

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI

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Our University is a dynamic, but also traditional institution, with deep roots in Central Europe and strong international academic ties. Its origins date back to 1581, which makes it the oldest institution of higher education in Romania. It was named after two prominent Transylvanian scientists - the Romanian biologist Victor Babes, and the Hungarian mathematician Janos Bolyai. Located in Transylvania, a European province with a complex history, Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai is the crowning achievement of a long series of attempts to establish here a higher education institution. Thus, the University's international recognition is manifested in different forms of collaboration and joint scientific programmes with other well-renowned universities from all around the world.

It is the largest Romanian university (approximately 45,000 students and 1,700 faculty staff), situated at the confluence of the Eastern and Western cultures. As an academic public institution, its aim is to promote and sustain the development of specific cultural components within the local, regional, national and international community.

Situated in a geographical area characterised by the presence of diverse ethnic and religious groups, the University benefits from a multicultural and multilingual environment that gives it its unique character and it offers complete studies in Romanian, Hungarian and German.

The multilingual and multicultural profile of Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, developed in compliance with the 1995 Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Charter, has brought considerable advantages to every historical community of Transylvania - Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Jews, and others -, reflecting not just the demographic structure of population, but also its historical heritage. At this main Transylvanian university, around 31,188 Romanians are studying (251 fields of study at undergraduate level and 225 master programmes; 24,414 undergraduate students, and 6,774 graduate students); 21 Faculties (of 21) provide training in Romanian at this university. Numerous Hungarians study in their mother tongue (72 fields of study at undergraduate level, and 31 master programmes; 4,780 undergraduate students and 783 graduate students, plus 2,831 Hungarian students who have chosen to study in other languages). 16 Faculties provide training in Hungarian as well. Study opportunities in German language are also widely spread (14 fields of study at undergraduate level, and 6 master programmes, more than 539 undergraduate students, and 182 graduate students). 8 Faculties provide training in German language. Never before have the history, the culture, and the language of the Hebrew people been studied so systematically and comprehensively (1 field of study at undergraduate level and 1 master programme, with almost 16 undergraduate and 5 graduate students). Other ethnic communities enjoy similar opportunities to promote their language and cultural identity. The university currently has 1,800 doctoral students, while enrolment for graduate studies has reached an annual figure over 4,000.

In addition, the University lays considerable emphasis on foreign language skills and on educational programmes in widely spoken languages; therefore it provides a wide range of internationally competitive BA, MA and Ph.D. programmes in English, French and Italian. Also,

in order to allow all students to study at least one foreign language, the University provides Language centres and various foreign cultural centres.

Having the role of mediator at local level between Romania and various world countries, the foreign cultural centres contribute to achieving a mutual awareness of different cultural traditions through their activities made available to the general public.

There are several cultural centres carrying out their activities at our university to support the learning and understanding of our students, and other members of the University and Local community.. For example, we have contributed to the inauguration of: the Brazilian Cultural Centre (2011), the Russian Cultural Centre (2011), the Confucius Institute (2009), the Korean Cultural Centre (2007), and the Polish Cultural Centre (2003).

Furthermore, there are other cultural centres carrying out their activities on the premises of our university and with our support: the Italian Cultural Centre, the French Cultural Centre, the German Cultural Centre and the British Council.

The university also has a number of institutes, such as: the Institute of Ecclesiastical History, which promotes and stimulates research in the field of ecclesiastical history in a variety of areas (organisation, religious life, confessional schools, personalities, relations between the State and the Church, etc.) referring to all historical religions in Romania and in Central and Eastern Europe.

There is also the Cultural Institute of Cluj in Europe, which employs the strategy of highlighting, at the European level, the main cultural and multilingual accomplishments - past and present - of the city of Cluj-Napoca.

The Institute of Romanian as a European Language is an institution whose mission is to promote education and research projects, to maintain and further develop theory and practice (in the field of Romanian language as a foreign language, as a mother tongue language and as a non-mother tongue language) and to strengthen partnerships with other institutions.

