If you want to explore, excel, and make an impact, take the journey now! AUBG is the right place for you!
Добре дошъл в AUBG!

Welcome ● Bienvenido ● Willkommen ● Benvenuto
Bienvenue ● Welkom ● Fáilte ● Gaidits ● Laukiamas
Powitanie ● Hosgeldiniz

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Welcome

Dear Erasmus Student,

Congratulations on your decision to study abroad, and welcome to the American University in Bulgaria! AUBG plays a critical role in the education of Southeastern Europe by preparing students for leadership, community involvement, careers, and advanced study. You are now a part of the AUBG mission, and we are excited to have you join us on campus for your study abroad experience!

When you arrive at AUBG, you will be joining an energetic, diverse, and highly intelligent student population. AUBG has 900 students from over 40 different nationalities, giving you the opportunity to develop friendships with people from all over the world. While you study at AUBG, we also hope you will take time to enjoy the beauty of Blagoevgrad and its surrounding mountains. Bulgaria itself borders five different countries that offer unique cultural experiences, and we hope you adventure to see the rest of Eastern Europe!

Studying abroad is not only an incredible and exciting experience but also an opportunity to enhance your academic and professional career. In order to make your study abroad experience a successful and a positive one, we have created this guide to help you in your transition by providing you with practical information on how to prepare for your move as well as what to expect when you arrive.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the AUBG Erasmus Office or visit our page on the University website.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, and AUBG, and we wish you well as you prepare for your study abroad experience. This will be the adventure of a lifetime!

Sincerely,
The AUBG Erasmus Team

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Academic Calendar

For the Academic Calendar Online Visit: http://www.aubg.edu/academic-calendar

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Getting to Know Us

Why choose the American University in Bulgaria for your exchange experience?

AUBG offers students…

- a private, American-style university experience
- courses taught in English
- course credits recognized in the US and in the EU
- a liberal arts curriculum
- an excellent international faculty
- a multicultural student body representing over 40 countries
- opportunities to develop global knowledge, skills, and values
- the most modern University complex in Bulgaria
- an attractive location in the beautiful town of Blagoevgrad, just 100 km from the capital (Sofia) and only an hour’s drive to Greece

If you want to explore the world, AUBG is a perfect choice. There’s no better way to experience a new culture than first-hand!
Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad and AUBG

At the crossroads of East and West, Bulgaria has one of the richest cultural histories in Europe. Situated in Southeastern Europe, Bulgaria has close relations with western Europe as well as its nearer neighbors. Bulgaria is bordered to the north by Romania, to the west by Serbia and Macedonia, to the south by Greece and Turkey, and to the east by the Black Sea, linking Bulgaria to Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia.

You can witness a changing world first-hand.

The archaeological history of Bulgaria indicates the country was inhabited as early as 5500 BCE when Neolithic people lived in the region. Throughout history, many empires have ruled Bulgaria including Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman. As a result, many cultures heavily influence the country today.

Bulgaria Fast Facts

Population: 7.1 million
Language: Bulgarian
Religion: 83% Eastern Orthodox Christian, 12% Muslim, 5% Other or Unaffiliated
Agriculture: vegetables, fruits, tobacco, livestock
Exports: clothing, footwear, iron, steel, machinery
Political System: Parliamentary Republic
Currency: 1 Lev (100 stotinki)

The currency is the “lev” (singular) or “leva” (plural). One lev is made of a 100 “stotinki.” Paper notes are available in 5, 10, 20, 50, and a 100 lev amounts.

It is important to carry cash, particularly around Blagoevgrad. There are ATMs throughout the town and three ATMs located on campus: one outside the Main Building entrance, one outside the Skaptopara I Residence Hall entrance, and one on the ground floor of the ABF Student Center.

Small bills and lev coins are preferred, especially when you are making purchases in small, local shops or paying for taxis. If you are uncertain about your total bill, cashiers will print out a receipt for you. Major credit cards are accepted at some larger restaurants and stores, and more commonly in larger cities like Sofia and Plovdiv.

There are exchange bureaus throughout the downtown area where you can exchange most foreign currencies for lev. It is a good idea to check current exchange rates online before going to an exchange service.
Cul tur e

Studying abroad means you are experiencing new customs, rules, rituals, and daily habits. Although you will pick up on Bulgarian culture during your time at AUBG, we have listed a few Bulgarian cultural customs to be aware of when you arrive.

