



SOUTH-WEST
UNIVERSITY
·NEOFIT RILSKI·

South-West University
66, Ivan Mihailov Str.
Blagoevgrad 2700
Bulgaria
Tel.: (+359 73) 88 55 01
Fax: (+359 73) 88 55 16
e-mail: info@swu.bg
www.swu.bg



Prof. Ivan Mirchev, DSc., Rector

The South-West University "Neofit Rilski" is the major institution of higher education in the South-West Bulgaria committed to both teaching and research. It is a prominent center of rich educational, scientific and cultural activities not only in Bulgaria but on the Balkans, as well. Highly qualified academic staff is devoted to attract, select, and nurture outstanding students irrespective of educational, social, racial, political or religious background. All these make the University an attractive place for young people not only from Bulgaria but from many countries of the world.



Assoc. Prof. Borislav Yurukov, PhD
Vice Rector of Scientific and Research Activities



Assoc. Prof. Raya Madgerova, PhD
Vice Rector of Accreditation, Master Programs and Continuing Education



Assoc. Prof. Trayan Popkochev, PhD
Vice Rector of Educational Activities - Bachelor programs



Brief History of the University

South-West University „Neofit Rilski“ is a higher education institution of modern Bulgaria. It is a state-owned university, established and functioning by virtue of property and an annual state subsidy secured by the government. The University operates in compliance with all the state regulations. It started in 1975 as an affiliate faculty of the Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ with only two departments: Pre-School Education and Primary School Education. In 1983 it was officially decreed as an autonomous higher education institution under the name Higher Institute of Education. Two years later, in 1985, a Scientific Council started to function. It was granted the right to elect associate professors in Education, Psychology, Education for disabled children and Methods of Training. In 1995 with an Act of the Bulgarian Parliament it was given the status of a university under the name South-West University „Neofit Rilski“. It was named after one of the famous Bulgarian enlighteners, scientists and educators, Neofit Rilski, who lived and worked in 19th century at the famous Rila School.

The Bulgarian National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation, a body of the Council of Ministers, granted an institutional accreditation to the South West University on July 26, 2012, with the highest grade - VERY GOOD, for the longest period of durability - 6 years (until 2018).

Currently, the University has 8 faculties and a college encompassing social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, technics and technologies and offering more than 60 Bachelor Degree Programs, 86 Master Degree Programs and more than 40 Doctoral Degree Programs. The University provides also continuing education opportunities and is the largest provider of non-credit professional upgrade training all over South-West Bulgaria.

Today the South-West University „Neofit Rilski“ is the major institution of higher education in South-Western Bulgaria committed to both teaching and research. It is a prominent center of rich educational, scientific and cultural activities not only in Bulgaria but on the Balkans, as well. Highly qualified academic staff is devoted to attract, select, and nurture outstanding students irrespective of educational, social, racial, political or religious background. All these make the University an attractive place for young people not only from Bulgaria but from many countries of the world.

General description of the University

The South-West University „Neofit Rilski“ is located in Blagoevgrad, a modern town of about 80 000 citizens. It is situated 100 km south from the capital, Sofia, and near the borders of Greece and the Republic of Macedonia.

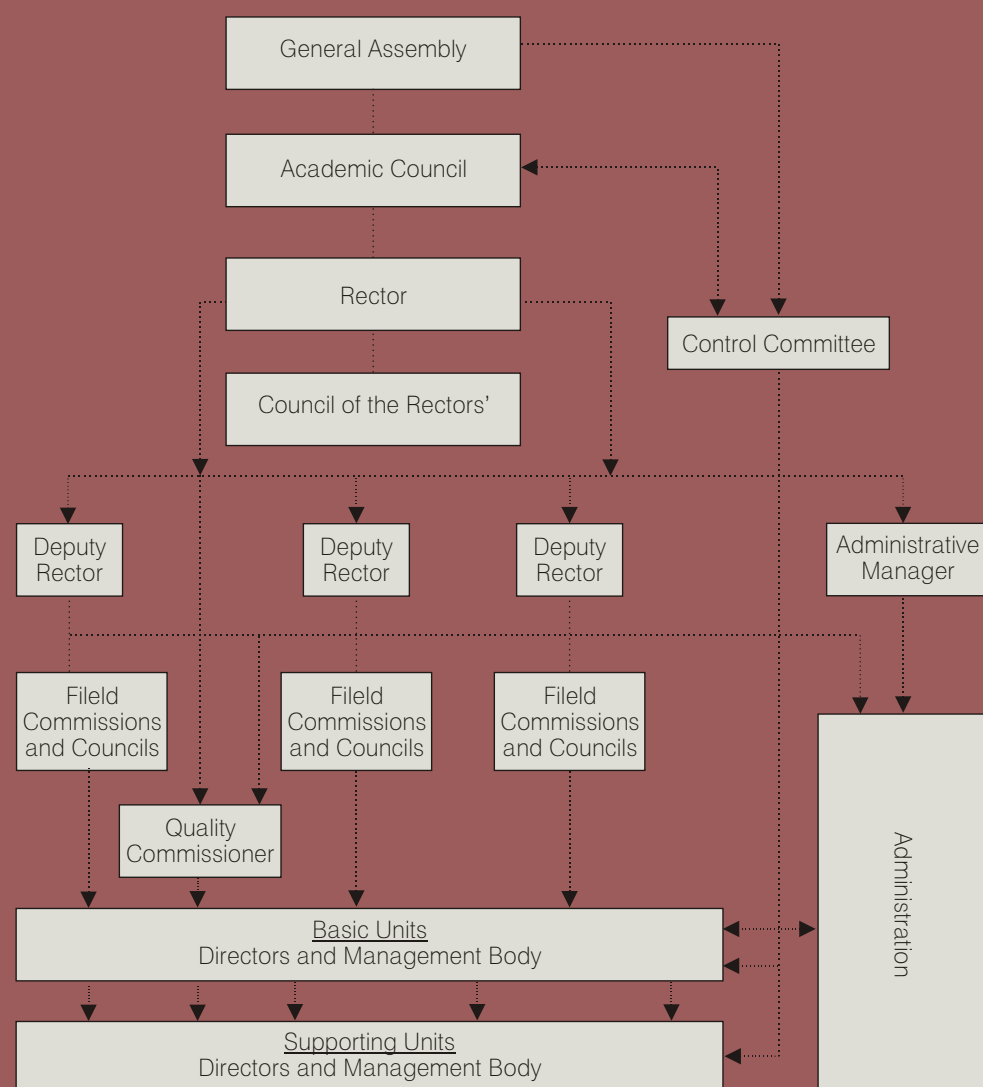
The University is housed in several campuses around town consisting of amphitheater lecture halls, teaching and seminar rooms, computer and other specialized laboratories, administrative offices and others. The university also possesses its own sport grounds and facilities, dormitories, canteens, etc.

More than 12 000 undergraduates and post-graduates pursue their studies currently at the South-West University (more than 800 of them are foreign students). The teaching staff and researchers are composed of more than 550 professors and associate professors.



FACULTIES:

1. Faculty of Law and History
2. Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
3. Faculty of Economics
4. Faculty of Arts
5. Faculty of Pedagogy
6. Faculty of Philology
7. Faculty of Philosophy
8. Faculty of Public Health and Sport
9. Technical College

UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE**Academic Structure and Managing Bodies of the University**

The managing bodies of the South-West University „Neofit Rilski“ are the General Assembly, the Academic Council and the Rector. They serve a four-year term of office. The academic structure of the University comprises of eight faculties, a college and other auxiliary units like the University Library, the Printing and Publishing House, different centers and laboratories. The faculties have different departments. The General Assembly, the Faculty Board and the Dean are the managing body of the faculty. The management body of the department is the Department Board and the Head of the Department.

