



Handbook for **Incoming Students**



Application Procedure and Useful Information

Craiova, 2014-2015

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES OFFICE

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**If you want to start
from somewhere,
start from UCv!**





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A. The University of Craiova. Background

The University of Craiova is a prestigious Romanian institution of higher education and research. Founded in 1947, the University of Craiova has achieved an outstanding position in the national higher education system and has established long-term cooperation relationships with other universities across Europe and the wider world.

The University of Craiova has made a substantial contribution to the promotion of Romanian culture and state-of-the-art international research, enhancing, therefore, the integration of the young generation to the advanced structures of the global world.

The University of Craiova is the most important higher education institution in the historical region of Oltenia, located in the South West of Romania.

As the most important city in Oltenia and the sixth most populous city in the country, Craiova is an enriching cultural experience.

The University of Craiova currently enrolls nearly 20,000 students in Bachelor's and

Master's programmes. The activity of the University of Craiova is supported by a teaching staff of 841 Professors, Associate

Professors, Senior Lecturers and Junior Lecturers, as well as approximately 380 administrative officers.

All the students are granted access to up-to-date library and on-line facilities.

Internet connection is available in all the buildings, establishments and campuses of the University of Craiova.

All the programmes provided by the University of Craiova are based on ECTS, which is valid in more than 45 countries.

Undergraduate students: 14,709
Postgraduate students: 4,917
• **Master's: 4,614**
• **Doctoral studies: 303**
Teaching and research staff: 841
Non-teaching staff: 380

A number of the study programmes provided by the faculties are taught in English, and the foreign language programmes of the Faculty of Letters are taught in the foreign language concerned. For further information, foreign students should contact the departmental International Relations coordinator of the Faculty they are interested in attending. The curricula of the faculties of the University of Craiova can be consulted online at the following address: <http://cis01.central.ucv.ro/evstud/planuri/>.

Teaching and learning activities underpin learner-centeredness, monitoring and supervision of students' work and an active methodology for theoretical and practical training. Internship in well-established companies and public institutions is also provided for all specialisations. For the last five years, the University of Craiova has been submitted to consecutive internal evaluation and national evaluation processes, which have enhanced the design and implementation of the institutional development strategy, with the support of the entire academic community.

The 2009 Institutional evaluation of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) was completed with a “High Degree of Confidence”. The evaluation clearly identified the major characteristics branding distinguishing the University of Craiova within the Romanian higher education system.

The academic calendar of the University of Craiova

for the academic year 2013-2014

<i>Period</i>	<i>Educational activity</i>	<i>Number of weeks</i>
October 1 - December 20, 2013	Teaching activities	12
December 21, 2013 - January 12, 2014	Holidays	4
January 13 - January 26, 2014	Teaching activities	2
January 27 - February 16, 2014	Examination session	3
February 17 - February 23, 2014	Holidays	1
February 24 - April 18, 2014	Teaching activities	8
April 19 - April 27, 2014	Holidays	1
April 28 - June 8, 2014	Teaching activities	6
June 9 - June 29, 2014	Examination session	3

* the calendar of the 2014-2015 academic year will be posted on the university website as soon as possible.



B. HOW TO APPLY

NOMINATION

- You must be nominated by your home institution for the Erasmus exchange with the UCV.



APPLICATION

- You must send the following documents to UCV:

- Copy of your Learning Agreement;
- Copy of the Student Application Form (signed and sealed by your university);
- Copy of the Transcript of Records of the courses completed at the home university.

These documents will be sent by post (with acknowledgement of receipt) and by mail to the Department of International Relations at the following address:



**Departamentul de Relații Internaționale
Universitatea din Craiova
Str. A. I. Cuza, nr. 13
Craiova, 200585, jud. Dolj, Romania**

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- *30th May for students applying for the first semester or for the full academic year*
- *30th November for students applying for the second semester*

ACCEPTANCE

- UCV will inform you of its decision as soon as possible after receiving your application. The confirmation of acceptance will be sent by the Department of International Relations of UCV both to your university and to you, by mail.
- If you have been accepted at the University of Craiova, the Department of International Relations will send you by mail:

**Hostel reservation form
(it will be provided
by the Department of
International Relations of
UCV after acceptance)**

**Registration form for the
Romanian language courses
(it will be provided by the
Department of International
Relations of UCV acceptance)**

**Well
Done!**

C. HOW TO GET TO CRAIOVA

❖ Travel by plane

The easiest way of reaching Romania from most European countries is by plane. There are flights from all over the world to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. To reach Craiova you can take an intercity train.



The international airports in Romania are:



- **“Henri Coandă” International Airport, Bucharest, Otopeni** (www.otp-airport.ro); and
- **Craiova Airport** (www.aeroportcraiova.ro)

The “Henri Coandă” International Airport is the biggest and most important airport in Romania, so if your flight

lands in Otopeni, it is advisable to take an airport bus or train to Bucharest (the trip can last from 30 minutes up to 1 hour, depending on the means of transportation chosen), then take an intercity train from Bucharest “Gara de Nord” station to Craiova. For further details and reservations, please visit www.cfrcalatori.ro.