The Institute of Turkish and Central Asian Studies (ITCAS) is the first of its kind in Romania, and is meant to familiarise scholars and the public with the values of the Turkish history, culture and civilisation, back to its roots in Orient and Central Asia, but also providing political and economic projections concerning the evolution of these regions. The understanding of the history, culture and civilisation of the Turkish, Orient and Central Asian world envisages the identification of the contribution of this area to the progress of humankind.

The University's assets comprise modern buildings, equipped with laboratories at high technical standards, libraries, sports and leisure facilities. Each faculty, cultural centre and research institute has its own library, all being coordinated by the Central Library. We also provide high quality support services, 15 dormitories (with a total capacity of 5,000 places), eating establishments (2 restaurants and 4 cafeterias), museums (Academic Museum, Mineralogical Museum, Zoological Museum, University Memorial Park, and Museum of Paleontology and Stratigraphy), cultural centres, language centres and other facilities, such as the Botanical Garden, and the Sports Park.

Our students benefit from outstanding educational and research opportunities under the guidance of well-prepared academic staff. Research has continuously and thoroughly been promoted throughout our University's existence, and therefore laboratories and

research centres of internationally scientific relevance have been created. In this respect, the Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai has made significant investments in the research area, in order to increase its performance and international visibility.

Cluj-Napoca is genuinely a university city animated by a vivid and colourful cultural life and entertainment possibilities. It provides both students and its long-life standing residents various museums (History, Art, Ethnography, Pharmacy, Linguistics, Romanian National Opera House and Hungarian Opera House, Puppet Theatre), leisure parks, movie theatres and movie complexes, commercial and shopping centres. Annually, our city hosts national and international film festivals (Transylvania Film Festival, Night of Ad Eaters) and various music festivals (Musical Autumn in Cluj), thus uniting people from different parts of the world in one multi-ethnic and multicultural gathering.

While belonging to the European Union area, the educational costs for studying at UBB are substantially lower than in most parts of the EU. The average tuition fee per 10 months at our University is around \$3,200 - \$3,400, covering all needs, for students from non-EU Member States. For students from countries within the EU, the tuition fee is the same as for Romanian students. Furthermore, in order to assist international students, our University gives average information concerning the living costs in Cluj-Napoca.

Accommodation	800-3,000 €/year
Meals	600-1,200 €/year
Books	70-140€/year
Clothing, personal objects	700-1,000 €/year
Transportation	100-250€/year
Theatre, Sports, Entertainment	100-250€/year
Others	200-500€/year
<b>Total living costs</b>	<b>2,570-6,240 €/year</b>

The cooperation agreements concluded by our university go far beyond the European continent, to North America, South America, Asia, Australia and Africa.

In the field of humanities, Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai has concluded inter-university agreements with the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa), the Archives and Museum of Literature in Brussels (Belgium), the Cooremans Institute of Brussels (Belgium), the Free University of Brussels (Belgium), the Catholic Institute for High Commercial Studies (Belgium), the University Quebec a Montreal (Canada), the University of Montreal (Canada), the University of Ottawa (Canada), the Zhejiang University of Science and Technology (China), Seoul National University (South Korea), Dongguk University (South Korea), the University of Geneva (Switzerland), the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), the University Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux III (France), the University of Caen Basse-Normandie (France), the University Auvergne Clermont I of Clermont-Ferrand (France), the University Pasquale Paoli of Corsica (France), the University Joseph Fourier - Grenoble I (France), the University Pierre Mendes France Grenoble - Grenoble II (France), the University Stendhal - Grenoble III (France), the University Charles de Gaulle Lille III (France), the University of Limoges (France), the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (France), the University Paris XII Val-de-Marne (France), the Catholic Institute of Paris (France), the Padagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg (Germany), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität of

