

Northwestern University > University of Belgrade & University of Sarajevo

# COMPARATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH: SERBIA and BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2019

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Northwestern | GLOBAL LEARNING OFFICE

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# Program Information

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## Program Team

There are a number of different partners and players that make important contributions to your academic, cultural, and personal experience in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Northwestern Program Director

#### Peter Locke

**Assistant Professor of Instruction, Global Health Studies and Anthropology at Northwestern University**



Peter Locke is a cultural and medical anthropologist; his doctoral research in Bosnia-Herzegovina examined humanitarian efforts to address collective and individual trauma in the wake of violent conflict.<sup>1</sup> He is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction and Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Global Health Studies program at Northwestern.

As the Program Director, Peter is responsible for orienting students to the program and to academic and cultural life in Belgrade and Sarajevo, including the schedule, academic expectations, cultural adjustment, and safety and security. He is in charge of overseeing the program's academic curriculum, liaising with partners in Belgrade and Sarajevo, accompanying and supervising the students on-site, mentoring field-based projects, and providing teaching and advising throughout the program. Lastly, Peter serves as your **primary emergency contact**, so if you're not feeling well, have any belongings lost or stolen, or experience any other incident while abroad, you can contact Peter.

### Program Coordinators

In each program location, you will have local contacts who are available to provide you with information and resources about your program, the host university, and the host city. The following resources can provide you with information, support, and connections to student life at the university. They are also great **local experts** and **cultural resources**, who can help you navigate everyday life. Finally, they will serve as **secondary in-country emergency contacts**.

- **Ljubica Dimitrijević**, International Relations Office, University of Belgrade
- **Andrijana Aničić**, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
- **Prof. Nemanja Dzuverović, PhD**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade
- **Prof. Ksenija Kondali, PhD**, Associate Professor and Vice Dean for Research and International Academic Cooperation, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo
- **Prof. Melika Husić-Mehmedović, MBA, PhD**, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
- **Marija Šarić**, Executive Director, Wings of Hope/Krila Nade, Sarajevo

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.anthropology.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/locke.html>

## Academic Contributors [in order of appearance in the program]

**Andrijana Aničić, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade**

Andrijana Aničić works as an English language instructor at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She is an advanced PhD student at the Faculty of Philology, and her research mainly focuses on critical discourse analysis, pragmatics and cultural studies. She leads the first week of the program focusing on Serbian language and culture.

**Dr. Ivan Đorđević, Research Associate, Institute of Ethnography, Belgrade**

As a researcher for Belgrade's state-supported Institute of Ethnography, Dr. Đorđević (PhD 2014, Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, University of Belgrade) conducts applied ethnographic research for major national and international institutions on public health and social challenges in the region. His dissertation research and first book explored the intersection of nationalism, violence, and football rivalries in region. He will contribute to the first and third weeks of instruction in Belgrade.

**Dr. Nemanja Dzuverović, Associate Professor of Peace Studies, University of Belgrade**

In addition to his role as assistant professor at the University of Belgrade, Nemanja Dzuverović (PhD in political science, Universities of Belgrade and Oxford) is the academic coordinator for the Regional Master's Program in Peace Studies offered jointly by the Universities of Basel, Belgrade, Sarajevo, and Zagreb. His research focuses on the nexus of socioeconomic inequality and conflict in and beyond the Balkans. Co-editor of the *Journal of Regional*

*Security* and co-founder of the Center for Peace Studies, Dr. Dzuverović will lead the second week of instruction in Belgrade.

**Dr. Bojana Matejić, Professor of Social Medicine, University of Belgrade**

Dr. Matejić earned her MD as well as a PhD in social medicine from the University of Belgrade and serves as a full-time professor at Belgrade's School of Medicine. Her research interests include women's health, primary health care policy, and preventative approaches in public health. Dr. Matejić serves as a primary instructor for the public health unit in Belgrade.







**Dr. Aleksandra Jović-Vraneš, Professor of Social Medicine, University of Belgrade**

Dr. Jović-Vraneš earned her MD and PhD in social medicine from the University of Belgrade, and teaches medical students in both Serbian- and English-language tracks. Her research interests include health disparities, health promotion, and human rights in Serbia. She offers instruction together with Dr. Matejić in the program's public health unit in Belgrade.

**Dr. Milica Pejović-Milovančević, Acting Director of the Institute of Mental Health, Belgrade**

Milica Pejović-Milovančević (MD, PhD), is professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, and Acting Director of the Institute for Mental Health (IMH), where she also heads the Clinic for Children and Adolescents and the Department for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. A respected leader in her subfields, Dr. Pejović-Milovančević has published widely on the mental health determinants and consequences of child abuse, mental health policy in Serbia, and the impact of war and violence on the health of young people. She has played a major role in delivering the mental health curriculum in Belgrade in previous years, and now will take on full leadership of the unit.



**Dr. Ksenija Kondali, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo**

Professor Kondali is a scholar of American history, literature, and culture. In 2016, she co-edited the volume *Critical and Comparative Perspectives on American Studies* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), and in 2017 she published her monograph *Intersecting Paradigms*, about history, memory, and space in contemporary American women's writing. Prof. Kondali helps to coordinate the entire program in Sarajevo; supervises in particular the

first two weeks of coursework on Bosnian history, culture, and politics; and provides instruction on the Bosnian language and education system.

**Dr. Emir Filipović, Lecturer, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo**

Dr. Filipović specializes in medieval Bosnian history and has taught at the University of Sarajevo since 2007. His 2014 doctoral dissertation explores relations between the medieval Bosnian kingdom and the Ottoman Empire. Dr. Filipović will provide several sessions on Bosnian history as part of the program in Sarajevo, ranging from pre-20th empires to the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. He also guides the daylong excursion to Srebrenica and the Potočari Memorial Center.





**Dr. Sanjin Kodrić, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo**

Dr. Kodrić is an expert in 19th and 20th century Bosniak and Bosnian-Herzegovinian literature, cultural memory, and the South Slavic interliterary community. His books include *Literature of Remembrance: Cultural Memory and Representation of the Past in Modern Bosniak Literature*. In addition to delivering lectures on Bosnian literature and cultural history, Dr. Kodrić will lead the daylong excursion through Herzegovina on July 26.

**Dr. Aida Pilav, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sarajevo**

Aida Pilav (MD) is Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sarajevo and Assistant Minister for Public Health, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Government of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (FBiH). A leading scholar and advisor on public health challenges throughout the region, Dr. Pilav has helped to lead the design of the public health module in Sarajevo and will provide some of the unit's instruction.



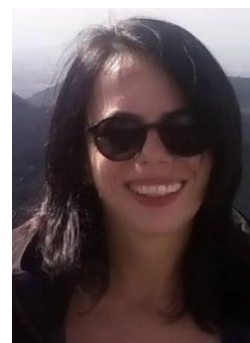
**Dr. Nermana Mehic-Basara, Director, Public Institute for Addiction Disorders, Sarajevo**

Nermana Mehic-Basara (MD, PhD) is a neuropsychiatrist, Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sarajevo, and Director of the Institute for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse of Sarajevo Canton. Actively involved in psychological support teams during the 1992-1995 war, Dr. Mehic-Basara has since coordinated addiction policy for the FBiH, directed an internationally-funded community mental health reform project for BiH between 1997 and 2003, and become a leading expert in the treatment of addiction and post-traumatic stress. Dr. Mehic-Basara has led

the design of the mental health module in Sarajevo and will teach parts of the curriculum.