The other possibility is to fly to the International Airport of Craiova, which provides direct flights to many cities across Europe. For further details please visit www.aeroportcraiova.ro or www.carpatair.com.

❖ Travel by train

Craiova is a major railway centre, connected to all the other major Romanian cities. The city is located on the main railway crossing Romania from East to West and linking Timisoara to Bucharest. You can easily reach Craiova by train from Paris, Munich, Budapest, Thessaloniki, etc. The railway station is located in the northern area of the city, from where you can take a bus or a taxi to the University. Students enjoy reduced train fares if they are in possession of a valid student ID card (issued by the faculty that accepts the Erasmus mobility, after concluding all of the enrolment formalities).



❖ Travel by car

Craiova is situated at the junction of the E70, E79 and E574 European routes. The customs offices are located in Bechet, Calafat, Giurgiu and Turnu Magurele at the Bulgarian border, in Drobeta Turnu-Severin and Jimbolia at the Serbian border, and in Nadlac, Bors and Cenad at the Hungarian

border. Foreigners driving a car to Romania are required to hold a valid international driving licence. Car registration and insurance papers are also compulsory. Driving is on the right-hand side and seat belts are compulsory. The speed limit within residential areas is 50 km/h, 100 km/h on national routes, 130 km/h on motorways.



❖ Local public transport and taxi

Public transport in Craiova consists of 3 tram lines and 16 bus lines. One ticket costs around € 0.5.

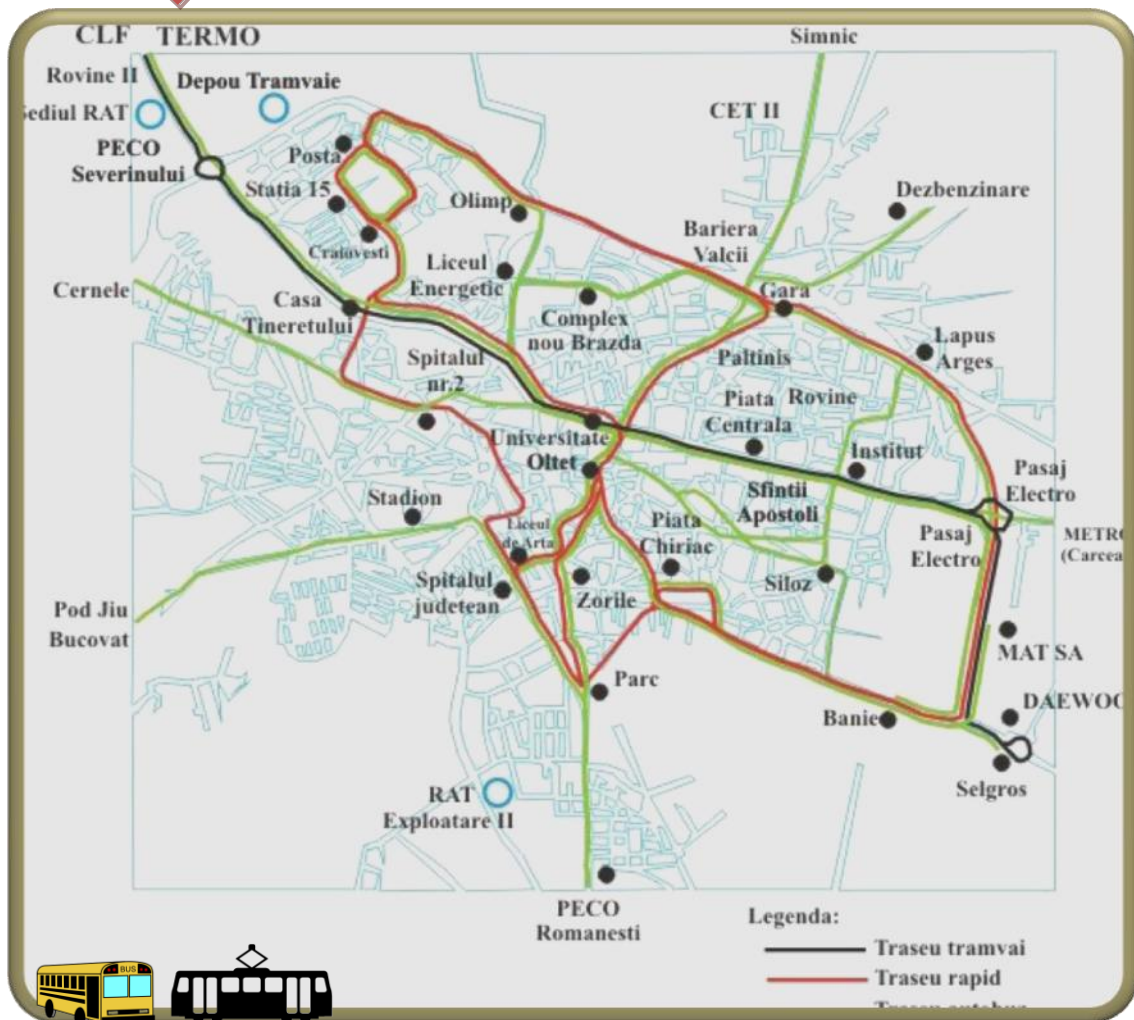


There is a 50% discount on standard fares for monthly passes on trams or buses (unlimited travel on one line only) for holders of an enrolment certificate issued by the faculty that confirms the acceptance of the Erasmus mobility. Most buses run until 22.00 and trams until 23.30. For further details on the routes and timetables, please

visit <http://www.rat-craiova.ro/index.php>

Taxi services are relatively cheap and comfortable, amounting to €1- €2 (around €0.3/k

