

Summer 2021 Online Program

BALKAN LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

American Councils is pleased to offer its Balkan Language Initiative (BLI) summer 2021 coursework by way of distance learning. 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 feature daily online (synchronous and asynchronous) instruction that focuses on developing language skills in speaking, reading, listening, grammar, and writing. Participants also complete regular assignments outside of class that expand the activities covered in online classes.

Instruction is 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 may be delivered in an asynchronous (recorded) format.

American Councils 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 are 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 summer term.

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 are conducted in the target language by local alumni and staff, and participants are given the opportunity to ask questions as the virtual activity is taking place.

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 120 contact hours in the target language.

Academic Credit

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

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 Maw 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 online program during the acceptance process.

Dates

Classes will start on **Monday, June 14, 2021** and continue through **Friday, August 6, 2021**.

Cost

The Balkan Language Initiative Summer 2021 online program fee is **\$3,900**.

Financial Aid

American Councils has several scholarships available for students applying to the BLI Summer 2021 Online program. Applicants can apply for financial aid in the program application.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted through **Monday, May 3, 2021** 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.

Questions?

Please direct any questions about the Balkan Language Initiative Summer 2021 online program to Vladka Shikova (shikova@americancouncils.org).