**Marija Šarić, Executive Director, Wings of Hope/Krila Nade, Sarajevo**

Director of the psychosocial support services organization Wings of Hope for over a decade, Marija (Maja) Šarić has been working in Bosnian civil society to support vulnerable and war-impacted families since the early 1990s. She has degrees in economics, sociology, philosophy, peace studies, and psychotraumatology, and has worked in numerous consulting and advising roles for NGOs, government ministries, and international organizations throughout her career. Ms. Šarić and her colleagues at Wings of Hope will be a resource to the program throughout our time in Sarajevo, and will contribute instruction during the final module on mental health.



### Tentative Program Schedule & Activities

Your program will run from Sunday, June 23, 2019, to Sunday, August 18, 2019. Below is a basic schedule of program dates. A more detailed schedule will be provided when it is finalized. Please note that activities and dates are subject to change.

<b>DATES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>
Sunday, June 23	Arrive in Belgrade; Check in to student residences
Monday, June 24	Orientation begins
Monday, June 24 - Friday, July 5	<i>Slavic Civilizations: The History, Culture, and Politics of Serbia</i> course
Monday, July 1	Excursion to Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad
Monday, July 15 - Friday, July 19	<i>Public Health and Mental Health in Serbia</i> course
Saturday, July 20	Transfer from Belgrade to Sarajevo
Monday, July 22 - Friday, August 2	<i>Slavic Civilizations: The History, Culture, and Politics of Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> course
Friday, July 26	Excursion to Herzegovina
Friday, August 2	Excursion to Srebrenica and eastern Bosnia
Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 16	<i>Public Health and Mental Health in Bosnia-Herzegovina</i> course
Sunday, August 18	Depart for United States



## Course Descriptions

Refer to the **Academic Planning** section of the GLO website for more information about academic information, expectations, and policies: <https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/academic-planning/index.html>

### SLAVIC 255-SA-20: Slavic Civilizations: History, Culture, and Politics of Serbia

Students will receive introductory lectures on the cultures, literature, art, history, and religions of Serbia, as well as the politics and policies of Serbia's post-war transition to liberal democracy, a market economy, and candidacy for European Union membership. This course will also include instruction in *basic* Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language skills, with a focus on navigating daily life and transportation and responding appropriately to daily greetings and gestures of hospitality. Instruction will be provided by a range of faculty members from the humanities and social sciences.

### GBL\_HLTH 390-SA-20: Public Health and Mental Health in Serbia

Local public health and medical scholars and practitioners will introduce students to the healthcare systems and policies of Serbia; the impact of war and the "transition" from socialism to market-based economic policies on public health; and pressing current health policy debates and public health challenges. In addition, the course will cover key mental health challenges in Serbia and how they are being addressed in policy and clinical practice. The course will feature guided site visits to hospitals and primary care centers and meetings with key public health policy-makers.

### SLAVIC 255-SA-21: Slavic Civilizations: History, Culture, and Politics of Bosnia-Herzegovina

This course will introduce students to the histories, cultures, and contemporary governance of Bosnia-Herzegovina in comparison to Serbia and other post-Yugoslav states. Faculty from the humanities will guide students in exploring Bosnia-Herzegovina's dynamic past and diverse religious and cultural traditions through art, literature, and visits to sites of historical significance. Lectures from faculty in the social sciences and visits to national and international institutions of governance will introduce students to the political framework created by the 1995 Dayton Accords, questions of national identity and statehood, and the policy reform challenges that Bosnia-Herzegovina faces on the road to European Union membership. The course will also continue instruction in basic local language skills focused on essential day-to-day phrases.

### GBL HLTH 390-SA- 21: Public Health and Mental Health in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Students will explore the contemporary healthcare systems and policies of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the guidance of a range of local health scholars and practitioners from academic institutions, healthcare services, and nongovernmental organizations. The course will consider themes introduced to students in Serbia, including the long-term effects of war, humanitarian aid, and the "transition" from socialism to capitalism on public health. In addition, the course will explore mental illness and mental health care in Bosnia in depth, including challenges related to war trauma and post-traumatic stress. The course will feature guided site visits to hospitals and primary care centers and meetings with key public health policy-makers, and students will also have the opportunity to engage in supervised field activities under the auspices of the psychosocial services NGO Wings of Hope.

## Excursions, Site Visits, and Study Trips

### Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad

Only an hour's drive from Belgrade, Novi Sad is the second-largest city in Serbia and the administrative capital of the ethnically diverse province of Vojvodina. Throughout the day, students will enjoy guided visits to important cultural sites in Novi Sad and the nearby historic town of Sremski Karlovci, including a center for environmental protection, medieval Orthodox monasteries, museums, and Fruška Gora National Park. The group will return to their Belgrade accommodations by early evening.



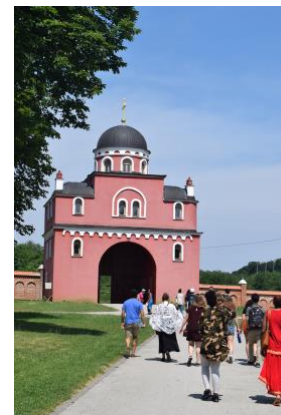
*View of the mountain and river scenery students passed while traveling to Mostar. Photo By: Grishma Reddy, Summer 2018*

### Herzegovina (Konjic, Jablanica, Mostar, Pocitelj and Stolac)

Professor Sanjin Kodrić, Department of Bosnian-Herzegovinian Literature, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, will lead students on a day-long excursion to the Herzegovina region of BiH, with on-site lectures at key historical and cultural locations in the cities of Konjic, Jablanica, Mostar, Počitelj, and Stolac. This excursion is a required component of the "History, Culture, and Politics of Bosnia-Herzegovina" course.

### Eastern Bosnia (Srebrenica and the Potočari Memorial Center)

Professor Emir O. Filipović, Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, will lead students on a day-long excursion to eastern Bosnia, focused on key sites of memory and controversy associated with the violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. In particular, Dr. Filipović will guide students on a visit to Srebrenica and the nearby Potočari Memorial Center to consider how wartime traumas and grievances continue to shape contemporary regional politics. The excursion will incorporate on-site lectures at key historical and cultural locations, and is a required component of the "History, Culture, and Politics of Bosnia-Herzegovina" course.



