



Presidential Leadership Profile

American University in Bulgaria
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
<https://www.aubg.edu/>





The Search

The Presidential Search Committee of the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) invites applications and nominations of candidates for its search for President. The first American-style, English language, liberal arts educational institution in Eastern Europe, the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) is a unique cooperative venture established with the support of the U.S. and Bulgarian governments, the Open Society Institute, and the University of Maine. The institution is considered the highest-quality liberal arts university in Eastern Europe.

The Presidency is an exceptional opportunity for an inspiring visionary leader to bring about change and growth, while honoring the institution's successful past and strong traditions. S/He must galvanize support among all University constituencies to chart a course for AUBG's future, while serving as a highly visible member of the Bulgarian community. AUBG's next President will bring a proven record of scholarly accomplishments and knowledge of higher education, and deep interest in European and/or international education systems. Working in a multinational and culturally diverse environment, the incoming President will apply multicultural sensitivity, business savvy, fundraising prowess, and a strategic mindset to further enhance AUBG's academic quality, increase student admissions, maintain high retention, and heighten fundraising support for the institution.

About AUBG

From its audacious early beginning as the first and only private university in Bulgaria, the only liberal arts higher education institution in the Southeastern European and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, and as a symbol of the support of the United States government to the democratization and reform of the region — AUBG is a fully accredited institution of higher learning in both the United States and Bulgaria.

AUBG scored customarily high at the [Bulgarian University Rankings](#), with all five evaluated disciplines in leading positions. The university is number one in the country in the professional fields of administration and management, political science, and public communications and information sciences and holds second place in economics and informatics and computer science.



The results released December 2019 also show that AUBG leads when it comes to several crucial indicators. AUBG graduates of three disciplines (political science, informatics and computer science, and public communications and information sciences) have zero unemployment, while graduates of four of the disciplines (administration and management, economics, political science, and public communications and information sciences) have the highest salaries in the rankings.

AUBG is also number one in all five disciplines in terms of prestige and welfare and administrative services. The ranking shows that AUBG accepts the students with the highest diploma GPA in all five disciplines.

In fall 2019, AUBG welcomed 274 top-achieving students coming from over 30 countries. The number of degree-seeking students is 242, which is the third-best result in the past 12 years. This year's success was preceded by a record number of new students enrolled in fall 2018; the number of Bulgarian students was the highest in 12 years. The number of international students has increased as well, with students from 40 different countries and faculty from five continents. Data from the past two years shows a sustainable growth trend in the number of students who choose AUBG for their studies. Moreover, in the past few years the average academic qualifications of the incoming classes have also been rising.

Some highlights of the University's recent accomplishments in improving academic excellence include the faculty outlining a new general education program to better fit the needs of the students and launching new programs in psychology (fall 2018) and physics (fall 2019). In addition, facility improvements were implemented to support AUBG's academic programs — this included the creation of new computer labs in the Balkanski Academic Center and the opening of a new science lab in the Skaptopara II Residence Hall, allowing for the expansion of AUBG's science offerings.

The Executive MBA program celebrated its 16th anniversary in 2019 and joined the Association of MBAs (AMBA) Development Network. The Executive Master in Finance, Banking, and Real Estate (EMFBRE) joint venture program with SDA Bocconi was also successfully launched with 20 students in the inaugural cohort. AUBG has added two additional programs — English for Journalists, funded by the



U.S. Embassy in Sofia, and the Sustainability, Leadership, and Innovation partnership with the Bulgarian Soft Drink Association.

Building on its long and successful history with entrepreneurship, AUBG has just launched its first-ever Acceleration Program [Elevate](#). The brainchild of University Council Chair and Trustee and Eleven Founding Partner [Daniel Tomov \('97\)](#), the accelerator will help student entrepreneurs and recent alumni start their first businesses.

During the four-month program, the participating teams have access to many workshops, training, and a mentorship network comprised of experienced entrepreneurs and AUBG alumni. Each team will get \$5,000 as capital to kick-start their development.

Designed to provide students with startup guidance, the accelerator will double as a way to support the university: AUBG will have a 5% stake in each company that comes out of the program.

