

Spring 2021 Online Program – Part-Time Track

BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

American Councils is offering a great opportunity for online language and culture learning during the spring 2021 semester with its Part-Time Balkan Language Initiative (BLI) program. With the Part-Time Track, students will attend weekly, remote language instruction, meet with virtual conversation partners, and take part in a variety of virtual cultural activities that are normally offered as part of BLI, but with fewer weekly hours to accommodate a variety of schedules.

Language Offerings

- Albanian – teachers based in Tirana, Albania
- Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) – teachers based in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Academic Structure Overview

The academic program will feature weekly online (synchronous and asynchronous) instruction that focuses on developing language skills in speaking, reading, listening, grammar, and writing. Participants will also complete regular assignments outside of class that expand the activities covered in online classes.

Live instruction will be approximately six academic hours per week, with class sizes of one to four students depending on language level. Participants can expect each class session to meet for at least one hour in length and not to exceed two hours in a session. Additional academic hours may be delivered in an asynchronous (recorded) format. The total number of live instruction hours will be 84 hours during the semester.

American Councils will administer pre- and post-program testing with an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) to measure participants' language gains.

Conversation Partners

To provide opportunities for informal target language practice and connections with locals, participants will be paired with conversation partners. Participants and their conversation partners will meet remotely for approximately an hour every week to provide additional contact hours in the target language throughout the semester. Participants will arrange meeting times with their conversation partners based on individual schedules.

Cultural Activities

American Councils will arrange virtual cultural activities and excursions to places of historical and cultural importance throughout the Balkans. The virtual activities and excursions will be conducted in the target language by local alumni and staff, and participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions as the virtual excursion is taking place. The guide will also share different aspects of local culture or traditions in order to increase cultural understanding on a local level. There will be a total of 14 hours of cultural activities over the semester.

Potential virtual activities and excursions include: virtual host family visits, virtual tours of city sights and local museums, cooking lessons, music and dance lessons, virtual holiday celebrations, discussion groups with local students.

Total Contact Hours

Combining the academic program, conversation partners, and virtual activities and excursions, participants will have approximately 112 contact hours in the target language over the course of the semester. Participants can expect to spend eight hours per week across all program components.



Academic Credit

Upon successful completion of the online program, participants will receive academic credit equivalent to 8 undergraduate credit hours or 10 graduate credit hours from Bryn Mawr College as follows:

BALK 320 Intensive Conversation: Regional Language (for undergraduate students)
BALK 515 Intensive Conversation (for graduate students)

BALK 330 Intensive Grammar: Regional Language (for undergraduate students)
BALK 525 Intensive Grammar: Regional Language (for graduate students)

Time Difference

As teachers are based overseas, American Councils will work with each student on an academic schedule. Classes and activities will be scheduled to find an agreeable and reasonable time for both participants and teachers. American Councils will request information about your time zone for the online program during the acceptance process.

Dates

Classes will start on **Monday, February 1, 2021** and continue through **Friday, May 14, 2021**.

Cost

The Part-Time BLI Spring 2021 online program fee is **\$3,900**.

Financial Aid

American Councils has several scholarships available for students applying to the Part-Time BLI Spring 2021 Online Program. Applicants can apply for financial aid in the program application.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted through **Thursday, October 15, 2020**. Please visit our [online application portal](#) to begin the application process.

Questions?

Please direct any questions about the Part-Time BLI Spring 2021 online program to Vladka Shikova (shikova@americancouncils.org).