*A day-long monastery tour through Novi Sad. Photo By: Cassandra Majewski, Summer 2017*

**Academic Program: Reflections from Past Students**

- *“The professors that were a part of this program were a significant part of what made this experience not just good, but great. People such as Professor Locke, Prof. Aničić, Prof. Dzuverovic, Prof. Filipović, Prof. Kodrić, and many others took time outside of class to relate to us and make the content we were learning truly relatable and real.” – Matthew Chong, 2017*
- *“One of the most indispensable aspects of being abroad was how open our instructors and locals were about their experiences during the war and dealing with the aftereffects of it. One of the most memorable experiences I will take with me was working at the War Childhood Museum for a few weeks in Sarajevo. It was a great way to engage with the people striving to express and build a sense of awareness and community for people who experienced the war, connecting them to people who haven’t.” – Emily Guo, 2017*
- *“The classes and after-class discussions surrounding the topics of class were definitely the most positive part of my time abroad. Our professors really fostered passionate discussion surrounding topics and talking through seemingly unsolvable challenges in the region was rewardingly frustrating.” - Cassandra Majewski, 2017*
- *“Studying abroad allowed me the opportunity of studying in a part of the world that I am absolutely in love with. I was able to learn more about the health systems in the Balkans, along with the recent history of the area. However, outside of studies, I was also able to meet new people and grow as a person. I definitely came back with newfound independence and general confidence”. - Aleksandar Kajmakoski, 2016*
- *“I really appreciated that we had the opportunity to get involved in the NGO Wings of Hope; for example, I spent an afternoon editing a log frame with three other people, and another afternoon helping translate the CV of a former child soldier. This gave me insights into how people actually experienced the war in Sarajevo which I could not have gotten from class. For the same reason, spending the last three days of class there was one of the academic highlights of the program.” ~Eleni Dima, 2016*
- *“I could not have asked for better professors. The frequency and difficulty of assessment was perfect and reflected the larger focus of learning about the region through field experience itself.” – Joseph Grzybek, 2018*

## Serbia

Serbian history and culture are rich and complex. We provide some basic information below, but we encourage you to research the history of your host countries as well as general country information, including the political system, geography, the economy, population, culture, and current events prior to your trip. Your ability to take full advantage of your time abroad will be influenced by the amount of preparation and research you do before you go, so read as much as you can!

### Fast Facts<sup>2</sup>

- Surface Area: 77,474 sq. km (slightly smaller than South Carolina)
- Population: 7.1 million
- Government type: Republic
- GDP per capita: \$15,100 (2017 est.)
- Major industries: automobiles, base metals, furniture, food processing, machinery, chemicals, sugar, tires, clothes, pharmaceuticals
- Population below poverty line: 8.9% (2014 est.)
- Unemployment rate: 16% (2017 est.)
- Religions: Serbian Orthodox (84.6%), Catholic (5%), Muslim (3.1%), Protestant (1%), atheist (1.1%), other (.8%), undeclared (4.5%) (2011 est.)
- While Serb is the predominant ethnic group, several other ethnic groups live within the country. The ethnic breakdown is as follows: Serb (83.3%), Hungarian (3.5%), Romani (2.1%), Bosniak (2%), other or unknown (9.1%) (2011 est.) The northern province of Vojvodina is more diverse than the country as a whole and is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in Europe.
- Language: Serbian (official) 88.1%, Hungarian 3.4%, Bosnian 1.9%, Romani 1.4%, other 3.4%, unknown 1.8%. In the semi-autonomous northern province of Vojvodina, Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, and Rusyn are all official languages.



### Brief History of Serbia

Serbia played a leading role in the federation of Yugoslavia from its formation as a monarchy in 1929, through the post- WW2 communist era, and up to its violent breakup driven by ethnic nationalists in the early 1990s. Serbia and Montenegro declared a new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992, and Serbian President Slobodan Milosević led military campaigns to form “Greater Serbia” to unite ethnic Serbs in neighboring republics. Conflicts with Albanian Muslims in the province of Kosovo—which Serbs consider the heartland of their history and culture—led to massacres and population displacements in 1998, and sporadic violence

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html> (last accessed April 8, 2019)



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continued through the early 2000s. In 1999, U.S. President Clinton led a NATO bombing campaign against Serbia to force Milosević to the negotiating table over Kosovo, much as NATO had done against Bosnian Serbs in 1994 and 1995. For over 70 days, NATO bombs fell on key strategic locations throughout Serbia, including major bridges, government buildings in downtown Belgrade, and military and political infrastructure. Around 500 people were killed, and civilian targets were unintentionally hit, including the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Controversy continues over the lingering health effects of depleted uranium used in NATO munitions. In other words: the NATO bombing campaign remains a source of deep injury and resentment for many Serbs, and students should be prepared for widespread distrust of American foreign policy. Just remember: *it's not personal*.

In 2006, the sparsely populated, mountainous southern province of Montenegro (now a NATO member!) seceded from the federation, perhaps recognizing Serbia's diminished international standing as well as potential advantages for foreign investment. Kosovo, with U.N. and U.S. support, declared full independence as a sovereign nation from Serbia in 2008, though it essentially remains a U.N.-governed protectorate. While most countries in the world recognize Kosovo's independence, several don't—including Serbia itself—and the status of Kosovo is a sensitive and divisive political issue for many Serbs of all generations.

Serbia's deeper history, like those of its neighbors in the region, is marked by its relationship to powerful empires and to the political upheavals that re-shaped 20<sup>th</sup>-century Europe. The medieval Kingdom of Serbia was eventually fully annexed by the Ottoman Empire by the mid-1500s and ruled by the Ottomans for centuries; this contentious period of control by a foreign power played a central role in the historic grievances mobilized by ethnic nationalists during the 1990s. After periods of control by the Hapsburg Empire and of independence in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Serbia became a key constituent of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia after WWII, and powerfully shaped Yugoslavia's course up until—and through—its disintegration.

### Contemporary Serbia

The boundaries of contemporary Serbia have been re-shaped by conflicts and political transformations during the two decades since the fall of Yugoslavia. With the secession of Montenegro and Kosovo in the last decade, Serbia is now a land-locked country in the heart of the Balkan peninsula, bordered by its former provinces to the south, Bulgaria and Romania to the east, Hungary to the north, and Croatia and Bosnia to the west. Serbia does not formally recognize the independence of Kosovo, and this remains a delicate political issue both in the region and in connection with Serbia's bid to join the European Union and possible NATO membership. Today Serbia is officially a militarily neutral nation but negotiating the powerful influence of both West (the EU and the US) and East (Russia) has made finding Serbia's new place in the contemporary global political order especially challenging. During the 1990s, Serbia had the largest population of refugees in Europe, and has had to struggle with managing large refugee populations again in recent years amidst mass migration from conflicts in the Middle East. Serbia's economy today is healthier than those of many of its neighbors, with strong agricultural, industrial, and energy sectors, but decades of political instability, as well as the more recent global recession, have produced sustained economic difficulties for many citizens. Average per capita income is only around 400 euros per year—and even this



average is likely artificially elevated by the exorbitant incomes of a small, uber-rich governing elite. Despite widespread economic hardship, Belgrade, Serbia's capital (and once the capital of Yugoslavia) is an energetic center of cultural, economic, and intellectual productivity and youth-driven political activism.

Since this program is intended to introduce you to contemporary issues in Serbia, we encourage you to read Serbian newspapers online to familiarize yourself with current events. (See the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.)