TRAM AND BUS MAP



D. UPON ARRIVAL

The first arrangements

1. Contact the Department of International Relations for assistance with accommodation and details on the university and the city. The officer with responsibility for international incoming students will provide assistance with your enrolment, information on Romanian language courses and other aspects of your stay here.

Report to the Department of International Relations with the following original documents:

**Student
Application Form**

**Learning Agreement or
Training Agreement**

**Passport or
ID Card**

**Health
Insurance**

2. Contact ERASMUS Coordinator of the faculty (you should make an appointment in due time)

Accommodation

Erasmus incoming students have two options of accommodation: staying at the university residence or seeking alternative accommodation upon arrival.



Student Hostel Accommodation

Erasmus incomers may reserve a place at the university residence through the Hostel reservation form, filled in and sent to the Department of International Relations prior to arrival.

Every room will accommodate 2 students. The rooms available are comfortable, pleasantly decorated, with free internet access and cable TV, refrigerator and TV set and private bathroom.

Bedclothes are supplied. There is also a fully equipped kitchen and laundry on every floor, a reading room and a social hall.

Rooms can be rented at a reasonable price: 230 lei/month/student + utilities, amounting to 70-80 Euros/month/student.

For further information, please contact the Department of International Relations of UCV.



Rented Accommodation

Rented flats are an alternative for incoming students seeking high quality accommodation, comfort and privacy. Students must make their own reservation.

The price is approximately EUR 200 per person (2 persons allowed) for a furnished flat with gas heating, located near the city centre and/or the faculty buildings of the University.



Visa/residence permit

The host faculty will guide the students from non-EU countries in order to get a Residence permit.



Currency

The official Romanian currency is LEU (singular form), LEI (plural form) (LEU/LEI, RON).

Coins: BANI 5, 10, 50. 1 LEU = 100 BANI.

Bank notes: LEI 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 200, 500.

Exchange rate: 1 EUR = approx. 4.5 LEI.

You can exchange money at the bank or at exchange offices. Credit/ debit cards are increasingly being accepted.

Local time: GMT + 2h

Emergency services:

Emergency call centre: 112

International calls:

International dial code of Romania: +40

Area code of Craiova: (0)251/ (0)351



E. AT THE END OF THE STAY

At the end of the stay, students should request the certificate of departure, duly signed and sealed by the corresponding Faculty.

The International Relations Office of the corresponding Faculty will send transcript of records to the student's home university by regular mail.

Exchange students may apply for an extension of the exchange period. For further information, please contact the International Relations Department.

Students are strongly encouraged to contact their departmental IR coordinators or the International Relations Department of the University of Craiova for any questions, inquiries or requests they might have.

We are here to support and help you!

Faculties of the University of Craiova - International Relations Coordinators Contact Information

Faculty	Name and surname	E-mail
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	Gabriela Eugenia IACOBESCU	gabrielaiacobescu@yahoo.com
Faculty of Electrical Engineering	Lucian MANDACHE	lmandache@elth.ucv.ro
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	Anca TĂNASIE	AncaTanasie@gmx.de AncaTanasie@central.ucv.ro
Faculty of Law and Social Sciences	Mădălin TICU	ticu_madalin@yahoo.com
Faculty of Physical Education and Sports	Ligia RUSU	rusuligia@yahoo.com
Faculty of Automation, Computers and Electronics	Marius MARIAN	marius.marian@cs.ucv.ro
Faculty of Letters	Gabriel COȘOVEANU	gcosoveanu@yahoo.com
Faculty of Orthodox Theology	Nicolae Răzvan STAN	nicolaerazvanstan@yahoo.com
Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture	Marius VLADU	mariusvladu@yahoo.fr
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	Nicolae CRĂCIUNOIU	ncraciunoiu@yahoo.com

F. FACILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA

1 The University Campus

The University of Craiova offers accommodation in 11 student hostels situated on four university campuses:

- Hostels no. 1, no. 2 and no. 3 on the campus of the Faculty of Agriculture (Campus Agronomie);

- Hostels no. 6, no. 7, no. 8 and no. 14 on the campus of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Campus Mecanica);

- Hostel no. 10 on the Lapusi district;

- Hostels no. 11, no. 12 and no. 13 on the Campus of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports.

All student hostels allow the students' free access to internet and cable TV. Six out of

the eleven hostels are completely renovated, offering double rooms provided with

refrigerator, TV set and individual bathroom, as well as fully equipped kitchens and laundries, a reading room and a social hall

located within the precincts of the hostel, for social activities.