The Role of the President

Reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, the President is the Chief Executive Officer of AUBG. Direct reports to the President include the Provost, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Operations, Vice President for Advancement, Director of Marketing and Communications, General Counsel, and Director of Human Resources. AUBG seeks an experienced and visionary leader who puts students first in advancing an institution known for its academic rigor and seen as a leader in its region. Working in close collaboration with the University's stakeholders, the President will create stability after a period of leadership transition, to complete a turnaround and transition to a vision-based growth institution.



Opportunities and Challenges

With deep enthusiasm for liberal arts education, the American University in Bulgaria's next President will build on the University's reputation, promoting a culture of innovation while embracing the following opportunities and challenges:

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Ensuring the commitment to AUBG's liberal arts mission and values, the incoming President will establish a united vision for the University that is both innovative and distinctive while creating a Strategic Plan to realize that vision. The next President will be knowledgeable about a changing higher education landscape and understand how emerging marketing trends, technology, and the global economy impact the program type and delivery. The President will continue the expansion of academic programs, identifying new markets and modalities consistent with the core identity of the institution and responsive to market trends.

The President should bring demonstrated skills in change management. S/He will review the organizational structure of the University, aligning it with future vision and plans going forward, supporting a culture of accountability, and leveraging expertise across campus and its partners. Along with senior leadership, the President will strive to attract leading faculty members and a high-achieving and diverse student body to AUBG.

RESOURCE GENERATION

Overall, the President is charged with developing a sustainable financial model that strengthens the University for future generations. Fundraising will play a significant role in helping AUBG realize its fullest potential and continue on its successful path. The President must play a leadership role in fundraising activities, including future comprehensive campaigns, to support the Strategic Plan and provide resources for future change and growth. Key priorities for the next several years will include, among others, endowment growth, scholarship, capital enhancements, and building new resources through grant development and private giving. The new President will invest considerable effort in fundraising, working closely with AUBG Trustees and others to seek financial support from alumni, corporate, foundation, and other friends of the University.



ENHANCING AUBG'S IMAGE AND REPUTATION GLOBALLY

AUBG is recognized for its outstanding liberal arts teaching practices; its crucial role in promoting entrepreneurship, ethical leadership, and the democratic values in the region; and its ability to attract high-achieving students, many of whom go on to pursue leadership positions across the globe. The AUBG community reflects the strong values of the institution including work ethic, intellect, and passion for the liberal arts.

The next President will work to sustain and enhance AUBG's high standards of academic excellence with the vision and plan to be the highest-ranking liberal arts university throughout the EU. The incoming President will have a seat on the Council of Rectors, which will allow the President to serve as a thought leader in a liberal arts education to all member European entities.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONSTITUENCIES

AUBG's next President will be a highly visible and engaging presence on and off campus. The ability to engage and instill confidence in all constituencies, including faculty, students, staff, board members, and alumni will be crucial. S/He must be able to build connections with business and government leaders in Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, the United States, and beyond, accepting a leadership role in the community and serving as the face of AUBG.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS CAMPUS

The next President will step into an environment where major leadership change requires strong communication and collaboration at all levels. The ideal candidate will reaffirm and reinforce the good will that exists among faculty, administration, alumni, and trustees. S/He will strengthen shared governance and engage collaboratively, relating to appropriate roles of all constituencies. The next President will recognize the importance of seeking input, ideas, and insight from key constituencies, respecting traditions and values before making recommendations to effect change. By listening, asking thoughtful questions, and identifying opportunities to propel the institution forward, the President will be the stabilizing force of leadership needed to ensure continuity and forward momentum as AUBG determines areas of untapped potential.



Qualifications and Experience

The successful candidate will have a track record of exceptional senior leadership in higher education, passion for liberal arts, interest in European education, and will have demonstrated a strong personal pursuit of academic achievement:

Education and Experience:

- An earned doctorate or terminal degree;
- Administrative leadership demonstrating the ability to lead in an academic setting; and
- A strong track record of outstanding scholarship and academic publications.

Values and Principles:

- A commitment to supporting the faculty, staff, and students, and a proven track record of inspiring people and institutions through principled leadership;
- A commitment to the institution's academic quality and to the role of scholarship, research, and innovation in the mission of the University;
- A commitment to the student-centered mission of the University;
- A commitment to the importance of equal opportunity and access and diversity in educational institutions; and
- A commitment to external constituencies including trustees, alumni, donors, and the broader community.

