



UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO - BA SARAJEV01
Information on selection, support and recognition within international mobility

Logo:



Quick info about the University of Sarajevo

Name of the institution (English)	University of Sarajevo
Name of the institution (Bosnian)	Univerzitet u Sarajevu
Abbreviation:	UNSA
Erasmus code:	BA SARAJEV01
PIC:	995549995
OID:	E10186799
Address:	Obala Kulina bana 7/II, 71000 Sarajevo
Country:	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Region:	Western Balkan
Web:	https://www.unsa.ba
No. of students:	22.000
No. of teaching staff:	1.650
No. of non-teaching staff	990
Bologna Education System	Yes, since 2005

Erasmus status:

Status in Erasmus+ program	Third countries not associated to the Programme (or Partner country)
Erasmus code:	BA SARAJEV01
Erasmus Charter in Higher Education	Following the University of Sarajevo's successful application for the new Erasmus+ program period, the European Commission awarded the University of Sarajevo the Erasmus Charter in Higher Education 2021-2027 (ECHE) Link: https://www.unsa.ba/en/novosti/proud-european-commission-awarded-university-sarajevo-erasmus-charter-higher-education
Participation in ICM	Yes – not as applicant, but as partner
Erasmus KA171 partner institutions with signed KA171 inter-institutional agreements	https://www.unsa.ba/istrazivanje-i-saradnja/medunarodna-saradnja/erasmus-plus
Allowed mobilities	KA171 YES KA131 NO
Website for IR:	https://www.unsa.ba/en/research-and-cooperation/international-relations
Website for incoming international students and staff members	http://www.international.unsa.ba/eng
How to apply and nominate to the University of Sarajevo?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://international.unsa.ba/coming-as-exchange-students/ • https://international.unsa.ba/coming-as-degree-student/ • https://international.unsa.ba/coming-as-teaching-staff/ • https://international.unsa.ba/coming-as-training-staff/
Website for course catalogue offered in English:	https://international.unsa.ba/modules-in-english/
Study fields of interest	The University of Sarajevo is a comprehensive university that offers over 500 study programs in all three study cycles (including integrated); arts, humanities, social sciences, medical sciences, technical sciences and natural sciences. Therefore, we aim to enable the internationalisation of all study fields and member units. Not all



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	offer programs in English (or friendly English - please check our modules in English), but we want to encourage students and staff to try and apply for mobility and experience the international environment. By increasing the number of exchange students and staff members, we can quickly achieve openness to better and inclusive internationalisation at home.
Research	The University of Sarajevo offers research possibilities. We aim to improve quality, encourage science, technology, and art innovation, and strengthen UNSA's research profile and recognition. The University of Sarajevo was awarded the "HR Excellence in Research" logo, strengthening its commitment to providing a fair and inspiring research environment for its researchers. The university has different research institutes and laboratories (link: https://www.unsa.ba/en/research-and-cooperation/research/infrastructure) and is very active within Horizon2020/Europe, COST programs and Marie Curie Sklodowska Actions. The research activities are coordinated by the Research Office of UNSA (link: https://www.unsa.ba/istrazivanje-i-saradnja/istrazivanje/kontakti-istrazivanje).

About UNSA

Facts & figures	The University of Sarajevo (UNSA) was established in 1949. However, the first foundations of this higher education institution were given with the signing of Waqfname by Gazi Husrev Bey and the founding of the Gazi Husrev-bey's library back in the 16th century – today, our member institution. This public institution offers study and research opportunities at 22 Faculties, 3 Academies, 5 Institutes, 3 Centres, the National and University Library, Gazi Husrev-bey Library, the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Student Parliament, with over 500 study programs and over 200 departments. Today, having around 22,000 enrolled students, it is the largest university in the country and ranks among the largest universities in the region.
Mission and Vision	Our mission is to strengthen the internationalization of the University of Sarajevo as a modern and unique European university. Our vision is reflected in strengthening leadership in the field of international cooperation. The University of Sarajevo has over 400 international agreements (bilateral or through different programs/projects) with higher education institutions worldwide and membership in several major international organizations and networks. We expect to intensify global mobility to allow our students, faculty, and associates to demonstrate their qualities internationally and perfect themselves through such contacts.
Study cycles	Bachelor: 3 years (180 ECTS) with exceptions to some 4 years Master: 2 years (120 ECTS) with exceptions to some 1 year Integrated: 5 years (300 ECTS) PhD: 3 years (180 ECTS)
Credit System	The University of Sarajevo regulates its grading system with the Law of Higher Education of Canton Sarajevo. It applies the principles of the Bologna Declaration, implementing European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). One semester is 30 ECTS, and 1 ECTS is approx. 25 hours of work. The student will receive approx. 30 ECTS depending on chosen subjects and their sum, but the minimum is 20-25.

