
(NMGr) Programme: Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies (NP_BECES)

Programme N0312A200014: Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies

Academic year 2025/2026

Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies (BECES) is a two-year English-language Master's degree programme. It addresses the English speaking audience with a deep and versatile exploration of "the East", understood as a territory composed of Central Europe, the Balkan peninsula, Russia and Eurasia in terms of the Post Soviet area, including the Caucasus and Central Asia. Primary attention is paid to modern history and politics, as well as to fundamental social, cultural and economic problems. It also offers students the chance to learn or improve their knowledge of the Czech language or other offered languages.

The core courses provide an overview of crucial segments of the area from an analytical and multidisciplinary perspective, while the electives allow students to create their own specialisation. The aim of the programme is to help students write a Master's thesis of sufficient quality. Through the university's network of exchange programmes, talented students may also be offered the opportunity to make a brief research visit to another country in the area via Erasmus or other types of the academic exchange. By developing the student's knowledge of the Czech milieu and language, the programme may also serve as an access-point to some of our Ph.D. programmes. The programme is deliberately structured to take an advantage of the multidisciplinary nature of the Faculty, and students will be encouraged to make connections between different fields of study, learning to combine a global perspective with attention to detail and local interests. It is an excellent stepping stone in developing an academic career, as well as a valuable source of analytical skills and practical background knowledge that can be applied in professional life. For detailed information see [BECES website](#).

Academic supervisor: [Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Nigrin, Ph.D.](#)

Programme coordinator: [PhDr. Petra Bašťová, Ph.D.](#)

Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies: course structure

Compulsory (common) courses	60 ECTS
Specialisms	
Balkan and Central Europe	24 ECTS
Russia and Eurasia	24 ECTS
Languages	12 ECTS
Electives	min. 12 ECTS
Optional courses (out of the list)	max. 12 ECTS
Total	120 ECTS

(Optional courses see article 5 para 4 of Consolidated University Code of Study and Examination of Charles University in Prague)

Final state exam

1. (JDIP01) Master's thesis defence
 2. (JSZ394) Academic debate on a selected topic (beyond the thesis focus) with respect to Balkan and Central Europe
 3. (JSZ395) Academic debate on a selected topic (beyond the thesis focus) with respect to Russia and Eurasia
- (Students select topics relating either to 2 or 3)

Compulsory courses - common (J#053023)

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Code	Course title	Course leader	Semester	Hours per week	Course assessment	ECTS credit points
JTM044	Academic Writing	Cotte	SS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM045	Introduction to Research Design	Weiss Hornát	WS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM046	Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences	Stauber	SS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM047	Area Studies: Theory and Methodology	Kozák	WS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM048	Comparative and Conceptual History	Brisku	WS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM140	MA Thesis Seminar I	Vykoukal Tudjarovska Gjorgjievska	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	15
JTM141	MA Thesis Seminar II	Vykoukal Tudjarovska Gjorgjievska	WS/SS	0/2	Examination	15

Total number of ECTS: 60

Prerequisites, corequisites, alternative and incompatible courses

<!--dg:rekv:053023:2025:2025:en-->

Code	Course title	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite	Interchangeability	Incompatibility
JTM140	MA Thesis Seminar I	JTM045			
JTM141	MA Thesis Seminar II	JTM140			

Compulsory courses - specialism Balkan and Central Europe (J#0532)

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Code	Course title	Course leader	Semester	Hours per week	Course assessment	ECTS credit points
JTM014	Political Systems of East Central European Countries	Kubát	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM051	Introduction to History, Politics and Society of East-Central and South Eastern Europe	Vykoukal	WS	2/0	Examination	6
JTM052	Concepts and Interpretations of Central European History	Vykoukal	SS	1/1	Examination	6

JTM053	Concepts and Interpretations of Balkan History	Králová	WS	1/1	Examination	6
J#0531	group "BECES (NP) - Language courses" (title available in Czech only)					

