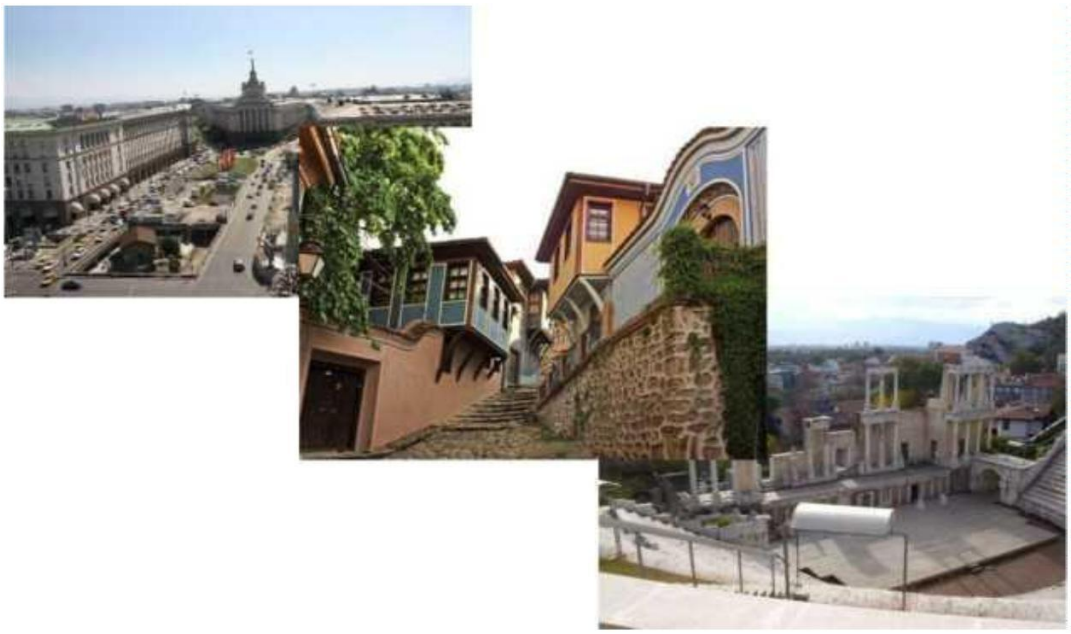


ERASMUS GUIDE FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

2026

Dear Erasmus student,

Thank you for choosing Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen for your Erasmus mobility.

The Erasmus programme gives you a chance once in a lifetime to become part of a lively and extremely successful community of European students. It is not only a valuable personal experience but also an important part of your academic and professional career, and it certainly requires some preparation.

This brochure will guide you through the steps you will need to take as an Erasmus student. It will provide you with useful information and help you while in Bulgaria.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Erasmus departmental coordinators or the International Relations Centre.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Shumen.

Yours faithfully,

Assoc. Prof. Irina Ivanova, Ph.D.

Vice-rector for Research and International Cooperation

WELCOME TO KONSTANTIN PRESLAVSKY UNIVERSITY OF SHUMEN

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen (Шуменски университет „Епископ Константин Преславски”)

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen is among the oldest and most prestigious universities in Bulgaria. It has inherited a centuries-long educational tradition dating back to the famous Pliska and Preslav Literary School (10th c) and going on through the ages in Shumen's intellectual life.

Shumen University is one of the five classical public universities in Bulgaria. It is recognized as a leading university that offers modern facilities for education, research and creative work.

The University has a 40-year-old tradition having started as a branch of Sofia University.

Today *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen has seven structural educational units (five faculties: Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Faculty of Technical Sciences and Faculty of Education; a College in Dobrich and a Department for Information Qualification and Lifelong Learning in Varna). These units provide education for vocational bachelor, bachelor and master's degree programmes. Students who are willing to continue their studies have the chance to enrol for a PhD programme as well.