Erlangen-Nurnberg (Germany), the Carl von Ossietzky Universitat of Oldenburg (Germany), the University of Rostock (Germany), the Otto-von-Guericke-Universitat of Magdeburg (Germany), the University of Regensburg (Germany), the Universita degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italy), the Universita degli Studi di Roma Tre (Italy), the Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milano (Italy), the Universita degli Studi della Tuscia of Viterbo (Italy), the Universita degli Studi di Firenze (Italy), the Universita degli Studi di Pisa (Italy), Kobe University (Japan), Staffordshire University (U.K.), Jagiellonian University of Krakow (Poland), the University of Porto (Portugal), Mordovia N.P Ogarev State University (Russia), N.I. Lobacevski State University of Nijni Novgorod (Russia), the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), Yeditepe University (Turkey), Qankin Karatekin University (Turkey), Yuriy Fedkovich National University of Chernovtsi (Ukraine), Uzhhorod National University (Ukraine), Pazmany Peter Catholic University (Hungary), Debrecen University of Reformed Theology (Hungary).

Also, at the Faculty level, the departments within our university have concluded inter-departmental cooperation agreements in the fields of theology (with the University of Lugano - Switzerland), philosophy (with Jadavpur University - India), theatre (with Victoria University of Wellington - New Zealand), etc.

Responsibility for the implementation of all decisions regarding the international relations at our University, including the cooperation agreements signed with different international partners, rests with the Centre for International Cooperation. The Centre was founded in 1991, under the name of the Office of International Relations and Academic Image, with the aim of using the opportunities for international cooperation at UBB, within an adequate institutional framework and in the new democratic regime. In 1995, the Office was transformed into the Department for International Relations and Academic Image. The current name was adopted in February 2000, and, following its reorganisation at the beginning of 2009, two offices now operate within the Centre for International Cooperation:

- The Office for Cooperation Programmes, in charge of initiation, negotiation and administration of cooperation with foreign institutions, with affiliation to academic international networks, and central cooperation with the industry.
- The Office for Student Exchanges and International Students, in charge of exchange programmes for students, teaching and administrative staff, with the recruitment of international students, and with the promotion of community and international programmes for higher education

The Centre for International Cooperation is a structure that offers assistance and consultancy to different categories of beneficiaries - the faculties, the teaching staff and students, and the partner universities. CIC intends to render efficient the services offered to the beneficiaries and assumes, at the same time, the role of creating new opportunities.

The activities carried out by the Centre for International Cooperation include:

- The development, promotion and implementation of the internationalisation strategy of UBB;
- Organising and extending the international relations at UBB;
- The promotion of joint study and research programmes;
- The promotion of the educational programmes offered by UBB at an international level;

- The coordination, administration and evaluation of European programmes, promotion of international participation of the University in programmes such as ERASMUS, CEEPUS, LEONARDO DA VINCI, DAAD.TEMPUS, ATLANTIS, etc.;
- Organising summer schools and the international reunions under the auspices of the Rector's Office;
- The recruitment of international students;
- Organising orientation seminars and monthly reunions with international students;
- Informing the general public on opportunities of international cooperation, possibilities to study and experience a different educational culture and academic environment, as well as the possibility to obtain a degree from prestigious European, Asian, American, and Canadian universities;
- Offering consultancy and assistance to the applicants for the U.S. Fulbright Program (incoming and outgoing);
- Editing and publishing informative materials for foreign citizens (students and teaching staff);
- Organising international mobility for teaching staff, researchers, students, and administrative staff;
- Facilitating access to international programmes;
- Informing prospective international students and teaching staff about participation in exchange programs at UBB, as well as about the admission/employment procedures;
- Facilitating accommodation in student hostels;
- The promotion of interaction between the international students, lecturers, professors, and the local community; and
- Offering assistance and counselling to international students and teaching staff throughout their stay at UBB.

Our university and its subsidiaries work continuously to promote the internationalisation of studies, not only to the benefit of students going overseas, but also to the benefit of visiting students from elsewhere, for whom we provide the possibility of visiting and living in an East-European country, which has many pleasant surprises to offer.