### University of Belgrade<sup>3</sup>

The University of Belgrade is the largest and oldest university in Serbia, founded in 1808 and comprised of 31 faculties, 11 research institutes, 7 centers, and a library. Approximately 90,000 students (including 1,700 postgraduates) are enrolled each year and the university employs over 4,000 teaching staff. Since 2000, the university has undertaken substantial reforms in compliance with the Bologna Declaration, and its schools of law, engineering, and medicine have become regional leaders. The University has sites throughout the city, with the two major campuses, one next to the Prince Michael Street at Studentski Trg and the other on King Aleksandar Boulevard.

### Language

The official language of instruction at University of Belgrade is Serbian. However, there are numerous accredited curriculums in the English language and several in other European languages. All the courses in this program will be taught in English.

### Academic Context

Serbian academic life is very similar to the European tradition. Courses are a mixture of lectures and seminars with group project time and site visits, individual laboratory time, and library work. Courses for the Comparative Public Health in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina program are customized for our students, so while they are taught by University of Belgrade professors, they do not necessarily reflect the academic culture or pedagogical style typical of University of Belgrade courses.

### Accommodations in Belgrade

Students will share suites in the University's famous King Alexander I dormitory (also known as "Lola," after a WWII Partisan hero). All suites have air conditioning, ensuite bathrooms, a living room with couch and TV, and a kitchenette (burners, sink, and small fridge). The dormitory is centrally located in downtown Belgrade, with easy access by foot, taxi, or public transportation to University buildings, sites of historical and cultural interest, nightlife, and shopping.

Affordable dining options are abundant near your accommodations, the university, and throughout Belgrade. (See the **Food & Water** section in the FAQs.)

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<sup>3</sup> From "University of Belgrade: 2015 Basic Information Guide for International Students," <http://www.bg.ac.rs/files/en/international/Information-guide-for-international-students.pdf>

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

Below is some basic information on Bosnia and Herzegovina. We encourage you to conduct your own research on the complex history of the region, including the political system, geography, the economy, population, culture, and current events prior to your trip. Read as much as you can! The amount of preparation and research you do before you go will influence your ability to interact with the culture and engage with course material.

## Fast Facts<sup>4</sup>

- Surface Area: 51,197 sq. km (slightly smaller than West Virginia)
- Population: 3,849,891 (July 2018 est.)
- Government type: federal democratic republic
- Capital city: Sarajevo
- Administrative divisions: 2 first-order administrative divisions and 1 internationally supervised district
- GDP per capita: \$12,800 (2017 est.)
- Major industries: mining (steel, coal, iron ore, lead, zinc), motor vehicle assembly, textiles, tobacco products, furniture, ammunition, domestic appliances, oil refining
- Population below poverty line: 16.9% (2015 est.)
- Unemployment rate: 20.5% (2017 est.). Actual unemployment rate is lower as many people categorized as unemployed work in the “gray economy”
- Religions: Muslim (50.7%), Orthodox (30.7%), Roman Catholic (15.2%), other (3.4%) (2013 est.)
- Official languages: Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian
- Population by ethnicity: Bosniak (50.1%), Serb (30.8%), Croat (15.4%), other (3.7%). Bosnia-Herzegovina’s major ethnic groups are legacies of the region’s varied history of control by the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires and are primarily defined by their association with the major religions of Southeast Europe: Islam (Bosniak/Bosnian Muslim); Orthodox Christianity (Serb); and Roman Catholicism (Croat). Prior to the 1990s, Sarajevo enjoyed a highly “mixed” and tolerant population, but the dramatic demographic changes propelled by war and Yugoslavia’s collapse have left Sarajevo a predominately Bosniak (Muslim) city.

## Brief History of Bosnia and Herzegovina

With socialist regimes falling across Eastern Europe and political boundaries throughout the region increasingly fragile and contested, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence from Yugoslavia in March 1992. As part of Serbia’s effort to form a “Greater Serbia,” Bosnian



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bk.html> (last accessed April 8, 2019)

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Serbs led an armed campaign to repartition the republic along ethnic lines. The Dayton Peace Accords between warring factions in 1995 retained Bosnia and Herzegovina's pre-war boundaries and created a multiethnic government. Two second-tier governments were also created—the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, governed by a coalition of Bosniaks and Croats, and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska.

The deeper history of Bosnia-Herzegovina is profoundly shaped by the history of the region's great empires. Slavic communities have lived in the region since the Middle Ages; after the medieval Kingdom of Bosnia was annexed by the Ottoman Empire in the late 1400s, Bosnia-Herzegovina remained under Ottoman control between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and its cultural and religious diversity owe much to this period. Briefly governed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire around the turn of the twentieth century, Bosnia figured centrally in both World Wars—WWI famously began when Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914, and Partisan leader Josip Broz "Tito" led key battles against Nazi forces throughout Bosnia during WWII. Tito led the formation of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia after the war and ruled the country until his death in 1980—after which the divisions and systemic political-economic issues that led to Yugoslavia's disintegration in the 1990s began to appear in earnest.

### Contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina

Demographically and politically, Bosnia-Herzegovina was profoundly and irrevocably transformed by the collapse of Yugoslavia and the conflicts that followed in the 1990s. Now divided into two primary political sub-entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, Bosnia's political process is shadowed—and, many would argue, paralyzed—by the ethnic divisions, boundaries, and checks and balances instituted by the Dayton Peace Accords of 1995. These political challenges, along with the mixed results of post-war international governance and economic policy reform, have made steady growth and recovery particularly difficult. Nevertheless, Bosnia-Herzegovina today is a vibrant and cosmopolitan patchwork of communities working hard to reckon with history and to build a more promising future. The country is internationally known for its extraordinary natural beauty and unique convergence of Eastern and Western cultural influences, supporting the re-development of tourism and sustaining global appreciation of Bosnian art, literature, film, and architecture. The country is a candidate for membership in the European Union and NATO, and has been steadily, if bumpily, implementing the reforms required by this path. Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, remains a beacon of cultural creativity, convergence, and progressive politics and activism, with a vibrant student culture and unique urban spirit.

Since this program is intended to introduce you to contemporary issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we encourage you to read newspapers online to familiarize yourself with current events. (See the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.)

### University of Sarajevo

The University of Sarajevo is the oldest institution of higher education in the former Yugoslavia, tracing its history to the founding of an Ottoman Islamic law college in 1531. As a modern, secular university, it was established in 1949 and now integrates 31 faculties including medicine, law, architecture, engineering, and the full range of humanities, social, and natural

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sciences. Approximately 50,000 students are enrolled each year, and the university employs over 1,000 teaching staff. The faculties are spread at different locations across the capital. It is the most prestigious institution of higher education and research in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and currently manages partnerships with over 120 universities in Europe, North America, and the Middle East.

### Language

The majority of courses and study programs at University of Sarajevo are taught in Bosnian, Croatian, or Serbian. However, all the courses in this program will be taught in English.

### Academic Context

Courses are a mixture of lectures, seminars, and site visits. Courses for the Comparative Public Health in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina program are customized for our students, so while they are taught by University of Sarajevo professors, they do not necessarily reflect the academic culture or pedagogical style typical of University of Sarajevo courses.

