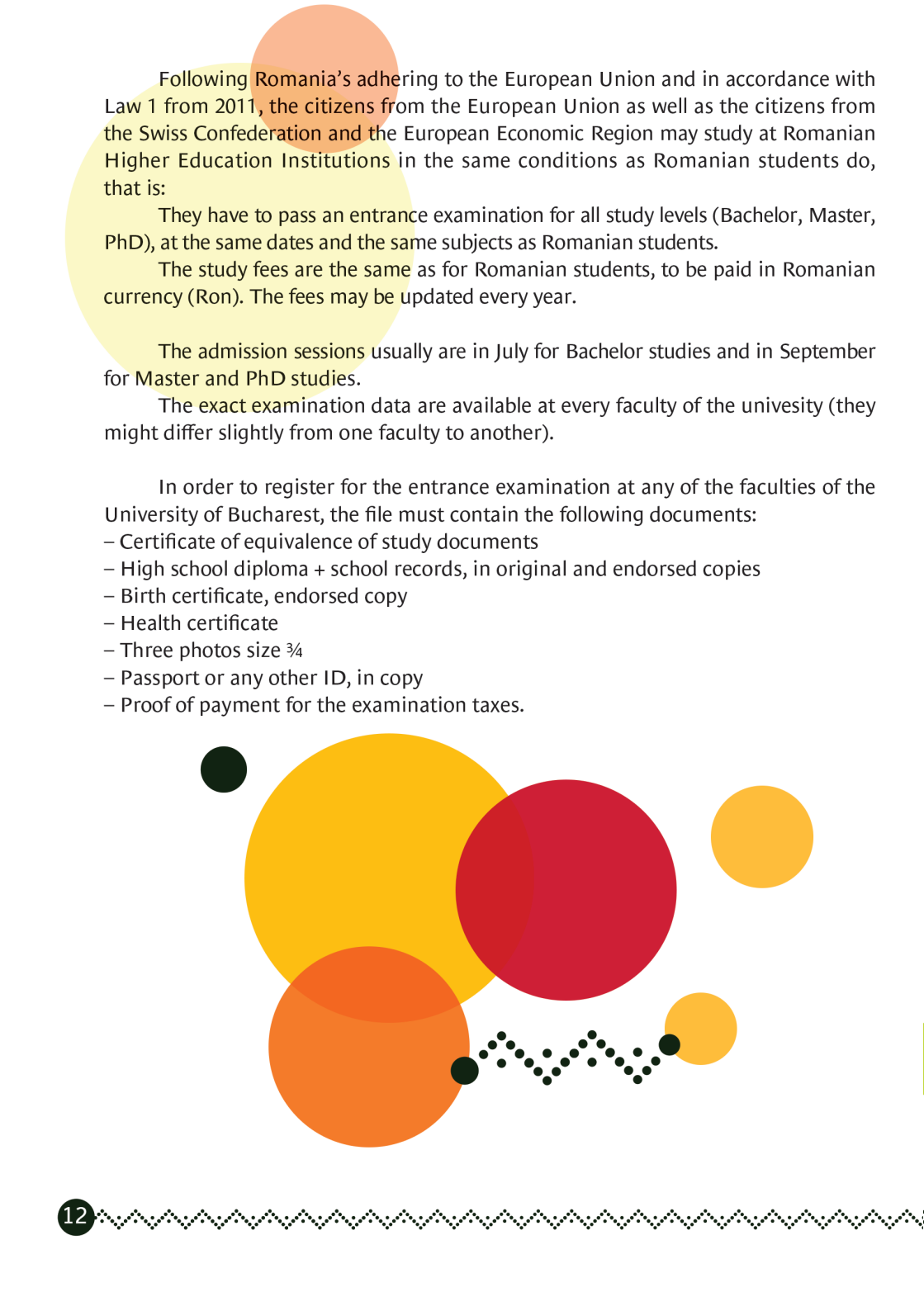
All documents mentioned above will be sent as legalized copies

The documents written in other languages than English or French will be translated in Romanian or English.

Diplomas from Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus have to be stamped with the Seal of the Hague Convention.

The tax for the recognition of study documents is 50 RON and can be paid either by bank transfer or postal order (for bank details see <http://cnred.edu.ro/en/#Activities>). A copy of the payment proof must be also sent to: contact@externe.unibuc.ro

The results regarding equivalence of studies will be sent by CNRED in writing to the University. The time limit for the issue of the Equivalence certificate is 15 days.



