

CHID BCS: Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and the EU: New Era for All?  
Belgrade, Serbia; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Zagreb, Croatia

**Program Terms:** Summer Quarter

**Homepage:** [Click to visit](#)

**Dates / Deadlines:**

There are currently no active application cycles for this program.

**Fact Sheet:**

Primary Language(s) of Instruction:	English	Foreign Language Required:	None
Courses available in English?:	Yes	Field of Interest:	International Studies, Language & Cultural Studies, Social Sciences
Affiliated Department:	CHID		

**Program Description:**

## CHID BCS: Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and the EU: New Era for All

**Location:** Bosnia, Croatia & Serbia

**Department:** Comparative History of Ideas

**Estimated Program Dates:** June 22 – August 21, 2014

**Estimated Program Fee:** \$5,000

**Credits:** 15

**Program Director:** Norman Wacker (English); Zorica Wacker (CHID)

**UW Study Abroad Advisor:** Katherine Kroeger [kroegk@uw.edu](mailto:kroegk@uw.edu)

**Application Deadline:** **EXTENDED: February 14, 2014**

**Information Session(s):** Thursday, January 9th at 3:30pm in HUB 332



## Program Description

Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and the EU: A New Era For All? is an interdisciplinary program that examines in depth the Yugoslav conflict and its aftermath, with special emphasis on the roots of the conflict, international intervention, post-conflict transition and the role of EU integration in the long term development of these three states and the Western Balkan region they will influence. Our eight previous programs have challenged many misconceptions about the Balkans as a conflict zone, offering an alternative account of a cultural borderland where religious and cultural interaction and coexistence have been the norm through much of the early modern period and in post WW II Yugoslavia.

The general publics and the governments of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia would like to share the political stability and prosperity of the European Union. However, the processes of post-conflict transformation and democratic transition require a long period of reform, capacity building and convergence with European norms if all three states are to enter the EU. The last several years provide strong evidence that these changes can take place peacefully and democratically. At the same time a strong strain of post-conflict nationalism will continue to compete for the dominant position in public debate and electoral politics. Also, the EU's current fiscal crisis has created some uncertainty about its future success and stability. The

interaction between European institutions and pursuit of competing national interests and ideologies in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia during a time of crisis in the EU has become the major focus of our program. We believe the outcome will have significant consequences for the shape of the Western Balkans in the decade to come. We will continue our longstanding contacts with Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian EU accession officials, Human Rights NGO's, media outlets, university faculty in law, journalism, political science and sociology, to update progress and set-backs to establishing regional transformation and stability. We will continue as well our comparative study of official and independent culture in the region and the values they impart to public opinion, debate and inter-group tensions and collaboration.



### **The Western Balkans and the EU as the Staging Ground for New Nation Building**

Through coursework, guest lecturers, tours, meetings with local diplomats, young politicians, NGO workers and local students, as well as informal contacts with people from all walks of life, we will expose ourselves to a broad spectrum of perspectives and methods of study. Often we will negotiate both the disintegration created by past conflict and the emerging connections that link these states. Extended visits to major cities and centers of government will allow us to document contemporary governmental initiatives, political debates and influential ideas and critical issues shaping transition. In our previous programs we witnessed a faculty and student protest against educational reform legislation at the University of Zagreb, tensions over border authority in Kosovo province and the increasing importance of Islam to public and political life in Sarajevo. We have continued to build working relationships with Geopoetika publishers of contemporary Serbian prose in translation and contemporary world literature in Serbo-Croatian.

As in the past, as students and as teachers, we have experienced a huge contribution to our learning and expertise by watching the region's history unfold in real time. Milestones that seemed impossible 12 months ago seem to have been reached in Serbia since the feared set-backs of the 2012 election. A brief citizens' movement in Bosnia "The Baby Revolution" has not produced the legislative reform needed to streamlined identity papers for newborn children and the Bosnian date for membership has been postponed. At the same time, Croatia entered the EU a week before our visit. We were able to learn about some of most important adjustments that Croatia as EU member and its neighbors and their most important trading partners Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia had to make and need to make in very near future as a result of their neighbor's accession.