The academic staff within the University consists of about 400 lecturers, who have contributed significantly to various branches of science and have participated in a number of international educational and academic projects. The University offers different facilities and it has at its disposal many laboratories, educational studios and scientific centres where the academia conducts research focused on the following scientific fields: Old Bulgarian Studies, Theory and History of the Bulgarian Language, Applied Linguistics, Theory and History of Bulgarian Literature, Theological Studies, Bulgarian Christian Art, History of Bulgaria, General History, Mathematics, Informatics, Organic and Non-Organic Synthesis, Agrochemistry, Physics of Aerosols, Astrophysics, Physics of the Plasma, Crystal Optics, Ecology, Microbiology, Organic and Non-organic Chemistry, etc.

The Students' Council is an essential autonomous body within the structure of the University. Students have the opportunity not only to study but also to participate in various activities and programmes that allow them to demonstrate and enhance their skills and competencies.

Faculty of Humanities and Natural and Sciences – Building 1 (mean building), 115 Universitetska Street

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences and Technical Sciences Building 3, 115 Universitetska Street

Faculty of Education – Building 2, 22 Cherveny Eskadrony Street

Erasmus students

Arriving in Shumen students become part of one of the five faculties of the University, and they are free to choose courses that suit their needs in accordance with the major they have registered in.

Like any academic community, Shumen University has some requirements which students have to follow. This guide will help you get oriented in the situation.

Academic Calendar

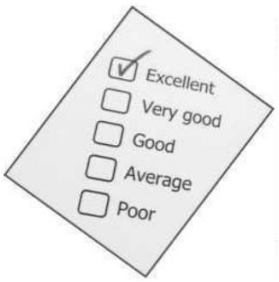
The University academic calendar provides useful information about some of the most important dates:

An academic year at Shumen University consists of two semesters: ***winter and summer semester***. Each semester lasts for 14 weeks and is followed by an examination period of about 4 or 5 weeks. The start and end dates for each of these semesters are available at https://erasmus-en.shu.bg/calendar/

Education is organized in a two-week system, starting with the first week. This means that students have different classes for the first and the second week.

Grading System

Konstantin Preslavsky Unversity of Shumen evaluates students' progress by a six-point grading system.
Lowest grade: ***Poor (2.00)***;
Lowest positive grade: ***Satisfactory (3.00)***;
Highest grade: ***Excellent (6.00).***



You can easily compare the following information so that you can get a complete picture of the grading scale:

National grading system		Grade distribution guidance	ECTS Grade	
Excellent	5.50 - 6.00	5.75 - 6.00	A (10%)	95 % - 100 %
Very good	4.50 - 5.49	5.00 - 5.50	B (25%)	80 % - 94 %
Good	3.50 - 4.49	4.25 - 4.75	C (30%)	61 % - 79 %
Satisfactory	3.00 - 3.49	3.50 - 4.00	D (25%)	46 % - 60 %
		3.00 - 3.25	E (10%)	40 % - 45 %
Poor	2.00	2.50 - 2.75	Fx	-
		2.00 - 2.25	F	

Each course has specific evaluation criteria. Some courses require sitting an exam, others require submitting projects. All the information concerning evaluation criteria can be found at http://erasmus.shu.bg/en or from the Erasmus departmental coordinator.

European Credit Transfer System is applied to all students of the University. As a result the student's annual workload is equivalent to 60 ECTS and the semester workload is 30 ECTS.

Language of Instruction

Most courses at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen are taught in Bulgarian but some of the courses are also available in English.

Students should get in touch with their Erasmus departmental coordinator who will inform them about all the courses available during the chosen semester and about the way they will be conducted.

Students should pay attention to the fact that some courses are only available in English, German, Russian, or Turkish, which means that only students who fulfill the necessary language requirements can do the course.

Course Catalogue

At *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen, we are using the Online Learning Agreement. Here you can find instructions on how to create one.

You can find our Course Catalogue at https://erasmus-en.shu.bg/course-catalogue/.