Following Romania's adhering to the European Union and in accordance with Law 1 from 2011, the citizens from the European Union as well as the citizens from the Swiss Confederation and the European Economic Region may study at Romanian Higher Education Institutions in the same conditions as Romanian students do, that is:

They have to pass an entrance examination for all study levels (Bachelor, Master, PhD), at the same dates and the same subjects as Romanian students.

The study fees are the same as for Romanian students, to be paid in Romanian currency (Ron). The fees may be updated every year.

The admission sessions usually are in July for Bachelor studies and in September for Master and PhD studies.

The exact examination data are available at every faculty of the university (they might differ slightly from one faculty to another).

In order to register for the entrance examination at any of the faculties of the University of Bucharest, the file must contain the following documents:

- Certificate of equivalence of study documents
- High school diploma + school records, in original and endorsed copies
- Birth certificate, endorsed copy
- Health certificate
- Three photos size 3/4
- Passport or any other ID, in copy
- Proof of payment for the examination taxes.

Practical information

Accommodation

Both ERASMUS students and independent students, have two housing possibilities.

You can apply for accommodation at the University, but you have to know that the number of rooms is limited. For more information, please contact:

– EU Programmes Office (for exchange students): phone (004) 021–307.73.23 / 24 / 83, contact@erasmus.unibuc.ro

– International Relations Office (for independent students): phone (004) 021–307.73.21 / 22, contact@externe.unibuc.ro

Another option: you can find your own room or flat on the Internet (<http://rent.a.home.ro>) or in the newspapers. The prices vary depending on the season, the area (central or suburbs) and the conditions of accommodation.

Passports and 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 the study period.

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.

Information on customs regulations – <http://igi/mai.gov.ro>.

Meal Service

Student restaurants are the most convenient places where you can have your meals. The main student's restaurant is located on 36–46 M. Kogalniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107 (next to the Faculty of Law).

As to your preference, a lot of small restaurants, cafeterias, fast foods are available.

Medical Assistance

You should have a health insurance the moment you enter Romania. Still, you will benefit from free medical assistance based on your student ID at the Students' Polyclinic of the University. The polyclinic has 8 wards: surgery, endocrinology, dentistry etc. Otherwise, free medical assistance is assured only in case of emergency. Students' polyclinic address: 36–46 M. Kogalniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107.

University Libraries

The students of the University of Bucharest have access to 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 fully computerized, with full permanent Internet access and access to Search -OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre). The Central University Library is located in Piata Revolutiei.

Each faculty of the University has also its own library where you can find books in the domain you study.

Internet access

Romania has several Internet access providers offering advanced services such as Internet messaging via mobile telephone, Internet paging, international roaming and more. A number of Internet retail outlets and cyber- cafes in almost every town offer convenient Internet access. An increasing number of hotels offer data ports with high-speed modem connections for guests to access the Internet and retrieve e-mail in the comfort of their rooms. All University faculties have computer facilities with Internet access.

Sports

At the University of Bucharest there are some studios where you can practice body-building, table tennis, aerobics, martial arts, dancing, basic gymnastics, and chess. There are also fields for outdoor sports like handball, basketball, tennis, athletics.

Student Life

A free weekly guide named *Sapte seri* (Seven Evenings) will tell you everything you want to know about cinemas, theatres, nightclubs, restaurants, pubs, sport rooms, art events, music, concerts, exhibitions and many other things. The guide is available in all public places, from the university buildings

to cinemas and restaurants (www.sapteseri.ro). Also a good guide of all restaurants, pubs and clubs in Bucharest is www.afterhours.ro.

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

Weather

Romania has a temperate climate, with four distinct seasons. In Bucharest the average summer temperature is 25° Centigrade, but July and August often exceeds 35°C. Winters are cold, with temperatures below 0°C. Apart from normal seasonal clothes, it is always advisable to pack a warm pullover, a raincoat and good walking shoes. Very warm clothing is recommended in winter.

Money and banks

Romanian currency is called *leu* (RON); plural form is *lei*.

Exchange rates are posted all over the city at exchange offices called “*Casă de schimb*”, where you can change hard currency for *lei*. A valid passport is required in such cases. Save your receipt to prove you have changed your money legally. You can check the exchange rate on the official website of the National Bank of Romania: www.bnr.ro.