### Accommodations in Sarajevo

Students will share spacious double rooms at the Hotel Berr (<https://hotelberr.ba/>) in the center of Sarajevo's downtown Ottoman Quarter (Baščaršija). All rooms include air conditioning, en suite bathrooms, and Wi-Fi access, and breakfast will be available each morning. The hotel is truly in the heart of urban life in Sarajevo, and plentiful affordable dining and recreation options are just outside the door. Students will have easy access to classroom and site visit locations via the tram stop located around the corner.

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# Country Considerations

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## Travel and Transportation

There are many modes of transportation in both locations. In both Belgrade and Sarajevo, affordable, safe, and efficient modes of both public and private transportation are readily available, and students will learn to navigate them quickly.

- **Foot and bike:** In both cities, many amenities and program locations will be within walking distance of your accommodations. Car traffic in each city can be hectic and unpredictable, so students should take great care when crossing streets to avoid danger. Bicycles are available for rent from private agents in both Belgrade and Sarajevo, and there are safe and pleasant bike paths along the Danube and Sava rivers in Belgrade and along the Miljacka river in Sarajevo.
- **Buses and trams:** The public transportation systems in each city depend on a mixture of electrified buses (on wheels) and trams or trolleys (on rails). All-important destinations for the program are reachable by bus or tram in each city, and affordable weekly and monthly public transportation passes are available at discounted student rates.
- **Taxis:** Metered cabs are plentiful and cheap in both Belgrade and Sarajevo, and most taxi rides to any point in each city will cost no more than \$5-\$10 total. Students are encouraged to make regular and reasonable use of taxis, especially when returning to their accommodations at night or when travelling to locations they have not yet visited in person.
  - **Important note about taxis:** In both cities, students should be vigilant about black market taxi services: drivers who are not working officially and who are likely to vastly overcharge American visitors or even put them in unsafe situations. In Belgrade, all official taxis must include the suffix “TX” on their license plates; students should always verify that this is present before entering the vehicle. In Sarajevo, safe and official taxis can be recognized by the prefix “TA” on their license plates. Always check that the driver has switched on the meter at the beginning of your ride, and politely demand that they do so if necessary. *Do not accept an unmetered taxi ride.*

## Getting To/From the Airport

The program staff will inform you about suggested methods to arrange transportation to/from the Belgrade and Sarajevo airports. We also encourage you to connect with program mates to share transportation to/from airports whenever possible. If you arrange any personal trips during the program that involve long road trips or include air travel, you must first consult with your Program Director about your travel plans.

## Visas

U.S. citizens will not need a visa for Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina for this program, since they can enter as a visitor and stay for up to 90 days. If, for any reason, you think that you will exceed a 90-day visit, or if you do not hold a U.S. passport, please contact GLO about securing the appropriate entry document.



## Identity Abroad

The sections below provide some basic information about the cultural climate around identity in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Also reference the Identity Abroad pages on the Global Learning website: <https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-experiences/identity-diversity/index.html>

### Cultural Adjustment: Reflections from Past Students

- *"I had to become comfortable with smoking in the environment, and the more conservative dress code in both countries."* - Rohan Savoor, 2017
- *"I had to become less uncomfortable about being hyper-visible in an European environment. I had to self-reflect and assume best intentions when talking to strangers and answering questions about culture and interests."* - Kira Riley, 2017
- *"Our group travelled a lot together, so one of the adjustments made was understanding the amount of space we take up."* - Hope Kaliski, 2017
- *"Depending on the dominant religion in the region, certain foods will be more prevalent or perhaps non-existent, so there may be some dietary concerns. Also, there are orthodox, catholic churches, and mosques, but any other religious belief may have a more difficult time finding a place of worship. One should be aware of which ethnic group they are talking to, and their views on the other ones, as their opinions of you can change based on your views of them, which might be displayed by your usage of certain words."* - Mathew Chong, 2017
- *"Religion wasn't too much of a problem in the area. However, being openly LGBT is a problem in the area. Similarly, there were some ignorant comments and stereotyping made about races other than white people."* - Aleksandar Kajmakoski, 2016
- *"A social adjustment that I made in both Serbia and Bosnia was getting used to the fact that staring is common in these two countries. Here in the U.S. we abide by the notion that staring at others is impolite and should not be done, but in Serbia and Bosnia, this is not the case. People will stare at you, and it's not necessarily out of animosity but rather a combination of curiosity and the fact that this is just how things are there."* - Nihmotallahi Adebayo, 2018

### Gender Roles & Issues

While socialist Yugoslavia made great strides toward equality and improved living conditions for women, deliberate forms of mass gender-based violence, including rape and sexual assault, were widespread during the wars that tore the country apart in the 1990s, and many families throughout the region continue to struggle with the painful legacies of such violence. In subsequent years there has been significant progress made in reckoning with this history and implementing equity-based policies, including an increase in the number of positions for women in government and new legislation to protect victims and survivors. However, the rate of violence towards women, including rape and especially domestic violence, is higher in both Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina than in many other countries, and many people (as everywhere) tend to consider traditional gender roles, and even behaviors we might consider chauvinistic, as natural rather than socially constructed and therefore changeable.

Female study abroad students, in particular, should be aware of these gender dynamics, take safety precautions, heed their instincts, and seek support immediately if confronted with a challenging situation. While such experiences are *never* the victim's "fault," it is important to avoid situations likely to produce unpleasant encounters and to exercise basic precautions—including avoiding overconsumption of alcohol, never leaving colleagues alone with new

acquaintances, and following locals' recommendations for safe venues. In Belgrade, support staff at the University can help with gender-based concerns and direct students to appropriate resources. In Sarajevo, the NGO Wings of Hope regularly works on issues of domestic violence and advocates for gender equality throughout the region, and staff members are ready to serve as a resource to students on these matters.

#### Resources:

- Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade: <https://www.womenngo.org.rs/en/>
- Wings of Hope, Sarajevo: <http://wings-of-hope.ba/>
- Also refer to the pre-departure Canvas modules on *Gender & Sexuality Abroad* and *Sexual Misconduct Abroad*.

#### Gender Roles & Issues: Reflections from Past Students

- *"There is a lot of toxic masculinity which presents itself in different ways throughout the trip."*— Pedro Mendes, 2018

#### Sexual Orientation and Identity<sup>5</sup>

Homosexuality has been legal in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1994 and 1996 respectively, but LGBT people still face significant discrimination in both countries. Belgrade and Sarajevo, as the cosmopolitan capitals, are slightly more accepting than other towns and cities, yet they are still more conservative than other Western European cities. There are several LGBTIQ organizations challenging the perception of LGBT rights in both countries, and in Belgrade there are some restaurants and bars known to be LGBT friendly, but there is a long way to go.

While unlikely, violence against LGBT people can occur and LGBT travelers should be discreet. As a rule, public displays of affection between two people of the same gender are likely to be met with verbal abuse and/or physical violence. Moreover, be aware that it is not uncommon to hear openly homophobic comments in the media or in social situations. In Belgrade, support staff at the University can help with sexuality-based concerns and direct students to appropriate resources. In Sarajevo, the NGO Wings of Hope regularly and publicly advocates against LGBT-based discrimination, and staff members are ready to serve as a resource to students on these matters.