- You will see lots of red and white bracelets and dolls tied on trees. These are “martenitzas.” On the first day of March, all Bulgarians give and receive these as a symbol of happiness and health. When Bulgarians see a stork for the first time in the spring, they tie their martenitzas on flowering tree branches.

- The rose is the symbol of Bulgaria, and you will see roses everywhere in town. Picking roses, one of the oldest Bulgarian customs, has become primarily a tourist attraction, and each town usually holds a Rose Festival during the summer months.

- Folk music and national dances, such as the “horo,” are an important part of the Bulgarian culture. Most often they are performed by large groups of people, and the horo makes almost always a part of celebrations. Be prepared to join in!

- Bulgarians shake their heads up and down for no (“ne”), but unlike many cultures, they bob their heads from side to side for yes (“da”). It can be a little confusing at first. Start practicing before you arrive!

- Bulgarians pride themselves on their hospitality and neighborliness, and you will feel the warmth of the Bulgarian people while at AUBG. However, on the street or in other public places, it is courteous to avoid making eye contact, and it is customary not to smile at people you pass on the street.

- Try not to put your purse or bag on the floor in public places. In Bulgaria, putting bags or purses on the floor means you will have bad luck or will be poor! Instead, hold them in your lap.

- Restaurant service is very relaxed. Waiters will not check on you often, so you need to ask for their attention and to receive the bill. It is courteous to leave the restaurant soon after paying.

- Bulgarians appreciate visitors’ attempts to use the Bulgarian language, so do not be shy. Locals may smile at your mispronunciations, but they will often help you practice.

- Bulgaria is still a cash economy, so try to use exact change or bills that do not require the cashier to give you coins back. For example, if the bill is 6 leva, try to give 11 leva so that the change is a single 5-leva note. This is particularly appreciated in small shops and restaurants.
Learning Bulgarian
At AUBG, all courses are taught in English, and students are expected to have strong English-language speaking and academic skills. However, the majority of the national population only speaks Bulgarian. While living in Blagoevgrad, it will be helpful for you to learn “survival Bulgarian” words and phrases and to learn the Cyrillic alphabet.

The Cyrillic Alphabet

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Sofia
The capital of Bulgaria offers great restaurants, pedestrian shopping streets, numerous museums, beautiful churches, and ancient sites. A mere two hours away, Sofia is a great day trip, with buses and trains leaving Blagoevgrad hourly.

Plovdiv
A great weekend destination, Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria and is one of the oldest cities in the world. With over 6,000 years of history at your feet, you can explore ancient Roman ruins and appreciate the architectural beauties of the Bulgarian Revival. Buses leave Blagoevgrad regularly with a total travel time of 4-5 hours.
Rila Monastery
Rila Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, sits in the Rila Mountains and is a tourist destination for many in Southern Europe. Take a day trip there and snack on hot, fresh donuts or try the homemade monastery bread.

The Seven Rila Lakes
If you enjoy hiking for great views, the Seven Rila Lakes make for a breathtaking day trip. Hike to the top to enjoy a view of all seven lakes at one time.

Melnik
Take a drive to the smallest town in Bulgaria! Located in the Pirin Mountains, Melnik is famous for its wine. Explore the historic house on the hill and enjoy wine tasting in the caves.

Bansko
If you enjoy winter sports, Bansko is for you! Bansko is internationally-renowned for its resorts and provides ski and snowboarding opportunities in a beautiful and in a convenient location.

Sandanski
The warmest town in Bulgaria is a perfect spa destination where you can enjoy warm, natural waters and a variety of wellness treatments.

Travel Outside Bulgaria
Bulgaria borders five other European countries, and its convenient and affordable transportation networks provide excellent opportunities to see more of Eastern Europe.

Istanbul, Turkey
Explore the largest Bazaar in the world, visit the Blue Mosque, take a boat trip on the Bosphorus, and set your feet down in Asia. A 13-hour overnight bus from Blagoevgrad will take you there!
Beaches of Greece
Go for a weekend trip to the Greek beaches or to the town of Thessaloniki where you can soak up the sun and see an ancient country. Buses from Blagoevgrad to Thessaloniki leave daily, and the trip takes around three hours.

Athens, Greece
Head to this ancient city to explore the Acropolis, Ancient Agora, and the birthplace of the Olympic Games. Overnight buses from Blagoevgrad take 13 hours. Other transportation options include a flight from Sofia or a bus to Thessaloniki, followed by a train to Athens.