You can find the necessary contact information about the International Relations Center (Institutional Erasmus+ coordinator, Head of International Relations Centre, and Administrative Erasmus+ Coordinator) - here.

You can find the necessary information about the Faculty Erasmus+ Coordinators- here.

You can find the necessary information about the Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators:

- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the Faculty of Humanities - here.
- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the Faculty of Natural and Sciences - here.
- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the Faculty of Education - here.
- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science - here.
- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the Technical Sciences - here.
- Departmental Erasmus+ Coordinators from the College – Dobrich - here.

If you have questions don't hesitate to contact us by e-mail at erasmus@shu.bg

Application procedures and deadlines

Any student wishing to study as an Erasmus student at the *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen should first be nominated by their home institution by using our nomination form. More

information about the nomination procedure and the nomination form can be found at https://erasmus-en.shu.bg/nomination/.

You have been informed by e-mail that we have accepted your nomination? Great!

Now you can proceed with filling in your Application documents. Here are the deadlines for receiving the Application documents: https://erasmus-en.shu.bg/application/

We use the Online Learning Agreement (OLA) system for Learning Agreements for studies. You can find more information about how to create OLA- here.

NB! If the student is a non-EU citizen he/she will be required to register with the Police Station in Shumen within 5 days of his/her arrival.

Visa Requirements

If the student is not an EU citizen he/she must apply for a visa to the Bulgarian Embassy/Consulate General in their home country to get permission to come to Bulgaria as an Erasmus student. In order to obtain it he/she will need the acceptance letter which will be sent to them after the successful application. Each student receives two original copies of the acceptance letter (one in Bulgarian and one in English).

For more information or further inquiries about entry conditions, students must consult the Bulgarian Embassy: http://www.vfsglobal.com/bulgaria/turkey/english/student visaf ees.html

Students must allow enough time to apply for a visa. The type of visa they should apply for is a visa D, as it is the only type of visa allowing them to spend a whole semester in Bulgaria.

Students from non-EU countries should also register with the Police Station up to 3 days after their arrival in Bulgaria.

Admissions

Once an application form has been received and processed by the Erasmus Administrative Coordinator, it is sent to the respective Erasmus departmental coordinator for approval. The departmental coordinator provides the Erasmus Administrative Coordinator with feedback on the chosen programme of study.

The Erasmus Administrative Coordinator informs the student by e-mail, if the application has been successful and, if appropriate, it conveys the feedback from the departmental coordinator who acts as the student's adviser of studies during the student's stay in Shumen. The Administrative Coordinator provides students with information about their arrival in Shumen and informs them

about their buddies.

If a student's application to study at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen is approved, he/she receives an official letter of acceptance. For safety reasons, it is posted to the student's home university.

The Erasmus Administrative Coordinator is the main contact for general (non-academic or administrative) queries before the student's arrival and during his/her time in Shumen. Students should e-mail the Administrative Coordinator about any queries they may have prior to or during their time in Shumen (e-mail: erasmus@shu.bg.).

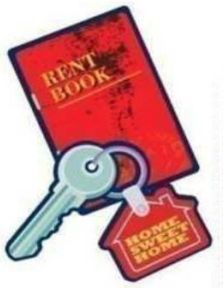
NB! Students should note that the Erasmus Administrative Coordinator receives a large bulk of e-mails and a response will be sent to all possible questions as soon as possible. Students should not use any other e-mail address and should not send the same e-mail several times.

If a student has any specific academic queries after he/she has been admitted as an Erasmus student at the University, they must contact the departmental coordinator whose details can be found at http://erasmus.shu.bg/en/contact-us/. Go to coordinators/departmental coordinators.

The student's acceptance letter will state the following information:

1. Name of student
2. Date of birth
3. Nationality
4. ID number (if applicable)
5. Duration of stay
6. Semester start and end dates
7. Examination period
8. Accommodation details

If the student wants us to write some additional information in his/her acceptance letter, they should inform the Administrative Coordinator well in advance.