Erasmus expertize

Previous and current experience with the EU-funded projects	The UNSA actively participates in EU-funded programs since the 1990s (CARDS, PHARE, Pre-Tempus, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus,
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	<p>Erasmus+, COST, Horizon2020/Europe). After the war in the 1990s and all infrastructure being destroyed and personnel left/killed, through EU-funded projects, it has successfully rebuilt classrooms, laboratories and other educational infrastructure, modernized curriculums, trained new personnel and hired staff members. The UNSA has rich experience in coordinating and implementing 103 Tempus projects which was an intro for Capacity building projects within Erasmus+. Out of 150+ applications, 40 Capacity building projects were approved (three as coordinators)—additionally, one in strategic partnership action, two in Jean Monnet and two in Sports actions.</p>
<p>Previous experience with Erasmus+ mobility</p>	<p>The UNSA is very active in international mobility. Aside from different mobility programs (CEEPUS, Mevlana, Visegrad FUND, DAAD, bilateral, free movers, CMEPIUS), the most popular is Erasmus+ (with its predecessor Erasmus Mundus). UNSA participated in all 19 Erasmus Mundus - approved projects for the Western Balkans (2007-2013) and created the infrastructure for a smooth transition into Erasmus+. In the first Erasmus+ period (2014-2021), we have implemented over 2500 incoming and outgoing mobilities with 200+ higher education institutions (ICM). We had reached some areas of Europe that didn't have a previous connection (i.e., Nordic and Baltic countries, Eastern Europe, Portugal). Our University has continued its participation within the Erasmus+ program (2021-2027) and has established already 150 partnerships with higher education institutions across Europe. The list of partner institutions in Erasmus+ KA107 (2014-2021) and the list of partner institutions in Erasmus+ KA171 (2021-2027): https://www.unsa.ba/erasmus-sporazumi-ka171</p>
<p>Expected number of mobilities within the IIA</p>	<p>The University of Sarajevo is not an applicant for the grant for KA171, so we respect the decision of the Programme country HEIs. However, based on experience, mobility numbers should include approximately 2 students, 2 teaching staff and 2 training staff for incoming and the same for outgoing. It is essential to have training mobilities for IRO staff, as we represent the first point of contact in establishing this cooperation and promoting our institutions to potential candidates.</p>
<p>European university initiative/ Alliance</p>	<p>In 2023 the University of Sarajevo became part of the European university initiative called EUPeace (European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies). Link: https://www.unsa.ba/en/eupeace</p>

International Credit Mobility

<p>Coordinators of the ICM at the University of Sarajevo</p>	<p>The International Relations Office of the University of Sarajevo is a central office with headquarters in the Rectorate. The office coordinates and implements KA171 inter-institutional agreements (establishing IIAs, communication, opening calls, evaluation, selection, nomination and further monitoring). If the subject (topic) of the IIA is concerned only with one UNSA unit, the IIA is administrated by the department coordinators (vice-dean, coordinators or officers for IR).</p>
<p>Selection, support, recognition at the University of Sarajevo</p>	<p>Selection: At the UNSA, all calls are published online on the official websites and shared through different social media. Students and staff members from UNSA apply online by submitting the required documents. International Relations Office administrates and nominates candidates for the host institution. UNSA introduced selection criteria: technical (all requested application documents are received as defined in the call), previous mobility experience (preference is always given to those candidates who didn't apply or participated in the Erasmus+ mobility before), special conditions</p>



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(selection committee takes into consideration requirements of the applicants – students/staff with special needs, Roma representatives, social and economic criteria, etc.); academic (students are ranked based on their average grade from previous years, including previous cycles). Respecting the selection criteria, priority is always given to applicants who did not have the opportunity to use Erasmus+ grants before nor participated in other types of mobilities and those who come from the non-represented member institutions of the University of Sarajevo in these programs. This way, the internationalisation of staff members and students is supported. However, we will respect the decisions or priorities of the host institution to make the choices regarding their criteria (i.e., the emphasis on specific study fields, preference of certain types of mobilities, etc.).