Macedonia
Head across the Osogovo Mountains to visit the country of Macedonia for a day trip. You can hire a car to take you from Blagoevgrad to the Macedonian border town of Delcevo, or you can take a bus from Sofia to other Macedonian cities including the capital, Skopje.

Blagoevgrad
The city of Blagoevgrad, home of AUBG, lies at the foot of the Rila and Pirin Mountains, just 100 kilometers south of Sofia. Home to more than 76,000 people, Blagoevgrad has clean and quiet surroundings, a walking plaza, shops, and restaurants, and it is small enough for students to find anything they need within a few minutes. The dynamic environment of outdoor cafes, movie theaters, and recreational facilities makes it possible for students to have a balanced life of both hard work and fun.

The region abounds in natural beauty and tourist attractions, such as the Rila Monastery, the spa town of Sandanski, and the Seven Lakes in the Rila Mountains. You can find world-class ski resorts in the magnificent Pirin mountains nearby. Istanbul is easily accessible by car or by bus, and Greece is only a two-hour drive away. The capital of Bulgaria—Sofia—is easy to visit via the two-hour bus ride offered hourly from the central station. Sofia’s international airport is your link to exciting cities all over Europe. As you can see, you will have plenty of things to keep you busy and entertained while at AUBG!
Weather

Blagoevgrad lies within the Mediterranean climate zone. Summers are dry and hot, while winters are cold and have little precipitation. This said, keep in mind that weather in Blagoevgrad is very changeable.

Generally, summers are hot. The average July temperature is 23°C (74°F) with temperatures reaching 32°C (90°F).

Raincoats and umbrellas are rarely needed, but it is still a good idea to have one with you.

Winter is mild and brief, with little snowfall. The average January temperature is 1°C (33°F). Mountain breezes often reach Blagoevgrad from the Rila Mountains, but overall the wind is gentle.

Shopping

Supermarkets

The center of Blagoevgrad offers two “hypermarkets,” or “superstores.” Kaufland is a supermarket located right next to Skaptopara Campus. Lidl is located next to the train station. You can buy groceries, toiletries, cleaning products, stationary supplies, appliances, lawn furniture...almost anything! Billa is a smaller store located at the south end of the pedestrian mall.

Beauty Stores

There are many specialist beauty stores, such as Lilly and Nova, located throughout town. These often have a wider selection of products, sometimes at lower prices than the hypermarkets.

Convenience Stores

Small convenience stores (“magazins”) are on every street. These shops usually offer drinks, snacks, some personal products, and occasionally even fresh produce.

Pharmacies

In Bulgaria, all medicines and medical supplies are available in pharmacies (“aptekas”). No medications—including non-prescription medications—are available in convenience stores or hypermarkets. Fortunately, aptekas are available all over the city, including one conveniently located across the street from the Skaptopara campus.
Other Stores

Technopolis (located next to Kaufland) is similar to a BestBuy, selling electronics, DVDs, CDs, and small appliances.

Students who require eyecare products, such as contact lens solution or glasses, can find those items in any of the small eyecare stores (“optikas”) in town.

Be prepared to find interesting items in unexpected places. Often small shops sell a surprising variety of items for the same or lower price as larger chains. The small grocers keep very fresh produce available year round, and the local farmers’ market is held every Wednesday and Saturday right across the street from the Skaptopara III Residence Hall.

Entertainment

- Explore Varosha Quarter, or “Old Town,” and its Regional History Museum. The museum is FREE on Mondays.
- See a movie at the Cinemax right next to the AUBG Main Building. Cinemax shows many English-language films with Bulgarian subtitles and tickets are only around 6 leva.
- Go bowling at the Bowling Center near the Main Building.
- Visit the Zoo and the Rose Park just outside the city.
- Go swimming, play on the water slides, and get your tan on at the Aqua Park. Entrance fee is 5 leva and includes a chair by the pool.
- Take a walk to Bachinovo Park on the north end of the city. The walk from the town follows the river into the mountains, and the park hosts several restaurants, a new ropes’ course, an outdoor exercise equipment, and paddle boats shaped like swans!

Restaurants

There are restaurants everywhere in Blagoevgrad, and most of them have an English-language menu. Most restaurants have outdoor seating, and many are air-conditioned inside.