Total number of ECTS: 24

Group J#0531 (Languages) ECTS: 12

Prerequisites, corequisites, alternative and incompatible courses

<!--dg:rekv:0532:2025:2025:en-->

Code	Course title	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite	Interchangeability	Incompatibility
JTM014	Political Systems of East Central European Countries				JMM095 JTM139
JTM051	Introduction to History, Politics and Society of East-Central and South Eastern Europe				JMMZ094

Compulsory courses - specialism Russia and Eurasia (J#0533)

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Code	Course title	Course leader	Semester	Hours per week	Course assessment	ECTS credit points
JTM019	Problems of the post-Soviet Space	Jordanová Kolodii	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM055	Introduction to History, Politics and Society of Russia and Eastern Europe	Kolenovská	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM056	Concepts and Interpretations of Russian History	Kolenovská	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM057	Nationalism and Historiography in Central Eurasia	Horák	WS	1/1	Examination	6
J#0531	group "BECES (NP) - Language courses" (title available in Czech only)					

Total number of ECTS: 24

Group J#0531 (Languages) ECTS: 12

Prerequisites, corequisites, alternative and incompatible courses

<!--dg:rekv:0533:2025:2025:en-->

Code	Course title	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite	Interchangeability	Incompatibility
JTM019	Problems of the post-Soviet Space				JMMZ053
JTM057	Nationalism and Historiography in Central Eurasia				JMM702

Language Courses (J#0531)

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Code	Course title	Course leader	Semester	Hours per week	Course assessment	ECTS credit points
JLB100	Czech as a Foreign Language I	Frantesová Mazúrková Pellarová	WS/SS	0/4	Examination	6
JLB101	Czech as a Foreign Language II	Frantesová Mazúrková Pellarová	WS/SS	0/4	Examination	6
JLB102	Czech as a Foreign Language III	Frantesová Mazúrková Pellarová	WS/SS	0/4	Examination	6
JLB103	Czech as a Foreign Language IV	Frantesová Mazúrková Pellarová	WS/SS	0/4	Examination	6
JTB150	Polish I	Sitarz	WS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB151	Polish II	Sitarz	SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB152	Polish III	Sitarz	WS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB153	Polish IV	Sitarz	SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB154	Greek Language I	Maniati	WS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB155	Greek Language II	Maniati	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB156	Greek Language III	Maniati	WS	0/2	Examination	3
JTB157	Greek Language IV	Maniati	SS	0/2	Examination	3
JTB158	Russian Language I	Shvedova	WS	0/3	Examination	6
JTB159	Russian Language II	Shvedova	SS	0/3	Examination	6
JTB160	Russian Language III	Shvedova	WS	0/3	Examination	6
JTB161	Russian Language IV	Shvedova	SS	0/3	Examination	6
JTB162	Foreign Language I	Nigrin Weiss	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB163	Foreign Language II	Nigrin Weiss	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTB164	Foreign Language III	Nigrin Weiss	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3

JTB165	Foreign Language IV	Nigrin Weiss	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
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Minimum number of ECTS: 12

Prerequisites, corequisites, alternative and incompatible courses

<!--dg:rekv:0531:2025:2025:en-->

Code	Course title	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite	Interchangeability	Incompatibility
JTB151	Polish II	JTB150			
JTB152	Polish III	JTB151			
JTB153	Polish IV	JTB152			
JTB154	Greek Language I				JMB315 JMM147
JTB155	Greek Language II	JTB154			JMB316 JMM148
JTB156	Greek Language III	JTB155			JMB149 JMB317
JTB157	Greek Language IV	JTB156			JMB318 JMM150
JTB159	Russian Language II	JTB158			
JTB160	Russian Language III	JTB159			
JTB161	Russian Language IV	JTB160			
JTB163	Foreign Language II	JTB162			
JTB164	Foreign Language III	JTB163			

