

Summer 2020 Online Program

BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

American Councils is pleased to offer the Balkan Language Initiative (BLI) summer 2020 coursework by way of distance learning. Students will attend daily, remote language instruction, be paired with virtual conversation partners, and take part in a wide variety of virtual cultural activities.

Language Offerings

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

Academic Structure Overview

The academic program will feature daily online, synchronous and asynchronous instruction that will focus on developing language skills in speaking, reading, listening, grammar, and writing. Participants will also complete regular assignments outside of class that expand upon 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. Two academic hours per week 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 up to three hours per week to provide an additional 24 hours of contact in the target language.

Cultural Activities

American Councils will arrange for two to three hours per week of 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 like the Gazi Husrev-beg Mosque in Bosnia, the Old Bazaar and Stone Bridge in North Macedonia, and the National Museum of History in Albania
- Cooking lessons
- Music and dance lessons
- Virtual holiday celebrations, like Eid al-Adha in Bosnia and Albania and Ilinden in North Macedonia

- Discussion groups with local American Councils alumni across the Balkans
- Guest lectures on topics of interest to participants

Total Contact Hours

Combining the academic program, conversation partners, and virtual activities and excursions, participants will have a total of 144 contact hours in the target language.

Academic Credit

Participants will receive full academic credit (8 undergraduate credit hours or 10 graduate credit hours) from Bryn Mawr College for successful completion of the program.

1. BALK 320 / Intensive Conversation: Regional Language (1.0 Unit*)
BALK 515 / Intensive Conversation: Regional Language (1.0 Unit*)
2. BALK 330 / Intensive Grammar: Regional Language (1.0 Unit*)
BALK 525 / Intensive Grammar: Regional Language (1.0 Unit*)

**One Bryn Mawr unit is equivalent to four undergraduate or five graduate semester hours.*

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 summer online program during the acceptance process.

Dates

Classes will start on **Monday, June 15, 2020** and continue for eight-weeks through **Friday, August 7, 2020**.

Cost

The Balkan Language Initiative Summer 2020 remote program fee is **\$3,600**.

Financial Aid

American Councils has several scholarships available for students applying to the BLI Summer 2020 Online Program. Applicants can apply for financial aid in the program application.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted through **Wednesday, June 10, 2020** with admission and consideration for financial aid offered on a rolling basis as soon as an application is complete. Please visit our [online application portal](#) to begin the application process.

New applicants are encouraged to complete their applications ahead of the June 10th deadline to avoid any delays to the June 15th class start date.

Questions?

Please direct any questions about the Balkan Language Initiative Summer 2020 Online Program to Liz Cameron (ecameron@americancouncils.org).