2 Canteens

Students are also provided with three canteens situated in the campus of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, in the central building of the University and at the Faculty of Agriculture, where they can eat at discounted prices.



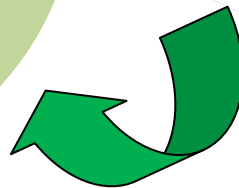
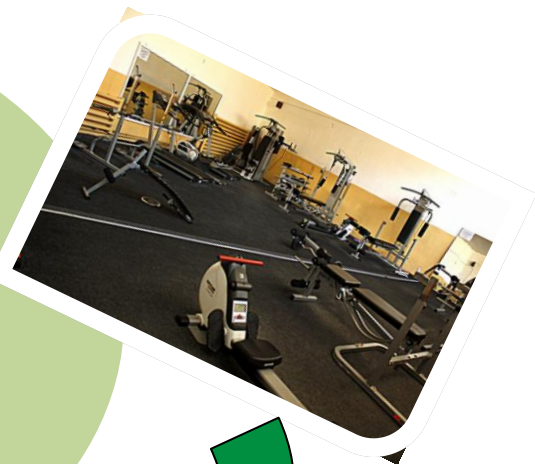
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Sports Halls

The sports halls of the University of Craiova are located at the following addresses:

- The Sports Complex of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports (fitness centre, gymnastics hall)
- “Ion Oblemenco” Stadium (the table tennis hall, the in-door handball/ football hall)
- The Faculty of Law (the multifunctional sports hall, the sports ground).

All these facilities offer free access, on an organised basis



The Library of the University of Craiova

The University of Craiova Library is a cultural and scientific centre. The University is bound to provide the logistics allowing for the operation of the library. The library is subordinated to the University Senate and to the Rector’s Office. The link between the University of Craiova Library and the University is secured by the Senate Council and the Scientific Research Vice-Rectorate.

The University of Craiova Library is a complex structure comprising specialized branches serving the different faculties within the university. As an educational and training centre, it purchases books, periodicals and special collections, it processes data related to the library

4



cultural
legally
library.
Office.
Senate

entries and disseminates the information with a view to facilitating access for students, teaching staff and researchers. The library provides a wide range of services such as:

Currently, the University of Craiova Library houses about 1,000,000 volumes, out of which 27,999 volumes are in special collections, and more than 3,000

periodicals are available. The library cooperates with more than 85 foreign partners and 45 national partners in interlibrary loan schemes.

The library database uses TINLIB for Windows v.1.15 (library software) and stores about 115,000 book entries and 2,000 periodicals.

Information mining is enhanced by OPAC, which is available at several Information Centres and Multimedia Centres. Furthermore, data are available via traditional library catalogues.

A valuable additional source is the Periodicals Section/Legal Storehouse which allows the readers to access information in the Reading Room.

The University of Craiova Library includes the Unique Books Storehouse, containing reference books (approx. 170,000 titles), and allowing the readers

- Loans
- Traditional and e-catalogues access
- Free access to materials on the shelves in the Reading rooms
- Bibliography search and help with information mining
- Materials saving, scanning and printing
- Guided tour of The University of Craiova Library
- Interlibrary loans in-country and abroad
- Internet access via the library network

easy access to data via electronic services. Readers may also use the Multimedia Centre and the Conference Room, located in the Lapus Branch of the library.

For further details, please visit <http://biblio.central.ucv.ro/> - data on

the office hours, localization, interactive communication

with the library services, links to databases

available in the university campus:

Science Direct, Thomson ISI, Springer Link,

EBSCO, CSA Research Pack, American Institute

of Physics, Proquest, Engineering Village, Scopus, Oxford Journals, Cambridge Journals, Taylor and Francis, The Royal Society, IOP Electronic Journals, Classiques Garnier Numérique.

The University of Craiova Library is affiliated with the Romanian Library Association (ABR).



5

Foreign Language Assistantship

The University of Craiova has three lectorates of foreign languages: French, Macedonian and Bulgarian, coordinated by native speaker lecturers from France, Macedonia and Bulgaria. The technical equipment (a TV set, a video projector, a xerox copier, a computer and a printer) and the library provided by each lectorate allow the organisation of high quality teaching activities:

- Facultative courses of Bulgarian and Macedonian language and civilisation for 2nd and 3rd year students
- Introductory courses in communication pedagogy, in contemporary French civilisation and written and oral expression and legal French courses
- Annual events occasioned by international celebrations
- Annual contests for the summer school scholarships offered by the Universities of Sophia and Veliko-Tirnovο or of the University of Skopje

The French Lectorate

<http://lectoratfrançaiscraiova.unblog.fr/>

The French Lectorate was founded in 1969 and has functioned ever since for the benefit of the students and members of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Letters and of the entire University. The lectorate is currently headed by Guillaume Dujardin. The lectorate library houses a rich and diverse supply of books (6500 volumes) and has 10 current subscriptions to different magazines.



