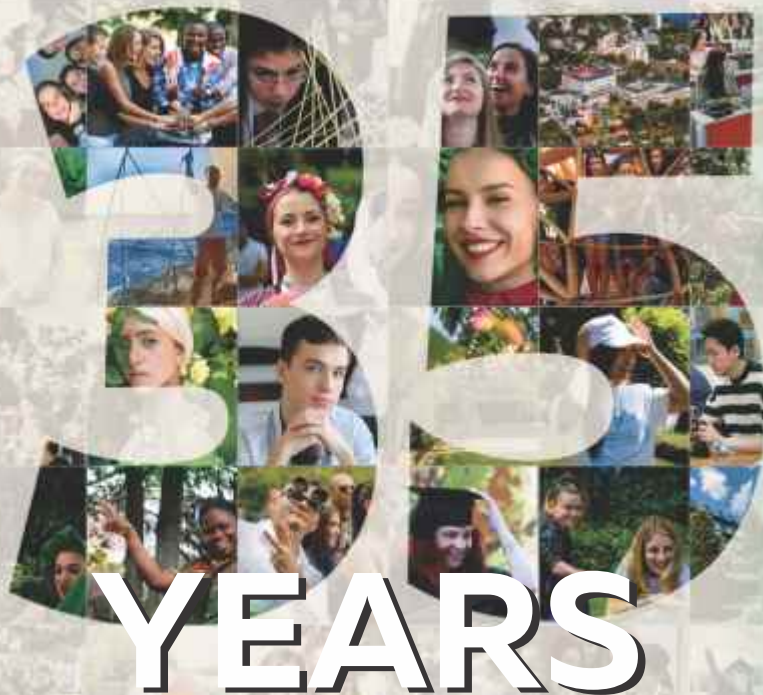




**VARNA
FREE
UNIVERSITY**
"CHERNORIZETS HRABAR"

LEARN AND SEEK

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT'S HANDBOOK 2026/2027





FIRST-YEAR STUDENT'S **HANDBOOK**

2026/2027



**Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Nedyalkov, PhD
President of VFU "Chernorizets
Hrabar"**

Dear students,

For 35 years now, Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" has been a symbol of innovation and quality in Bulgarian higher education. We uphold the mission to serve knowledge through scientific research, education, and their application for the benefit of society. This mission reflects our commitment to education, oriented towards professional realisation, personal development, and social responsibility.

This year our university also celebrates two other important anniversaries: 30 years since the establishment of Bulgaria's first Student Council and 30 years since the establishment of the Faculty of Architecture.

Today VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" is one of the largest private universities in Bulgaria, with an accreditation score of 9.01 out of 10 – among the highest in the country. The University is included in QS, the world's most prestigious and influential international ranking of higher education institutions. For the second consecutive year, our Alma Mater ranks fourth among

Bulgarian universities for digital reputation. This is recognition of our shared work – of the lecturers who inspire, the researchers who discover, and the students who seek and find their future here.

The university actively cooperates with more than 130 partner institutions from Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. In the past year alone, we expanded our network with new partnerships in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Poland, the USA, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic.

You are becoming part of a university with history, spirit, and mission, with a 35-year tradition built with the vision and energy of people who believe in education as a force for change. From this moment on, you are the future of Varna Free University.

I wish you to dream boldly, to seek persistently, and to achieve high goals. Be worthy bearers of the university's name and build the world with thought, knowledge, and character.

Learn and seek! Congratulations on the 35th anniversary of Varna Free University!

Dear first-year students,

Welcome to the academic family of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”! Your choice to continue your education here places on us the responsibility to provide education of the highest quality.

Years of new knowledge, friendships, challenges and important personal decisions lie ahead of you. The world is changing at an extraordinary pace, professions are evolving, and success increasingly depends on the ability to combine knowledge from different fields, think critically and adapt confidently. Be curious, bold and persistent. Ask questions, seek solutions and turn every challenge into an opportunity to learn something new. The University will give you knowledge and professional skills, but the most valuable outcome will be your ability to think independently, make responsible decisions and create value.

Education at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” places the student at the centre of the academic process. The curricula, practical training and opportunities for choice give you the freedom to develop your strengths, interests and talents.

During your studies, you will be able to participate in real projects, gain experience in Bulgarian and international companies and enrich your knowledge through study at partner universities in Europe and around the world. Make use of these opportunities – they will broaden your horizons and help you discover your professional path.

Your student years are also a time for building a community. Be active, communicate, share your ideas and participate in the University's academic and public life. Here you will meet lecturers and like-minded people who will encourage you to develop and achieve more.

We believe in your abilities and in your energy to change the world around you. From today, you are part of the history, the present and the future of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”.

Good luck!



