



ECTS COURSE CATALOGUE

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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STUDY FACILITIES

Burgas Free University provides all state-of-the-art facilities for working and studying in a friendly academic environment.

BFU has the most modern and newest facilities in the system of higher education in Bulgaria. Its building was constructed in 2004 and has a total area of 22,500 square meters. The building of BFU was awarded the “Building of the Year” Prize for 2004 in a competition organized by the Ministry of Regional Development of Bulgaria, in the area of architecture and civil engineering, and its architect was elected “The Architect of the Year”.

The university campus is located in the city centre. There are a total of: four lecture rooms seating 100 to 200 students, 40 seminar rooms seating between 20 and 60 people, 2 phonetic language laboratories, 10 computer rooms with a capacity of up to 40 workstations each, a laboratory complex of 12 specialized engineering and technical laboratories, a media centre with a professional radio and TV studio, a psychology laboratory, a simulation court room.

Together with the lecture halls and laboratories, there is a big multi-functional conference centre designed with an aula with 400 seats, a hall with 200 seats for audio-visual sound recording and simultaneous translations, and several seminar rooms for the purpose of organizing various events.

The 3-storey atrium with panoramic glass elevators is used for official ceremonies, concerts and other events. A big service centre is designed for the needs of the students. It includes a book shop, a copy centre, bank service spots, a trade centre, a fitness hall, 1 restaurant, 2 café clubs, 1 night club, outdoor and underground parking lots, as well as a hotel.

BFU has a modern information system which secures the study process and the administrative services, as well as high technological facilities - high-speed and non-stop access to Internet in all the study and conference rooms, offices and the library; wireless network infrastructure with guaranteed full coverage in the whole building.

The university library occupies an area of 1800 m² on 2 floors, with 3 book depositories for 120000 volumes of books and periodicals in different fields of knowledge and in different languages, a borrowing service, several computerized reading rooms with full access to Internet, rich bibliography fund; Bulgarian and foreign databases. The electronic catalogue includes bibliographic information about the whole library fund, enriched with images of book covers and contents. It also gives information about the new books, as well as it allows access to the foreign full-text databases and specialized databases. The library provides quiet areas for studying and also offers common areas to facilitate group study and collaboration. Self-managed remote access is provided to the full-text scientific databases ProQuest, Scopus, ScienceDirect, Web of Knowledge. The library of BFU is a member of the Association of the University Libraries and the Bulgarian Library and Information Association.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Burgas Free University has well-established facilities and provides accessible environment for students with special needs to move either independently or with a companion.

Burgas Free University enrolls disabled people with reduced working capacity as students under relieved procedure and conditions. The mode and way of conducting the entrance examinations are defined in compliance with the applicants with special needs, in regard to the level of disability and at applicants' request.



The students with special needs are provided with personal methodological assistance during their studies – additional consultations. They have free access to the library and all electronic issues. There is also a specialized programme for blind students.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

The officers at the Academic Affairs Department of BFU perform the following tasks:

- Organizing the study process: preparing the study schedules, the examination sessions and lecturers' consultations;
- Dealing with the students' status - enrolling students, certifying the completion of the semester, keeping students' rights, change of majors or forms of study;
- Issuing of documents for students' status and education results – education certificates, transcript of records, etc.
- Administrative assisting the students and the applicants in educational and academic issues.

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ACCOMMODATION

BFU has a new modern hotel for students and staff. It is equipped with central air-conditioning, cable TV and high-speed Internet.

The hotel is ideally located in the centre of Burgas in close proximity to the university, at 34A Vardar Street. It offers accommodation in 20 spacious and soundproof rooms, of which 12 have twin beds and 8 are with bedrooms. All rooms are soundproof, with a nice view, work area and rest area, bathroom with toilet and shower enclosure. They are equipped with LCD TVs with cable television channels, air conditioning, fridge, Wi Fi, telephone.

For further information: <http://hotel.bfu.bg/?lang=en>

SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

BFU tries to stimulate its students to reach great achievements and boost their skills. The university supports various student ideas which would develop their competitive professional advantages and help to form a strong and efficient student community. On the idea of the students were established a student PR Academy, various clubs, workshops, which reflect their interests and aim at developing their talents and practical skills, as well as prepare them for their future professional career.