Skills:

- Excellent communication skills;
- Strong management, administrative, and strategic abilities;
- Financial acumen;

- Ability to promote a shared vision to address needs and create opportunities, especially in the areas of student and faculty recruitment, finances, facility improvement, and technology;
- Ability to raise funds from private, state, and global sources and to articulate to external audiences the value of supporting the University;
- Interpersonal skills to interact skillfully with various constituencies of the University, alumni, media, and the community at large;
- Interpersonal skills to interact effectively with elected officials, governmental bodies, and the Council of Rectors;
- Ability to hire and build an effective administrative team;
- Ability to foster an innovative environment that continues to attract high-quality faculty, students, and staff; and
- Ability to identify opportunities and convert challenges into creative solutions and programs that will advance the future of the institution.

To Apply

Nominations, applications, and inquiries are being accepted for the position. Consideration of candidates will continue until the position is filled. Candidates should submit, in confidence, a curriculum vitae and cover letter.

Communications, nominations, applications, and inquiries concerning this search should be directed to:



Jill Lasman, Executive Vice President

jlasman@LindauerGlobal.com

Prior to submitting your resume for this position, please read it over for accuracy. Lindauer does verify academic credentials for its candidates, and our clients frequently conduct background checks prior to finalizing an offer.

Appendix

University Overview:

History, Mission, Values, and Vision

The American University in Bulgaria opened its doors on June 24, 1991 with 16 full-time faculty members and 208 students. From its audacious early beginning as the first and only private university in Bulgaria, the only liberal arts higher education institution in the Southeastern European and the CIS region, and as a symbol of the support of the United States government to the democratization and reform of the region — AUBG has emerged as the highest-quality liberal arts university in its part of the world.

The University's mission is to educate students of outstanding potential in a community of academic excellence, diversity, and respect and to prepare them for democratic and ethical leadership serving the needs of the region and the world. AUBG's activities are guided by enduring values — values that have not changed over time but are fundamental to its identity. Both its vision and mission are informed by the values that were shared by the University's founders and which have guided the University since its inception:

- *AUBG believes all of its programs and activities must be characterized by the highest standards of excellence;*
- *AUBG is committed to the values of a diverse and inclusive campus community;*
- *AUBG believes all of the University's activities must be characterized by the highest standards of integrity;*
- *AUBG embraces the values of open, democratic, and participatory governance both within the University and in the broader community;*
- *AUBG is committed to the values of freedom of thought and expression;*
- *AUBG understands that the most effective way to prepare students for successful and meaningful lives is through a rigorous academic program characterized by active and engaged learning within the context of the American liberal arts tradition;*
- *AUBG is committed to the quest for new knowledge and supports faculty and students in their process of discovery and creativity; and*
- *AUBG believes that the University has a responsibility to contribute to the welfare of the broader community and to promote social responsibility among all its constituents.*

The American University in Bulgaria aspires to a community of diverse and creative students of outstanding potential living and learning together in an engaging and rigorous academic environment on a campus that offers world-class academic, recreational, and residential facilities. Mentored by internationally respected faculty committed to the liberal arts tradition, graduates will be fully prepared for lives of professional achievement, personal fulfillment, and service.

Strategic Plan

AUBG's [Strategic Plan \(Vision 2016 – 2020\)](#) contains four overarching strategic goals (below). The following progress has been reported:

Increase Enrollment While Maintaining Academic Quality

In fall 2019, AUBG welcomed 274 top-achieving students coming from over 30 countries. The number of degree-seeking students is 242, which is the third-best result in the past 12 years. This year success was preceded by a record number of new students enrolled in fall 2018; the number of Bulgarian students was the highest in 12 years. The number of international students has increased as well, with students from 40 different countries and faculty from five continents.

This is the result of the coordinated efforts of the entire team — not just Admissions but also the Communications and Marketing office, AUBG faculty, and staff members, alumni, and current students.

Part of the success in recruiting new students is due to a much more visible marketing campaign. AUBG put more emphasis on placing its marketing content in cinemas, out-of-home locations, and online channels, particularly in Bulgaria. The University intends to expand the scope of these efforts to its international markets. This campaign won two awards against corporate competition.

