AMERICAN COUNCILS
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Spring 2021 Online Program

BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

In addition to its overseas Balkan Language Initiative (BLI) program, American Councils is pleased to offer the BLI spring 2021 coursework by way of distance learning as well. Students will attend daily, remote language instruction, meet with virtual conversation partners, and take part in a variety of virtual cultural activities.

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 daily 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.

Instruction will be twelve academic hours per week, with class sizes of one to four students depending on language level. Participants can expect at least two hours per day of live, synchronous instruction conducted Monday through Friday. Additional academic hours will be delivered in an asynchronous (recorded) format.

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 two hours every week to provide additional contact hours in the target language throughout the semester.

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.

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 a total of 240 contact hours in the target language.

Academic Credit

Upon successful completion of the online program, participants will receive full academic credit equivalent to 16 undergraduate credit hours or 15 graduate credit hours from Bryn Mawr College.

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 Balkan Language Initiative Spring 2021 online program fee is **$7,600.**

Financial Aid

American Councils has several scholarships available for students applying to the 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 Balkan Language Initiative Spring 2021 online program to Vladka Shikova (shikova@americancouncils.org).