Student PR Agency

The Student PR Agency PRACTA was established on 15 December 2006. The main aim is to provide opportunities to the students in Public Relations at BFU to develop practical communication skills, guided by the Bulgarian Public Relations Association (IPRA), the International PR Association and the European PR Education and Research Association (EUPRERA).

Debates Club

Students at BFU have the opportunity to improve their communicative skills and develop skills for persuasive speech through participation in discussions on various thematic fields. The Debates Club incorporates students of all degree programmes at BFU.

Club Manager

The Club *Manager* involves students in various specialities in the area of economics and management and provides floor to discussions, exchange of ideas. The Club works with specialists and practitioners from the public and private sector and create realistic possibilities for student professional realization.

Club in Civil Law Studies and Civil Procedure Law

The Club involves students in Law at BFU who show great interest in Civil Law Studies and aims to prepare the students for participation in various case solving competitions. The participants in the Club organize discussions and write projects on legal issues, analyze the court practices.

Programming Competition Club

Burgas Free University Programming Competition Club guides and assists students with additional interests in programming, learning algorithms for solving difficult tasks, evaluating the complexity of the algorithms, dealing with additional restrictions related to algorithm efficiency and speed. The Club organizes internal university competition in programming and selects teams to participate in the annual National Student Olympiad in Programming, carried out in accordance with the rules of the international organization ACM.

Student Theater

The student theater at BFU was established in 2007. Students from all faculties participate in it as actors and so far they have performed more than 10 plays of Bulgarian and foreign authors. Every year a casting for new talents is organized.

Student Newspaper „Student Passions”

The Student newspaper „Student Passions” is a publication of BFU. It gives opportunities to the students in Journalism to practice their profession and a chance for development of young talents. The newspaper is a popular publication among the students. It reflects all the important events in the academic life of the university, informs about new opportunities and expresses students’ opinion about the education at BFU.

Broadcast „The Wall”

The broadcast „The Wall” is a joint project of BFU and Radio Bulgaria – Burgas and is carried out by students in Journalism at BFU. The main project idea is to build a bridge between the academic preparation of the students and the journalism practice on the field.

University Sports Club

The University Sports Club at BFU provides opportunities to the students, lecturers and staff to practice free of charge various sport activities, as well as salsa, folk dances, aikido, tai-chi.

The schedule for the various sports is announced on the notice boards in the university lobby and on the web site of the university.



INFORMATION ABOUT BURGAS AND THE REGION

Geographic location, landscape and climate

The town of Burgas is situated on the coast of the Black Sea in Burgas Bay on a flat country known as Burgas plate. The average altitude is 17 m. To the north and to the south of Burgas there are salt lakes, which are protected areas because of the fact that they are a part of the Via Pontica route of migrating birds. The climate is of the moderate continental type with a definite influence of the sea. Summer is pleasantly fresh because of the constant movements of the air. The average day temperature of the air during the summer is 26.4° C, and the temperature of the sea water – 24.8° C. There are between 24 and 27 sunny days per month during the summer period with an average of 10-11 sunny hours in a 24-hour period. The winter is mild with no snow. The average day temperature of the air during the winter is 4.6° C, and that of the sea water – 7.4° C. Because of the influence of the sea the autumn is long and warmer than it is in the country, and the spring is comparatively cold and usually comes one month later than normal.

History

The favourable living conditions in the fertile flat country near the sea attracted people in this area thousands of years ago. The first signs of life date back to the bronze era and the beginning of the iron era. The Region of Burgas is rich with archaeological remains dating back to the Thracian era (4th century before Christ). The name of Burgas comes from the Latin word "burgos", which means a tower. There are legends about the Roman passenger station, which used to be located in the area of the contemporary port of Burgas. 15 centuries later the settlement that started to bear the name of Pirgos is mentioned in the works of the Byzantine poet Manuil Fil. During the 18th century Burgas was the biggest port south to the Balkans. The first map that shows the town plans of Burgas dates back to 1854. The first Bulgarian school and church were founded in 1868. On 6 February 1878 Burgas was liberated from the Ottoman empire by the contingent of colonel Lermontov, who was the brother of the great Russian poet Mihail Lermontov. On 7 February 1878 the first Bulgarian municipality was founded. In 1888 the municipality library was founded and three years later the first town plan of Burgas was developed and officially approved. In the first decades of the 20th century the town goes under accelerated industrialization. A cultural uplift begins – many community centers are founded, the archaeological society, the town museum. The Trade Gymnasium and the State mechanical school were founded. The port was enlarged and modernized, the airport was built. The building of the biggest petrol refinery on the Balkans was started.