Promote Academic Excellence

Academic year 2018 – 19 was an eventful year for AUBG's academic programs. The University proved to be an education leader for the eighth consecutive year, earning top places in the 2018 Bulgarian University Rankings for all programs evaluated. The faculty and Board of Trustees approved two new programs in the past several years — psychology, which started in the fall 2018 semester, and physics, which began in fall 2019. The faculty is also working on outlining a new General Education program to better fit the needs of students.

AUBG made improvements to the facilities available for academic programs by creating new computer labs in the Balkanski Academic Center, thanks to the support of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA). In spring 2018 the University opened its new science lab in the Skaptopara II Residence Hall. This lab supports existing science programs and was instrumental in the creation of the physics major.

On the executive education side, the Executive MBA program celebrated its 16th anniversary and joined the Association of MBAs (AMBA) Development Network. The Executive Master in Finance, Banking, and Real Estate (EMFBRE) joint venture program with SDA Bocconi had a successful launch with 20 students enrolled in the inaugural cohort. The University's U.S. accreditors recently concluded their site visit and gave the University an enthusiastic report. AUBG also started two additional programs — English for Journalists, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, and the Sustainability, Leadership, and Innovation, a partnership with the Bulgarian Soft Drink Association.

Last but certainly not least — recently an AUBG team won several medals in the National Olympiad in Computer Mathematics. Furthermore, AUBG students participate in conferences and competitions worldwide, such as the Carroll Round International Student Research conference at Georgetown

University, USA and the annual Microsoft's Imagine Cup competition. The Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program has repeatedly recognized AUBG students' potential. AUBG hosts its own research conference every year, where students and faculty present research projects.

Enhance the Campus Environment

Throughout the past years, the University made many changes to the campus to celebrate the AUBG spirit and the many student achievements. It added signs on campus buildings, including one that pronounces the ABF Student Center "Home of the Griffins." Banners were hung in honor of major events on campus, as well as the student clubs, academic programs, and the diversity of nationalities at AUBG.

The top floor of the ABF Student Center now has a display of modern art, which is changed each year. A sculpture suspended above the main staircase and financed by gifts from the AUBG Board of Trustees greets the visitors of the building. The AUBG University Council also supported neon signs for the café that feature the logos of the AUBG student performing arts organizations.

The Main Building interior was also refreshed — a new lounge area on the ground floor now provides a place for students to relax between classes, and new decorations and signage were also installed. AUBG's focus during the upcoming year will be to implement some upgrades to improve the ambiance and functionality of the Main Building.

Build a Sustainable University

AUBG's Strategic Plan brings together all the elements ensuring that AUBG remains a top-quality education provider for the region permanently under the heading of "Building a Sustainable University." These considerations include ensuring that the University's finances are in good order and that it lives within its means. AUBG also needs to ensure that it remains accessible to students from Bulgaria and the region with limited financial means. The University needs to be able to continue to attract and retain the high-quality faculty and staff needed to fulfill its mission and needs plans in place to respond to emergencies. It also needs to maintain a cooperative relationship with the local and national government, so that the University is a good citizen of Blagoevgrad and can count on the assistance of the municipality when needed.

On the financial side, AUBG has completed its 13th consecutive year with a balanced budget.

The ability to balance its books while keeping AUBG affordable for students requires an inflow of support from donors. Through the generous funding exceeding \$22MM, the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) has empowered generations of AUBG students to make a difference in their communities and the world. Thanks to the support provided by ABF more than 350 students obtained high-quality education at AUBG.

In 2012 a new building opened its doors on the AUBG Skaptopara campus. It was named after ABF due to the foundation's crucial role in the realization of this project. ABF donated \$8MM to the project and

made possible the construction of the state-of-the-art structure that was awarded “Building of the Year” in 2013.

This past year AUBG’s fundraising efforts brought in very positive results and the team exceeded its annual targets in all major categories — alumni, faculty, staff, and corporate donations. We also marked the highest Board of Trustees and University Council giving in five years, which is among the highest ever.

The ability to broaden and diversify AUBG’s base of supporters is a key factor in ensuring that it will be able to continue to support students with financial need in the future.

Governance

AUBG is a privately funded, nonprofit institution and is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization under U.S. Tax Law.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of AUBG. It is autonomous, self-regulating, self-evaluating, and internationally dispersed. The main focus of the AUBG Board of Trustees is to support the University to fulfil its mission as well as to guide AUBG in pursuit of excellence. All of the distinguished members of the Board work pro bono for the future growth and prosperity of AUBG. Their vision and leadership have a significant impact on the university’s future.