The main banks in Romania:

- **Romanian Commercial Bank (BCR):** 5 Elisabeta Av., Bucharest, <http://www.bcr.ro>
- **BRD – Groupe Société Générale:** 1–3 Magheru Av., Bucharest, <http://www.brd.ro>
- **Banc Post Bank:** 18 Libertatii Av., bl. 104, Bucharest, <http://www.bancpost.ro>
- **Raiffeisen Bank:** 44 Mircea Voda Av., bl. M17, Bucharest, <http://www.raiffeisen.ro>.
- **ING Bank:** Bd. Iancu de Hunedoara nr. 48, <http://www.ing.ro>
- **Transilvania Bank:** 1 Hristo Botev Str., <http://www.btrl.ro>

Banks are usually open 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday.

Public transportation in Bucharest

Subway - Bucharest is the only Romanian city which enjoys the benefits of the subway (www.metrorex.ro). There are four underground lines crossing the city: from north to south (M2-blue), from east to west (M3-red), a circular route (M1-yellow), and an exclusively northern route, from 1 Mai Station to Gara de Nord (M4-green). You must buy a magnetic metro card for either 2 rides or 10 rides. Subways operate from 5.00 am until 11.00 pm. Check the underground map for routes and stops.

Buses, Trolley Buses and Trams run throughout the entire city from dawn to 11.00 pm. Tickets and magnetic cards can be purchased from yellow painted kiosks with the logo RATB located near the intersections of the main streets or in bus stations. When you get on the bus, validate the ticket by

punching it in the little box on board. As for the schedules, you can check www.ratb.ro.

Taxis – Taxis are usually picked up on street corners where the cabbies hang out, rather than hailed on the street. Try to use only licensed metered taxis that have a lighted sign on top, and their name, number and rate on the car door.



Hanging around in Bucharest

The National Art Museum

The collection of European art bequeathed by King Carol I to the State is the nucleus around which the great collections of the National Art Museum are organized today. Van Eyck, El Greco, Rembrandt meet in its halls the Romanian impressionists and surrealists.

The National Museum of History

In more than sixty halls, the museum displays the history of the Romanian nation. It has a very rich collection, including ancient hoards, weapons, art and jewellery among which there are some of great value not only for the Romanians, but also for the universal heritage.

The Village Museum

The idea of an outdoor ethnographical museum was a consequence of the sociological research conducted in the 1930s by Professor Dimitrie Gusti and his enthusiastic team. The Museum evolved from small exhibitions with items brought from all over the country, which put on display peasants' houses and their outbuildings: watermills, stables, pottery, workshops etc. Nowadays, the Museum consists of 298 genuine folk constructions, among which 42 houses, 163 outhouses, 15 workshops and 3 churches, all organized according to the regions they were brought from, in a very picturesque corner of Herăstrău Park.

The Romanian Athenaeum

Erected between 1885 and 1888, the Romanian Athenaeum is a sample of neo-classical architecture. It was built on the property of the Romanian Equestrian Society, who had intended to have a manege in the area and had already laid the round foundations. That explains the circular shape of the concerto hall.

The Palace of Parliament

The huge building covers an area of 66.000 sq. m / ground floor. Erected after 1984 and still not finished, the Palace has 440 offices, more than 30 reception halls and conference rooms. The Palace of Parliament is the heaviest, the most expensive and the largest civilian administrative building in the world. With a volume of 2.550.000 m³, it is 2% bigger than the Keops Pyramid of Egypt.

Herastrau Park

Shades of pink, yellow and red roses greet visitors to Herăstrău Park. In a small conservatory, freshly picked flowers are arranged daily in the Romanian style. Beyond the gardens is Herăstrău. Arched bridges lead to an island and the other side of the park where there is a bar, restaurant, sports complex and rowing boats for hire. There is also a ferry across the lake and, next to the Village Museum, a fun-park with roller coasters and carousels.

The Triumphal Arch

The Triumphal Arch was erected in 1935 to commemorate the victories of the Romanian army during the WW I and the union of all Romanian provinces on December 1st 1918. The monument has a classical appearance, copying the pattern of the *Arc de Triomphe* in Paris.

“Dimitrie Brandza” Botanical Garden

The Botanical Garden belongs to the University of Bucharest. The Botanical Garden is an important centre of conservation of different plants, scientific research and education, as well as a centre for environment studies.

Founded in 1860 near the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, by Dr. Carol Davila, it occupies the territory at the left and right side of the Cotroceni highway. The skilful botanist Ulrich Hoffman has completed the suitable equipment of the garden, so that the first garden in Bucharest reached in short time European standards.