#### Resources:

- Serbian Gay-Straight Alliance: <http://en.gsa.org.rs/>
- LGBT-SOS (in Serbian): <http://www.transserbia.org/lgbt-sos>
- Gay Serbia: <http://www.gay-serbia.com/index-eng.jsp>
- Wings of Hope, Sarajevo: <http://wings-of-hope.ba/>
- Sarajevo LGBT news in English: <http://lgbt.ba/news-in-english/>
- Sarajevo Open Center: <http://soc.ba/en/>
- Also refer to the pre-departure Canvas modules on *Gender & Sexuality Abroad*.

<sup>5</sup> <http://visitsarajevo.info/LGBT-Sarajevo>, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Belgrade>

**Sexual Orientation & Identity: Reflections from Past Students**

- *“They are more conservative as a people over there, so issues regarding homosexuality are more present. I would advise them to not have public displays of affection, as the reactions can range from disgust to even violence, and there have been violent reactions to gay pride events in the past.”* - Mathew Chong, 2017
- *“Religion wasn’t too much of a problem in the area. However, being openly LGBT is a problem in the area. Similarly, there were some ignorant comments and stereotyping made about races other than white people.”* - Aleksandar Kajmakoski, 2016

**Race and Ethnicity**

Remember: these are significantly different cultural environments from the U.S., and our identity politics will be as unfamiliar to local people as theirs will be to you. While overt racism or incidents of racially-motivated violence are uncommon in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, non-white individuals are relatively rare in Belgrade and Sarajevo (by comparison to American cities or Western European capitals), and students of color may find themselves the subject of curiosity—normally innocuous, but occasionally more uncomfortable in tone or effect. Students should be prepared to field blunt, but not hostile, questions about their race/ethnicity and to redirect conversations when appropriate. Roma communities live in both cities and are frequently subjected to stigma and discrimination; thus, students of color may need to be especially vigilant about being identified with this group. If you encounter a situation that is difficult to understand or to cope with, or that is offensive or even threatening, you are urged to inform the Program Director and/or other on-site support staff immediately.

**Resources:**

- Race & Ethnicity page on the GLO website:  
<https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-experiences/identity-diversity/race-ethnicity.html>
- Refer to the pre-departure Canvas modules on *Navigating Identity Abroad*.

**Race & Ethnicity: Reflections from Past Students**

- *“In Serbia, most people are Trump supporters and so it was a shock for me as a black person.”* - Emilie Umuhire, 2017
- *“Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are pretty racially homogeneous places. Our group traveled together in a large group a lot, so we stuck out as Americans regardless of our race, but we were also a very racially diverse group, which sometimes led to uncomfortable interactions with locals. However, these were rare.”* - Avni Singh, 2017
- *“There is always a level of anti-blackness wherever you go, but this region was pretty open minded in general. There were a few incidents where there were people who did not appreciate an American or minority presence, but those incidents are rare.”* - Kira Riley, 2017
- *“It will be different than in the States. There isn't as much a sense of \_\_\_-American in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. As an Asian-American, I found that much of my identity was ascribed to the Asian part, not really recognized as being American. I think that, while annoying and frustrating to deal with, this was not at all the most important part of my experience abroad. My peers and Peter were very open to talking about experiences with race and ethnicity, which made dealing with it much easier and made it less paramount to how my study abroad experience would be. I think that you need to go with the understanding that the experience of minorities of race, sexual orientation, religion, etc. will feel different and may not even feel comfortable, but I don't think that should deter anyone from going because I think the experience is worth so much more than those occasional ignorant comments.”* - Emily Guo, 2017
- *“I think the issues I experienced the most often were related to my race and ethnicity. As an Indian-American, I tended to stand out among the predominantly white population, especially in Serbia. I never encountered anything really awful, but you do get a lot of stares and questions asked out of ignorance. However, IPD did prepare us for this somewhat, and if you can be a little tolerant and easygoing about it, then you get used to it.”*- Priya Shankarappa, 2016
- *“Many people do not understand race the way we understand it in America since they are a racially homogeneous region for the most part while being ethnically diverse. This led to some uncomfortable conversations with local students.”*- De'Sean Weber, 2016
- *“If you're not white, you stand out, so be wary that people may stare longer than normal or even notice you more. But this hasn't ever caused harm, just slight discomfort.”* – Grishma Reddy, 2018
- *“If you're a person of color going to Serbia or Bosnia, you can expect that you will be in the minority. As a black person, I had to come to terms with inadvertently standing out as there were not a lot of other black people in this region. In fact, by the end of my four weeks in Belgrade I had counted only 18 other black people that I came across. And while this reality felt uncomfortable, there was never a time when I felt unsafe or like there was animosity directed at me because of my racial identity. If this is something you worry about, I recommend definitely talking to the program coordinators prior to coming to this region but otherwise take it from me that it won't be a barrier to enjoying yourself abroad once you get used to the stares and being a very visible 'other.’”* - Nihmotallahi Adebayo, 2018

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# Health, Safety, and Security

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The sections below provide information about health and safety risks and resources in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Refer back to the **Health & Safety** section of the GLO website and the modules in Canvas for more information about preparing for and responding to health, safety, and security concerns.

## Staying Healthy

Many doctors in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are highly trained and you will have access to both hospitals with specialist services and private clinics that offer a good standard of care. However, you may have some difficulty finding a good English-speaking doctor so be sure to coordinate with the program staff and GeoBlue to find health care providers that can accommodate to your needs.

## Food and Water Precautions

Travelers have a small risk of developing diarrhea in this region, so you should always wash your hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before eating. Tap water is safe in the capital cities, but it's not a bad idea to use bottled or boiled water in more rural areas. Food is also safe but be sure to clean any fruits or vegetables purchased at markets before eating them. Take care swimming in freshwater rivers and lakes, as the water may contain bugs and pollution that your system isn't used to.

## Safety and Security

In addition to the **Travel Safety** information outlined on the Global Learning and Global Safety and Security websites, you are advised to follow these precautions during your time in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

- Refer to the U.S. Department of State Country Information Sheets for both countries for safety and security guidelines:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/serbia.html> and  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/bosnia-herzegovina.html>
- Petty crime is common at airports and in tourist locations. Be vigilant, and care for your belongings. Do not carry valuables in the outside, vulnerable pockets of your backpacks or coats, for example. In the program's first year, a student had her billfold lifted from her backpack on the very first day!
- In Belgrade and Sarajevo, the most popular forms of public transport are the bus and tram system. There are some new, but also some very old buses and trams in use, and they often are very overcrowded, so be vigilant about your surroundings and belongings while using public transportation. Pickpockets deliberately target obvious foreigners on trams and on sidewalks.
- Civil protest over various social issues is quite common, and this typically takes the form of peaceful demonstrations. As a reminder, students are not permitted to participate in—or attend—any kind of public demonstration. In the event of severe civil unrest, students should return to (or remain at) the university or in their accommodations, avoid the demonstration route, and stay there until the situation stabilizes. On-site directors will contact students with information about demonstration routes, dates, and times.