**Prof. Petar Hristov, PhD
Rector of VFU “Chernorizets
Hrabar”**

**About
VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar”**

Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" was established on March 27, 1991. On July 27, 1995, it received the status of an institution for higher education by decision of the 37th National Assembly (published in the State Gazette, issue 68 of August 1, 1995).

Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" has one of the most modern campuses in Bulgaria.



About VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar”

The campus covers an area of over 20,000 square metres. It is located right next to the resort complex Golden Sands and the natural park of the same name. In addition to the educational and the administrative building, the campus comprises specialised and training centres – University Library, Centre for Digital Technologies, modern Educational and Sports Complex, Career Centre, Educational Media Centre, Centre for Vocational Training, Language Centre, Educational Courtroom "Prof. Tamara Hinova", Forensics and Forensic Expertise Lab, Investigation Tactics and Methodology Lab, Medico-Psychological Complex, dormitory, canteen, cafeteria, parking facilities, parks, and wonderful recreation areas.

The picturesque sea panorama forms a natural backdrop to the park of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar.” It was created in 2012 as a project by students of the Architecture programme.

Varna Free University also has a branch in Smolyan, which provides access to quality European education for young people from the Rhodope region. The academic complex enables students to study close to home and develop their professional potential in a modern university environment. The branch connects education with the needs and development of the region.



ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS



Varna Free University has institutional accreditation from the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria for the maximum accreditation period, with a score of 9.01 on a scale of 10.



On February 18, 2025, the University was recertified for the eighth time in a row by the international certification organisation BUREAU VERITAS Certification for compliance with the international standard ISO 9001:2015. No other institution of higher education in Bulgaria has a 24-year unbroken certification cycle for quality management.



In 2023, VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" became the first Bulgarian university certified according to ISO 14001:2015 for environmental management. The University changes both the environment and the quality of instruction, meeting the highest sustainability standards based on educational, economic, environmental and social criteria. The topics related to the implementation of the ESG standards are integrated in the University's Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral programmes.



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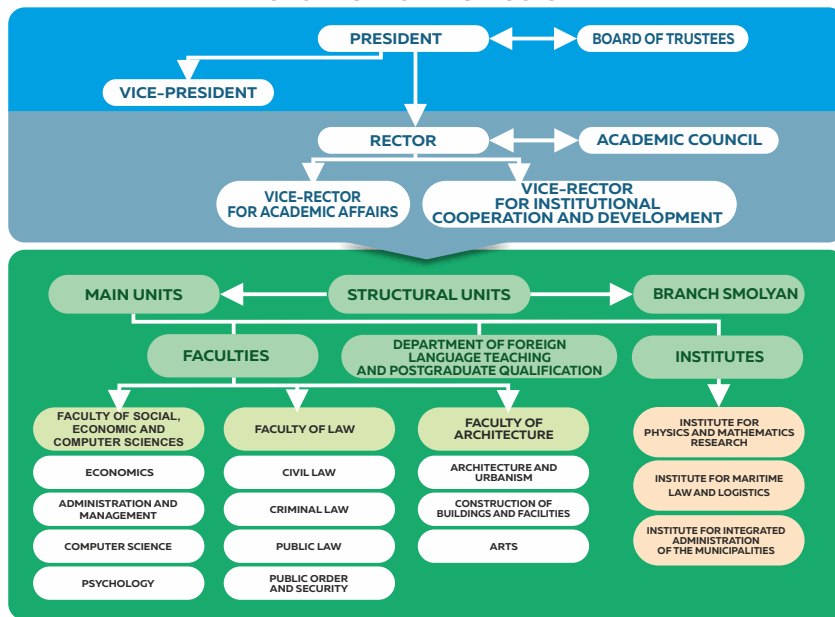
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Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is a university governing body that includes representatives from the fields of science and education, public and business organisations with contribution to the creation and development of Varna Free University.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The Academic Council is the governing body of Varna Free University's educational and research activities and policies.

FACULTIES AND BRANCH

The educational process at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" takes place in:

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Social, Economic and Computer Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Department of Foreign Language Teaching and Postgraduate Qualification
- Branch – Smolyan

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

The Faculty of Architecture offers educational programmes in three professional areas: Architecture, construction and geodesy; Fine arts; Music and dance.

The specialities related to architecture, construction, fire safety, design and the arts combine creativity with high responsibility. The instruction achieves a natural symbiosis between theoretical knowledge and practical skills, research and creative activity. The modern teaching and laboratory facilities, combined with the high professionalism of the academic staff guarantee the high quality of education.

The Academic Dance Theatre of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" – creative workshop of the students and instructors from the Choreography speciality – has contributed to the preservation and popularisation of Bulgarian folk traditions.

The many individual and collective honours in the fields of architecture, construction, arts and design prove the value of the Faculty's educational, research, creative, cultural and project activity.