Lipscani Area

This district developed around the princely court since the Middle Ages. It was the area of trade and manufacturing as the name of the streets still bear witness today. The great number of inns is token to the fact that Bucharest represented a real crossroad of important trade roads linking East and West. The area maintains its oriental aspect, but modern civilisation is clearly dominant as one arrives in the Banks' Centre.



Short dictionary of idiomatic Romanian

Romanian is closer to classical Latin than it is to other Romance languages, and the grammar structure and basic word stock of the mother tongue are well preserved. Speakers of French, Italian and Spanish with no proficiency in our language, will not be able to understand much spoken Romanian, but will find written Romanian more or less comprehensible. Romanian is spelt phonetically. So once you learn a few simple rules you should make yourself understood.

Specific Sounds and Characters

Ă, ă : like in *to err*

Î, î, â: dark posterior vowel, no English equivalent

J, j: like in French *garage*

Ș, ș : sh

Ț, ț : ts

Ce, ci : ch

Ge, gi : dj

Che, chi: like in Italian *perche, chiaro*

Ghe, ghi: like in Italian *ghetto, funghi*

All the other sounds and characters are more or less like in Italian.

Survival Romanian

Greeting Formulas

Hello! Hi! = *Salut!*

Good day! Good afternoon! = *Bună ziua!*

Good morning = *Bună dimineața!*

Good evening! = *Bună seara!*

Good night! = *Noapte bună!*

Good bye! So long! = *La revedere!*

Politeness formulas

Please = *Vă rog*

Thank you = *Mulțumesc / Mersi!*

Thank you very much = *Mulțumesc foarte mult*

Excuse me = *Scuză-mă*

You are welcome = *Cu plăcere*

Mrs. = *Doamna*

Mr. = *Domnul*

Ms. = *Domnișoara*

Useful phrases:

I'm lost. = *M-am rătăcit.*

I'm looking for the University of Bucharest. = *Caut Universitatea din București.*

Where is Intercontinental Hotel? = *Unde este Hotelul Intercontinental?*

Where is...? = *Unde este...?*

Could you help me? = *M-ați putea ajuta?*

I am looking for... = *Caut...*

Is it far? = *E departe?*

At what time arrives/leaves...? = *La ce oră ajunge/pleacă ...?*

Monday = *Luni*

Tuesday = *Mărti*

Wednesday = *Miercuri*

Thursday = *Joi*

Friday = *Vineri*

Saturday = *Sâmbătă*

Sunday = *Duminică*

Other useful words:

Yes = *Da*

No = *Nu*

today = *azi*

yesterday = *ieri*

tomorrow = *mâine*

night = *noapte*

day = *zi*

morning = *dimineață*

evening = *seara*

street = *stradă*

square = *piață*

park = *parc*

bus stop = *stație de autobuz*

train station = *gară*

market = *piață*

post office = *poștă*

stamp = *timbru*

embassy = *ambasadă*

ATM = *bancomat*

church = *biserică*

museum = *muzeu*

ticket = *bilet*

Figures

1 = <i>Unu</i>	7 = <i>Șapte</i>
2 = <i>Doi</i>	8 = <i>Opt</i>
3 = <i>Trei</i>	9 = <i>Nouă</i>
4 = <i>Patru</i>	10 = <i>Zece</i>
5 = <i>Cinci</i>	100 = <i>O sută</i>
6 = <i>Șase</i>	1000 = <i>O mie</i>

Useful Phrases

I don't understand. = *Nu înțeleg.*
I don't speak Romanian. = *Nu vorbesc românește.*
Do you speak English? = *Vorbiți engleză?*
What is your name? = *Cum vă numiți?*
My name is... = *Numele meu este...*
How are you? = *Ce mai faci?*
Fine, and you? = *Bine, dar tu?*
Pleased to meet you! = *Îmi pare bine să te cunosc!*
Excuse me! = *Scuzați-mă!*
Sorry! = *Scuze!*

Shopping

How much does it cost? = *Cât costă?*
I would like to try it. = *Aș vrea să probez.*
I'll buy it. = *Îl cumpăr.*
Do you accept credit cards? = *Acceptați cărți de credit?*
Open = *Deschis*
Closed = *Închis*

Directions

left = *stânga*
right = *dreapta*
straight = *drept (înainte)*
up = *sus*
down = *jos*
far = *departe*
near = *aproape*
map = *hartă*
arrival/departure = *sosiri / plecări*
entrance/exit = *intrare / ieșire*
north = *nord*
south = *sud*
east = *est*
west = *vest*

NOTES



Handwriting practice area consisting of 20 sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.





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