- Keep a vigilant eye if you choose to attend a sports event. Large crowds and boisterous fans can be disruptive and potentially dangerous. Football games in the region, in particular, are known for fistfights and other forms of violence between opposing fan groups.
- Belgrade bars and nightclubs are increasingly popular with foreign tourists. Sarajevo nightspots can also be quite lively and enjoyable. Be careful when going out, as bars and clubs can be crowded and may not be up to standards for maximum occupancy and fire safety. Be especially careful of your personal safety at floating clubs on the rivers in Belgrade.
- In the past, students have experienced sexual and race-based harassment and other uncomfortable situations at nightspots throughout the region. Remember that the chances of landing in an unsafe or uncomfortable situation multiply exponentially when alcohol is involved, and that local gender norms and assumptions about flirtation will be unfamiliar to you. Young, inebriated foreigners may make especially appealing targets. Never leave one of your colleagues alone in a bar or club and take care to look out for each other's comfort and safety. Study abroad students often feel liberated to party and take nightlife risks in ways they wouldn't at home—when in fact they would be much better served by an excess of caution and humility.
- Do not swim or bathe in the Miljacka River in Sarajevo, as it can cause health and safety issues. It is also recommended that you exercise caution toward swimming in the rivers in Belgrade, although students have not experienced any problems following a swim at the Ada Ciganlija beach park (along the Sava River close to downtown).
- BiH has a mild problem with stray dogs throughout the country, so take every effort to avoid individual dogs or packs, especially at night. If you are bitten by a dog, go to a local emergency room immediately. This problem seems to have declined significantly in recent years.
- In BiH, mines and associated devices were used extensively by all factions during the last war. Mine clearance efforts are in progress; however, land mines and other unexploded ordnances pose a danger throughout the country. For travel outside Sarajevo, travelers are advised to stay on main roads and avoid walking into open fields or across remote mountainous areas because of the continued risk posed by mines. Significant mountain hikes beyond the paths around the Trebević cable car should only be undertaken with an experienced local guide.

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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## Weather and Packing

### ***What is the weather going to be like?***

Belgrade is located in southern Europe and therefore has a generally pleasant, temperate climate. Summers get quite hot, the warmest months being July and August when temperatures regularly climb into the 80s and 90s. The sun will come down with force during these summer months and light clothing and sunscreen, sun hats and sunglasses are definitely necessary. Belgrade is known for having clear skies and a drier climate, but it can get quite rainy, especially in May and June, so be sure to pack a sweater and/or jacket, and a light rain jacket. For two out of the program's three previous summers, the weather in Belgrade was consistently and often brutally hot. In the third year, it was strangely wet and chilly!

The climate in Sarajevo is pretty mild throughout the year, with average temperatures during the summertime in the mid 60s. However, daily temperatures can fluctuate quite a bit and during the summer, daily highs can reach the low 80s with nightly lows in the mid 50s. Precipitation falls evenly across the year, with the months of May and June receiving the most rain.

### ***Is there anything special that I need to pack for my program?***

You will be taking day trips and excursions, so you will want things that travel easily. We recommend that you bring a backpack, duffel bag, or moderate-sized suitcase and a daypack. Bags with shoulder straps or wheels are preferable to bulky suitcases, because they're easier to carry and are more portable. Because the short flight from Belgrade to Sarajevo only allows one checked bag (with additional bags charged at a steep fee), you should pack accordingly. In general: you will probably need to bring far less with you than you initially imagine.

## Food & Water

### ***Can I drink the water?***

Yes. The tap water in both Belgrade and Sarajevo is safe! There is also bottled water available everywhere.

### ***What is typical food?***

Serbian cuisine is a heterogeneous cuisine, sharing characteristics of Southeast European, Balkan, Mediterranean, Turkish, and Central European cuisines. The national dishes include pljeskavica (a ground beef/pork patty), ćevapi (grilled minced meat), and sarma. The national drink is the plum brandy šljivovica.

Similarly, Bosnian cuisine is balanced between Western and Eastern influences. The food is closely related to Turkish, Middle Eastern, and other Mediterranean cuisines; however, due to years of Austrian rule, there are also many culinary influences from Central Europe. Most dishes are light, as they are cooked in lots of water; the sauces consist of little more than the natural juices of the vegetables in the dish. Typical meat dishes include primarily beef and lamb.

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In addition, you will find plenty of restaurants specializing in international cuisines in both cities, as well as a handful of American fast food chains. There's even Mexican! Try it at your own risk.

### ***Is the local cuisine vegetarian friendly?***

While Serbian and Bosnian cuisine is not known for being particularly vegetarian friendly, you can usually find vegetarian options when eating out—though sometimes these options amount only to a plate of grilled vegetables and a mixed salad. You are responsible for most of your own meals, and you can find lots of fruits, vegetables, and proteins at the supermarkets and at nearby restaurants.

## Money

### ***How much does the program cost?***

See **Appendix I** for a breakdown of the program costs.

### ***What currencies will I use in each location?***

In Serbia, the national currency is the dinar (RSD). As of April 2019, 1 US dollar is equal to about 105 Serbian dinars. So, divide the prices you see by 100 in your head to get the rough cost.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the national currency is the convertible mark (abbreviated either as BAM or KM). As of April 2019, 1 US dollar is equal to about 1.75 KM. So, divide prices by half to get a rough sense of the cost in USD.

You will be able to use your ATM/debit cards to withdraw money from cash machines in both cities but be sure to notify your bank of your travel plans in advance. Chip cards are standard in the region and more widely accepted than swipe-only cards.

### ***Are all my meals included in my Program Fee?***

No. The Program Fee includes breakfasts in Sarajevo, but you are responsible for the rest of your meals. In your accommodations at in Belgrade, you will have a kitchenette (mini-fridge, two electric burners, and a sink), but no cooking equipment is provided. You can purchase cheap pots and pans and plastic cutlery at any local grocery store, and many students have enjoyed preparing meals together at home in past summers. In Sarajevo, cheap meals can easily be acquired from multiple vendors near your hotel and around the university campus, and rooms contain mini-fridges for storing basics.

### ***How much money should I plan to spend?***

Refer to the student budget in **Appendix I** for an estimate of costs for additional meals and discretionary expenses. Since personal spending varies from person to person, you should plan your own budget. \$800-\$1000 is probably the minimum needed to be comfortable and enjoy recreational activities with colleagues.

### ***How much cash should I bring?***

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You should plan to bring \$200 cash with you, plus a credit card and an ATM or debit card to use for purchases and to access additional funds. It is also recommended that you bring a second credit card in case of emergency.

## Transportation

### ***Will I be picked up from the airport?***

No, you will not be picked up from the airport upon your initial arrival in Belgrade. You will be responsible for your own transportation from Belgrade's Nikola Tesla airport to your accommodations at the "Lola" dormitory. The Program Director will provide detailed instructions closer to relevant dates of travel. The group will travel together from Belgrade to Sarajevo, and group transportation from the airport to your accommodations in Sarajevo will be provided.