Electives (J#053425)

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Code	Course title	Course leader	Semester	Hours per week	Course assessment	ECTS credit points
JPM711	Russian and Post-Soviet Security	Laryš	WS/SS	1/1	Examination	6
JPM820	Middle Eastern Terrorists and Revolutionaries in Cold War Central Europe	Kalhousová	SS	1/1	Examination	4
JTB357	Geopolitics of the Climate Crisis	Fířtová	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTB358	German Security and European Policy	Eberle	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM010	New Language Skills III	Vykoukal Švec	WS/SS	0/3	Examination	3
JTM015	Economic Transformation in East Central and Southeastern Europe	Jeřábek	WS	1/1	Examination	6

JTM017	<u>Society and Culture in Central Eurasia</u>	<u>Horák Brisku</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM018	<u>Economic Transformations in the post-Soviet Area</u>	<u>Horák Svoboda</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM183	<u>Political Economy of Climate Change</u>	<u>Fiřtová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM198	<u>Volunteering</u>	<u>Švec</u>	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTM204	<u>Excursion</u>	<u>Švec Lizcová</u>	WS/SS	0/0	Course credit	3
JTM206	<u>Internship for BECES</u>	<u>Nigrin</u>	WS/SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTM216	<u>Discourses on Victimhood: a force of evil or good in contemporary politics?</u>	<u>Harmens</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM244	<u>Cold War in Documents 1945-1962</u>	<u>Smetana</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM245	<u>Cold War in Documents 1963-1991</u>	<u>Smetana</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM257	<u>Splendor and Misery of Détente</u>	<u>Fojtek</u>	WS	2/0	Examination	6
JTM265	<u>Central European Cinema</u>	<u>Dan Mircea</u>	WS	0/4	Examination	6
JTM266	<u>Cultural Legacies and Developments in the Balkans: Modern and Traditional Entanglements</u>	<u>Asavei</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM267	<u>Economy and Politics in the 20th Century Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Svoboda</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM268	<u>Ethnic Conflicts in Central and Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Klípa</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM269	<u>Ethno-Political Conflicts in the Caucasus</u>	<u>Brisku</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM270	<u>History and Present in South East European Cinema</u>	<u>Dan Mircea</u>	SS	0/4	Examination	6

JTM273	<u>Images and Stereotypes of the Balkans</u>	<u>Šístek</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM274	<u>Oil and Gas in the Post Soviet Area</u>	<u>Svoboda</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM275	<u>Post-Soviet Central Asia</u>	<u>Horák</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM279	<u>Russia after 1991</u>	<u>Kolodii</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM280	<u>Russia's Aggression against Ukraine: Implications for European Security</u>	<u>Šír</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM282	<u>Ukraine after 1991</u>	<u>Korablyova</u>	WS	1/1	Course credit	6
JTM285	<u>Cohesion Policy of the EU in Central and East European Countries</u>	<u>Hauser</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM287	<u>Czech Republic in the European Union - actors and interests</u>	<u>Šlosarčík Weiss</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM291	<u>Modernizing the Balkans</u>	<u>Šístek</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM300	<u>The Transformation of the Communist Successor Parties in Central Europe and Influence of the West European Leftists</u>	<u>Handl Mejstřík</u>	SS	2/0	Examination	6
JTM313	<u>Who Controls the Past, Controls the Future?</u>	<u>Emler</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM315	<u>Social Exclusion and the Roma in Central Europe</u>	<u>Klípa</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM316	<u>Doing Business in Central Europe</u>	<u>Kolmhofer</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM317	<u>Russian-Turkish Rivalry over the Balkan and Caucasus Areas</u>	<u>Brisku</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6