### **The Western Balkans as a Zone of Rich Historical and Contemporary Interaction and Contestation**

Dramatic shifts in the cultural politics of the Western Balkans played a contributing role in the fragmentation and conflict of the post-Yugoslav transition. They have also produced in the post-conflict era, vibrant alternatives to the culture of polarization that dominated the conflict. Students interested in world literature, conflict- and cultural- studies will engage a rich and under-examined case of rapid political, cultural and economic transformation. A legacy of these transformations is a vibrant regional cultural debate and cultural translation between global cultural inputs and the articulation of local heritages and identity in rapid transition. Human rights organizations, independent journalists and the regions writers curate a vision of a long a multi-stranded cultural conversation that transcends sects, polemic and repression over a long history. We eagerly anticipate further integration of opportunities identified during our 2013 program as reviewed below.

In B&H, this summer we formed a partnership with The Centre for Refugee and IDP Studies (Centar za studije o izbjeglim i raseljenim osobama – CESI) was established in partnership with the UNHCR within Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo in 2011. CESI is the first academic centre in BiH and the Western Balkans dedicated to the study of forced migration. We

hope to integrate their yearly conference of international experts into the 2014 program.

A new contact with Head of OSCE Mission in Brcko an independent district ruled by a multi-ethnic municipal government under international supervision. We met with Ian Bancroft and agreed to a 2014 visit to the OSCE in Brcko. The special status of Brcko has been a topic of our program for years. In 2012, one of our guest speakers was Roderick Moore, Primary Deputy of OHR and Head of Brcko Mission. OHR transferred its power to OSCE (Roderick Moore completed his post and went back to the States) and it was important this year to establish a new relationship--this time with the OSCE and their staff. We are proud of that achievement and looking forward to 2014 program in order to offer our students an opportunity to learn what changes on the ground this transfer has caused

Muharem Bazdulj is a well-regarded Bosnian writer whose biography spans the conflict-and post-conflict divide (please see his short story Other Letter attached). His work is being translated into English and German, and he writes in both the Sarajevo daily *Oslobodjenje* and the Belgrade weekly *Vreme* on literature, music and popular culture. He will be attending a 2015 conference at Fairmount College commemorates the legacy of Central European Literature. His short story "The Poet" has been an ENGL 490 course reading since 2012. This year, after an initial meeting with us in Sarajevo, he participated in a round table discussion with our students organized in Belgrade and shared two of his most recent short-fictions that directly engaged both our course themes and the literary heritage of the region.

In our visit to Aljazeera Balkans (AJB), updates on the growing importance of AJB in the regional media were presented by Melina Kamenic. We visited them in 2012 during their first year of broadcasting in the Western Balkans (including Bulgaria) and it will be very interesting to continue to learn more about their own growth. We also found it interesting to hear about launching of Aljazeera North America and the business strategy (acquiring Al Gore's cable network to circumvent the refusal of major US cable providers to offer Al Jazeera English) an intriguing development in the States while living and working in Sarajevo.

For some years Kruno Kardov updates our students on current research documenting personal narratives of the conflict and post-conflict era and official narratives that selectively commemorate the "Homeland War" by pairing the Yugoslav conflict and the formation of the Croatian nation. His Documenta (Facing the past) multimedia project archives 300 personal stories is a major work of oral history and preserves searchable accounts of combatants and non-combatants (click here for one of the personal story with English subtitle <http://www.documenta.hr/en/personal-memories-%C4%91uro-kresovi%C4%87-zadar-i-kistanje.html> ). His work amounts to juxtaposing a kind of digital People's History of the Croatian Conflict to official Croatian history (Department of Sociology, University of Zagreb).

The second year of the "new" government in Serbia is among the developments that greeted us during the Summer 2013. It has been marked by a surprising consensus in support of EU accession and resolution of the status of Kosovo and its Serb minority. Corruption prosecutions of major former leadership elites have also made news, another surprising development that will no doubt remain unresolved for some months. We are quite proud that our core teaching team of two has been supplemented by nineteen local experts who convey their specialized expertise with guest lectures and support to our students with their independent projects. At this point, nearly every sequence of course readings for each course is paired with guest lectures and developing relationships with scholars, officials and activists and course readings are constantly refreshed to document the developments reported by our experts and which we have experienced first-hand.



## Location

Major sites: Sarajevo, Bosnia; Zagreb, Croatia; Belgrade, Serbia

## Sites

Vukovar, Croatia; Mostar, Bosnia; Srebrenica, Bosnia; Brcko, Bosnia

## Housing

The co-directors and students stay in student dorms affiliated with Belgrade University while in Belgrade, and with the Sarajevo University while in Sarajevo. In Zagreb we stay in a student hostel and in Mostar a private pension. This housing is safe, cost-effective and furnished with necessities for young students.