The Faculties conduct training for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's degrees. The College provides professional qualifications and trains students acquiring the educational qualification degree of „Professional Bachelor“. The Department performs training and research activities in one or a group of related subjects.

The Academic Council is the major body that manages the training and research activities of the South-West University.

The Control Committee is a body for control of internal educational activities.

The Students' Council is defending the common interests of students. It consists of representatives of the undergraduates and postgraduates in the South-West University „Neofit Rilski“ in the General Assembly.

Quality of Education Department

At the university exists „Department for evaluation and support of the educational quality“. It was created in 2004. Its main goals are:

to confide expert evaluation of new or renewed study programs for Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral studies;

to provide planned or none planned inside audits for the quality of the documentation;

to survey students' satisfaction with the quality of the study process and administrative services;

to survey the employers' opinion of the quality of the students' training;

to inform the executive body and the basic units of the university, about the results of the established audits and the survey of the students' and employers' opinions.

to provide education of the staff for observing and estimating the quality of education offered at the university.

Assoc. Prof. Miho Mihov MD, PhD
e-mail: kachestvo@swu.bg

Career Development Center (CDC)

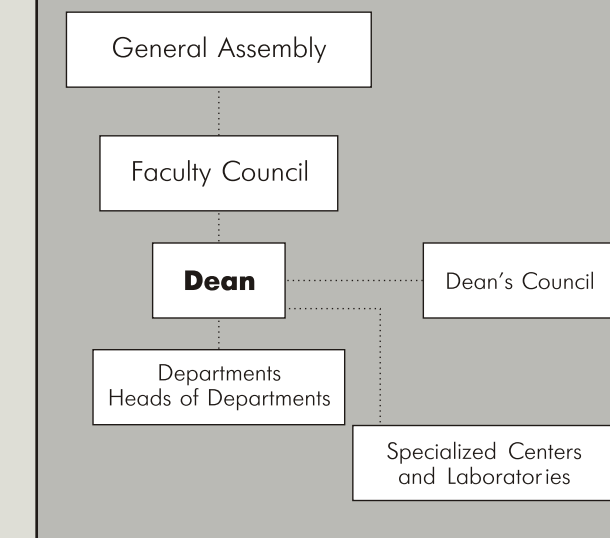
The South West University's Career Development Center provides an extensive set of services focused on assisting students, alumni and employers in career planning and placement process. The services aid the comprehensive identification and promotion of the expertise and values that South West University students acquire from the academic milieu.

The Career Development Center offers counseling to students and alumni to help them identify talents, interests and values in making informed career choices. Workshops and presentations on various topics (job searching strategies, resume and cover letter writing, interview techniques, career expectations) strengthen student and alumni skills to better respond to employment demand.

Goals of the CDC:

- to establish partnerships with students, faculty staff, and employers to carry out our mission;
- to increase the number of students successfully achieving their career goals by using our services;
- to be able to respond to the business requirements for high-qualified employees.

Career Development Center
<http://career.swu.bg>
Tel./ Fax: +359 73 588 517
e-mail: career@swu.bg

FACULTY STRUCTURE



International Relations Office

International Relations Office contributes for turning the South-West University into an innovative, humanitarian, accessible, dynamic and responsible democratic higher educational institution.

International Relations are defined by the correspondence to the **ACADEMIC PROFILE** of the University and are in close relationship with the educational philosophy of the educational institution, which reflects the adopted by the Academic Council of the South-West University concept for high quality education, knowledge and skills in the field of the narrow professional specialization.

The International Relations activities are administrated and managed by the International Relations Office.

Functions of the International Relations Office

- Administrates number of International Programs
- Coordinates, negotiates, reports and/or funds the activities
- Ensures the South-West University's membership in international organizations
- Promotes contacts with other universities, local, regional and national government and NGOs
- Consults academic professors and students for completing application documents
- Administrates all activities, concerning the stay of international students and provides institutional support for the international student mobility in the ERASMUS programs.
- Maintains academic collaboration with educational institutions from EU, South-East Europe, America, Australia, etc.
- Looks for potential partners to cooperate with
- Organizes visits of international guests

The University accepted a Strategy for Development of the South-West University (2012 - 2020) according to Europe 2020 Strategy. The vision of the University is to be an international recognizable, prestigious and dynamic European institution of higher education that offers high level of education and research.

International Relations Office
Tel.: (+359 73) 88 55 04
e-mail: iroffice@swu.bg

Foreign Students at South West University



Greece



Ukraine



Pakistan



Moldova



Japan



Yemen



Albania



Serbia



Macedonia

There are more than 500 foreign students from Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine studying at South West University and 19 doing their PhD studies.



Prof. Dr. M. Caplan obtaining the Doctor Honoris Causa title of the SWU and Prof. D. Georgieva

ACADEMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

Adam Mitczkevich University, Poznan, Poland
University of Tromso, Norway
Aristotle University in Thessalonici, Greece
Pavlodar State University, Kazakhstan
State Humanitarian University, Izmail, Ukraine
University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic
University of Nis, Serbia
University of Bucharest, Romania
State Pedagogical University, Novosibirsk, Russia
University for Foreigners, Perugia, Italy
University of Szczecin, Poland
Technical University of Santiago, Chile
San Sebastian University, Santiago, Chile
Finis Terrae University, Santiago, Chile
State Pedagogical University, Melitopol, Ukraine
State Pedagogical University, Mozhir, Belarus
American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
St. Cyril and Methodius University, Bitola, Macedonia
Academy of Physical Education, Wroclaw, Poland
Fan S. Noli University, Korce, Albania
Andrzej Modrzhevski College, Krakow, Poland
Free University of Brussels, Belgium
Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey
University of Florence, Italy
University of Patras, Greece
University Roma Tre, Italy
State Pedagogical University, Berdiansk, Ukraine
State University of Eletzk, Russia
Maria-Curie Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland
Shota Rustaveli State University, Batumi, Georgia
Danube University Krems, Austria
Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey
University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy
University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, Paris, France
Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Computer College, Koszalin, Poland
Academia Pomorska, Slupsk, Poland

SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY LLP-ERASMUS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS



Lifelong Learning Programme

University of Sevilla, Sevilla, Spain
Free University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
University "Robert Schuman", Strasbourg, France
University of Nancy 2, Nancy, France
University Paris 12-Val de Marne, Paris, France
Mykolo Romero University, Vilnius, Lithuania
University of Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania
University of Muenster, Muenster, Germany
University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria
University "Babes-Bolyai", Cluj-Napoca, Romania
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
University of Szczecin, Szczecin, Poland
Charles University of Prague, Prague, Czech republic
University of Rennes, France
National Technical University of Athens, Greece
Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
University of Siegen, Germany
University of Madeira, Spain
University of Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia
Potsdam University, Potsdam, Germany
University of Applied Sciences, Graz, Austria
Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany
University of Applied Sciences in Bern, Switzerland
Kodolany Janos University of Applied Sciences, Szekesfehervar, Hungary

University of Pavia, Italy
Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Izmir University of Economics, Turkey
Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey
"Lucian Blaga" University in Sibiu, Romania
University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Deusto University, Bilbao, Spain
University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary
University Maria-Curie Sklodowska, Lublin, Poland
University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic
Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland
Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic
Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Lodz University, Lodz, Poland
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland
Free Brussels University, Brussels, Belgium
Lunds University, Lund, Sweden
Danube University, Krems, Austria
University of Education, Freiburg, Germany
Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany
University of Huelva, Spain
Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
University of Florence, Florence, Italy
University for foreigners in Perugia, Italy
University Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), Paris, France
University of Applied Sciences, Zittau/Goerlitz, Germany
HUMAK University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland
University of Macedonia, Economic and Social Sciences, Thessaloniki, Greece

Jagellonian University, Krakow, Poland
Ludwigsburg University of Education, Ludwigsburg, Germany
University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden
University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium
Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Eindhoven, Netherlands

De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom
Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany
Anadolu University, Turkey
La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy
University of Eskisehir, Eskisehir, Turkey
University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom
University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden
Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Eindhoven, Netherlands

University of Eskisehir, Eskisehir, Turkey
University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom

OTHER NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN PROGRAMS

South West University's professors and students are very active in establishing and maintaining projects and effective cooperation with national and foreign institutions and NGOs. That makes the University an attractive partner for collaboration in the framework of different National, European and other funding programs like:

CEEPUS
INTAS
DAAD
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMS
COST
MATRA UNITED NETHERLAND FOUNDATIONS
NATIONAL SCIENCE FUND
BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROJECTS
THE WORLD BANK PROJECTS
FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALIST PROGRAM
LEONARDO DA VINCHI
YOUTH
BILATERAL GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS
FOREIGN EMBASSY PROJECTS
OPEN SOCIETY PROJECTS, etc.