Modern Burgas

Burgas is a municipal and regional center as well as the fourth biggest town in Bulgaria with a population of about 200 000 inhabitants. According to the economic indicators the Municipality of Burgas is second among the other Bulgarian municipalities. Burgas is an important industrial, commercial, transport and tourist center. The biggest petrol refinery on the Balkan peninsular – LUKOIL NEFTOCHOIM is located near Burgas. Nowadays the city has great economic potential: its well-developed chemical industry, machine building, fishing and agriculture make an important contribution to the national economy. The city has also a thriving furniture and textile industry. Burgas has the biggest port in the country with the only petrol terminal south to the Balkan mountain. The railway and road networks are well developed. The airport has the best atmospheric conditions on the Balkan peninsular and is the only airport to accept ultrasonic airplanes. Since 1989 Burgas has been known as a Duty Free Zone. Burgas is the center of the tourism industry on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast. It is also a starting point for visiting the Black Sea summer resorts and vacation villages around the city – Sunny Beach, Elenite, Dunes, the towns – museums Nessebar and Sozopol, the Ropotamo reserve, the Strandzha nature park.

Infrastructure and transport

Burgas has the structure and planning typical for the Bulgarian towns – a central city part, in which the main administrative buildings, the cultural institutions and the trade areas are located, and suburb parts where the living areas are located with their infrastructure and recreation parks. What is typical for Burgas is its orientation to the east – to the sea. The old part of Burgas has the form of a rainbow open to the beach and the sea garden – the two most attractive places in the town. Nearby are the administrative buildings, the main pedestrian and trade areas, all cultural institutions and the greater part of the entertainments. The residential areas are situated around the central part. In the periphery and along the sea coast the town passes through quarters with low buildings to the typical for



Bulgaria sea tourist villages. The pedestrian areas are well developed and this allows for the easy walking through the central part to the sea garden and the beach without transport means. The connection with the living areas is made by bus and trolleybus. The price of a bus ticket is 1 BG lev. This is equal to 0,50 Euro. You can travel to Sofia by train or by bus. Every day there are two express trains travelling to Sofia and 6 quick trains. The price of a train ticket for the express is 18-20 levs. There is a regular bus service. A bus ticket to Sofia costs 28-32 levs. This kind of transport is more appreciated.

Education, science and culture

Burgas is a big educational, scientific and arts centre. It has its own spiritual and cultural atmosphere thanks to the sea, the well-developed industrial activities and the big distance to the capital and the other big cities in Bulgaria, which does not make the city of Burgas a satellite city.

Schools and universities

There are 31 primary and secondary schools, 11 professional high-schools, 4 colleges and 2 universities in Burgas. Burgas is also proud for its 4 specialized language schools, the secondary school of economics, the secondary technical school of civil engineering, the secondary technical school of industrial chemistry, the sports school, the musical school, the school of mathematics. There is a good level of education in the town and the region, which is comparatively higher than the average for the country. Which is more important – it is not a problem for a foreigner who does not speak Bulgarian to talk to a Bulgarian in one of the European languages.

Churches

Bulgarians treat the Christianity and the Bulgarian Orthodox church with great respect. Together with the education they are the most important factors that helped to preserve the Bulgarian spiritual culture and the national identity during the 13-century history of Bulgaria. The Orthodox churches in Bulgaria are spiritual and cultural centres rather than religious buildings. In Burgas the cathedral church “St. St. Cyril and Methodius” is such a centre – a model of the Orthodox arts. The other churches are smaller, but the inside presents an interesting model of the church art, which in this region is influenced by the Greeks. There is a free entrance to the churches. In Burgas there are also active Catholic and Protestant churches.