The Bulgarian Lectorate

http://cis01.central.ucv.ro/litere/cadr_juridic/lectoratul_bulgar.htm



The Bulgarian Lectorate has been functioning since 1976 and, starting with 2010, it has been headed by Associate Professor Kiril Yoicev Țancov, a Bulgarian lecturer with a considerable experience in teaching Bulgarian to foreign students. The lectorate library comprises more than 800 volumes of linguistics, literature, history, civilization, dictionaries, technical manuals etc. and a varied multimedia collection.

The Macedonian Lectorate

http://cis01.central.ucv.ro/litere/cadr_juridic/lectoratul_macedonean.htm

The lectorate of Macedonian language and culture has been functioning since 1975 and is headed by lecturer Milica Petrushevska who is currently coordinating the activities related to the study of the Macedonian language and culture. The Lectorate houses more than 700 volumes and a diverse multimedia collection.



Casa Universitarilor (University Club)

The contemporary Casa Universitarilor, the former Romanescu House, is a remarkable piece of architecture of the 19th century, situated in the very heart of the city of Craiova, on Unirii Main Street. It was founded by the Romanescu family, true patriots and outstanding members of the Romanian aristocracy ever since 1486. The entire building is divided into a large number of salons, each one with its own style, design and honouring its founder, different

local and international personalities, colors or regions. (The Blue Salon, The Green Salon, The Oriental Salon, The Mihai Eminescu Music Hall, The Hillary Salon, the A. I. Cuza Salon, The Nicolae Romanescu Salon etc.). The top floor of the House works as an independently-running hotel, with guest rooms overlooking the beautiful garden designed between 2002-2003 in an attempt to recreate the original one. Nowadays, Casa Universitarilor is a venue for the presentation of doctoral theses, national and international conferences, art exhibitions, book displays and is home to the academic spirit of the city. .



7 Leisure time activities



The Student's House (Casa de Cultura a Studentilor)

The Students' House is a public institution founded in 1964 and is subordinated to the National Youth Authority and coordinated by the Agency for Student Support. Its main purpose is to meet the needs of the students in Craiova by initiating and organising cultural activities, sports and touristic events, educational, entertainment and leisure time activities, by initiating and organising artistic and literary circles, theoretical and practical courses and creative workshops, while facilitating the smooth functioning and performance of student artistic groups and encouraging the participation of students in all activities.

The Students' House organised the first « Jazz, Folk, Rock » student festival, an event that had a huge impact upon the students' community and was taken up by similar student institutions in the country. The festival made its way into Billboard Magazine. The Students' House in Craiova has always been and continues to be a place open to all the students, providing a good opportunity for everybody interested in socio-cultural, educational and artistic activities to take an active part in these events. It is located at 10 Eugeniu Carada Street, Craiova, Dolj County, and further information is offered <http://www.ccsraiova.ro/>.



Pubs

Cafe Teatru Play- 18 C.D. Fortunescu Street and **Scena 8-** 13 Libertatii Street are two local pubs hosting theatrical plays performed by students or graduate students from the Arts Department of the University of Craiova and live concert performed by local bands.



Cinemas

« Modern » Cinema

3-5, Madona Dudu Street
Number of seats: 175
Full-price ticket 2D: 8 lei
Half-price ticket 2D – 6 lei
(Monday - Thursday 2 p.m.)
Full-price ticket 3D: 10 lei
Facilities: Bar

« Patria » Cinema

19, A. I. Cuza Street
Number of seats: 708
Full-price ticket 2D: 15 lei
Half-price ticket 2D: 10 lei
Full-price ticket 3D: 20 lei
Half-price ticket 3D: 15 lei
Facilities: Bar



Shopping Centres and Hypermarkets

Mercur Shopping centre

Mihai Viteazul Square, 14 Calea Unirii Street
A complex of department stores specialising in articles of clothing, footwear, home appliances, hygienic products, cosmetics, decorative items, bookstore etc.
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 09:00-21:00
Sundays: 09:00-14:30

Electroputere Park

80 Calea Bucuresti Boulevard
A shopping centre with various famous brand boutiques and Auchan Hypermarket. The shopping galleries are open between 10:00 and 22:00 and the hypermarket between 08:00 and 22:00.

Real Hypermarket

5 Calea Severinului Boulevard
Large shopping centre housing a commercial gallery that offers articles of clothing and footwear, home appliances, telephone services, pharmacy, petshop, laundry and cafes.
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday - 08:00-23:00; Sundays: 08:00-22:00

Hypermarket Kaufland

142 Calea Bucuresti Street and 6-6a Tineretului Boulevard
The Hypermarket includes a commercial gallery offering mobile telephone services and a pharmacy.
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday - 8:00-22:00; Sunday: 08:00-20:00

Other supermarkets/ hypermarkets in Craiova:
METRO, Selgross, Succes, Carrefour Market.