COOPERATION WITH CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

South-West University develops scientific and cultural cooperation with:

- British Council
- French Cultural Institute
- Russian Cultural Institute
- Italian Cultural Institute
- Institute Cervantes
- Open Society Institute
- Goethe Institute, etc.



Academic Calendar

The academic year usually starts in the beginning of September and lasts around 9 months. It is divided in two semesters (Fall and Spring). The two semestrial system requires 15 weeks of classes for each semester. The semesters are followed by four weeks examination periods. Unsuccessful students can take their make-up exam in the second examination sessions organized in February and September. The main form of assessing knowledge is written examination.

The summer vacation usually starts at the beginning of July and extends until the end of August. There is a break for Christmas and the New Year holidays as well as for Easter holidays. The University respects all official and national holidays. Special ceremonies are held for the 1st day of the academic year and also for the Student's Day on the 8th of December.

The official graduation ceremonies are usually held each year between 10th and 20th December.

During the semesters the students attend lectures, participate in seminars and workshops and do practical or clinical work. Then they pass examinations during the sessions to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired.

The studies in each degree program for first (Bachelor) and second (Master) degree end with a state exam or defense of a Bachelor or Master thesis. The state exam or defense of Bachelor or Master thesis is conducted in accordance with the state requirements for graduation in the front of a panel of habilitated lecturers.

The Doctor's degree is awarded to persons who have passed the required exams and defended their Ph.D. thesis under the terms and conditions laid down by the Law for Academic Staff Development.

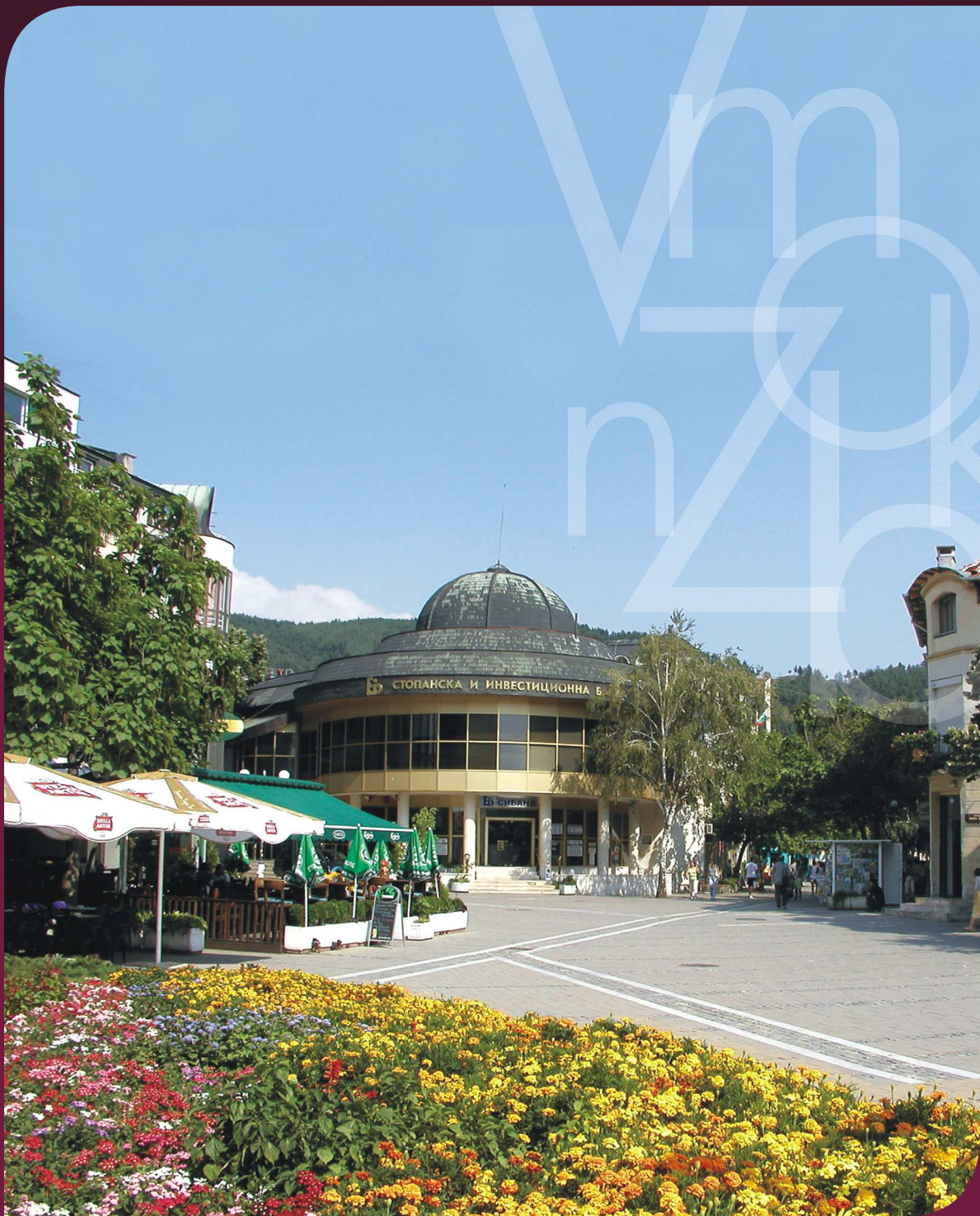
Grading System

The Grading System at all schools of Bulgaria has been decreed by the Higher Education Act and the long educational tradition. The knowledge and skills of the students are assessed on a six mark rating scale. These are: Excellent (6.00), Very Good (5.00), Good (4.00), Satisfactory (3.00) and Poor (2.00). An examination is considered successfully passed if the mark is at least Satisfactory (3.00).

The Academic Council of the South-West University took a decision to introduce the European Credit Transfer System. The SWU grading system is transferable to the ECTS grading system in the way, shown in the table.

IMPORTANT for Foreign Students!

All Master Degree Programs are offered in English.



ECTS GRADE	ECTS DEFINITION	S-W UNIVERSITY GRADE	
A	EXCELLENT Outstanding performance with only minor errors	6	EXCELLENT
B	VERY GOOD Above the average standard but with some errors	5	VERY GOOD
C	GOOD Generally sound work with a number of notable errors	4	GOOD
D	SATISFACTORY Fair but with significant shortcomings	3	SATISFACTORY
E	SUFFICIENT Performance meets the minimum criteria	3	SATISFACTORY
FX/F	FAIL Some more work required before the credit can be awarded	2	POOR
F	FAIL Considerable further work is required	2	POOR



Assoc. Prof. Gabriela Belova, PhD

FACULTY OF LAW AND HISTORY

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Gabriela Belova, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/88 66 17
 e-mail: admin@law.swu.bg
 web: http://www.law.swu.bg
 Address: Georgi Izmirliiev-Makedoncheto Sq.,
 Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Radoslava Kirova

The Faculty of Law was founded in 1991 in accordance with the contemporary requirements of higher education. In 1999, the new Faculty of Law and History amalgamated the existing Faculty of Law, Faculty of History, the Department of Psychology and the department of Sociology.