Before you sit down, make sure your chosen café serves food; many smaller cafés only serve drinks or drinks and desserts.

Be sure to try traditional Bulgarian cuisine! Bulgarian dishes are often made with locally-farmed ingredients, and Bulgaria is renowned for its tomatoes, cucumbers, red peppers, fresh yoghurt, white cheese, and red wine. Try ordering shopska salad (fresh tomatoes and cucumbers with Bulgarian white cheese, or “sirene”), tarator (cold cucumber soup), banitsa (cheese-stuffed pastry), lukanka (flat, dry sausage), kyufte (meatballs), and kiselo mlyako (yoghurt).
AUBG

AUBG was established in September 1991 as collaboration between the governments of the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria. AUBG was created to educate students to respond to the challenges of life in Southeastern Europe to build societies based on democracy, civic responsibility, cultural diversity, and free enterprise. AUBG opened with a first-year class of 208 students and 16 full-time faculty members. Today, AUBG has over 900 students and 70 faculty members.

AUBG remains the only American-style university in Bulgaria. It is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution. Tuition, private donations, and grants from the U.S. finance its operation. AUBG is not affiliated with any specific institutions in the U.S. nor any other American University operating overseas.
Your arrival

ALL ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS SHOULD ARRIVE AT AUBG ONE DAY BEFORE THE ORIENTATION WEEK STARTS.

What to pack

All residence halls are furnished with a bed, a desk, a chair, a closet or a dresser, and a nightstand table for each student, plus a shared small refrigerator. Each student is also provided with a pillow and a heavy blanket.

Keep in mind that most daily essentials, such as toiletries and linens, are easily available for purchase in Blagoevgrad. However, you are welcome to bring your own personal items with you to make your stay more comfortable. When preparing for your time here, you will want to ensure that you either pack or purchase upon arrival:

◆ Personal toiletry items
◆ Bath towels
◆ Bed linens for a single ("twin") bed
◆ Robe, pajamas, and slippers
◆ Clothing appropriate for attending class
◆ One dining place setting (plate, bowl, cup or mug, silverware) - for use in your room
◆ Alarm clock
◆ Coat hangers
◆ Rain coat and/or umbrella

In addition, you may want to bring with you, or purchase upon arrival:

◆ Clothing for athletics and formal occasions
◆ Camera or smartphone with built-in camera
◆ Posters, pictures, or other room decorations

For more information on housing at AUBG please visit: https://www.aubg.edu/students-residential-life
Public Transportation

Getting to Blagoevgrad

Most Erasmus students will arrive first in Sofia, the national capital. International transportation to Sofia is available from a variety of airlines and international bus companies as well as by train.

Sofia Airport

The airport is comprised of two separate terminals, located a few kilometres apart, and a free shuttle service is available to transport you between terminals. Both terminals are serviced by taxis and by public transportation. Terminal 1 is serviced by several local bus lines, while Terminal 2 has a new Metro stop, just meters from the Departures exit.

From the airport, you will need to go either to the Sofia Central Bus Station or to the Sofia Central Train Station (which are located mere meters from each other).

From Terminal 1, you can:

- Take bus line 84 or 284 to the Hotel Pliska stop and then change to bus line 213, 214, 305, or 313 to the Central Bus/Rail Station stop.
- Take the free shuttle to Terminal 2 and follow the Metro directions given below.
- Take a taxi to the Central Bus or Rail Station.

From Terminal 2, you can:

- Take the Metro Red Line to the Serdika Metro Station (the central station of Sofia), change to the Blue Line, and go two stops north to the Central Railway Station stop.
- Take a taxi to the Central Bus or Rail Station.

The Metro stations have automated ticket kiosks, and any one trip costs around 2 leva, including transfers.

Sofia Central Bus and Train Stations

The Central Bus and Train Stations offer transportation to Blagoevgrad during the day, though trains run less often and are making a longer trip. A bus will likely be your fastest and most convenient option.

Inside the Central Bus Station, you will see several dozen ticket windows, each run by a separate bus company with the destinations and departure times prominently displayed. One-way tickets usually cost between 10 and 12 leva. At the ticket window, you will receive a ticket along with the parking bay number for the bus (“sektor”). The bus station has several shops selling snacks and beverages, and a pharmacy (“apteka”). The bathrooms are clean, but you will need coins (50 “stotinki”) to pay, to use them.

