



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS, FALL 2023

Launched in Spring 2022, **Invisible University for Ukraine (IUFU)** is a **certificate program** (offering ECTS credits) initiated by **Central European University** for junior and senior undergraduate (BA) and graduate (MA and PhD) students from Ukraine, whether residing in Ukraine or in refuge, whose studies have been affected by the war. The name of this transnational solidarity program evokes the various nineteenth and twentieth-century **underground and exile educational initiatives** (such as the “flying universities”) in Eastern Europe, as well as the tradition of Invisible Colleges formed after 1989 in the region.

The program offers an **intensive learning experience** on the role of Ukraine in changing European and global contexts, placing questions relevant for Ukrainian students into a **transnational comparative perspective**. Our goal is to prepare students for deeper integration into international academia. The program is **not meant to replace or duplicate the existing education opportunities** in Ukrainian universities, but to support them by filling the lacunae that temporarily emerged due to the Russian invasion. By strengthening the ties of Ukrainian educational institutions, as well as scholars and students, to transnational networks, we hope to **counter** the destructive effects of **brain drain** through creating access to educational infrastructure and academic knowledge for students irrespective of their current location. We also hope to create a community of Ukrainian students and academics who can contribute to the resilience of Ukrainian society during the war and will be able to have an impact on the civic and academic structures of the society after the war.

The program is implemented by Central European University (Budapest Campus), in cooperation with **Imre Kertész Kolleg, University of Jena**, as well as other Ukrainian (**Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and Ukrainian Catholic University**) and global university partners. The program is supported by the **Open Society University Network**, with co-funding from the **Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)**, **XTX Markets (UK)**, as well as the **Porticus Foundation (Netherlands)**.

The program is designed in a **hybrid format** (online teaching, complemented by an on-site Winter School in Budapest in January 2024). It is comprised of **three components**:

- thematic courses (in the humanities and social sciences),
- mentoring to develop and complete ongoing research projects,
- skill-building (academic English, academic writing).

Structure of the program: IUFU offers in the Fall Semester of 2023/2024 online interdisciplinary courses in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences that can be taken by students with different backgrounds. Each course consists of 12 sessions (100 minutes); equal to 4 ECTS credits. Students are expected to take at least one course and not more than three. Besides thematic courses, several trans-disciplinary **intensive online seminars lasting for one-two days will be offered to all students of the program**. Courses will be taught online in late afternoons

once a week per class. Classes will be recorded and available to watch online for registered students if their circumstances prevent them from attending the online sessions.

Research scholarships (up to 800 Euro per semester) are available on a competitive basis for those students who wish to implement a special empirical or theoretical project in addition to their course work in IUFU, drawing on their academic background, previous work, and relevant to the current situation and/or related to the themes of the courses. Students receiving research funding will be required to submit a paper of 10-12 double-spaced pages based on their research at the end of the semester. The best papers will be published on the site **Visible Ukraine** (visibleukraine.org). Those who receive the grant are required to participate also in the mentoring sessions. Applicants, whose projects are selected for funding can start their research in September.

Mentoring and **Academic English** classes are open for those who take at least one thematic course.

Who is eligible? Any student who has been pursuing a BA, MA, or doctoral degree program in a Ukrainian university in the academic year 2021-22, or who started her/his university studies in 2022 or 2023. Participation in the program is free of charge.

How to apply?

Applications should contain a short (up to 1 page) **motivation letter** including:

- reason for applying to IUFU and expectations from the course(s)
- a description of the applicant's thematic interests (e.g., research topic or thesis topic if applicable)
- choice of preferred course(s) an applicant would like to take (up to 3) and interest in Academic English classes;

and a **short CV** with information on

- name in Ukrainian and in the version used in international passport
- e-mail address
- current location
- previous education, current university and program of study
- involvement in civil activities/volunteering
- level of English language competence.

Those who wish to apply for a **research scholarship** should also include a **concise project proposal** (between 400 and 800 words), describing the main lines of the envisioned research project and its desired outcome, including references to the relevant sources and secondary literature on the topic.

The applications can be submitted in **English or Ukrainian**.

Timeline: The envisioned duration of the Fall semester classes is **25 September – 22 December 2023**. The most motivated and successful participants will have an opportunity to participate in a Winter School on CEU's Budapest campus in January.

Course offering in Fall 2023:

- i. Imagined Geography of Ukraine in the late eighteenth-twentieth centuries: Regions, Cities, Landscapes (Kateryna Dysa)
- ii. Political Thought and the Modern War Experience (Tetiana Zemliakova)
- iii. Identities-Borders-Orders: Migration and Belonging (Viktoriya Sereda and Oksana Mikheieva)

- iv. Ukraine's EU Integration: Compliance and Resilience in Times of War & Geopolitical Rivalries (Inna Melnykovska and Nazarii Stetsyk)
- v. Sexuality and Decoloniality (Nadiya Chushak, Mariya Mayerchyk, Olga Plakhotnik)
- vi. Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Counter-Cultures in Ukraine and East Central Europe (Bohdan Shumylovych and Balazs Trencsenyi)
- vii. Western Balkans: Imperial Legacies, Nation-Building, State Disintegration, Democratic Resilience (Vladimir Petrović)

In addition, we plan to offer a number of workshops open to all IUFU students on integration to global academic networks (in cooperation with Davis Center at Harvard University), internship and educational opportunities for Ukrainian students globally, as well as other relevant topics chosen by the students themselves.

Brief descriptions are available at <https://www.ceu.edu/non-degree/Invisible-University>

Mentoring: In person and small-group instruction, helping the students to develop their research projects and reflecting on the thematic lectures. It will start in early October and will be conducted by doctoral students from CEU and other partner institutions. Participation in mentoring sessions is obligatory for students taking research stipends.

Skill-building: English for social sciences / humanities (offered on basic/advanced levels); academic writing in English.

Prospective team of teachers: The program is taught by prominent scholars linked to the Central European University (including members of its faculty, as well as researchers of CEU Democracy Institute and the Open Society Archives), Ukrainian and German partner institutions, and internationally renowned specialists from East Central and Western Europe, and North America.

Organizers: **Ostap Sereda**, Associate Professor in History at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and recurrent visiting professor at CEU (program director); **Vladimir Petrović**, Research Professor, Institute of Contemporary History, Belgrade, and CEU Democracy Institute Budapest (academic vice-director); **Balázs Trencsényi**, Professor, CEU History Department, and lead researcher of CEU Democracy Institute; **Renáta Uitz**, Professor, CEU Democracy Institute; **László Kontler**, Professor, CEU History, and Pro-Rector for CEU Budapest; **Joachim von Puttkamer**, Professor in History at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena and Director of the Imre Kertész Kolleg; **Nazarii Stetsyk**, Associate Professor, Department of Theory and Philosophy of Law, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

With questions about the application please turn to the IUFU **student coordinators**:

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For further information, see <https://www.ceu.edu/non-degree/Invisible-University>

Deadline for applications: 8 September 2023, midnight, 12 pm (CET).

Admitted participants will be notified by 18 September the latest.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO iufu@ceu.edu