Accommodation

As it comes to accommodation, students have three options. They can live in the Students' Halls of Residence, the Hostel of the University, or rent a flat.

Students who would like to live in the Students' Halls of Residence will be given a room in one of the three blocks of flats where most students live. Students usually have to share a room with another Erasmus student. Students' Halls of Residence are situated very close to the main building of the University, the Faculty of Technical Sciences and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. This makes them very comfortable for all the students studying at the Faculty of Natural Sciences as well.

In principle, students can live in the Students' Halls of Residence but, for the sake of convenience, we are offering them to apply for the **University Hostel.**

The Hostel provides accommodation only to visiting lecturers and Erasmus students. It has 20 flats, each having 2 bedrooms, a toilet, and a bathroom. Students living in the University Hostel will have free wireless internet access, and if they want to have their room cleaned and their bed linen washed, they can have it once a week free of charge.

Price: Students have to pay about 210 € per month (with utility bills) for accommodation per person per month from the beginning of the academic year in September to the end of the examination period in July. (The prices may change so check the current prices before arrival.)

Students can also rent their own flat or share one with other students.

Unfortunately, Shumen University cannot provide guidance on applying for accommodation in a flat. Student accommodation is available in a flat but can be expensive, and short-term contracts (rents) may not be possible as most of them are mostly for a calendar year.

There are many real estate agents which advertise property for rent and local newspapers are also a good source of information, but as finding a short-term accommodation is hard and time-consuming, and the language barrier is a major obstacle, students should start looking for a flat well before they arrive in Shumen and they are advised to get some help from their buddies.

NB! Before signing a contract for private accommodation, it is essential that students should be fully aware of the implications of the document which will be legally binding.

Buddy programme and orientation of incoming students

As soon as the Erasmus student is admitted the Administrative Erasmus Coordinator starts looking

for his/her buddy. Buddies are former Erasmus students or students who are willing to help fellow students coming from another European country.

When a suitable buddy is found, the Administrative Coordinator sends an email to the student with his buddy's contact data and vice versa.

As the buddies are supposed to meet the students and help them during their first weeks in Shumen, students should inform them about the exact time and place of arrival in Shumen**. NB! In order to minimize the chance for problems, students should also inform the Erasmus coordinators about the date and time of their arrival.**

In order to help incoming students, especially those who will be in Bulgaria for the first time, the University organizes a meeting of all incoming students. It is a special evening during the students first week in Shumen. On this event each of the students and some of our Bulgarian students present their country, region, home town, history, cultural heritage, cuisine and traditions. The exact date and time are always fixed before the students' arrival.

The University also organizes a Bulgarian language and Culture course. Its programme allows students to learn survival Bulgarian and to get to know Bulgarian culture.

Travel arrangements

Travelling by plane is surely the fastest and easiest way for students from Western and Central Europe, while coaches are the most frequent choice of students coming from Turkey.

There are four major airports in Bulgaria: Sofia airport, Plovdiv airport, Burgas airport and Varna airport.

Sofia airport
Sofia airport is the largest one.

From Sofia airport to the Central Bus and Train Station
Luckily Sofia's Central Bus Station and Train Station are only 50 metres away from each other, so students have an option how to get to Shumen.

For more information check: http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/

Travelling by train
A direct service operates between Sofia and Shumen on a regular basis, i.e. 3-4 times a day it takes approximately 7 hours to arrive in Shumen.

For more information check: https://razpisanie.bdz.bg/en

Travelling by bus
There are buses from Sofia to Shumen more often than trains.

Travelling by bus is faster and more comfortable it lasts about 5 to 6 hours.

For information check: https://union-ivkoni.com/en/

Shumen Bus Station and Shumen Train Station are close to each other.

The Central Bus station in Shumen is located at 29 "Rishky prohod" Str., right next to the Central Train station.