Student organisations

Student Organisations Convention
cosucv@yahoo.com

**The Faculty of Automation,
Computers and Electronics
Students Association**
papmihadr@yahoo.com

**Economics and Business
Administration Students
Association**
topala.claudia@yahoo.com

**Law Students Association at the
University of Craiova**
alinaflorea91@yahoo.com

**Physics Students Association of
Craiova**
tulius_caesar@yahoo.com

**Horticulture Students
Association of Craiova**
asfh2010@yahoo.com

**Theology Students Association
of Craiova**
studenti_teologie@yahoo.com

**Social Sciences Students Asso
ciation of Craiova**
asfsscucv@gmail.com

The Faculty of Letters Students Association of Craiova
ududoι.corina@yahoo.com

The Faculty of Mechanics Students Organization of Craiova
simionmariusvalentin@ymail.com

The Faculty of Mathematics-Informatics Students Association
assmiucv@yahoo.com

Counselling and Career Orientation Centre
ccop_craiova@yahoo.com

**Physical Education and Sports and Kinetotherapy Students
Association** mister_mihai_1983@yahoo.com

**The Polytechnic (electrical engineering specialization) Students
Association of Craiova**
osppec@yahoo.com

The Faculty of Agriculture Students Association
stefana2000ionut@yahoo.com

Chemistry and Biochemistry Students Association
florentinbuse@yahoo.com

G. ABOUT ROMANIA

Population: 21,400,000

Capital: Bucharest - the capital city of Romania - is located at the same latitude as the cities of Portland – Oregon, Montreal – Canada, Venice - Italy and Bordeaux - France. Known for its wide, tree-lined avenues, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a high life style (which in the 1900s earned it the label of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis. The Parliament Palace (photo) is the world's second largest building after the U.S. Pentagon, with an area of 3.76 million square feet.

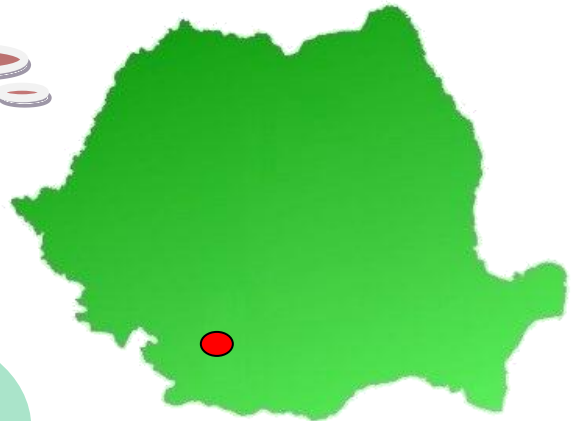
Location: Romania is situated in the south-eastern part of Central Europe, bordering Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north, and the Republic of Moldova to the east. Romania is the 12th largest country in Europe and the 2nd in the region, after Poland.

Climate: Romania has a temperate climate, with four distinct seasons and significant regional differences of climate.

Geography: Romania's territory features splendid mountains, beautiful rolling hills, fertile plains and numerous rivers and lakes. The Carpathians cross the centre of the country, bordered on both sides by foothills and finally the great plains of the outer edge. Forests cover over one quarter of the country and the fauna is one of the richest in Europe, including bears, deer, lynx, chamois and wolves. The Danube River ends its eight-country journey at the Black Sea, after forming one of the largest and most bio-diverse wetlands in the world, the Danube Delta.



H. ABOUT CRAIOVA



Population

Craiova is the 6th largest city in Romania, with a population of about 300,000.

Location

Craiova, one of the largest and most important cities in south-western Romania, is situated on the left bank of the Jiu river, in the centre of the Oltenia region, 227 km away from Bucharest and 68 km from the Danube. As capital of the historical province of Oltenia, Craiova is time-honoured, commercial and cultural centre. It is a longstanding political centre, and is located at fairly equal distances from the Southern Carpathians (to the north) and the Danube (to the south). Craiova is the main commercial city west of Bucharest and the most important city of Oltenia.

Climate

Romania has a temperate climate, very similar to the rest of the countries situated in the continental zone. Situated in the southern part of Romania, Craiova has a very pleasant, sub-Mediterranean climate. Winters are sometimes cold (-10 °C to +5 °C); in wintertime you can rent skates and enjoy the ice-rink in the city centre. In spring and autumn the warm and sunny weather is ideal for outdoor activities. Summers tend to be quite hot (25 °C to 35 °C), but you can have a good time as there are plenty of swimming pools and outdoor bars serving cold drinks and ice-cream.

Geography

The landscape of Craiova is represented by flat plains and the maximum altitude is somewhere around 116 metres. Hills are to be found in the northern part and the Danube Valley in the southern area.

Sports and entertainment

Craiova allows for a wide range of leisure activities as you can discover during your stay here. Generally, the inhabitants enjoy both their work time and their free time: the parks, the entertainment areas, the outdoor bars and restaurants and the old city centre are crowded with people of all ages making the city alive.