Dean:
Assoc. Prof. Eng.
Rositsa Petkova-Slipets, PhD

DEPARTMENTS	HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	DEGREE PROGRAMMES
Architecture and Urbanism	Prof. Arch. Atanas Kovachev, D.Sc. (Corresponding Member of BAS)	Architecture Interior Design
Construction of Buildings and Facilities	Assoc. Prof. Eng. Daria Mihaleva, PhD	Construction of Buildings and Facilities Water Supply and Sewerage Fire and Emergency Safety Construction Engineering
Arts	Assoc. Prof. Eng. Kapka Manasieva, PhD	Graphic Design Choreography

FACULTY OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COMPUTER SCIENCES

The Faculty of Social, Economic and Computer Sciences hands down to its students the best traditions and practices in the creation of an academic environment stimulating entrepreneurial culture and initiative among students, as well as the formation of new interdisciplinary specialities and programmes. The faculty implements joint educational projects with universities from all over the world, numerous initiatives with the business sector, the public sector, and non-governmental organisations while applying innovative educational technologies.

Students are enrolled in the following degree programmes:

Courses for professional and personal development are held.

The programmes in the professional areas of Administration and management, Economics, Informatics and Computer science, and Psychology allow students to choose between broad-ranging training with the acquisition of a second speciality or the concentration on specialised training, without an increase in the programme duration and tuition fees.

DEPARTMENTS	HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	DEGREE PROGRAMMES
Economics	Prof. Emil Panushev, PhD	International Economic Relations Finance and Accounting International Business in English
Administration and Management	Assoc. Prof. Miglena Pencheva, PhD	Business Administration and Management Public Administration and Management
Computer Science	Assoc. Prof. Antonina Ivanova, PhD	Informatics and Computer Science
Psychology	Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Ivanov, PhD	Psychology



Dean:
Prof. Anton Grozdanov, PhD

FACULTY OF LAW

The faculty prepares lawyers, criminalistics specialists, experts in national security, countering crime and protection of public order, capable of applying in their professional activity the latest achievements of science and technology for the benefit of society and the state.

The continuous improvement of the quality of the educational process and research is among the priorities of the Faculty of Law. Along with in-depth theoretical knowledge, students also receive the necessary practical training, which enables quick and successful professional realisation. The faculty creates conditions for various joint research and scientific-practical initiatives and joint activities with partners, including other law faculties in the country, Bulgarian and foreign universities, judicial authorities, etc.



Dean

Assoc. Prof. Elisaveta Kalinova-
Panova, PhD

DEPARTMENTS	HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	DEGREE PROGRAMMES
Civil Law	Assoc. Prof. Maria P. Petrova, PhD	Law
Criminal Law	Prof. Galina Kovacheva, PhD	
Public Law	Assoc. Prof. Emiliya Siderova, PhD	
Public Order and Security	Assoc. Prof. Aneliya Nenova, PhD	National Security Protection
		Crime Prevention and Public Order Protection

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION

The Department of Foreign Language Teaching and Postgraduate Qualification delivers instruction in foreign languages in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The Department organises Bulgarian language courses for international students and provides additional courses of Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese language and culture.

The Department offers specialised language courses for professional fields: law, business, architecture, civil engineering, computer science, tourism, business correspondence, advanced literacy, academic communication.

The Department provides the opportunity to acquire a university certificate for the level of knowledge of foreign languages. The foreign language courses included in the curricula guarantee excellent preparation for the exam for its acquisition. Students can certify their knowledge and skills in a foreign language at the beginning of their studies at the University, which gives a number of advantages:

- The certificate offers advantages when applying for Erasmus+ mobility, participating in international student exchange programmes and undertaking internships abroad.

- The certificate enhances the holder's competitiveness in the labour market by providing employers in Bulgaria and abroad with evidence of the holder's foreign-language proficiency.

The Department hosts a Language Centre with a rich library collection of over 1000 titles. The resources are accessible through the University Library's electronic catalogue. The centre offers excellent conditions for holding scientific-practical conferences, methodological seminars, discussions, educational lectures and courses.



Director

Assoc. Prof. Boryana Kostova-Stamboliyska, PhD

BRANCH - SMOLYAN

The VFU branch in Smolyan was built in the spirit of the cultural, spiritual and socio-economic development of the Rhodopes. The high quality university education, flexible forms of learning, scientific and applied project studies are adapted to the socio-economic features of the region.

The development of innovative educational products is becoming a key factor in enhancing the competitiveness of educational institutions.



Branch – Smolyan of Varna Free University maintains successful partnerships with businesses and public institutions in the Rhodope region and is one of the factors for sustainable and intelligent regional growth.