Varna Airport

Varna airport is a considerably small airport. It is very convenient as it is only 90 km away from Shumen. It is situated 7 km away from the city centre at the heart of a highly developed business community, close to the most famous Bulgarian summer resorts.
Welcome! | Varna Airport (varna-airport.bg)

By bus
Taking a bus is the fastest and easiest way to get to Shumen.

Students have to take № 409 bus from the airport to the bus station. The bus stops in front of Varna Airport and it takes about 20-25 minutes to get to the central bus station.

For information check: https://union-ivkoni.com/en/

Plovdiv Airport

Plovdiv Airport is a relatively small airport located in Southern Bulgaria. Although a low-cost airport, it is highly unrecommendable to fly to that airport because of the location of Plovdiv (it is very far from Shumen) and because of the few trains and buses operating between the two cities. The journey lasts about 7-8 hours.

For information check: https://union-ivkoni.com/en/

Burgas airport

Burgas Airport is in Burgas which is situated on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast, 10 km north-east of the city. Burgas is only 150 km from Shumen, but transport takes about 3 hours to get

to Shumen.

For information check: https://union-ivkoni.com/en/

Currency

From the 1st of January 2026, the official currency in Bulgaria is euro. If you need to exchange money, there are many exchange bureaus in Shumen. When exchanging money, never do it on the street.

Climate

The country is situated in the south-eastern part of Europe and its northern border with Romania follows the Danube river.

The Black Sea is to the east of the country. It borders with Romania to the north, Greece and Turkey to the south, and Serbia and Macedonia to the west. Considering its small size, Bulgaria has a great variety of topographical features: plains, plateaus, hills, mountains, gorges, and deep river valleys.

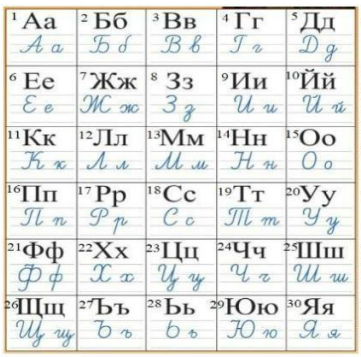
The country has moderate climate, cold winters and hot summers. Situated in the middle of the country, the Balkan Range influences the climate in Bulgaria and the northern part of the country with lower temperatures and more rain than the southern low lands.

Shumen is situated in the Danubian Plain, and it is at the foot of Shumen Plateau, at an altitude of 300 metres. It lies 80 km west of Varna and is built within a cluster of hills.

The winters are cold here; the average temperature in January is -0,5°C, while the temperature in July is about 32°C. It rains mostly in May and June and the least in September.

Language

Macedonian, such as the elimination of the case system, development of a suffixed definite article, lack of a verb infinitive, and retention and further development of the proto-Slavic verb system. The number of people in the world speaking Bulgarian fluently ranges from about 9 million to 12 million.



The Bulgarian alphabet was created in 862 by two Byzantine Greek brothers Cyril and Methodius. The Bulgarian nation proclaimed them for saints and their deed is celebrated every year on 24th May.

Customs and Traditions

Fire Dancing

This is a custom that can be seen only in some villages between Strandzha and the Black Sea, around Burgas. A basic element of the custom is
the dance in fire (glowing embers). The whole village takes part in the celebration but it is only the fire-dancers that participate in the ritual dance.

Kukeri (Mummers' Dancing)

On New Year's Eve special rituals called Kukeri Dances take place.
The Mummers' Dancing is performed by men only.
They put on special hand-made masks. Most of the masks are made of wood. Different coloured threads are glued on it as well as pieces of multicolored fabrics, mirrors and other shiny elements. The masks represent rams, goats and bulls. The impact that the masked mummers make gets even greater by the sound of the copper and bronze bells that hang on them.
The mummer's games aim to scare and sweep away the evil spirits.

Baba Marta - 1st March

Baba Marta is a Bulgarian tradition related to the welcoming of spring. On the first day of March and few days afterwards, Bulgarian's exchange and wear white and red tassels or small dolls called "Pizho and Penda" (Пижо и Пенда) made of white and red yarn.