Theatre

The drama theatre “Adriana Budevskya” bears the name of one of the most famous Bulgarian theatre players. It has a long history and is one of the most important symbols of the town and part of its magic. The active season in Burgas is from October till May, but actually it does not stop throughout the year because during the summer the cultural life of the country is transferred to the resort cities on the Black Sea coast. The Burgas theatre plays on its own scene and on the scene of the opera theatre. For guest-performances they use the halls of the Military club and the Performance Hall of the “LUKOIL” Chemical Company. The price of the tickets varies from 10 to 20 BG levs.

Opera, ballet and classical music

Burgas is one of the few Bulgarian towns, which have their own opera theatre with a ballet group. Its repertoire includes classical and Bulgarian compositions and operetta classics. The hall of Burgas opera, which is also used by the philharmonic orchestra, has a modern design and excellent acoustics. Prices of tickets vary from 8 to 15 BG levs.

Art galleries

There are more than ten art galleries in Burgas. The biggest and most famous one is the City Art Gallery. Its exposition is placed in an ex Jewish synagogue, built at the beginning of the 20th century on the design of Italian architects. Today it is pronounced a culture monument. In the Gallery there are pieces of work of all Bulgarian classic artists, contemporary Bulgarian artists and the richest collection of icons from the Strandja Region.

Music

Burgas is a town with a rich musical history and even richer musical presence. You can even say that after Sofia, Burgas is the only Bulgarian town, which after the reforms period managed to keep its musical talents. There are many concerts being organized here especially during the summer period, when the sea attracts the cultural life and the Bulgarian bohemians.



Cinema

In the town there are two cinemas – one in the city centre and one in Mall Galeria with 10 cinema halls. The prices of the tickets vary from 6 to 12 leva.

Literature, libraries, publishing activity

Burgas takes part of its charm from the very many poets and writers that have lived or are living here. Burgas is the home town of the poetess Petya Dubarova who died tragically at a very young age, as well as the spiritual place of the classic Hristo Fotev. Apart from the university libraries, which have a strict and regulated access, in Burgas there is one big library and some smaller community centres' libraries. The regional library "Peyo K. Yavorov" bears the name of one of the greatest Bulgarian poets and playwrights. It was established in 1888. During its century-long history the library has developed an extremely rich book-stock – fiction, scientific and reference books, textbooks and handbooks, periodicals and musical records. The library has a department for foreign language literature, which could be used in the reading rooms. You can register in the beginning against minimum payment, and the lending of books is free of charge. One of the most modern houses of the book in Bulgaria is the "Helicon" bookshop in Burgas. It is true that it is almost the only bookshop in the country, which complies with the highest European standards. For many years it has been working not only as a trading place but also as a temple of the spirituality. Many literature readings, books promotions, introductions of young authors, etc. are held here.

Museums

In Burgas there is an archaeological museum, a history museum, an ethnographic museum and a natural history museum. Access is free.

Festivals

In Bulgaria Burgas is known as the town of the festivals. Every summer in the summer open-air theatre in the Sea Garden a festival is organized – a festival of the Bulgarian pop song "Burgas and the sea". Each summer this open-air theatre hosts the International folklore festival as well. On open stages in the sea garden various festivals are held - Beer Fest, Festival of the Bulgarian rock music "Rock explosion", Blues fest, Theatre festival "On the shore". In October each year Burgas is a host of the Autumn literature fests. Every 3 years Burgas becomes a host of the Week of the sea accompanied by a rich cultural programme. The musical festival is also a traditional one. It bears the name of the famous Bulgarian conductor Emil Chakarov, a student of Herbert von Karayan.

In August 2008 on the beach of Burgas was held for the first time the MTV pop festival "Spirit of Burgas". The TV shows of the festival were broadcasted on 9 MTV channels in 36 countries. The festival is held annually since then. Two times a year – in May and September, Burgas becomes a paradise of the flowers. In pavilions especially designed for the purpose and also in the open in the Sea Garden there is an international flower exhibition "Flora – Burgas".

Burgas' patron is St. Nicola Miracle maker. The fest of the town of Borgas is the day of St. Nicola – 6th December. Usually in the weeks before and after the 6th of December under the patronage of the Municipality of Burgas there are many events in the town, which often come into the Christmas holidays and thus form a month of joy and happiness.