Blagoevgrad Bus Station

The bus trip to Blagoevgrad takes around two hours. Once you arrive at the Blagoevgrad station, take one of the many taxis awaiting the buses to the AUBG campus. The ride will cost around 2 leva; be sure to have a small bill or change.

Residence Hall Skapto I: “Obshtezhitie Skaptopara edno, molya!”
Residence Hall Skapto II: “Obshtezhitie Skaptopara dve, molya!”
Private Transportation
If you prefer, you can ask the AUBG Transportation Office to arrange a private taxi to bring you from Sofia Airport directly to the University campus. The cost is approximately $50. If you would like to request a taxi, please contact the AUBG Transportation Office and provide your flight number and arrival date and time. If another student is arriving at a similar time, the Transportation Office will inform you so that you can share the taxi and the transportation fee. This is the easiest and the most comfortable way to arrive in Blagoevgrad.

Moving into Your Accommodation
When you arrive on campus, you will need to register with the front desk of your Residence Hall. If you do not know your hall or room number when you arrive, just ask at the front desk of any of the Skaptopara halls.

Don’t forget to formally sign in! Under Bulgarian law, residents must sign in within 48 hours of arrival or risk deportation. You can formally sign in with the Security Guard on duty at your Residence Hall front desk.

Student ID Card
During Orientation Week, every AUBG student receives an ID card from the AUBG ID Cards Office, which is located in the Main Building (room #108a).

ID cards are used for bookstore accounts, dining services, library privileges, and residence hall security. It will be important for you to carry your Student ID with you at all times. Because these cards provide access to University facilities and Residence Halls, please report lost or stolen cards immediately. Replacement cards may be obtained from the ID Card Office.

Living on Campus
AUBG is the first institution in Bulgaria with an American-style student housing system. All students, including exchange students, are required to live in one of the three on-campus residence halls (Skaptopara I, Skaptopara II, and Skaptopara III).

Residence Halls
Each residence hall has its own community feeling and has been adapted to create a safe and an inclusive living/learning experience. Resident Assistants (RA) and Peer Advisors live in and assist students in community-building student activities. Each residence hall also has a Residence Hall Director, a full-time university staff member who oversees daily operations and provides guidance and assistance to student residents. Security personnel are on duty in all residence halls 24/7.
**Skaptopara I** houses 300 students either in double rooms with private bathrooms or in suites of two double rooms with shared bathrooms for four suitmates. Skaptopara I has a multipurpose activity room, music practice rooms, aerobics rooms, and a café.

**Skaptopara II** houses 449 students in double or triple rooms. Some rooms have private bathrooms; others are arranged in suites of one double and one triple room with a shared bathroom. Skaptopara II also has a gym, aerobics rooms, a table tennis room, Bookstore, and houses the Women & Gender Resources Center.

**Skaptopara III** houses 124 students in double rooms, each with a private bathroom and air conditioning. Skaptopara III has a table tennis room.

All residence halls are equipped with WiFi, elevators, vending machines, a reception desk, a laundry, kitchen facilities, computer labs, and study areas. All residence halls are smoke free, and provide disability access and 24-hour security. Please note that although the residence halls are co-ed (housing both female and male students) individual rooms and suites are one-sex spaces. Only students residing in individual rooms and suites will have security access to those rooms.

**Disability Services**

Students with disabilities are welcome in the University community, and the University will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate them. Students who need special housing accommodation—including, but not limited to, students with vision, hearing, or motor impairment and students with serious allergies—should contact the Director of Residence Life and Housing.

**Eating**

Each student is required to purchase a meal plan, which can be used in the campus restaurant and cafés.

“The Hungry Griffin” Restaurant offers a salad & a sandwich bar, a pasta bar, pizza on demand, vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, desserts, and beverages. The Hungry Griffin is located in the ABF Student Center, 3rd floor and is open daily, 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

AUBG’s two cafés offer coffee, drinks, pastries, and light snacks. The Student Center Café is located on the ground floor, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. The Skaptopara I Residence Hall, located on the ground floor, is open daily, 7:30 a.m. till 2 a.m.

The average student spends around $600 per semester on food.
Playing

The Sports and Intramurals Office oversees a variety of sports facilities on campus, including the ABF Sports Hall and fitness area and the outdoor tennis courts, the basketball court, the volleyball court, and the football pitch.