Director:

Assoc. Prof. Anelia Parzhanova, PhD



CENTRE FOR DISTANCE STUDIES

Varna Free University has more than 15 years of experience and tradition in distance studies. Students use high quality educational resources that are accessible from anywhere in the world at any time. A programme for individual consultations with the instructors has been created. An individual approach to students is of paramount importance in distance studies.

Students can choose from five Bachelor's degree programmes offered through distance studies. These are Informatics and Computer Science, Business Administration and Management, Public Administration and Management, International Economic Relations, and Finance and Accounting.

Five Master's programmes are available through distance studies to applicants who already hold a higher education qualification. In the field of computer science, these are Digital Marketing and Web Design and Software Engineering and Management (in Bulgarian). Other sought-after Master's programmes include Management and International Marketing, Administrative Infrastructure, and International Finance.



Director:
Assoc. Prof. Maria Velikova, PhD

INFORMATION APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS

The Centre for Digital Technologies at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" develops and implements modern technological solutions in the classroom, the research and administrative activities of the University.

By registering at the address <http://student.vfu.bg> (with the username being your student ID number), the students of Varna Free University get access to the information resources they need:

- Student status – student status, speciality, curriculum, exams, grades, submission of applications and checking decisions on them, etc.
- Virtual classrooms in Google Workspace – learning resources for the studied disciplines, tests, case studies, notes, etc.

The Centre for Digital Technologies includes the following structural units: Laboratory for Advanced Technologies, Laboratory for Information Service, and Educational Media Centre.

GOOGLE ACCOUNTS

Students need a Google account to participate in classes and examinations and to communicate.

Every student at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" has an account created in Google: student ID number@vfu.bg.

1. To log in to your account, open your browser and enter the address gmail.com.
2. Enter an email address or phone number in the profile (student ID number@vfu.bg) and press "Next".
3. Enter your password.



After entering the password, the email that will be used for communication will open.
At the top right of your screen you will find these controls:



Pressing the given button will open a list of Google applications.
The applications you will use for your classes are:

Gmail – provides communication through emails

Drive – provides cloud space for data storage

Docs – a programme for working with Google Docs for word processing

Sheets – a programme for working with Google documents for working with tables

Slides – an application for creating and editing presentations.

Calendar – schedule, event calendar

Meet – synchronous communication (Lectures, seminars, conferences, etc. are held here.)

Classroom – virtual classroom and a place to publish lectures, exercises, tests, exams and more



19Centre for Digital Technologies

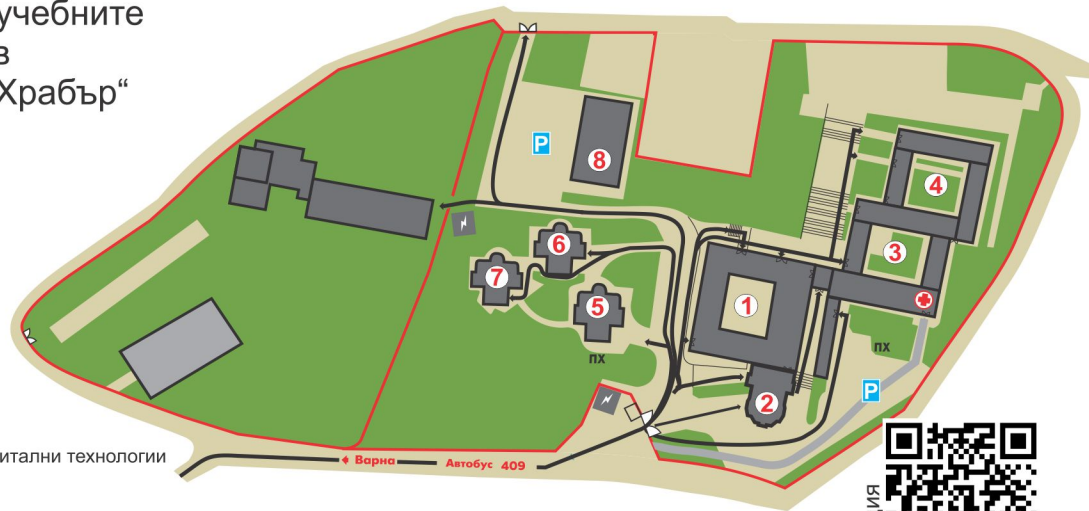
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Разположение на учебните корпуси и зали във ВСУ „Черноризец Храбър“



- ① – Учебен корпус
- ② – Аула Максима, Център за дигитални технологии
Библиотека
- ③ – Зона А, Erasmus+ space
- ④ – Зона Б – Архитектурен факултет
- ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ – Юридически факултет, факултет “Социални, стопански и компютърни науки” и катедра „Изкуства“
- ⑧ – Учебно-спортен комплекс





www.vfu.bg



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