



European Summer School

ON INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES
AND PEACEBUILDING

SARAJEVO, 9 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

This European Summer School is organized by three theological faculties:

- **the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of Sarajevo University,**
- **the Orthodox Theological Faculty of Saint Basil of Ostrog in Foča University of East Sarajevo**
- **the Catholic Theological Faculty of Sarajevo University**

The Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo

The Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo (FIN UNSA) is the main successor to the earliest Islamic educational institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina founded during the Ottoman Empire (1463 – 1878), when a significant part of the local population converted to Islam. Islamic institutions of higher education also originated in the period of Austro-Hungarian rule, the School of Shari'a Law or Mekteb-i nuvvab (1887), and the Higher School of Islamic Shari'a Law and Theology (1937). Along with the affirmation of the Bosnian Muslims' national identity during the sixties and seventies of the 20th century, there was suddenly more space for the institution to operate more freely. Hence, on the 16th of Shawwal in 1397 (September 29, 1977), as a result of planning and systematic activities, and by the decision of the Supreme Islamic Board in the SFRY and the Council of the Islamic Community, the Faculty of Islamic Theology was founded. The first graduates of the Faculty brought a new flavor to the Islamic experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and beyond.

Today, the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo is the most prestigious Islamic institution of higher education in Europe. Since 2013, the Faculty of Islamic Studies is a full member of the University of Sarajevo.

"Since we are, in the academic sense, striving to be the bridge between the East and the West, we sincerely welcome all seekers of knowledge, wisdom and spirituality, especially young researchers who are interested in Islamic thought in Bosnia and Herzegovina" - Prof. dr. Mustafa Hasani, dean of The Faculty of Islamic studies.



Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Foča

Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Foča was founded in 1994. Higher education institution of the Serbian Orthodox Church began its work under the name Theological Academy of St Basil of Ostrog. It was founded by the decree of the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church based on the previous decree of the Assembly in 1978 which suggested it was necessary to establish a Higher education institution of the Serbian Orthodox Church on the territory of the SR Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time.

Prof. Darko Đogo, PhD was elected for the position of a dean in 2014. During his mandate, the Faculty was moved to a new building. In 2016, the study programme of Theology at the second cycle studies was accredited. Organisation of the teaching process of the second cycle studies had remarkable results which is evident from the great number of completed masters' theses. In the academic year 2017, prof. Vladislav Topalović, PhD was elected as the fifth dean.

With respect to contemporary trends of interreligious dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faculty of Orthodox Theology took part in the formation of the study programme -Interreligious studies and Peacebuilding in partnership with Faculty of Catholic Theology and Faculty of Islamic Sciences of Sarajevo University. This study programme was licenced in 2019.

Furthermore, it is necessary to point out that during the last twenty-five years of work, Faculty of Orthodox Theology developed into an educational institution respected not only in the academic community of the University of East Sarajevo, but also in wider social circles outside the borders of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Sarajevo

The Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Sarajevo was founded on the legacy of the oldest systematically organized higher education institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Vrhbosna Catholic Theology, established in 1890 by the first Archbishop of Vrhbosna, Dr. Josip Stadler. Since its foundation, this institution has faithfully carried out its ecclesiastical mission of forming candidates for the priesthood, who, after their spiritual formation, would take up their part in the sacred responsibility of serving the Vrhbosna Archdiocese. Alongside this mission, which has been its guiding purpose from the very beginning, the Catholic Theological Faculty today also takes on the sacred task of forming Catholic laypeople. After completing their studies, these individuals are called to embrace their responsibility in both the Church and society, thus living out their divine mission in the world— a mission entrusted by Christ to all His disciples.

The University of Sarajevo – Catholic Theological Faculty offers academic theological education to its students, preparing them to become faithful and creative leaders in the service of the Church. The Faculty strives to faithfully transmit the "faith once entrusted," as contained in the Holy Scriptures and Tradition, with the aim of deepening faith, fostering intellectual growth through theological reflection, and actively contributing to the "renewal of the face of the earth."





