



ROMANIAN - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Foundation Year

Learn Romanian and about Romania! Improve your English!

The foundation year of Romanian language for foreign students is organized by the Department of Foreign Languages and the International Affairs Office from the Romanian-American University and is targeted at developing linguistic and communication skills for non-native speakers, as well as developing a greater interest into the Romanian culture and civilization.

Through integrated courses of language, civilization and practical cultural workshops, at the end of the 2 semesters, the students will reach the B1 - B2 level of competences, according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

The main objectives of the foundation year are the development of a set of written and oral communication skills in Romanian language that will allow the students enroll into a Romanian language bachelor or master program, as well as PhD or postdoctoral fellowships in Romania. The course is aimed at young persons who wish to develop more complex international competences that will finally allow them to do business in Romania, work in a Romanian speaking environment, and be part of the newly acquired culture.

The curriculum, organized according to the CEFR, with an equal focus on the oral and written skills, comprises real life situations from the Romanian society, with a vocabulary adapted to the different communication needs, but also with an important focus on the practical grammatical problems. The Romanian culture and civilization courses will offer a detailed geographical and historical background, which will allow a better understanding of the Romanian arts, music, and literature. The courses will be backed up by educational trips to the most representative parts of Romania (Prahova Valley with Dracula's Castle and Peles

Castle, Transilvania's most representative villages: Viscri, Miclosoara, etc, where Prince Charles of Wales has many properties, or the Monasteries of Moldavia).

Special! Courses of English (60 hours per semester)

As complementary activities Romanian-American University also offers courses of English language, focusing both on specialized vocabulary (business, tourism, law, IT) and grammar, that will offer students the possibility for a visible language improvement. The course concludes with an evaluation test and a certificate, attesting the level of knowledge in English.

At the end of the Foundation year, the enrolled students will be able to achieve the B1-B2 level of Romanian, as well as improved knowledge of English. As a result, students will be able to apply to either a Romanian or an English taught program, in the Romanian academic system.

For the evaluation of the students, the Department of Foreign Languages applies the methodology of the Romanian-American University, included in the regulations on the professional activity of students and it relies on two criteria: **attendance** and **performance**.

The foundation year is divided into 2 semesters and curriculum provides minimum 60 transferable study credit points (ECTS), 30 ECTS per semester. A semester typically has 14 weeks. The curriculum includes compulsory subjects and elective subjects.

The Foundation year includes the following **compulsory subjects**:

- *Romanian Language Techniques of Communication*
- *Reception of Written and Spoken Texts*
- *Grammar and Basic Vocabulary*
- *Romanian Culture and Civilization*
- *European Culture and Civilization*

The Foundation year includes the following **elective subjects**:

- *Iconology – the comparative study of literature and arts in Romania*
- *Intercultural communication*
- *Romanian - specialized language: Economic sciences*
- *Romanian – specialized language: Legal sciences*

Compulsory subjects

Romanian Language Techniques of Communication

7 credit points, 4 hours seminar, and 1 hour laboratory

Being an interactive course, the main purpose of the Communication Techniques course is to enable the acquisition of the written and oral language, as well as the acquisition of the following linguistic competences:

- understanding of the spoken language;
- oral expression;
- understanding of the written text;
- proper drafting of a written text;
- interaction through conversation.

Reception of Written and Spoken Texts

8 credit points, 4 hours seminar, and 2 hours laboratory

At the end of the course the students will competently make use of the B2 level of language in their future academic activity.

- They will understand the context and roles, as well as methods and concepts regarding discourse, in different situations of communication.
- They will be able to interpret and explain different types of written communication (news articles, scientific texts, etc).
- They will acquire skills regarding the acquisition of the reception and production of the written text, strategies for oral and written communication, text structuring, etc.
- Students will acquire skills regarding the elaboration of a scientific text, in an independent and autonomous way, as well as team work, project development, etc.

Grammar and Basic Vocabulary

10 credit points, 8 hours seminar

The course is aimed at developing practical skills, regarding the acquisition of the written and spoken language, with a special focus on the interaction through conversation, corresponding to the A1-A2 for the first semester and B1-B2 during the second semester, according to the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages**.

Grammar information is presented in a practical and applied manner, so that it could facilitate the fast acquisition of the new language.

Romanian Culture and Civilization

5 credit points, 2 hours course, 1 hour seminar

The course is aimed at offering foreign students basic information on the Romanian history, geography, ethnography, arts and literature, familiarizing foreign students with the elements of Romanian culture and civilization, so that, at the end of the course, they could be aware of the Romanian realities.

European Culture and Civilization

2 credit points, 2 hours course

Through a compared study of Romanian and European culture, as well as an analysis of the concept of culture correlated to different civilization area, the students will be able to better understand the socio-cultural phenomena, in the context of the rapid evolution of communication on a global scale.

Elective subjects

Intercultural Communication

3 credit points, 1 hour course

By creating an overview of the intercultural communication theory, backed up by a theoretical system including definitions, communication process role models and analysis, the students will acquire extensive knowledge on intercultural communication, in general.

Through a deeper understanding of terms and concepts, the different socio-cultural phenomena will be connected to the rapid evolution of communication in the global world.

Iconology – the comparative study of literature and arts in Romania

3 credit points, 1 hour seminar

The course will familiarize students with the theory of visual culture, which can be defined as the study of the social construction of visual experience. Students will acquire the main directions of image analysis – painting, photography, and film in the Romanian environment; they will learn and practice how to undertake a formal analysis of visual culture and will apply different theoretical and methodological approaches to specific Romanian works of art.

Romanian – specialized language: Economic Sciences/Legal Sciences

Each of them with 4 credit points, 4 hours seminar

The courses, one for specialized vocabulary in the legal field and the other one on the specialized vocabulary for business, IT, tourism, marketing, etc., enable the acquisition of a specialized vocabulary in the Romanian language. It also allows the improvement of language skills, by adding, to the basic vocabulary acquired during the first semester, new knowledge on specific fields of activity. The course will continue with the teaching of Romanian syntax, with a main focus on the specific structures of the specialized vocabulary.