The Faculty of Law and History of the South-West University has had many years of history, which have made it an authoritative educational and research center. It has celebrated its 20th anniversary since its foundation, holding a conference under the auspices of the Minister for European Union Funds Tomislav Donchev.

The necessary preconditions have been created for implementing the requirements set by the University Erasmus Charter, the Lisbon Convention and the Bologna Declaration for building a new European area of higher education. There are good results in conformity with the curricula of the leading European universities, implementation of the ECTS, issuance of Europass Diploma Supplement as well as expanding academic mobility. The philosophy of education at the Faculty of Law and History reflects the ambitions towards organizing a modern educational process. A crucial factor for the prosperity of the faculty in the 21st century as well as for the scientific and professional development of the academic staff was the creation of an integrated faculty information infrastructure together with securing complete electronic services for students via the Internet. It provides direct access to plenty of valuable information of the faculty life.

The Faculty of Law and History is constantly expanding its international activities under the motto „Open to the World“. Intensive and effective cooperation is being enhanced with the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg, France; the Faculty of Law of the University Paris XII, France; the Faculty of Law of the Columbia University in New York, USA; Faculty of Law of Salzburg University, Austria; Center for International Legal Studies, Salzburg, Austria; the Faculty of Law of the Moscow State University „M. V. Lomonosov“, Russia; Moscow State Academy of Law „O. E. Kutafin“, Russia; St. Petersburg State University, Russia; Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine; Karaganda State University „E. A. Buketov“, Kazakhstan; Mykolas Romerius University, Vilnius, Lithuania; Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; Macedonian University of Thessaloniki, Greece; Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, Greece; University of Wroclaw, Poland; University of Stip, Macedonia and many others.

The Faculty of Law and History is an active participant in the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission and takes part in many research projects in the frameworks of the Criminal Justice Programme of the EU, INTERREG and COST.

DEPARTMENTS:

Public Law and Public Management
 Civil Law
 International Law and International Relations
 History
 Public Relations



BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Public Administration
 International Relations
 European Studies
 History
 Public Relations

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Law
 National Security
 Territorial Administration
 Tax Administration
 South-East Europe in Contemporary
 International Relations
 European Integration
 Archives and Museums. Protection of Cultural
 Heritage in the Information Society
 History of the Bulgarian Lands in the Context of
 European Development
 Public Relations in Business
 Public Relations in the Developing Socom

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Administrative Law and Administrative Process
 Criminal Law
 Criminal Process
 Civil and Family Law
 Labour Law and Social Security
 Social Management
 Organization and Management outside the Sphere
 of Material Production
 International Law and International Relations
 Ancient History (Thracology)
 General Medieval History
 Modern and New General History
 Modern and New General History (Balkan History)
 Documentaries, Archival Science, Paleography
 Public Communications and Information Studies
 /New Information Technologies Application in PR/





Assoc. Prof. Stefan Stefanov, PhD

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Stefan Stefanov, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/ 588 531
 e-mail: pmf@swu.bg
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Hristina Kovacheva

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was founded in 1989 by a decree of the Council of Ministers. It was organized to pursue higher education and research in different fields of natural science.

The enormous development and differentiation of the natural sciences and their rapidly growing importance in the life of the globalizing world put the institutions providing education and research in this field in a very important position. In order to best serve the needs of the modern society the Faculty went through various organization adjustments during the years.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics currently offers Bachelor, Master and PhD degree programs, as well as specialized courses for further education. It also offers a program to obtain a qualification as a Secondary School Teacher of natural science disciplines. The program involves collateral study including also pedagogical and didactical courses.

The faculty members, carrying out teaching and research, are highly qualified. They participate in many international projects and events and their works often appear in recognized international journals.

Much emphasis is put on experimental work and students are invited to join research with their tutors as soon as possible. They are encouraged to participate in many extracurricular activities and projects.

The Faculty provides a lot of information and communication services through its server and web site maintained by students. Free access to computer labs and Internet is available. The Faculty has also enthusiastically embraced multimedia innovations. These new developments are incorporated into traditional methods of teaching and enable the graduates to develop the sophisticated skills required to navigate in an increasingly computerized world.

As a whole the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics provides an attractive learning, research and working environment for students and staff and offers global outlook, professional skills and adaptability for students to succeed in today's rapidly changing international workforce.

The faculty develops successful international cooperation with many European Universities and Institutes. Some of them are: Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, VSB Technical University in Ostrava, Czech Republic, University "Sv. Kiril i Metodius", Skopje, Macedonia, Uludag University, Bursa, Turkey, Higher Technical Institute, Patras, Greece, Higher Technical Institute, Nicosia, Cyprus, etc.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is one of the leading faculties at the University in the running national and international projects as DAAD, INTERREG, FP-7, National Science Fund, etc. The faculty also organizes many international scientific conferences, workshops and summer schools. They are actively supported by Humboldt Foundation, CEEPUS, Socrates Erasmus Intensive learning program, Central European Initiative, etc.

DEPARTMENTS:

Mathematics
 Computer Sciences
 Physics
 Chemistry
 Geography, Ecology and Environment Protection
 Computer Systems and Technologies



BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

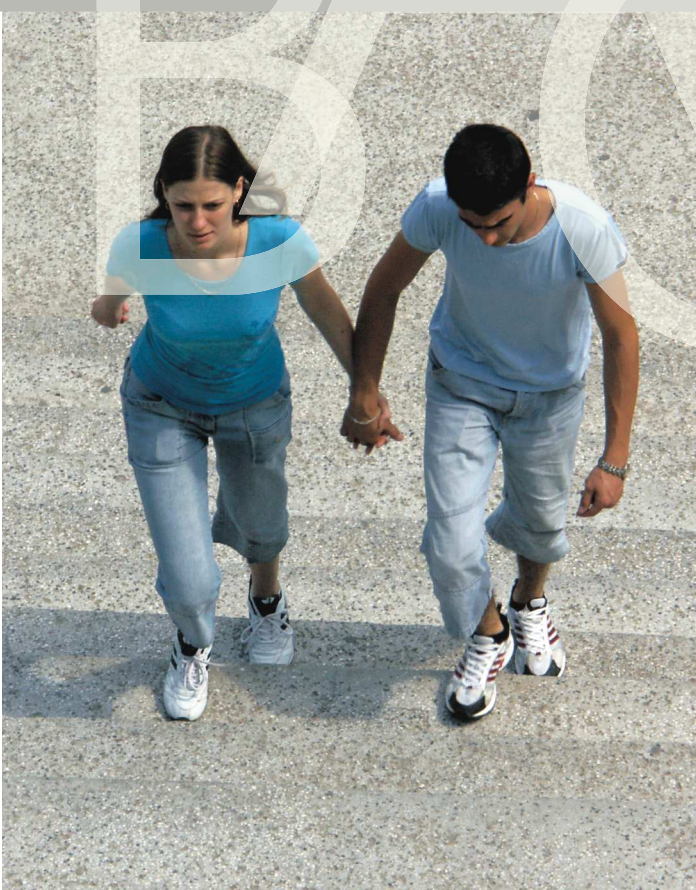
Pedagogy of Teaching Mathematics and Informatics
 Pedagogy of Teaching Physics and Mathematics
 Pedagogy of Teaching Chemistry and Physics
 Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History
 Physics
 Chemistry
 Geography
 Computer Sciences
 Ecology and Environment Protection
 Computer Systems and Technologies

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Energy Sources and Environment Protection
 Biologically Active Substances and Drugs
 Metrology in Chemistry
 Regional Development
 Computer Sciences
 Ecology and Environment Protection
 Computer Systems and Technologies

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Mathematical Analysis
 Operation Research
 Mathematical Modelling and Applications of Mathematics
 Computer Systems and Networks
 Inorganic Chemistry
 Organic Chemistry
 Computer Sciences





Prof. Gancho Ganchev, PhD

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

Dean: Prof. Gancho Ganchev, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/ 885 952
 e-mail: stopfak@swu.bg
 web: http://www.fe.swu.bg/
 Address: 2, Krali Marko Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Miglena Vassileva

The Faculty of Economics was founded in the fall of 1991. It was among the first accredited faculties in Bulgaria. It creates and disseminates knowledge to enable students' successful entry into the business world and offers a rewarding investment opportunity to the business community.