Sport

Burgas offers a great variety of sports facilities and possibilities for active sport. There are two football teams in town, which play in the Higher League of Bulgaria. There are also two stadiums. Burgas is proud of its comparatively new stadium "Neftochimic". It has a total of 24,550 seats, 13,000 of which are under shelters, grass area and lights which correspond to the world standards. In fact, this is the most modern sport facility in Bulgaria. It has also a fitness centre, tennis courts, training rooms, training yards in the open and a hotel. Burgas has also two sports halls. The "Izgreva" hall is used for competitions on team sports. The "Mladost" hall is used for cultural events too. Many continental and world youth competitions are held there. Each year it hosts tournaments on gymnastics and sports dances.

Burgas offers good facilities for amateur sports. The fitness centres are more than ten and have the necessary conditions, equipment and trainers. Prices vary depending on the type of the service and the category of the hall. For all types of services a subscription is offered – single subscription or family subscription cards, which make the price of the service lower. The pupils and the students use discounts from 30 to 50 %.



For those who like swimming Burgas offers two 50-meter long swimming pools and a warm sea from May till October.

Tennis fans may play tennis on three tennis grounds in town against payment. Most preferable ones are the tennis courts in the Sea Garden, which are the biggest ones and combine a good ground and sea air.

For those who love jogging the Sea Garden offers the most perfect conditions – an appropriate climate (in Burgas it is rare that the temperatures are below the zero), well preserved alleys, proximity to the sea. The Garden is also a pleasant place for walks and social contacts.

During the high tourist season you can also surf or do water skiing in Burgas Bay.

In Burgas and around Burgas there are no high mountains and there is rarely snow. However, in Bulgaria there are many famous winter resorts that offer ski facilities – the Pamporovo resort in the Rhodopi mountains is about 4-5 hours away from Burgas by car; the Borovets resort in the Rila mountains is about 6 hours drive. 6-7 hours away are Undola, Dobrinishte and Bansko – all famous mountain resorts. All winter resorts offer a full equipment to rent. The tracks are comfortable for skiing from November till the end of March, sometimes till the middle of April.

Leisure and tourism

The central city part is a favourite place for walks. The citizens of Burgas say that when the weather is fine, on the main street “Bogoridi” there is a river of people walking. This street naturally ends in the Sea Garden where it forms a terrace from which you can see the Bay and you can also reach the sea. One of the attractions of the town are the fishermen on the town pier. It is for sure that there is no other town in Bulgaria like Burgas to have so many cafes, confectionaries, clubs and discotheques. They have a specific atmosphere because in them you can meet the culture of the east and the west, the European standards and the spirit of the Balkan south.

To rest in Burgas during the summer means to go to the beach. The warm sea, the sandy beaches and the south sun give a specific atmosphere to the town of Burgas. These make it a resort town.

For those who like travelling Burgas and its region offer a rich variety of opportunities. To the north of Burgas 120 km away is Varna – the other big sea town in Bulgaria. It takes about two hours by car or bus to reach Varna. It will take you only half an hour to go to Sunny Beach – one of the most famous summer resorts in Bulgaria, and to the vacation village “Elenite”. In the same direction is the old town of Nessebar – a town-museum which has kept the ruins of the ancient Roman town Messemvria. To the south of Burgas there are also many summer resorts and vacation villages – Chernomorets, Primorsko, Kiten, Lozenesz, Tsarevo, Ahtopol. In the same direction there is the town-museum Sozopol, the vacation village Dunes, the International Youth Centre – Primorsko and the Ropotamo reserve. In the most southern part of the Region of Burgas is the Strandja mountains. It is the biggest natural park in Bulgaria. It has an extremely rich natural collection of flora and fauna – over 50 % of the flora in the country. This park is a kind of an ethnographic reserve – on its territory you can find the village Bulgari, in which the ritual of the fire dancing is preserved.

Entertainment in Burgas – markets and restaurants

The main market areas in town are along the streets “Alexandrovska”, “Aleco Bogoridi” and “Ferdinandova”. These are also the main pedestrian areas with many cafes, restaurants, bars and clubs. There are two malls in the city – Mall Galleria and Mall Burgas Plaza.

For further information: <http://gotoburgas.com/en>