Statues, Architectural Monuments and Museums

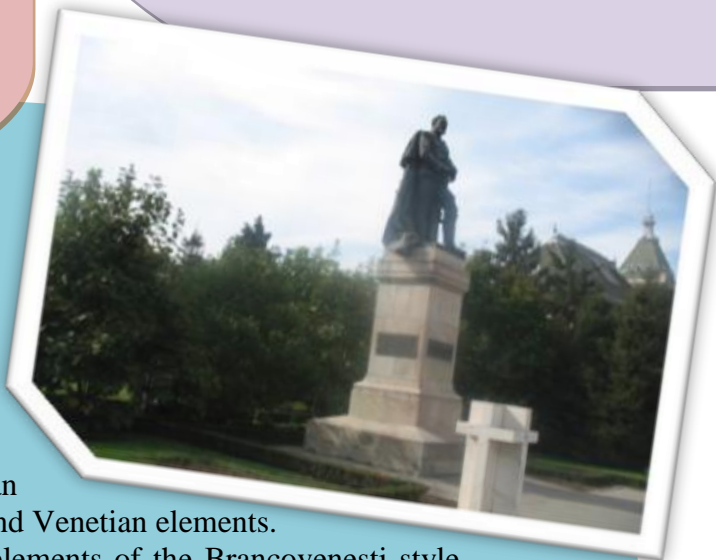
The city of Craiova harmoniously combines the new and the ancient, history, culture, industry, economy and agriculture, and has become a representative landmark, especially in the last 20 years following the revolution of 1989, when the process of modernisation started bringing about changes in all domains of society.

The most popular activities are:

- *fitness, aerobics, body building* – in centres across the city, with state-of-the-art facilities;
- *sports grounds* – you can play tennis, football, basketball outdoors and indoors alike – at night the sports grounds are illuminated;
- *jogging, roller-skating, biking or simply walking* in the city parks or in the walking area in the centre of the town ;
- swimming in different swimming pools across the city during summertime and skating on the skating rink in the city main square in wintertime ;

In the late 17th century and the early 18th century, Craiova's architecture underwent a change with the emergence of the Brancovenesti style, a combination of Romanian traditional art, Byzantine and Venetian elements.

Churches still displaying elements of the Brancovenesti style include: Biserica Sfantu Ilie (Saint Ilie Church), built in 1720 by Ilie Otetelesanu and the rich tradesmen in town, Biserica Tuturor Sfintilor (All Saints Church) (1700), Biserica Sfantu Gheorghe Vechi (Old Saint Gheorghe Church) (1730), Manastirea Obedeauu (The Obedeauu Monastery) (1747), Biserica Mantuleasa (The Mantuleasa Church)(1786), Biserica Sfantul Nicolae (The Saint Nicholas Church) (1794).





Mihai Viteazul Square & The Musical Fountain

An entire ensemble of fountains, lined with garden beds and ornamental plants, the restored small park and the relocation of the statue of Mihai Viteazu to a monumental ensemble are just a few examples. The musical fountain stands out though, being a unique piece of architecture in the country, attracting about 2,000 visitors from Craiova and neighbouring towns every night.

City highlights

An important touristic attraction of our city is the Musical Fountain located in the centre of Craiova. Our city also takes pride in its rich historical heritage that includes a number of statues representing important personalities whose heroic deeds marked the history of Craiova and of the country: the statues of Michael the Brave, Prince of Wallachia, A.I. Cuza, King Carol I, Prince Barbu Știrbei; architectural monuments such as: The Administrative Palace, The City Hall of Craiova, The County Library, “Marin Sorescu” National Theatre, The University, the County Justice Court, The Vorvoreanu Palace or museums: The Art Museum and Museum of Oltenia and churches: The Madonna Dudu Church, St. Dumitru Cathedral etc.

The City Hall



The city hosts a large number of **religious buildings**, many of them dating back to medieval times.

The Cosuna Monastery, for instance, is the oldest building preserved in Craiova, dating back to the 15th century.

You can spend a most relaxing afternoon visiting the monastery, located only 2.1 miles away from the city centre.

Another religious site, **The Madona Dudu Church**, is well-known for its mural paintings, the work of the famous Romanian painter Gheorghe Tattarescu (1818 – 1894).

The Metropolitan Bishopric of Oltenia -The first Metropolitan Church in the region of Oltenia was built in 1370, at the time, being named The Metropolitan Church of Severin, founded during the reign of Voivode Vladislav I (1364 - 1377). The Metropolitan Bishopric of Oltenia, the canonical and administrative unit of the Romanian Orthodox Church was

The County Library

Craiova can offer an impressive county library bequeathed to the city by Alexandru Aman, magistrate (the older brother of the famous Romanian painter Theodor Aman), and from his wife, Aristia Aman.

The cultural legacy of the library has been progressively enhanced through acquisitions and donations occasioned by numerous collaborations with a series of cultural and scientific institutions or with various literature-loving people.

Anybody in possession of an individual permit can borrow books and has access to the reading room and to the audio-video hall. For further information on the library and the social, cultural and educational activities it organises you can visit the following webpage: <http://www.aman.ro/>

The Museum of Oltenia

*44 Madona Dudu Street
(History and Archaeology Section);*

*14 Matei Basarab Street
(Ethnographic Section);*

*4 Popa Sapca Street (Natural
Sciences Section)*

Telephone: (251) 411.906

Website: www.muzeulolteniei.ro

For those interested in further discovering the history and the traditions of this region, we recommend a visit to the **Oltenia Museum**, housed in three different locations, including **Baniei House** (1699) (photo), the oldest non-religious building in Craiova and one of the oldest lay buildings in the country.