JTM320	<u>Putin's Russia</u>	<u>Marian</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM321	<u>Ethnic Issues and Territories in Eastern, East Central and Southeastern Europe</u>	<u>Vykoukal</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM322	<u>Israel: Politics and Society</u>	<u>Kalhousová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM323	<u>Legal Framework of the European Union</u>	<u>Šlosarčík</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM325	<u>Small States in the EU</u>	<u>Weiss</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM331	<u>Cultural History of Communist Europe</u>	<u>Klípa</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM335	<u>Central Europe: Ideologies and Politics (1700's - present)</u>	<u>Robbins Janíčková</u>	WS	2/2	Examination	6
JTM336	<u>Theorizing Memory: Social and Cultural Remembering</u>	<u>Asavei</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM339	<u>Balkan Nationalism and Ethnic Conflicts</u>	<u>Žíla</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM382	<u>EU Institutions</u>	<u>Šlosarčík</u>	SS	2/0	Examination	6
JTM384	<u>Cultural Memory and Identity in the Balkans</u>	<u>Asavei</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM404	<u>The Foreign Policy of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary Towards Israel</u>	<u>Kalhousová</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM407	<u>Professional Simulation & Wargaming</u>	<u>Bahenský Ržazade</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM410	<u>U.S.-Czechoslovak Economic and Cultural Relations in the Cold War</u>	<u>Doležalová Albrecht</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM412	<u>Contemporary Balkans</u>	<u>Králová</u>	SS	1/1	macc	6
JTM417	<u>Internal and External</u>	<u>Weiss</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6

	<u>Security Policy in the EU</u>					
JTM427	<u>Germany and Central Europe: Geopolitics of an Uneasy Relationship</u>	<u>Eberle</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM477	<u>Post-Soviet Ukraine: from an "Unexpected Nation" to the Unwarranted War</u>	<u>Korablyova</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM478	<u>Current Issues of (post)Constitutional European Integration</u>	<u>Šlosarčík</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM496	<u>The Foreign Policy of Central European Countries Towards Israel</u>	<u>Kalhousová</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM497	<u>History, Memory, and Politics: Central Europe and Israel</u>	<u>Kalhousová</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM499	<u>Genocide and Mass Violence</u>	<u>Kalhousová</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM503	<u>Eurovision: Contemporary European History through Popular Culture</u>	<u>Vuletic</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM504	<u>Managing Diplomatic Crisis: Challenges of Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century</u>	<u>Munter</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM505	<u>The City in Modern Central Europe</u>	<u>Piskačová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM507	<u>Russian Politics and Society</u>	<u>Svoboda Kolodii</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM515	<u>Transnational Politics, Complicity, and Victims of the Holocaust</u>	<u>Roginer Hofmeister Králová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6

JTM516	<u>World War II: Public History and Memory</u>	<u>Králová Roginer Hofmeister</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM517	<u>Culture Wars in the US Supreme Court</u>	<u>Hornaday</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM518	<u>Russia: Nationalism, National Minorities and National Problems (since the Late 1980s)</u>	<u>Dubrovskiy</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM519	<u>The Postcolonial Condition in Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Korablyova</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM524	<u>Current Central Asia: building autocracy for the 21st century</u>	<u>Jordanová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM525	<u>Geopolitics of the European Airspace and Space Exploration</u>	<u>Valdez Tuma</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM527	<u>EU Diplomacy, its Security and Defence Policy in action (examples Ukraine, Africa, Middle East) – Shaping Global Security and tackling crises</u>	<u>Merker Tomalová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM528	<u>EU negotiation</u>	<u>Havlík</u>	SS	0/2	Course credit	3
JTM553	<u>Soviet Culture as a Social Phenomenon</u>	<u>Sultanova Kocián</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM556	<u>From Laika to Lycra: Science and Technology in the Cold War</u>	<u>Johnston</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM558	<u>Cybersecurity: Concepts and Practice</u>	<u>Kadlecová</u>	WS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM578	<u>Postsocialist transformations on film</u>	<u>Pehe</u>	WS	1/1	Course credit	6
JTM579	<u>Jewish Life in Germany from 1871 to 1952. Emancipation -</u>	<u>Osterloh</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6

