



INFO PACK FOR VOLUNTEERS

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

YEREVAN BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY OF LANGAUGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Yerevan, Armenia



Dear Volunteer,

Congratulations for having been selected for participation in the European Voluntary Service (EVS) at Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences. We really do hope that the next weeks and months might be a life-changing experience for you.

This info-pack will provide you some information about the country, the University, your team, activities and some other information that will be useful during the first period of time.

The whole team is looking forward to hosting you in Armenia and working within the frame of various initiatives!!!

With best wishes,

Career Center and Graduates Association Team

Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences

ARMENIA



Armenia, situated along the route of the Great Silk Road, is a landlocked country of rugged mountains and extinct volcanoes, located in the southern Caucasus, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Armenia is situated at a cultural, historical, and religious intersection and located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, in the southern Transcaucasus. The country spans 29,743 square kilometers (11,490 square miles, about

the size of Belgium or Maryland) of mountainous terrain centered around the Ararat Valley, the heart of the Armenian nation since biblical times. It is the smallest of the former Soviet republics, bounded by Georgia on the north, Azerbaijan on the east, Iran on the south, and Turkey on the west.

The religion of Armenia is Christianity. Armenia became the first nation to declare Christianity as its state religion in 301 AD.

YEREVAN



Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia, and one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Situated along the Hrazdan River, Yerevan is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country. It has been the capital since 1918, the thirteenth in the history of Armenia, and the seventh located in or around the Ararat plain.

The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC, with the founding of the fortress of Erebuni in 782 BC.



Tourist Destination Armenia

Numerous monuments and masterpieces of the Ancient era and Middle Ages can be found throughout the country. Tourism in Armenia is rooted in the country's historical landmarks and natural attractions such as the water resorts of Lake Sevan, the hot springs of Arzni and Jermuk, the forests of Dilijan, Aghveran, Tsaghkadzor, Bjurakan and Gugark, and the mountainous natural caves and cliffs of the Southeast region. The 5165 meter Mount Ararat, geographically located in Turkey, is a national symbol of Armenia and is visible from much of the Southwest region.

Population

Following the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the rebirth of the independent Armenian state, the Republic of Armenia reemerged as the latest embodiment of Armenia's perseverance as a nation. Of the approximately three million people who live in Armenia, over 95% are ethnic Armenians. Overall, the population of Armenians world-wide is estimated to be 10 million, many comprising Diaspora communities in Russia, the US, Europe and the Middle East. Around 1.5 million people live in Yerevan.

Weather

Armenia has a tremendous climatic variety packed in a small physical area. From the sunny Ararat valley and its bountiful fruits to the idyllic snowcapped mountain ranges, which traverse the land, Armenia's diverse nature is a reflection of its broad climatic range. Average temperatures in the country's capital, Yerevan, range from -5°C in winter to +30°C in summer, although extreme days can see the thermometer fall to -10°C and the hottest summer days have topped out over +40°C.

Language

The official language of the country is Armenian. Linguists theorize that 5,000-7,000 years ago the Proto-Indo-European language splintered into dialects, one of which was Armenian, a separate branch of the Indo-European language family.

Exchange Rate

Armenian currency is AMD - Armenian Dram.

1€ = 536 AMD (www.cba.am)

Time

CET stands for *Central European Time*. Yerevan, Armenia time is 2 hours ahead of CET. So, when it is 11:00 am CET it will be 1:00 pm in Yerevan.

<http://www.worldtimebuddy.com/cet-to-armenia-yerevan>

Visa

There is no visa needed for Europeans. On arrival, the volunteer will get Residence Permit for the whole stay in Armenia.



YEREVAN BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (BRUSOV YSULS)

www.brusov.am

Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences has been established in 1935, and is considered to be one of the oldest higher education institutions in Armenia with over 3000 students. YSULS has 3 faculties which offer BA, MA and PhD programs in linguistics, teaching foreign languages, international relations, European studies, political science, education management and planning, translation studies. 22 foreign languages are taught at the University (English, German, French, Russian, Italian, Polish, Chinese, Korean, Romanian, Japanese, Arabic, Hindi, Greek, Turkish, Dutch, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Persian, Georgian and Jewish). 12 Language and Culture centers have been founded to promote the development of intercultural communication between the students and professorship of various countries of the world. Multi-profiled education is implemented at all University departments: each major is paralleled with a minor alongside with at least three foreign languages.