The plurality of the Board members are U.S. citizens, and two-thirds of the members are citizens of the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria. The Board selects and appoints the President who is a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board. To ensure faculty and student representation on the Board, a faculty member and a student respectively are elected by their constituencies to sit on the Board. The Board comprises nine subcommittees through which business is conducted. Board members reflect a reasonable range of professional fields and expertise, including finance, government, higher education, banking, law, and media.

The Board of Trustees is chaired by Dr. Carolyn J. Stefanco, the 11th President of The College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY. She joined the College after serving as vice president for academic affairs at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, GA; as the founding dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at California State University, Stanislaus; as a tenured professor, history department chair, and women’s studies program director at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly); and as assistant professor at Wheaton College (MA). Dr. Stefanco earned a Ph.D. in history from Duke University, an M.A. in women’s history from Binghamton University, and a B.A. in history and a women’s studies certificate from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dr. Stefanco was a Senior Fulbright Scholar to the University of Zagreb in Croatia; served as resident director of a London Study Program; created programs for student exchange and faculty research in Honduras, Brazil, Portugal, and Croatia; and worked as a higher education consultant for Saudi Arabia.

[Learn more.](#)

The University Council

The University Council consists of distinguished individuals interested in maintaining regular contact with AUBG and willing to share their expertise and connections to secure financial and in-kind contributions in support of selected activities. Acting as an established arm of the Board of Trustees of AUBG, the University Council is designed to encourage participation and interaction on behalf of the broader AUBG community with the Board, University administrators, faculty, students, and alumni in a manner of providing essential human and material support for selected activities.

The mission of the University Council is to help raise the profile of AUBG, locally, regionally, and internationally, by engaging the interests and resources of individuals and organizations that can contribute to the continuing success of the University. All activities of the University Council and its members are intended to harmonize with AUBG's mission and to complement the ongoing efforts of the University's fundraising, programs, and activities.

University Committees

The American University in Bulgaria also relies on University committees for advice to key administrators on matters of policy. Standing University Committees address ongoing concerns of the University. Ad hoc University committees are constituted as needed to address temporary University concerns. The AUBG President is empowered to convene and dissolve University committees with the concurrence of the Provost and proper notification of the committee members. However, any member of the AUBG community (students, faculty, staff) may ask the President to consider appointing a committee to address an issue. The President's Office will make an announcement to the University community when a new committee is formed.

Current (or Current and Past) Committees Include:

Academic Integrity Council
Academic Standing Committee
Accreditation Committee
Admissions Committee
Commencement
Forecasting and Budgeting
Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service
Human Subjects Review
Scholarship
Sexual Harassment Hearing Panel
Student Conduct
Student Outcomes Assessment
Student Services
Staff Development and Policies

Undergraduate Student Government

The Student Government is the directly elected representative body of the students at AUBG. The Student Government consists of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Student Senate of 12 members.

The Student Government holds its sessions weekly. It has a yearly budget, which is allocated among the various student clubs and organizations. The Student Government voices the opinions and concerns of the AUBG students and seeks to improve communication between the student body and the Faculty and Administration.

Accreditation

The American University in Bulgaria is in the unique position of being accredited both in the United States (by the New England Commission of Higher Education, formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.) and in Bulgaria (by the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation). AUBG is chartered as an institution of higher education by an act of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Academics

High-quality U.S. education leading to both American and European diplomas, global alumni success, outstanding value for the money, and great opportunities to finance a student's education — these are just some of the benefits AUBG provides to bright minds from the region and beyond. Preparing students for a competency- and skill-based business environment after graduation, the University offers a variety of courses spanning 13 majors and 19 minors to help students discover their passions and build a strong set of related skills and knowledges.

On top of a 99.8% employment rate after graduation, AUBG alumni score remarkable compensation results. Approximately 20% of graduates earn more than \$100,000/year and over 20% of alumni from 1995 to 2005 who are currently working in the U.S. earn more than \$250,000/year. In addition, AUBG's graduates are some of the most sought-after specialists and receive some of the highest incomes in their fields, according to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education ranking.

English Language Institute

The English Language Institute is an auxiliary unit of AUBG established in 1992 and designed to offer English language education to prospective students of the University, people from the community, all over Bulgaria and Eastern Europe.