Development and modernizations of teaching and research have been priorities at the Faculty from its very beginning. At present and in the future, the Faculty is endeavoring to become known for its quality and achievements in education and research. In the first decade of the 21st century the Faculty faces new challenges and opportunities. It aims at becoming one of the leading faculties of economics and business not only in Bulgaria but all over the Balkans. The basic principle of its operation is to adhere the standards of academic rigor in teaching and research, thus providing the national and international economy with highly qualified graduates.

The Faculty currently provides training leading to Bachelor and Master degrees in Finance, Accounting and Control, and Business Administration.

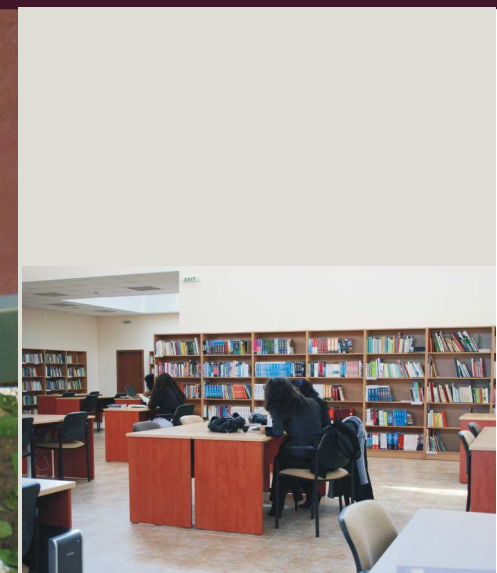
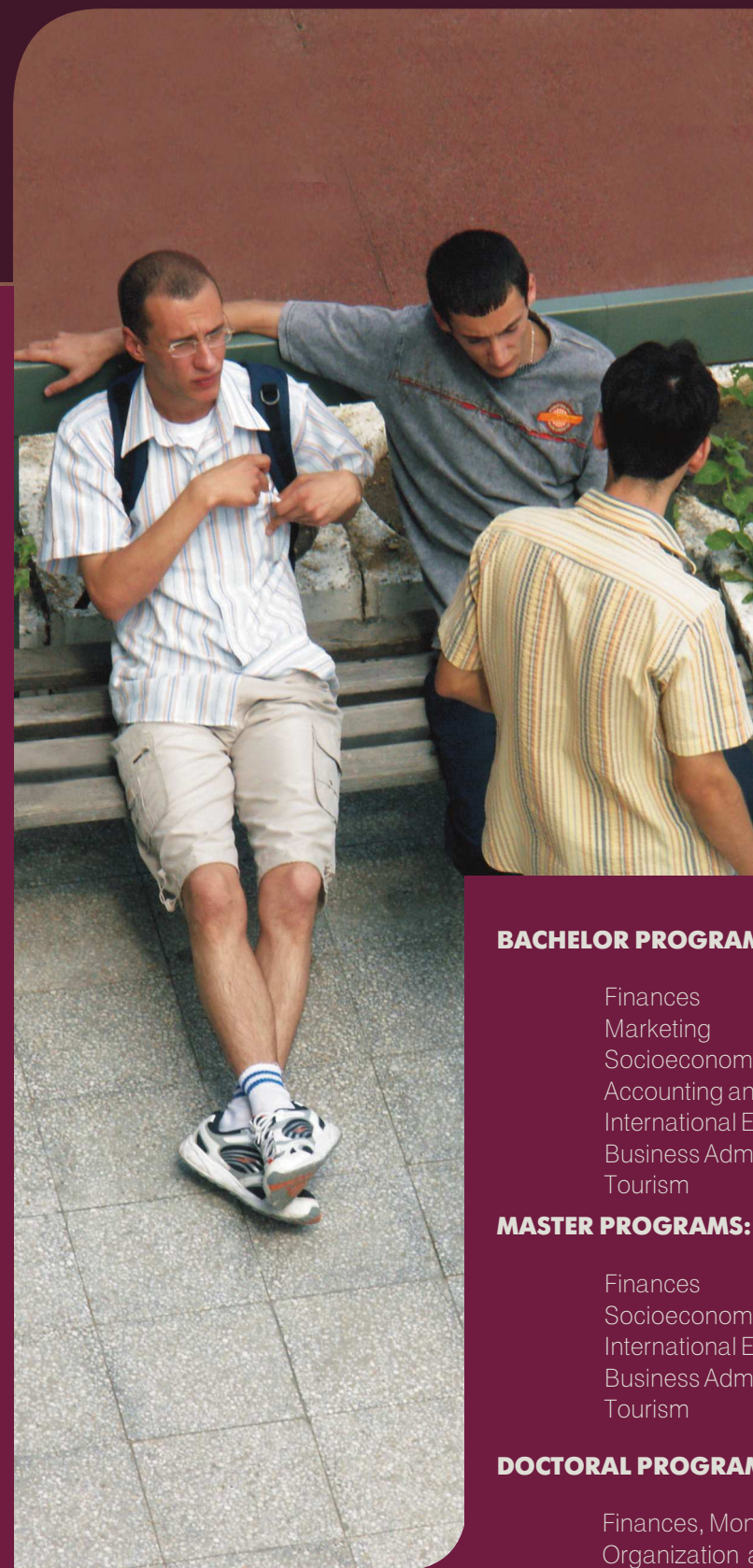
The general aims and goals of all the programs are:

- to develop in students working knowledge of economic systems and a sense of the economic dimensions of social and political issues;
- to provide basic knowledge and understanding of the essential concepts of modern economics, of the contemporary social and political context of the Bulgarian economy, and of the development of economic policy and institutions;
- to develop basic understanding of how to apply economic theory to the analysis of a range of practical economic issues as well as advanced understanding of one or more fields in economic theory, applied economics, econometrics, economic history, etc.;
- to develop skills that are of value for subsequent careers, primarily in professional and managerial occupations.

The Faculty of Economics is a member of the South-East European Economic Faculties Association situated in Thessaloniki. Many distinguished scholars, eminent bankers, successful managers, and leading economy analysts involved in public policy have worked in the Faculty and contributed to its intellectual life in recent years. They cooperate actively with many universities from the Balkan Region, and the Economical Faculty at University "Taras Chevchenko" Kiev, Ukraine.

DEPARTMENTS:

Finance and Accounting
 Management and Marketing
 Tourism
 Economics Theories
 Economics of Socially-Cultural Sphere



BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Finances
 Marketing
 Socioeconomics
 Accounting and Control
 International Economic Relations
 Business Administration
 Tourism

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Finances
 Socioeconomics
 International Economic Relations
 Business Administration
 Tourism

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Finances, Money Turnover, Credit and Insurance
 Organization and Management of the Non-Material
 Production (of the Social and Cultural Sector)
 Economics and Management (Industry / Business
 Administration)
 Economics and Management (Tourism)



Prof. Yordan Goshev, DSc.

FACULTY OF ARTS

Dean: Prof. Yordan Goshev, DSc
 Phone: + 359 73/ 588 533
 e-mail: art@swu.bg
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Vyara Dylgerova

The Faculty of Arts at the South-West University is founded in 1994. Today it is well-known with its indisputable achievements in both arts and scholarly researches and creative activity.