The fitness area, located on the ABF basement level, provides dance and aerobics spaces, free weights, weight machines, stationary bicycles, treadmills, exercise balls, and yoga mats. The Sports Hall is designed to accommodate a variety of indoor sports and features a second-floor running track.

Staying Healthy

AUBG Health Center

For general healthcare, including non-emergency injuries and illness, the University Health Center is available and is staffed by a board-certified general practitioner and a licensed nurse.

The University Health Center is staffed by a general practitioner and a nurse who provides the University community with routine physical exams and health evaluations, treatments for various medical problems, immunizations, health education on smoking cessation, stress relief, first aid, women's health, and drug and alcohol abuse. When necessary, students are referred to specialists or other health care facilities.

The Health Center is located in the Skaptopara 1 Residence Hall and is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. In addition, the University doctor and the nurse make room visits in case of emergency and can be contacted by phone 24/7. See the Health Center website for up-to-date contact information.

Off-Campus Health Services

Beyond campus, the EU Health Insurance Card guarantees access to the Bulgarian health care system. In case of an emergency, please dial “112” for an ambulance or go to the nearest emergency room.
Studying at AUBG

As an AUBG student, you will have access to many academic resources and student services on our campus as we strive to help you be successful both in and out of the classroom.

Academic Courses

AUBG’s academic programs, taught in English, offer students an American-style education that prepares them to be future leaders in the new democracies of the region by fostering intellectual and professional skills, promoting mutual understanding, and encouraging critical questioning about themselves and the societies in which they live.

AUBG offers courses in more than twenty disciplines. The University confers internationally accredited Bachelor of Arts degrees in eleven majors: Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics, European Studies, History and Civilizations, Information Systems, Journalism and Mass Communication, Literature, Mathematics, Political Science and International Relations, and the Self-Designed Major. In addition, AUBG students can choose from eighteen minor programs.

All courses are conducted in-person, on campus; there are no courses offered online. Each course usually convenes twice per week. Class attendance is mandatory for all courses.

Course Registration

Below you will find the basic steps for course registration. Incoming Erasmus students are assisted in registering for courses, and the Erasmus Office and ECTS coordinator will gladly provide additional information at any time.

Pre-registration

Several weeks before your arrival at AUBG, you will receive an email from the Erasmus Assistant and/or the ECTS Coordinator to guide you through the initial course selection process. Our staff will assist you in selecting and preregistering in courses that suit your interests and academic needs. As you consider your course preferences, please remember that one credit hour at AUBG equates to two ECTS credits.

Orientation Week

When you arrive for Orientation Week, you will be given a specific appointment date and time in which you will meet with the Erasmus Assistant who will serve as your academic advisor while you are at AUBG. During this appointment, you will review your pre-selected courses, discuss any changes you may wish to make to your registration, and complete the final registration form.

Once your final registration form has been signed by your Erasmus advisor, you will take the form to the Elearn office for processing.

Textbooks

Plan to spent $100 - $250 on textbooks for the semester, though costs will vary widely depending upon the courses you select. Textbooks can be purchased or leased from the AUBG bookstore, located in the Skaptopara II Residence Hall.
Library

Panitza Library supports University curriculum and fosters students' personal growths, and the development of life-long learning skills. The Library is open 88 hours per week, Monday through Sunday, and offers extended hours during final exams.

The Library offers a comfortable study environment, printing services, computers, other study facilities, and houses a collection of 118,000 books; more than 10,000 volumes of periodicals; 260,000 e-books; 40,000 electronic journal titles, magazines and newspapers; a growing collection of audio-visual materials; and many electronic databases. Students are welcome to contact reference librarians in person or via instant messaging, or via email.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find course descriptions and ECTS credit information?

All course descriptions, including AUBG credit hours, ECTS credit hours, prerequisites, and writing-intensive designations can be found in the Academic Catalogue, available on the University website.

How do I know which courses are being offered during the semester I will be attending AUBG?

Detailed course schedules are posted on the Registrar’s page of the University website. Course schedules include course designations, class meeting times, class locations, instructor names, and can be downloaded as an Excel file.

What if the course I want to take is already full?

If you attempt to enroll in a course that is full, you will be automatically placed on the course waiting list. Should seats become available during add/drop week (the first week of classes), the registration system will send you an automated email asking you to confirm your seat; if you do not confirm, your seat will be given to the next person on the waiting list.