The primary purpose of the Institute is to prepare future AUBG applicants for the [TOEFL](#) and [SAT](#), as well as absolute beginners or students with intermediate level of English to master the language and apply to the University. Also, a variety of short-term courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer semesters — daytime and evening, intensive and non-intensive, from absolute beginner to advanced level — to part-time students taking English for professional, academic, and other purposes.

Executive Education

In 1991, the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) was established to develop leaders in Southeastern Europe who could make a difference in the rapidly changing region. The Sofia-based executive programs at AUBG are tailored to those who are never tired of exploring the subtle knowledge of business success and the immense power of networking.

- AUBG's mission of excellence expanded in 2003 to include an Executive Master in Business Administration (EMBA) program. [Learn more](#)
- The Executive Master in Finance, Banking & Real Estate is a joint venture program supported by SDA Bocconi School of Management and the American University in Bulgaria. [Learn more](#)
- The Sustainability Leadership and Innovation Program has been developed jointly by the American University in Bulgaria and the Association of Soft Drinks Producers in Bulgaria with the support of well-known international professors. It represents a brand new, unique educational opportunity driven by the growing demand for sustainable business training. [Learn more](#)

Students

Number of AUBG Students in Fall 2019 – 924

Undergraduate Students – 897

Graduate Students – 27

Number of Nationalities Represented on Campus – 45

Retention Rate – 98%

Graduation Rate – 84%

Faculty and Staff

Number of Faculty in Fall 2019 – 78

Average Class Size – 23

Total Staff - 251

Diversity

With students coming from about 40 different countries and faculty coming from five continents, AUBG takes diversity seriously: Its unique position as a global university in one of Europe's oldest civilizations gives it a point of view not found elsewhere.

As technology continues to make the world of work more connected, there's never been a better time to make broadening horizons a top priority. It's well known that diverse teams perform better, and AUBG's Diversity Program gives its students the edge.

The Diversity Program kicks off in Orientation week with a half-day workshop. After that, AUBG's dedicated Diversity Team (made up of a representative cross-section of students, staff, and administrators, all of whom get special training) lead many fun and varied events through the year, such as International Week and Taste Fest, to inspire and encourage students to get involved.

Student Life

As part of the AUBG family, students find themselves in a supportive, diverse environment where they will discover new outlets for creativity, personal growth, friendship, challenge, and relaxation.

Whether a student joins in with the popular music and theater performances (AUBG musicals are so popular they go on tour around all of Bulgaria's major cities), meet new teammates in one of the sports clubs, flex critical thinking muscles in its acclaimed series of guest lectures, or form one's own interest group, students will be right at home. From its student accommodation to the impressive Panitza library, AUBG facilities are world-class.

Parents can rest in the knowledge that pastoral care on campus is the highest priority. AUBG's trained team of student counselors are on hand to offer help and advice to any student who needs it. Security is at the highest level, and full healthcare facilities are available.

While Blagoevgrad is itself a safe, lively and exciting town, it is also the perfect launch pad for trips to the mountains, spas, and international away-days in nearby Greece or North Macedonia.

Athletics

AUBG students are lucky enough to have one of the best university gymnasiums in Europe. This outstanding venue, housed in the award-winning ABF building, is fully equipped for a variety of sports — football (soccer), basketball, volleyball, tennis, and handball, and is open for students to train individually or in groups. It's made even more unique by the one-of-a-kind running track that circles around the gym on the second floor. The hall is so great that it is occasionally rented by professional athletes such as the Bulgarian Male National Volleyball team.

A workout gym, situated on the basement floor of ABF Student Center offers a variety of cardio equipment, training machines, and free weights to those who love to stay in shape.

In true American university style, AUBG students also play American football and baseball. Nearby is a swimming pool and tennis courts, while the ski resorts of Bansko, Pamporovo, and Borovets are within a few hours' drive. Yoga, Taekwondo, softball, karate, skiing, hiking, aerobics, boxing, and kickboxing are among the sports practiced by AUBGers. For some of these there are even student clubs and intramural teams.

A popular fixture on the sports calendar is the AUBG Olympics. Held once a year in the spring, this fabulous event gives students the chance to challenge themselves in a variety of disciplines and demonstrate their athleticism, but most of all, as with most things on campus, have fun.