Support: Once international students and staff members have been nominated, the IRO takes over the responsibility of administrating it within our units. At the University of Sarajevo, all study fields are available for mobility students. The list of courses is provided on the official website. Subjects are taught in English or provided in an English-friendly option (classes are in Bosnian, but students can agree with the teacher on lessons and exams for certain subjects through research, paperwork, mentorship, or other academic activity in English or another foreign language. In cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy (Department for Bosnian language and literature), our office organize classes of the Bosnian language for incoming students throughout the semester. The IRO organises several informative days, including pre-arrival (online) and Welcome day (in person) for incoming students. They are provided with needed academic and practical information and supported with documents and connections to help them safely start their mobility. The participants are informed about their obligations and rights before, during and after mobility. We provide necessary information and confirmation of their mobility at the UNSA, but obtaining a visa and residence permit is the students' responsibility. In cooperation with Erasmus Student Network, UNSA has established a Buddy network system to support the incoming students regarding their stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Staff support is given during their nomination to UNSA and immediately connected with their hosts, who continue communication and support. If we have incoming students with disabilities and/or who require special needs, we would appreciate previous communication with our office to check and provide an environment and support for their comfortable mobility in Sarajevo. The University of Sarajevo is not campus organised. All our member units are spread across the city, whose infrastructure can be challenging for some students.

Recognition: Recognition is done at the home units of the UNSA. During the mobility application (Learning agreement) preparation, students submit their documents in consultation with their home academic coordinators. This consultation helps them know at the beginning whether they chose good subjects and if the subjects will be recognised. All achieved results are recognised. The UNSA constantly works on improving the recognition process favouring the student supporting the international mobility and internationalisation process. All staff mobilities are approved and endorsed by the deans of the units concerned. The UNSA still needs to have a recognition mechanism for staff mobility. The overall value of mobility is gaining international experience and networking for future



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	<p>collaboration. The participating staff shares the experience of different platforms, meetings, and seminars organised to promote Erasmus+ mobility.</p>
<p>Inclusion and Diversity (participation of those with fewer opportunities)</p>	<p>The UNSA respects the principles of the Erasmus+ program, ensuring that every student and staff member gets the opportunity to use the Erasmus+ mobility. All students or staff members who are identified as people with fewer opportunities (for any economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, migrant background, or disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination) are under special supervision of the International Relations Office to provide them with the best opportunities within Erasmus+. However, only some want to identify themselves within those categories. Once the application is received, unless it is directly specified or apparent, we can only provide them with a fair chance and results from their documents.</p>
<p>Digital Transformation & Green environment</p>	<p>Distance/digital education was established during the pandemic. All units have needed infrastructure to support online teaching. However, all regular classes are held in person. The UNSA works hard to support a green environment, focusing on online information sessions and introducing application forms regarding Erasmus+ mobilities. The promotional materials we use are made of green-supported and recycled materials. However, for some administration and bureaucratic procedures (even with the EU and third countries associated with the Programme), Erasmus without paper is not fully supported. This is also an issue due to the many laws that require signatures and stamps in „old format“. The UNSA administration is expected to undergo more significant reform from paper to fully online administration.</p>
<p>Internationalisation Strategy</p>	<p>The University of Sarajevo is currently working on producing the Internationalisation Strategy for the period 2024-2028. According to the current internationalization strategy 2019-2023, the presence of international students and staff members at the University of Sarajevo means that we are more encouraged to create more English subjects and open complete study programs taught in English. Also, starting the joint venture degree programs is one of the options. As an EU candidate for the European Union, it is essential to be more included in the European Higher Education Area. This program and our collaboration will influence better networking and bring closer EU and non-EU higher education society. The UNSA works on strengthening the internationalization process and enhancing the ability to become a modern, prosperous, recognizable, and socially responsible institution driving social development. This process must be designed appropriately to follow developments in the socio-economic, technical, and technological environment - both locally and globally. In this sense, it is necessary to reflect on society's expectations, that is, the mission of the university in the era of globalization and the fourth industrial revolution. We are institutionalizing the "internationalization process" at UNSA. The focus is on solid development to create an attractive, stimulating, creative, and inclusive environment for learning, advancing, researching, and sharing ideas and knowledge through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the capacity of organizational units, teachers, administration, and students to design and implement the internationalization process (internal reorganization - horizontal integration of human resources, strengthening the ability to improve the level of internationalization of the teaching process - pedagogical support, planned budget,