Being waitlisted does not guarantee you a seat in the course, and we recommend that if you are fourth or higher on the waiting list that you consider enrolling in another open section or alternative course.

What is the maximum number of credits I can register for?

The normal, full-time course load is 15 credits (30 ECTS credits) per semester. Students can enroll in up to 17 credits without paying an additional overload fee.

What is the last day that I can make changes to my schedule?

Changes to your course schedule can be made only during add/drop week, during which time you can add or drop courses and change credit and grading status.
What if I need to drop a course after the add/drop week?

You can choose to withdraw from a course through the seventh week of classes. If you do so, a grade of “W” will be recorded on your transcript. A “W” does not affect your GPA, but you will earn no credits.

Whom should I contact if I want to make changes to my course schedule?

Any changes to your course schedule must be approved first by your home university and then by your AUBG academic advisor. If you have made any changes to your original Learning Agreement form, please submit a “Changes to the Learning Agreement” form to the Erasmus Office.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Mariya Handzhiyska
Erasmus and Financial Assistant
Erasmus and Exchange Programs Office
American University in Bulgaria
ABF Student Center, Room 6205
Email: mhandzhiyska@aubg.edu
Tel.: + 359 73 888 Ext (531)

Evelina Terzieva
Educational Technology and Integration coordinator
ECTS coordinator, e-learn office
American University in Bulgaria
ABF Student Center, Room 6305
E-mail: eva@aubg.edu
Tel.: + 359 73 888 Ext (221)

Student Services

AUBG supports a wide variety of services and organizations to help you be successful and feel like at home. All programs and support offered through Student Services are free and available to all students.

Advising Center - provides learning-support services such as subject tutoring, learning-style tests, self-assessment tests, and study skills workshops.

Bookstore - Supplies course materials required for courses offered in each semester; stocks a wide variety of classics, modern fiction, art books, travel guides, a wide range of office supplies, gifts, stationery, and University souvenirs.

Career Center - assists students to identify talents, interests, and values; conducts workshops on job search strategies and professional skills.

Office of International Student Services - Strives to promote international awareness by allowing individuals to experience other cultures and develops project and diversity activities for culture sharing.

Counseling Center - provides private, confidential, free counseling for students and is overseen by a fully-licensed Clinical Psychologist.

Erasmus and Exchange Programs Office - Provides assistance and support to the incoming and outgoing exchange students and organizes a variety of events and activities to facilitate integration during the exchange semester.

Health Center - Staffed by a general practitioner and a nurse who provides the University community with routine physical exams and health evaluations, treatment for medical problems, immunizations, and health education.

Residence Life and Housing Office - Manages the Residence Halls and living communities, provides programs and activities to build community, addresses on-campus living concerns.

Sports and Intramurals Office - Oversees a variety of sports facilities on campus, including the ABF Sports Hall and the outdoor tennis courts, the basketball court, the volleyball court, and the football pitch.

Women & Gender Resources Center - Provides safe and private support for victims of harassment and violence, and information relevant to gender-specific needs.
Student Organizations and Clubs

Taking academic courses is only one part of your study abroad experience at AUBG. While on campus, we also hope that you get involved in a student club, enhance your career skills, play a sport, or participate in a campus theater performance.

- Dance Club
- Political Science Club
- Club Francophone
- American Football Club (AFC Griffins)
- AUBG Daily News
- Medieval Club
- Golf and Business Club
- Better Community Club
- Bon Apetit
- AUBG Choir
- Model United Nations
- Students Advocating Gender Equality
- M.A.T.H. - Make Amazing Things Happen
- Rock Jamming Club
- Broadway Performance Club
- Computer Science Student Union
- European Society Club
- AUBG Olympics
- StartUP@Blagoevgrad
- AUBG Soccer League

For more information on student clubs and organizations visit:
https://www.aubg.edu/activities-and-clubs
Find us on:

- facebook.com/AUBGcurious
- twitter.com/AUBGcurious
- youtube.com/AUBG1991
- plus.google.com/+AUBGedu
- "AUBG admissions"
- "American University in Bulgaria"

What Else You Need to Know...

Helpful Websites

Bulgaria Tourism
http://bulgariatravel.org/en/official_tourism_portal

Bulgaria Electrical Outlet and Adapters

Learning Basic Bulgarian Phrases
http://www.linguanaut.com/english_bulgarian.htm

More on Bulgarian Culture
http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Bulgaria.html#b