Students follow an integrated program of performance, history, theory - an education taught by Faculty members who are considered ones of the best in their fields. The curricula strive to develop the students to their fullest potential as teachers and performers under the guidance of notable academics and artists. Among the latter there are eminent Bulgarian artists - painters, designers, actors, musicians, composers, choreographers, producers, etc.

The creative activity of the Faculty ranges from invention, interpretation and development to enactment of ideas and works in arts and culture. It makes the Faculty unique not only within the University's academic community but to the wide public, as well. It has achieved and sustained a reputation as being one of the prestigious institutions of art and culture all around the Balkan region for the proven achievements of the students and the teachers in various international art forums.

The extra curricula work of the academic staff and the students is dedicated to cultivation of innovative creative projects, both individual and collaborative, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary; and serves as a motive and a resource of new ideas, collaborations, and interdisciplinary efforts in research and creativity. In addition, the Faculty has built and nurtured contacts to the city of Blagoevgrad through collaboration with all the institutions and organizations related to culture. The regional TV and Radio Stations regularly promote the art performances of the students and their professors, presenting in this way their academic and art achievements to the wider public.

The work of the Faculty of Fine Arts is also being promoting on local, national, and international levels in a variety of ways. A program for cultural exchange between Bulgaria and Italy (with the special support of the Italian Embassy) was established at the Faculty to stimulate the cultural studies and arts in the both countries.

In the field of cultural studies, the faculty collaborates also with the Art Universities in Utrecht, Netherlands, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia, etc. The members of the faculty take part in INTAS projects (Social and Human Science - and the projects of the Bulgarian National Science Fund. The Faculty acts as a supporter of its departments in organizing conferences, concerts, productions, recitals, exhibitions, festivals, fashion shows etc. The Ensemble for folk songs and dances at the Faculty is holding grants and awards from prestigious national and international bodies - in Turkey, Greece, Spain, France, Russia etc. The students and the professors of the Faculty of Arts participate with a great success in many European film festivals.



The coexistence of various art forms in one faculty further contributes to their joint performances. The Faculty of Arts is the initiator of the National Student Art Festival, which is a forum for creative expression in all areas of arts: cinema, theater, music, dance, art and fashion.

DEPARTMENTS:

Fine Arts
 Music
 Cultural Studies
 Choreography
 Cinema and TV Arts

BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Industrial Arts - Fashion
 Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts
 Pedagogy of Teaching Music
 Instrumental Music and Folk Singing
 Musical Theater
 Pop and Jazz Singing
 Bulgarian Folk Choreography
 Film and TV Editing
 Film and TV Directing
 Film and TV Cinematography
 Theater Acting
 Cultural Studies
 Culture and Media

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Marketing and Advertising in Fashion Design
 Pedagogics and Social Format of Visual Arts
 Musical Education and Training
 Film and TV Editing
 Film and TV Directing
 Film and TV Cinematography
 Theater Directing
 Internet, New Media and Culture
 Cultural Management and Visual Communications
 Cultural Heritage and Cultural Tourism

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts
 Pedagogy of Teaching Music
 Methods of Education in Theater Art
 Pedagogy of Teaching Oral Performance
 Theory and History of Culture





Prof. Stoian Ivanov, PhD

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPORTS

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Stoian Ivanov, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/ 588 530
 e-mail: fozs@swu.bg
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Yordanka Shopova

The Faculty of Public Health and Sports, as a part of the South-West University, is founded in 2009. Although, the youngest structure, it integrates the activities and long-lasting experience of various departments.

All the students and lecturers of the University are free to join our sports programs and use the sports facilities of the faculty. There is a wide range of activities offered by the faculty: badminton, basketball, volleyball, track and field athletics, football, swimming, tennis, table tennis, handball, aerobics, skiing, basic gymnastics, bodybuilding, etc.; - the adaptive sport activity for students with chronically somatic diseases and disabilities as appropriate exercise for life-enhancing recreation; and - sport performance excellence training for the university student teams.

The fundamental priorities of the Faculty are: (i) to ensure the growth of skills and knowledge among the health professions and physical activity, focusing on concepts of health promotion, maintenance, and restoration; (ii) to foster individual commitment to continuing education among students; (iii) to integrate the educational curricula on the physical, mental and social aspects of health in accordance with European and World standards; (iv) to optimize further the structure of the Faculty with novel degree programs related to sport, physical and health education. Health and sport sciences are an important part of the core fields of the education and research at the Faculty, developed in the following

Research Centers and Labs: Center for Functional Research in Sports and Kinesitherapy (Isokinetic Dynamometer and Kinesiological EMG Lab; Anthropometry and Spiroergometry Lab; Biochemistry Sector); Center for Speech Therapy; Computerized Speech Laboratory with Unique Technological Equipment by KayPentax™ USA, operated by the University Stuttering Research Center; Laboratory of Logopaedics and Special Psychology, Center for Mental Health.

The Faculty has excellent LLP Erasmus relations with many partners from EU countries - University of Ghent, Belgium, Ruhr University, Germany, University of Patras, Greece, University of Sidney, Australia, KATHO, Kortrijk, Belgium, etc. The faculty members participate in more than 15 international projects as Erasmus LLP, Fulbright Senior Specialist, DAAD, World Bank Projects, etc. as well as many national projects.

DEPARTMENTS:

Sports and Kinesitherapy
 Logopedics (Speech and Language Pathology)
 Medico-Social Sciences

BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Kinesitherapy
 Logopedics (Speech and Language Therapy)
 Social Work

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training (including Kinesitherapy)
 Logopedics (Speech and Language Therapy)
 Social Work (in progress)



International dimensions: Prof. Ivanov (dean of the Public Health and Sport's Faculty and Assoc. Prof. Scott Yaruss from University of Pittsburgh, USA)



MASTER PROGRAMS:

Kinesiology
 Sports Kinesiology
 Sports Animation
 Physical Education and Sport for Gifted children and Students
 Kinesitherapy (in progress)
 Logopedical Management in Voice and Fluency Disorders
 Auditory-Verbal Therapy After Cochlear Implantation
 Psychosocial Rehabilitation
 Social Work
 Social Support
 Social Mediation
 Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases



Assoc. Prof. Margarita Koleva, PhD

FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Margarita Koleva, PhD
 Fax: +359 73/588 524
 e-mail: pedagogika@swu.bg
 web: <http://pedagogy.swu.bg/>
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Malina Solachka

The Faculty of Pedagogy was founded in 1983. Its history is inseparable from the South-West University. It is committed to the highest standards of research and teaching and is a significant contributor to the improvement of educational policy and practice in partnership with schools, colleges and other educational agencies both in Bulgaria and internationally.

The Faculty is also recognized as providing one of the highest quality graduate programs and is home to a thriving community of students following courses of advanced study and research at Master's and Doctoral levels. The Faculty mission is to develop progressive, ethical, competent, and thoughtful specialists in education through teaching, research, and professional collaboration. Across our departments, our research groupings and our research centers we bring together an exceptional range of expertise and interest in the development of teaching and learning at a time of profound change in educational practices. The Faculty provides high-quality academic and practical studies in education. We offer many opportunities for professional growth. Our programs emphasize developing the knowledge, skills and qualities that define professional teachers, experts, specialists and leaders in education.

Our scholars are involved in a range of research and development projects whose findings contribute directly to their teaching. The department benefits from the work of highly qualified professors of Pedagogy all of whom are specialists in a particular field of educational research and whose work is highly recognized.

An extensive and diversified program of research activities within different disciplines of pre-primary and primary school pedagogy, special and social pedagogy, didactic and educational technologies, physical education and sports training is carried out. A considerable number of students are involved in the research activities and project work.

The Faculty has recently developed a regular program of short courses aimed at the perceived needs and interests of the local educational community and especially of school managers.