## Academics

### Pre-Requisites/Language Requirements/Physical Components

Our program is designed for undergraduate and graduate students from all areas of study. Ideal students will be highly motivated and inquiring and open to study through a rich balance of academic materials, guest lectures, personal testimony, first-hand experience, visits to sites resonant with the history and heritage of the region and the ideas and attitudes that are shaping the present. Willingness to communicate learning through writing, discussion and oral presentations is critical to sharing, integrating and interpreting our experiences as individuals and as a group, in the class room, in important local institutions including media companies, government offices, NGO's, religious and memorial sites as well as residents living, working and exploring for an extended period of time in three new born post- Yugoslav societies. We will challenge the quite ingrained assumptions that saturate both popular, journalistic and some scholarly work about the region and the idea that our US-centered standards of invariability capture well our own domestic challenges and conflicts or account well for the history of our region. This is a program that will challenge unexamined assumptions, and ask all to explore the alternatives before settling on their final understandings. We also practice and demand cultural sensitivity and introspection from ourselves and members of our group, and essential ingredient in seeing beyond the quite recently incubated intolerance and fragmentation that has been imposed on a formerly multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society.

### Credits

15 Credits

### Courses

#### **CHID 471 A: Contemporary Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia (5 credits)**

This course develops an understanding of the historical background of the wars of the 90's that produced new states in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. We study the origin of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia in the former Yugoslavia, including rapid shifts in their political, economic and cultural systems as conflict was waged. Each of these elements is critical to understanding the status quo before the Yugoslav conflict and the impact of wartime institutions on prospects for peace and for regional cooperation and development among them. This course will play a major role in updating the impressive and often under-recognized progress towards construction of a post-conflict regional order, an important context for our study of the

pace and ultimate success of the region-wide European Union accession process.

### **CHID 471 B: Cultural Communication in the former Yugoslavia (5 credits)**

This course develops an understanding of the processes that obstruct and that make possible diplomatic, commercial and cultural exchange across the boundaries of the former Yugoslavia region. We examine culture as both a product of communication processes and a producer of forms and content that shape other domains of exchange critical to the region's future. The contribution of communication processes--such as languages derived from Serbo-Croatian, shared history and culture--to the forms and content of communication, play an essential role in prospects for continued reconciliation and development in the region. The promotion and enforcement of sectarian and national boundaries since the Yugoslav conflict provides one of its principal obstacles. We will place special emphasis on how the Yugoslav ideal anchored inter-cultural communication during much the post-WW II Yugoslavia era and the role now played by ethno-nationalist conceptions of group identity, changed conceptions of intercultural boundaries and communication within and across them. This course offers a balanced appraisal of both the cultural continuity and discontinuity that contribute to the major narratives that influence public opinion and the climate of present interstate relations between Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia and their respective interaction with the EU institutions.

### **ENGL 490: Contemporary Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian Literature (5 credits)**

The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of approaches to literature adopted by writers from the Western Balkans, specifically those writing in the context of Yugoslavia, the legacy of Yugoslav conflict and the contemporary states and societies that emerged with its destruction. We will examine the competing conceptions of cultural and historical continuity and discontinuity in Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav literature and their role in articulating national and group identities. We will place particular emphasis on literary texts that articulated an ardently nationalist critique of the Yugoslav project, depicting the inevitability of sectarian violence in a multicultural state in contrast to the Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav critics of ethno-nationalism as an account of Western Balkans cultures and their long legacy of cultural exchange and intersection and the prospects for conflict and co-operation in the relations between Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and among the national minorities and minorities that reside in each state.

## **Program Directors & Staff**

### **Norman Wacker, English, Co-Director**

Co-director: Norman has co-lead foreign study programs for CHID and English in Prague, London and the Western Balkans. He is currently the director of the Interdisciplinary Writing Program. His interests include the legacy of multiculturalism in Central European and Western Balkan literature, post-communist transformation after 1988, interests that began during two years as a Fulbright Scholar during the breakup of the former Czechoslovakia.