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	<p>documents, - presenting experiences/training, internationalization team)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Internationalization at home (working on the offer of modern study programs in English) and creating an international environment at home 3. Visibility and networking (internal promotion, promotion abroad, etc., IT support - a common portal for organizing events, all magazines, and their digitization and establishing a team for improving the quality of journals or their indexing, academic meetings)
<p>Impact (individual, institutional, local, national and regional)</p>	<p>Impact on the participant (individual): Gaining international experience and being an ambassador of the University of Sarajevo abroad helps promote our institution and internationalization strategy. Students become international, their CV is enriched with new experiences, their foreign language(s) knowledge is improved, and they become a competitive workforce after graduating. Staff members gain international experience and participate in active professional development. It increases satisfaction with the work environment and constant improvement.</p> <p>Impact on your university (institutional level): It is here where academic mobility, student and staff exchange between the University of Sarajevo and partner universities in the EU can contribute, learn know-how and know-who, and implement well-recognized activities into the everyday work at the University of Sarajevo. Our university contributes to the internationalization strategy and position in the European higher education area by participating in these programs.</p> <p>Impact at local, regional and national levels: The University of Sarajevo is the country's leading university and one of the leading in the regions. Within its status, it helps analyse the level of harmonization between the curricula and the needs of the labour market. This includes employer surveys, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other business associations, considering the current trends in the local and European business environment and the European Higher Education Area. Participation in exchange programs improves a better understanding of those trends and their successful implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>
<p>Dissemination</p>	<p>For better promotion, IRO has published several publications about mobility projects, document preparation, and application instructions to ease the process for students and staff members. We actively promote our institution through informative days, fairs, promotional materials, e-newsletters and news. We often invite Erasmus+ alumni to share their testimonials during the season of open calls, which helps in increasing awareness of the international exchange. Although the University of Sarajevo has its central International Relations Office, every member institution has its International Relations contact point (vice-dean, coordinator or contact person for international relations) for further dissemination. We are the proud organiser of several events that contribute to the internationalisation@home processes, such as the Scholarship fair (intended for the whole Bosnia and Herzegovina area focused on raising awareness of scholarships and promoting mobility programs) and International Staff Training Week (designed program with a focus on the processes of internationalisation includes social and cultural activities attended by international staff). We continued these activities during the pandemic, so many events (like staff week, info days, and Scholarship fair) was implemented online. IRO UNSA organises two staff weeks during the year (May and October) and one international Scholarship fair (as a part of October's staff week)</p>



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	<p>where we disseminate our Erasmus+ participation, not only in KA107/171 but all key actions too. Updated statistics, reports, testimonials, videos and social media are presented to the primary international audience, the local students and staff members during these events. They are interested in participating in these events to receive more information and find a suitable host Erasmus destination.</p>
Monitoring	<p>The International Relations Office tracks its students and staff before, during and after mobility. During the nomination phase, we have been in contact, ensuring that their mobility is confirmed and the grant exists. We organize pre-departure info sessions (online or in person) to ensure they all need academic and practical information. We contact the partner institution's IRO during mobility to check if everything is going smoothly. After mobility, we do not do the recognition process (it is done at the UNSA's home member unit). Still, we try to provide the needed information regarding the recognition procedure.</p>
Participation in democratic life	<p>Our Office is an active member in many regional and international organisations supporting and promoting Erasmus+ (i.e. Western Balkans Alumni Association). After their mobility, students and staff members can join this regional association and continue their professional development and contribution to the development of social and intercultural competencies, critical thinking and media literacy through writing and implementing national and regional projects.</p>