DEPARTMENTS:

Pedagogy
 Theory and Methods of Physical Education
 Pre-primary and Primary School Education
 Technical Education and Vocational Training
 Lifelong Learning Centre

BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Pedagogy
 Pre-primary and Primary Education
 Social Pedagogy
 Special Pedagogy
 Pre-primary School Pedagogy and a Foreign Language
 Primary School Pedagogy and a Foreign Language
 Pedagogy of Physical Education and Sports Training
 Pedagogy of Teaching Technics and Technologies



MASTER PROGRAMS:

Management of Education
 Pre-primary and Primary Education
 Special Education
 Intercultural Education
 Social Prevention and Consulting
 Information Technologies in Primary Education
 Pedagogy of Gifted Children and Youths
 Pre-school Education
 Pedagogical Interaction with children with Problematic Behavior
 Primary School Education



DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Theory of Education and Didactics
 History of Pedagogy and Bulgarian Education
 Teaching Methods of ... (different subjects)
 Methodology of Teaching Bulgarian Language and Literature and Foreign Languages
 Teaching Methods of Technics and Technologies
 Theory and Methods of Physical Education and Sports Training



Assoc. Prof. Antoni Stoilov, PhD

FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Antoni Stoilov, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/ 588 523
 e-mail: filologia@swu.bg
 web: <http://www.philo.swu.bg>
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 Secretary: Velichka Sotirova

The Faculty of Philology was founded in 1991 as a subdivision of the South-West University and there was considerable expansion of the faculty's activities since then. Today, it offers all levels of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The Faculty's objectives are to supply students with good communication skills and knowledge in the various literature, linguistic and culture disciplines through high quality teaching and research, to advance the knowledge and understanding of the languages and cultures of different countries of the world and to encourage professional development of staff through research and best practices. The researchers' work is committed to the empirical, historical, and theoretical study of linguistic structure within a broad linguistic, cultural, and cognitive context.

The degree courses provided by the Faculty have been designed to allow students a considerable amount of freedom with regard to their choice of subject matter from plenty of materials available. Teaching is based on research. A research-based curriculum demands a critical approach to the material, to the methodologies and theories employed, and to the interaction between these elements.

The training corresponds to the state requirements and gives opportunity to students to continue their education in other European countries or in the USA.

Research activities are directed to the exploration of different linguistic phenomena, works of literature and to increase knowledge of issues of cross-cultural communication.

DEPARTMENTS:

Bulgarian Language
 Bulgarian Literature
 German and Romance Studies
 Slavic Studies
 Ethnology and Balkan Studies

BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

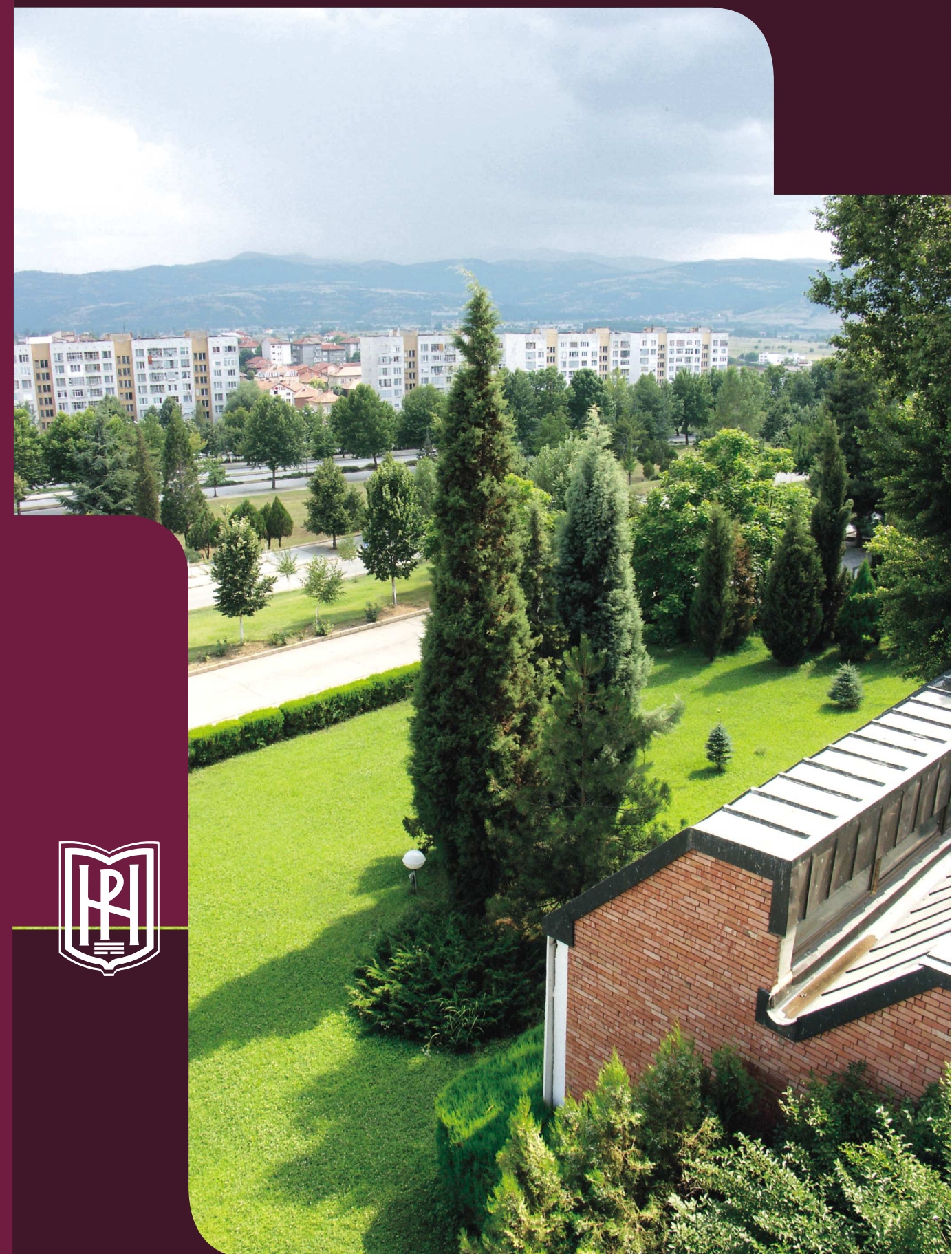
Bulgarian Philology
 English Philology
 Applied Linguistics
 Foreign Language and Ethnology
 Pedagogy of Teaching Bulgarian and Foreign Language

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Slavic Philology (Czech, Serbian and Croatian)
 Balkanistic Studies
 English Philology (after BA degree)
 Journalism (after BA degree)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

Theory and History of Literature
 Bulgarian Literature
 Russian Literature
 European and American Literature
 General and Comparative Linguistics
 Slavic Languages (Russian, Czech, Serbian and Croatian)
 Bulgarian Language





Assoc. Prof. Georgi Apostolov, PhD

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

Dean: Assoc. Prof. Georgi Apostolov, PhD
 Phone: +359 73/ 588 513
 e-mail: filosofski@swu.bg
 Address: 66, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700
 web: <http://www.fphs.swu.bg/>
 Secretary: Irina Topuzova

The Faculty of Philosophy was founded in 1995 as a structure of the South-West University „Neofit Rilski“. In 1999 the former Medico-Pedagogical Faculty of the University joined up the Faculty of Philosophy. Today it offers Bachelor, Master and PhD degree programs. The diversity of the degree programmes reflects the general aim to attract the best students and to inspire original and innovative research across a wide range of disciplines. Qualification as a Secondary School Teacher is available as a complementary study programme in Philosophy.

One of the fundamental goals of the Faculty is to develop students' competence in the acquiring of complex arguments, the analysis of practical issues, logical thought, comparative analytical techniques, scientific research skills, and effective communication, using a range of teaching methods. The students approach the object of their study via theoretical and analytical methodologies. Another goal of the entire training process is to ensure that graduates learn to associate a knowledge of the subject matter with an ability to understand, explain and evaluate old and new theories, expectations and concepts.