Food, Typical Bulgarian Meals

Some of the products of the Bulgarian cuisine are famous worldwide and are highly appreciated by gourmet specialists and gastronomers.

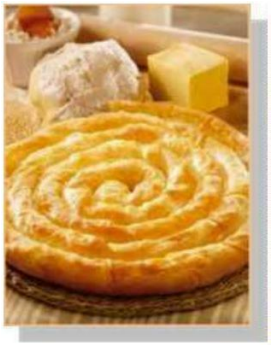
Typical Bulgarian cooking recipes try to preserve as many vitamins as possible. This makes the food tasty and healthy. Cooking techniques have changed through the years but today Bulgarians still bake, stew, boil, fry and prepare food in earthenware dishes.

Barbeques are also widely used in Bulgarian cuisine. Grilling gives the meat a specific taste and flavour, and at the same time it remains delicious, tender and juicy.

Bulgarian cuisine was influenced by the diversity of nature, its four seasons, and most of the vegetables and fruits used in it are fresh. The types of meat vary according to the time of the year. Lamb is preferred in the spring, in the summer most Bulgarians eat chicken, beef and vegetarian food, during the winter season pork is preferred because of its strong taste and high amount of calories. Fish is consumed throughout the year.

Bulgarian meals are different in the different regions; they have specific types of food and exotic dishes: banska kapama (meat and vegetables stewed in an earthenware dish); rhodopsko cheverme (roasted lamb baked on a spit on an open fire); trakiiski katmi (special type of pancakes); dobrudjanska banitsa; fish soup, etc.

Restaurants and taverns offer traditional or regional dishes. One



of the Bulgarian national dishes is shopska salata (salad made with baked pepper, tomatoes, cucumbers, onion and white cheese); it is traditionally consumed with cold rakia (a hard drink, worth trying and similar to brandy). Other meals quite typical for the Bulgarian culture are *bob chorba* (beans soup), *kebapcheta*, *kufteta* (meatballs); *musaka*; *kavurma*; *kebap*.

Bulgaria is very famous for its natural yoghurt, which is very delicious. The homemade bread has an aroma which cannot be easily forgotten.

Bulgarian wine is part of the identity of our cuisine. Well-known Bulgarian brands of wine are *Muskat, Trammer and Dimyat.*
Famous red wines are *Mavrud, Gamza, Merlot, Cabernet.*

Shumen is famous for its beer. Its brewery was established in 1882 and since then *Shumensko Pivo* has been one of the favourite beer brands.

Students can have lunch or dinner at: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g612412-Shumen_Shumen_Province.html

Supermarkets and Food

Students can also buy food from supermarkets. There are several supermarkets in Shumen where they can find local and foreign products. Billa, Kaufland, Lidl, Bulmag (more than 10 supermarkets in the city) with average working time Monday to Saturday: 8-22; Sunday: 9-21

Landmarks, Cultural and Historical Heritage

Shumen and the surrounding area have a very rich history and natural attractions, which predisposes to many places that can be visited. More information can be found in this travel guide.

Also, you can find more useful information here.

Hospital and treatment

→ Emergency calls to Police, Fire service and Ambulance: 112

→ The main emergency hospital in Shumen is the **Multi-profile Hospital for Active Treatment (MBAL) Shumen**. Here is the address: 1 Vasil Aprilov Street, 9700 Shumen, Bulgaria

NB! Insurance: The university does not cover the medical costs of students. Students should have a European health insurance card or relevant health insurance. You can find more information about the health insurance card HERE

→ TAXI: +359 54 80 000
→ Dentist: You can find many dentists in the city. In case you need dental treatment and can't find a dentist contact the Erasmus office for assistance.
→ Bulgarian Phone card: Students who want a Bulgarian phone card can buy one from the mobile provider A1. Office address: Shumen, 26 Slavyanski, Boulevard

Last updated March 2026