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Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

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The Catholic Theological Faculty of Sarajevo is located right in the city centre and is the centre for students of Catholic theology in the Archdiocese. The faculty's building is an example of the architectural heritage of Sarajevo, combining both modern and traditional elements. It has served not only as an educational centre but also as a place for religious and social gatherings. The building itself has been renovated and offers the accommodation for the participants of the Summer School in 2025.

Moderator of the Summer School Program:

Tilo Krausse, CPS Coordinator for Bosna i Hercegovina

program:

Wednesday, September 9 – Arrival

- 16:00** | **Arrival** in Sarajevo and accommodation at the **Catholic Theological Faculty**.
- 17:00** | Welcome and introduction to the Program
- 19:00** | Dinner

Thursday, September 10

- 08:00** | Breakfast
- 09:00** | Bosnia – a Country with a turbulent History
“A brief overview of a Bosnian history”, introduction by Mr. Tilo Krausse, expert on Eastern European affairs, CPS Coordinator for BiH
- 10:30** | Break
- 11:00** | City tour
- 13:30** | Lunch
- 14:30** | Visit to the Synagogue and a lecture on **“the contribution of the Jewish community to Bosnian society”** - Hazzan of the Jewish community - Igor Kožemjakin
- 16:30** | **Religion in Postmodern Times: Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina –**
Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Political Science - prof. dr. Pavle Mijović
- 17:30** | Break
- 18:00** | Discussion
- 20:00** | Dinner

Friday, September 11

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| 08:00 | Breakfast |
| 10:00 | Visit to the Faculty of Islamic Studies Building Peace in the Sources of Islam – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Islamic Sciences- prof. dr. Kenan Musić |
| 13:00 | Break and prayer for Muslim participants |
| 14:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 | The Bible on War and Peace – Lecture by Professor from the Catholic Theological Faculty - prof. dr. Dubravko Turalija |
| 16:00 | Break |
| 16:30 | Discussion |
| 20:00 | Dinner |

Saturday, September 12

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| 07:00 | Breakfast |
| 08:00 | Departure from Sarajevo to Mostar |
| 11:00 | Visit to Mostar landmarks: - Old Bridge : A UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most iconic structures in Bosnia, linking the two parts of Mostar. - Old Town (Bazaar) : A historic Ottoman-era marketplace with charming shops and restaurants. - Mostar Fortress : Overlooking the Old Bridge, the fortress offers a spectacular view of the town and the Neretva River. |
| 13:00 | Lunch in Blagaj - Tekija : A visit to the Dervish Monastery, an impressive Sufi retreat by the Buna River, surrounded by nature. Muslims can perform the Friday prayer (Jumu'ah) here. |
| 16:00 | Visit to the Monastery of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Žitomislić : The Žitomislić Monastery, located near Mostar, is one of the most important and oldest monasteries of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Žitomislić represents a symbol of survival and the preservation of cultural identity through turbulent historical periods, and it is a place of peace and spiritual atmosphere. |
| 17:00 | Return to Sarajevo |
| 20:00 | Dinner |

Sunday, September 13

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| 08:00 | Breakfast |
| 09:30 | Liturgy at the Cathedral Church of the Holy Mother of God |
| 11:00 | Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 | Meeting with Youth at the Archdiocesan Youth Pastoral Center "John Paul II" - Young people from the Orthodox, Catholic, and Islamic communities who, through joint activities, promote interreligious dialogue, build mutual trust, and foster unity and solidarity among youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina. |
| 16:30 | Discussion |
| 20:00 | Dinner |

Monday, September 14

07:30 | Breakfast

08:30 | Departure for Foča

11:00 | Visit to the Orthodox Theological Faculty (OTF), discussion with Orthodox professors and (or) dean on the topic of interreligious dialogue - prof. dr. Darko Đogo

13:30 | Lunch in Foča

15:30 | Return to Sarajevo

18:00 | Evaluation and award of certificates

20:00 | Dinner

Tuesday, September 15 – Departure

08:00 | Breakfast

09:30 | Departure from Sarajevo after breakfast