Academic life in the Faculty is built upon the principle of unity between teaching and research. It necessarily engenders a special commitment to encouraging upcoming generations of scholars. The academic staff of the Faculty continues to broaden the horizons of knowledge, skills and research by building relationships which link diverse local, national and international communities of scholars. Much of the external funding attracted by the Faculty is devoted to support this aim. Students are involved in most of the projects. Distinguished foreign scholars are teaching and doing research on regular basis in different scientific areas in the Faculty. Thus, the Faculty remains at the forefront of teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences.

The courses at the Faculty are taught in close connection with developments in other academic courses, both in sciences and in arts. Most of the professors also conduct lectures and seminars to students from the other faculties of the University, and other Bulgarian and European universities. Thus studies stress on the theoretical systems themselves, but also to the scientific, literary or political contexts.

The Faculty has developed excellent relations with many higher education institutions and research institutes from Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands, Finland, Hungary, Greece, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Poland, etc. Most of the staff members participate in many international projects and initiatives funded by the European Commission, the World Bank, foundations and many other donor organizations.



BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Sociology
 Psychology
 Political Sciences
 Philosophy

MASTER PROGRAMS:

Legal Psychology
 Psychology of Management
 School Psychology
 Philosophy
 Social and Cultural Policies in the European Union
 Sociology and Anthropology of Religion
 Sociological Studies and Political Marketing

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS:

History of Philosophy
 Sociology
 Philosophy
 Labor Psychology and Vocational Psycho diagnostic

DEPARTMENTS:

Philosophy
 Sociology
 Psychology
 Philosophical and Political Sciences





Assoc. Prof. Eng. Ivanka Georgieva, PhD

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Director: Assoc. Prof. Eng. Ivanka Georgieva PhD
 Phone: +359 /73/ 88 51 62
 e-mail: tkolej@swu.bg
 Address: 56, Ivan Mihailov Str., Blagoevgrad 2700

The Technical College was established in 1986 by a Council of Ministers' decree to address the needs of specialized training for industrial growth, and the first students were enrolled in the fall of the same year. In 1997 it was placed under the control of the South-West University „Neofit Rilski“.

Accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency the Technical College provides educational opportunities that support its mission for human resource development in accordance with modern economic development. In response to evolving educational needs in the state, the technical courses were added to the offerings of the South-West University. Today it provides three-year programs of study leading to a Professional Bachelor Degree Diploma. They are training skilled and educated workers to fill the increasing manpower needs of the community.

A strong college transfer program has evolved to allow students the opportunity to take the first three years of a Bachelor degree and transfer to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the South-West University to complete respective Bachelor and Master degree programs. Library, laboratories, state-of-the-art equipment, a well-qualified faculty and staff, and hands-on experience give the Technical College's students the quality education and training they need to successfully compete in the marketplace.

DEPARTMENTS:

Machine Building and Textile Technics and Technologies
 Electronics and Communication Technics and Technologies

PROFESSIONAL BACHELOR PROGRAMS:

Modeling, Technologies and Management in the Sewing Industry
 Electronics
 Communicational Technics and Technologies





The Region in Brief

Statistical data. Location: Southwestern parts of Bulgaria; borders with Macedonia and Greece. Size: 5,500 sq. km. Administrative structure: Blagoevgrad District, covering 14 municipalities, 12 towns and 259 villages. Administrative center: Blagoevgrad.

Mountains. Nine mountains: Pirin, Rila, Western Rhodopes, Slavyanka, Stargach, Ograzhden, Belasitsa, Vlahina, Maleshevska. Pirin: 2,585 sq.km. 60 peaks over 2,500 m (Mt. Vihren - 2,914 m). Alpine landscape. 176 cirque lakes; the biggest 100 decares in size. 1,700 vascular plant species; 24 fish species; 11 amphibian species; 27 reptile species; 217 bird species; 75 mammal species.

Protected areas. Two national parks - Pirin and Rila. Ten reserves: Yulen, Bayuvi Douпки - Dzhindzhiritsa and Oreljak in Pirin; Parangalitsa in Rila; Alibotoush in Slavyanka; Konski Dol and Temnata Gora in the Rhodopes; Kongoura in Belasitsa; Tisata and Sokolata in Maleshevska Mountain.

Mineral waters. Over 40% of the mineral waters of Bulgaria. Balneology developed in Sandanski, Ognyanovo Spa Resort, Dobrinishte. Public mineral-water swimming pools: Blagoevgrad, Simitli, Sandanski, Petrich, Gotse Delchev, Ognyanovo, Yakorouda, Dobrinishte, Banya, Eleshnitsa.

Traditions. Living traditional crafts: wood-carving, pottery, copper- and black-smithing, bell-casting. Textile production is well developed all around the area showing a tremendous variety. Traditional celebrations are practiced all over the Pirin region. Especially attractive are the Koukeri (Mummers) processions on January 1st - in Razlog, Bansko, Blagoevgrad, Simitli and Petrich. Only in the village of Eleshnitsa mummers processions are to be seen at Easter. The best place to see all this variety is the Pirin Sings Folklore Festival held every two years at the Predela locality, between Pirin and Rila.

BLAGOEVGRAD - AN UNIVERSITY TOWN

Blagoevgrad is an unique place to study and live in. It is a modern town that combines the advantages of a big city with its cinemas, theaters, operas, public libraries, banks, bars and restaurants and the cozy atmosphere of a small town with its friendly environment, comfortable, secure and inexpensive life. The green parks and streets as well as the wonderful surroundings make the town a very pleasant place to stay. Its modern buildings and facilities and the comfortable infrastructure make it easy to live and work. One can reach any part of the town by taxi or a bus in minutes for less than a Euro. The cost of living is inexpensive and there is a plenty of cafes and restaurants all over town. Its strategic position make it fast and easy to reach so many places of interest as everything is so close - the famous ski resort Bansko, the ancient Rila Monastery, Sofia - the Bulgarian capital or Thessaloniki in Greece as well as many many others. The mild climate, fresh air and the healthy mineral waters attract many people to come here on holidays. Due to its merits Blagoevgrad is a proffered place to many scientists, artists, actors, musicians and painters who organize numerous conferences, meetings, seminars and culture events like festivals, concerts, presentations and performances during all year. The town is famous with its folklore ensemble and singing and dances schools that preserve the precious traditions of the region.

Blagoevgrad is a town of universities. Students land a spirit of vitality and exuberance to the community. Every year lots of young people are getting together to pursue they studies here. The academic atmosphere and the comfortable conditions of the town give all the opportunities for students to concentrate on their studies aiming at best performances and achievements. They enjoy all the hospitality and support of the local people. That's why studying at the South-West University is a choice of thousands of youngsters.



How to Get to the University

From Sofia by Road

Buses start for Blagoevgrad every hour from the Central Bus Station in Sofia. It is near to the Central Railway Station. It takes about 1 hour and 40 minutes to get to Blagoevgrad. The cost of the one way ticket is about 6 Euros.

When the bus is entering the town the main campus of the South-West University is seen on the left side. The buses stop at the Private Bus Station in Blagoevgrad, just next to the Train Station. The University is in short walk (10-15 minutes) from the Bus Station.

Public transport runs to the city center. Taxis are available at the station, as well. The cost to the city center as well as to all the campuses is approximately 2.5 Euro.

If you have decided to travel to Blagoevgrad by car, just take the E-79 International Road from Sofia to Greece. The trip lasts approximately one and a half hour.

From Sofia by Rail

Blagoevgrad is 2 hours and a half by train from Sofia Central Station. The price is about 3-4 Euros. The main campus of the South-West University is 10-15 minutes walk from the Blagoevgrad Train Station.



Edited by
Prof. Dobrinka Georgieva, PhD
Petar Markov