YSULS is the only state university in the Caucasus and East Region that implements European Voluntary Service projects, thus combining formal and non-formal education, and giving the students and graduates the possibility to get new skills and experience, be competitive in the labor market.

Our Team:

You will never get bored or feel alone, as our team is very enthusiastic and energetic ☺. The Career Center has many local volunteers who speak English and at least one other foreign language. Here is our team and our contacts.

- **Mr. Levon Babamyan** - EVS Coordinator
levon.babamyan@gmail.com, mobile: +374 93 555760
- **Mrs. Ani Hovsepyan** - EVS Supervisor
annie.hovsepyan@gmail.com, mobile: +374 77 162957
- **Mrs. Armenuhi Sargsyan** - EVS Consultant / Mentor
armenuhi.sargsyan@gmail.com, mobile: +374 93 411945, +374 55 411945

EVS Experience:

Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences is the only higher education institution in the Caucasus and East Region that combines formal and non-formal education by the

implementation of European Voluntary Service (EVS) project. Since 2012 the University has been hosting international youth from various European countries for the cultural exchange and some learning activities. It is also worth mentioning that BRUSOV YSULS together with the partner organizations implemented “EVS Event in Armenia” in 2012.

Ex-EVS Volunteers:

Visit our University webpage www.brusov.am, go to the EU Sponsored Projects window and in the EU Volunteers section get acquainted with our ex-EVS volunteers, read their stories or directly contact them to learn more about their experience.

<http://brusov.am/en/student-life/evs/european-voluntary-service-evs/eu-volunteers>

General Description of the Project:

Role and tasks of volunteers:



Non-formal language lessons, assisting HO staff in their current duties, assisting local students to promoting development of their social and professional level, participating in cultural events of University, initiating new interesting ideas and projects involving local youth: these are the main activities of the volunteer at the University.

- Fully integration in the works and projects of BRUSOV YSULS,
- Participation and assisting in educational process,
- Film screening, interactive discussions, debate clubs,
- Assisting local students in their educational process,
- Intercultural activities (national days), music, dances and songs, workshops on Croatian cuisine and handcraft,





- Organizing presentations on your countries and culture,
- Dealing with foreign students and guests,
- Organizing different events,
- Assisting Career Centre and Graduates Association work,
- Promote cooperation with local and international partners,
- Assist in the preparation of materials and papers for different events.

Working Hours and Holidays:

The working hours are 30 hours per week, 5 days a week, plus the Armenian language lessons (2 times per week, each 1.5 hours).

They are also provided with 2 days off/month. The weekends and public holidays are free of work.

Accommodation and living:

The volunteers are given food money by the University accountant office at the beginning of each month. The volunteers will be responsible for buying and preparing their own food.

The pocket money will be transferred to the volunteer by the Sending Organization.

The provided accommodation is the Dormitory of BRUSOV YSULS which is located in 15 minutes by bus from the working place, in the big city center of Yerevan. The volunteer will share a room with another EVS volunteer of the same gender. The dormitory is properly furnished and has sufficient facilities for cleaning, cooking and washing: washing machine, kitchen utensils, bed-sheets, towels, internet access, etc.

The University is located in the small city center, in the heart of Yerevan. The volunteers are provided with local transportation money, local phone card.

Addresses and Contacts:

Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences

Address: Toumanyanyan 42, 0002 Yerevan, Armenia

Career Center: 4th floor, room 4/1, Confucius Institute Building

Tel.: +37410530272 /ext. 515/



Dormitory of the University

Address: Hovsep Emin 123, Yerevan 0051, Armenia
Tel.: +37410322407

Buses and Mini-buses

From Komitas street to the centre and vice-versa: N1, N58, N37, N13, N47

(Cost for one way - 100 AMD)

Marshutkas (mini-buses) from Komitas street to the centre and vice-versa: N4, N24, 49

(Cost for one way - 100 AMD)

Trolleybus from Komitas street to the centre and vice-versa: N9

(Cost for one way - 50 AMD)

Health Insurance:

EVS volunteers are insured through the EVS central AXA insurance scheme. In this website you can get and download “European Voluntary Service Insurance Plan: Volunteer’s Guide” and get the detailed information.

http://global.msh-intl.com/images/european_commission/Guide_8_EVS_english.pdf

See you soon in Armenia!!!