[nwacker@uw.edu](mailto:nwacker@uw.edu)

### **Zorica Wacker, CHID, Co-Director**

Co-director and co-founder of the full-term Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia program. Zorica Wacker is an international educator who was one of our first experts "from the region." She addressed our first group of students during a conference in Dubrovnik and urged us to build a truly regional program, during a time when many were reluctant to challenge the borders and the official identities installed during the Yugoslav conflict. Her tireless efforts to connect US students with local experts introduced us to a large contingent of human rights activists, independent journalists, academics and friends who continue to think, work and dream across the newly imposed divides.

[zwacker@uw.edu](mailto:zwacker@uw.edu)

## **Program Expenses**

### **Cost:**

Estimated Program Fee of \$5,000, the UW Study Abroad Fee (\$300), airfare, food (about \$25/day), UW Study Abroad Insurance (\$40/month), other health expenses/immunizations and personal spending money.

### **Average Airplane Ticket Price:**

\$1,800\* roundtrip

\*Subject to when & where you buy your ticket.

## Payment Schedule:

Program fees will be posted to your MyUW student account and can be paid the same way that you pay tuition and other fees. Check your MyUW Account periodically for due dates.

Payment Type	Payment Amount	Payment Due Date
CHID Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Non-Refundable UW Study Abroad Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Program Fee Balance	\$4,700	July 11, 2014
<b>TOTAL FEES CHARGED</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	-

## Orientation

To be eligible to study abroad, all program participants must attend an in-person pre-departure orientation facilitated by the UW Study Abroad Office. You are also required to attend all program-specific orientations offered by your Program Directors.

You must register for orientation through your online study abroad account in order to attend a scheduled session. You can visit the [orientation section](#) of our website to view the current orientation schedule.

Orientation must be completed prior to the enrollment deadline for the quarter that you are studying abroad.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

Most forms of financial aid can be applied to study abroad. You can verify that your financial aid award will apply to your program costs by contacting the [Financial Aid Office](#). Financial aid or scholarships awarded as tuition waivers or tuition exemptions might not apply so you will need to verify that these funds are eligible for use with study abroad by contacting the funding office.

Financial aid and most scholarships are disbursed according to the UW academic calendar (at the beginning of the quarter). If your program starts before the start of the UW quarter, your financial aid will not be available to you prior to your departure. If your program starts after the first day of the quarter, your financial aid will be disbursed at the start of the program. In either of these cases, you will have to finance any upfront costs such as airfare, health insurance and the start of your time abroad on your own. Please take this into consideration when you are making plans.

## Revision Request

In some instances you may qualify for an increase in your financial aid award (typically in loan funds). Check with the [Financial Aid Office](#) about your options. To request a revision in your aid, you will need to submit the following paperwork to the Financial Aid Office:

1. [Revision Request Form](#)
2. [Summer Application for Financial Aid](#)
3. Budget of student expenses for your program: The UW Study Abroad Office will upload this budget to your study abroad account after a signed contract has been submitted to the UW Study Abroad Office. You can request an unofficial copy of this budget by emailing [ipe@uw.edu](mailto:ipe@uw.edu).

Visit the [Finances section](#) of our website to learn more about disbursement, revising your aid package, short-term loans and scholarships.

## Application Process

The application includes a Personal Statement, three short answer questions, two faculty recommendations, and electronic signature documents related to UW policies and expectations for study abroad. Following the on-line application process students may be contacted by the Program Director for an in-person interview. Once an admission decision has been made regarding your application, you will be notified by the study abroad system via email.

## Disability Accommodations

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, and education for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation for this program, contact Disability Resources for Students at least 8 weeks in advance of your departure date. Contact info at [Disability Resources for Students](#).

## Withdrawals

\$350 of the total program fee and the \$300 UW Study Abroad Fee are **non-refundable and non-revocable** once a contract has been submitted, even if you withdraw from the program. Students withdrawing from a program are responsible for paying a percentage of the program fee depending on the date of withdrawal. More details about the withdrawal policy are included in your payment contract. No part of the program fee is refundable once the program has begun. The date of withdrawal is considered the date (business day) a withdrawal form is received by the UW Study Abroad Office. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made in writing by completing the following steps:

1. Provide notice in writing to the Program Director that you will no longer be participating in the program for which you have signed a contract and accepted a slot.
2. Submit a signed withdrawal form to the UW Study Abroad Office, 459 Schmitz Hall.

Visit the [Withdrawals section](#) of our website for more information.

Please see the CHID website for information on the CHID Fee withdrawal policy:  
<http://chid.washington.edu/study-abroad-fees-financing-and-withdrawal>.

Share This Program  
Share brochure link:

Close