Alumni

One of AUBG's main goals is to promote the interests of its students and the forming of a strong alumni network after their graduation. With thousands of graduates and undergraduates worldwide, it is important to maintain the bond between the University and its alumni and to provide them with meaningful ways to interact after leaving AUBG. A dedicated Alumni Affairs Office constantly works to

develop and improve the relationship between the University and its former students. In addition, the AUBG Alumni Association (AAA) is a nonprofit non-governmental organization, serving as a coordinating structure for all AUBG Alumni Activities.

Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid

AUBG is a unique university where talented students from all over the world come together to benefit from a world-class American education. Compared to students attending a similar four-year college in the USA, students at AUBG pay only a fraction of what it would cost to study there. AUBG offers need and merit scholarships to top students, financial aid packages, on-campus jobs, government-guaranteed loans, and summer work and travel programs through which most of the students finance their education.

Financial Aid Each Year — \$4.8 million

Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Aid – 76%

For the 2019 – 20 Academic Year the costs for attending AUBG full time are as follows (without any scholarships and financial aid):

Tuition per year	\$12,300
Housing per year	
Skaptopara I and II double in apartment	\$1,440
Skaptopara II double room	\$1,520
Skaptopara III	\$1,780
Student Activity Fee	\$610

Finances

The American University in Bulgaria is a not-for-profit organization registered in the State of Maine. The University is exempt from U.S. Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

The establishment of the University in 1991 was facilitated through the joint cooperation of the Initiative Committee established by the Republic of Bulgaria, the City of Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, and private and public funding sources. At the time of the establishment of the University, the laws of Bulgaria did not provide for the establishment of private educational institutions; therefore, the University was incorporated in the Blagoevgrad Regional Courts as a Bulgarian not-for-profit organization. Legislation was subsequently enacted by the Bulgarian National Assembly recognizing the University as an institution of higher learning. Furthermore, the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance has acknowledged the status of the University as a “budget institution” enjoying exemption from some taxes and duties such as taxes on profits and certain exemptions for Value Added Tax.

For more financial information please check AUBG Financial Reporting: [AUBG Consolidated Financial Statements June 30, 2019](#)

Location

Blagoevgrad:

Blagoevgrad is a small, vibrant university town (20,000 of the 80,000 residents are students) within easy reach of the capital, Sofia (a one-hour drive or easy bus ride away). Blagoevgrad's restored old quarter bustles with cafes and bars in a lively cultural scene set against beautiful architecture. In town, there are 2.5 kilometers of leafy park alley for strolling, a fascinating historical museum, and a rich program of events. Nightclubs, opera, restaurants, and over 100 theater performances per year keep the lively population entertained.

It's easy to get away and experience some of Bulgaria's most stunning natural attractions too: the spa town of Sandanski, the Seven Lakes of Rila, and two world-class ski resorts. There are biking adventures to be had around town, and fans of hiking can take in some breathtaking views on foot.

For those seeking adventures further afield, North Macedonia is on the doorstep (30 kilometers), and Greece is only an hour's drive away.

Bulgaria:

Bulgaria is located in southeast Europe, in the northeast part of the Balkan Peninsula. Bordered by the Black Sea to the east and the Danube to the north, Bulgaria shares borders with Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, and Romania. The climate is temperate with increasingly short, cool winters and long, dry summers.

This sunny, pleasant land is in a unique position at the crossroads of civilizations, both modern and ancient. Lifestyle and culture in what is now Bulgaria have developed over thousands of years.

Although it may seem that in some rural villages, time has stood still (it's common to see elderly villagers plowing with a donkey and tending their sheep and goats), Bulgaria is a modern, forward-thinking country with a strong culture of innovation in its expanding business centers.

A member of the European Union since 2007, Bulgaria has emerged from the shadow of Communism to take its place as a democratic, safe, hospitable destination ripe with economic opportunity, a developing tourism industry, and beautiful natural resources.

Bulgaria is one of the most diverse countries in Europe, and its relatively compact size and accessible highway system mean an individual can travel from seaside to ski slope in a single day. With many hiking trails, protected sites of historic interest, spas, wine trails, and opportunities for ecotourism and adventure sports, Bulgaria is one of Europe's most exciting, hospitable, and affordable destinations.

Explore AUBG by taking a [virtual tour](#).