### ***What if my flight is cancelled or delayed?***

Local and GLO staff have access to your travel itineraries, but if you will not arrive on your scheduled flight due to a missed connection, illness, or other reason, please email and call your Program Director and GLO to let us know when you are scheduled to arrive. You will be provided with detailed contact information via email closer to the date of departure.

### ***How much free time do I have? What can I expect to do outside of class?***

There is free time before and after classes, and you will have many weekends free. Contact the Ambassadors for your program to get suggestions for things to do in your spare time: <https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-experiences/ambassador-program/student-ambassadors.html>

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## Links & Recommended Reading

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### Program & Country Information

- Comparative Public Health: Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina program page: <https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/explore-programs/europe/comparative-public-health-serbia-and-bosnia-herzegovina.html>
- Blogs: <https://sites.northwestern.edu/studyabroadblogs/>
- CIA World Factbook: Bosnia and Herzegovina: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/bk.html>
- CIA World Factbook: Serbia: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>
- US. Department of State Country Information Page: Bosnia and Herzegovina: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/bosnia-herzegovina.html>
- US. Department of State Country Information Page: Serbia: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/serbia.html>
- U.S. Department of State: Students Abroad: <http://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html>

### Health & Safety

- NU Travel Health Services: <http://www.northwestern.edu/healthservice-evanston/medical-services/travel-health-services/index.html>
- NU Office of Global Safety and Security: <http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/index.html>
- World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/countries/en/>
- CDC: Health Information: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>
- GeoBlue Health Insurance: <https://www.geo-blue.com>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

### Books

- *Welcome to the Desert of Post-Socialism: Radical Politics After Yugoslavia*, edited by Srećko Horvat and Igor Štiks. (Scholarly essays, good for understanding regional politics)
- *Health and Wealth on the Bosnian Market* by Larisa Jašarević (ethnography)
- *The Bridge on the Drina* by Ivo Andrić (classic, Nobel Prize-winning novel)
- *Death and the Dervish* by Mesa Selimović (classic novel)
- *Sarajevo Marlboro* by Miljenko Jergovic (short stories—highly recommended!)
- *The Question of Bruno* by Aleksandar Hemon (Chicago-based Bosnian expat—all of his work, including several novels and story collections, is highly recommended!)
- *Yearnings in the Meantime* by Stef Jansen (ethnography)
- *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way* by Tone Bringa (ethnography)
- *Sarajevo: A Bosnian Kaleidoscope* by Fran Markowitz (ethnography)
- *City of Survivors: Trauma, Grief, and Getting By in Post-War Sarajevo* by Peter Locke (PhD dissertation, available from Prof. Locke)



- *After the Revolution: Youth, Responsibility, and the Politics of Disappointment in Serbia* by Jessica Greenberg (ethnography)
- <http://theculturetrip.com/europe/bosnia-herzegovina/articles/a-haunted-past-top-ten-books-and-films-of-sarajevo/>

## Films

[many available to stream or check out from the NU library]

- *The Death of Yugoslavia* (BBC). 6 episodes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDADy9b2IBM>
- *No Man's Land*. Directed by Danis Tanović. Oscar for best foreign film.
- *Pretty Villages, Pretty Flames*. Directed by [Srđan Dragojević](#).
- *Underground*. Directed by Emir Kusturica.
- *When Father Was Away on Business*. Directed by Emir Kusturica.
- *Grbavica [Esmā's Secret]*. Directed by Jasmila Žbanić.
- *Cinema Komunisto* and/or *The Other Side of Everything*. Both directed by Mila Turajlić.

## Organizations

- Wings of Hope/*Krila Nade* (Sarajevo): <http://wings-of-hope.ba/>
- Women in Black/Zene u crnom (Belgrade): <http://zeneucrnom.org/index.php?lang=en>
- Americans for Bosnia: <http://americansforbosnia.blogspot.com/>
- Belgrade students' associations: <http://www.bg.ac.rs/en/students/support/students-associations.php?submenuheader=4>

## Travel & Transportation

It's worth getting a good guidebook, such as Lonely Planet, Bradt, etc. Below are a few other recommendations.

- Travel guide wikis: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Sarajevo> and <http://wikitravel.org/en/Belgrade>
- Train schedules and tickets (throughout Europe): [https://www.bahn.de/p\\_en/view/index.shtml](https://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/index.shtml)
- Centrotrans/Eurolines (Sarajevo-based bus company, for routes throughout the region): <http://www.centrotrans.com/>
- Destination Sarajevo tourist information: <http://sarajevo.travel/en>
- Sarajevo tourist information: <http://www.sarajevo-tourism.com/>
- Bosnia and Herzegovina tourist information: <http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/touristinfo1.wbsp>
- Belgrade's Nikola Tesla airport: <http://www.beg.aero/en/home>
- Sarajevo airport: <http://www.sarajevo-airport.ba/?lang=eng>

# Appendix I: Cost Breakdown

**COMPARATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH: SERBIA AND BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**  
**(Belgrade, Serbia and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina)**  
**SUMMER 2019**  
**Program Cost Information**

<b>FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN</b>		
<b>PROGRAM FEE</b>		
<p><b>Tuition: \$6,000</b>            The tuition fee covers all program expenses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures and instruction for four courses</li> <li>• field visits and excursions to locations in/around Belgrade and Sarajevo (including all travel costs)</li> <li>• transportation from Belgrade to Sarajevo</li> </ul>	<b>\$8,000</b>	
<p><b>Room &amp; Board: \$1,900</b>            The room and board fee covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lodging in student residences or hotels for four weeks in Belgrade and four weeks in Sarajevo</li> <li>• daily breakfast</li> </ul> <p>Students are responsible for covering the costs of lunches and dinners.</p>		
<p><b>GeoBlue Health Insurance: \$100</b></p>		
<p><b>STUDY ABROAD ADMINISTRATIVE FEE</b>            Students participating in this program are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.</p>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN</b>		<b>\$8,000</b>

<b>ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS</b>		
<p><b>International Airfare</b>            Students are responsible for making arrangements to fly in to Belgrade, Serbia, and out of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the dates provided. International airfares vary greatly based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. Students may choose to take advantage of frequent flyer or other airline awards available to them, which could significantly lower their travel costs.</p>	<b>\$1,800</b>	
<p><b>Books &amp; Supplies</b></p>	<b>\$100</b>	
<p><b>Discretionary Expenses</b>            Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Discretionary expenses include meals, non-program transportation, and other incidentals. Students who plan to do personal travel outside of the program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$1,000.</p>	<b>\$1,800</b>	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$3,700</b>

<b>TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET</b> <b>(Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)</b>	<b>\$11,700</b>
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For more information about billing, finances, and financial aid for study abroad, please refer to the Money Matters section of the GLO website or contact Krista Bethel ([krista@northwestern.edu](mailto:krista@northwestern.edu)) in the Financial Aid Office. Refer to Financial, Withdrawal & Cancellation Policies for information about refunds in the case of withdrawal or dismissal.