At the Ethnographic Section you can learn almost everything about the history of the region, starting with the prehistoric times. Great care has been taken in presenting, in full detail, the traditional trades and occupations of the peasants in Oltenia, ranging from hunting, fishing to cattle raising, tilling the fields, harvesting the crops, thus, emphasizing the timeless existence of the inhabitants. The museum exhibits wooden carvings and ceramics, a large collection of jars, bowls of all kinds, plates, carpets in the oltenian style as well as fascinating folk costumes from the same region.

The Museum hosts other two sections dedicated to *History and Archaeology* and *Natural Sciences* alongside a *Laboratory of Restoration*.

The Art Museum

*Address: 15 Calea Unirii Street
(located in the Dinu Mihail
Palace)*

Telephone: (251) 412.342

Website:

www.muzeuldeartacraiova.ro



Art lovers should definitely not miss the

Art Museum in Craiova, hosted in the sumptuous neo-baroque **Dinu Mihail Palace**, built in the early 1900s by the French architect Paul Gotereau.

The Museum exhibits valuable masterpieces belonging to famous Romanian painters, among which painters including the Craiova-born Theodor Aman (1831- 1891), Nicolae Grigorescu (1838- 1907), Vasile Popescu, Stefan Luchian and Theodor Pallady, and Romanian religious icons.

One of its main attractions is represented by the section dedicated to **Constantin Brancusi**, displaying six of his early sculptures, including copies of his best-known works: *The Kiss* (1907), *Vitellius* (1898), *Woman Torso* (1909), *The Vainglory* (1905), *Boy's Head* (1906), *Miss Pogany* (1902). Moreover, Brancusi's 'studio' has been recreated in the museum.



The Marin Sorescu National Theatre occupies a special place in the history of the Romanian theatre. Founded in 1850, it has never ceased to function, in spite of all the turmoil which characterizes the history of our nation.

During the first decades of its existence, and according to the taste of the age, mostly musical shows and vaudevilles were staged. In the years after 1900, there was a stress on dramatic performances, of the universal classics, particularly Shakespeare and Moliere, but also of national drama.

The National Theatre of Craiova was the first theatre in south-eastern Europe to become a member of the European Theatre Convention.

Every two years, in May, the *Marin Sorescu National Theatre* in Craiova organises *The Shakespeare International Drama Festival*.



Philharmonic orchestra fans can enjoy performances of **The Philharmonic Orchestra of Craiova** (photo) and of The "Elena Teodorini" Opera and Ballet House.

For those interested in enjoying a relaxing afternoon outdoors, the **Nicolae Romanescu Park** is a veritable green oasis. The park is one of the jewels of landscape architecture in Romania. The plans for the park, designed by French architect Emile Rendent, were awarded the gold medal at the 1900 World Fair.

Through the initiative of Nicolae P. Romanescu, then mayor of Craiova, work on the park began in 1901 and was completed in 1903.

The total surface area of the park amounts to more than 96 acres of plantations (shrubberies, grassy areas and lawns, trees and woodlands), 4 acres of lakes and water features, 20 acres of hippodrome and a velodrome.

A Zoo is located in the park.

The park has become an important space of outdoor recreation destined for various sports activities and including playground areas, fountains and high quality sports grounds (4 green-set courts, 4 artificial grass mini-football fields, basketball and volleyball multifunctional courts, 2 artificial turf basketball courts, 10 concrete tennis tables, 10 chess tables, one roller skate and skateboard track for beginners and experienced skaters, one outdoor performance stage with seating for 200 audience members, minigolf courses, 18 concrete tracks for obstacle racing, 12 km of paved alleys).



The Youth Park is the most recent and modern park in Craiova, opened in 2009, after a process of rehabilitation of a chestnut tree forest covering an area of about 220 acres.

The Youth Park address: Stirbei Voda Boulevard, Craiova

The English Park is the ideal place to spend a few hours. It is located in the centre of Craiova, next to the City Hall. Although laid out on a small area, it is a wonderful piece of landscape architecture.



Local holidays Craftsmen's Fair

An annual event that takes place at the end of October, when the orthodox Saint Dumitru – the patron saint of the city – is celebrated. It lasts several days and includes artistic and cultural activities and several exhibitions where people can admire and buy handicraft articles and souvenirs from the Oltenia region as well as traditional and organic foods produced by local entrepreneurs.

For those wanting to experience nature in a more scientific way, a stop at the **Botanical Garden** would be the best choice. The Botanical Garden is the fourth largest university botanical garden in the country and was designed by the French landscape architect E. Redont on an area of about 17 acres in 1952.

Three lakes of about 0.3 acres are seen across the garden, where the flora gives a naturalistic shaping. The Botanical Garden also houses a Herbarium of about 400,000 pages of preserved plants, and a small-scale Museum.



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