	<u>Persecution and Annihilation - New Start in Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic</u>					
JTM580	<u>Religion, State and Politics in Modern Russia</u>	<u>Dubrovskiy</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM581	<u>German Security and European Policy</u>	<u>Eberle</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM616	<u>EU Migration Policies</u>	<u>Lukešová</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM627	<u>Analyzing crises and wars, including the Ukraine one</u>	<u>Allan Špína</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM628	<u>Fundamentals of Constitutional Order and Political System of Russia after 1991</u>	<u>Horák Dubrovskiy</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM629	<u>Current Eurasia</u>	<u>Jordanová</u>	WS	0/2	Examination	6
JTM634	<u>Human Rights in post-Soviet Space</u>	<u>Dubrovskiy Kolenovská</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM650	<u>The Twentieth Century in European Memory: Themes and Approaches in Contemporary European Memory Studies</u>	<u>Králová Smith</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM665	<u>Post-Conflict Societies of the Western Balkans</u>	<u>Žila</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM666	<u>Migrations in the Balkans in the 20th and 21st Centuries</u>	<u>Žila</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM668	<u>Political Psychology in International Relations</u>	<u>Smetana</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6

JTM670	<u>Postcommunist transition in East Central Europe</u>	<u>Klípa</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM698	<u>Barbarian in Half-Asia? Stereotypes and Orientalism in German Travel Books about Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Schroeder</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM701	<u>Journalism and Democracy: Fake News Research in the East</u>	<u>Lin</u>	WS	2/0	Examination	6
JTM732	<u>Introduction to the theories on EU integration</u>	<u>Tudjarovska Gjorgjievska</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM736	<u>Political Geography of the Balkans in the 21. century</u>	<u>Žila</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM743	<u>Psychoanalysis and social sciences</u>	<u>Matějka</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM744	<u>EU in Practice</u>	<u>Tomalová</u>	WS/SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM745	<u>Promoting national interests in the EU decision-making structures</u>	<u>Rovná</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM747	<u>Art, Politics and Cultures of Dissent in the Former Socialist Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Asavei</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM749	<u>(Re)Mapping Migration Studies: Insights from Central and Eastern Europe</u>	<u>Dziadyk</u>	WS	1/1	Examination	6
JTM751	<u>Terrorism and Liberal Democracy</u>	<u>Benazzo</u>	SS	1/1	Examination	6

Minimum 12 ECTS, maximum (needed) 24 ECTS

Prerequisites, corequisites, alternative and incompatible courses

<!--dg:rekv:053425:2025:en-->

Code	Course title	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite	Interchangeability	Incompatibility
JPM711	Russian and Post-Soviet Security				JMM065

JTM010	New Language Skills III				JMM146
JTM017	Society and Culture in Central Eurasia				JMMZ178
JTM206	Internship for BECES				JMMZ190
JTM244	Cold War in Documents 1945-1962				JMM384
JTM257	Splendor and Misery of Détente				JMM283
JTM266	Cultural Legacies and Developments in the Balkans: Modern and Traditional Entanglements				JMB057
JTM267	Economy and Politics in the 20th Century Eastern Europe				JMM143
JTM269	Ethno-Political Conflicts in the Caucasus				JMM130
JTM273	Images and Stereotypes of the Balkans				JMM034
JTM275	Post-Soviet Central Asia				JMM361 JMM703
JTM279	Russia after 1991				JMM302
JTM285	Cohesion Policy of the EU in Central and East European Countries				JMMZ042
JTM313	Who Controls the Past, Controls the Future?				JMM642
JTM320	Putin's Russia				JMM025
JTM323	Legal Framework of the European Union				JMM047 JMM251
JTM382	EU Institutions				JTM022
JTM417	Internal and External Security Policy in the EU				JTM301
JTM507	Russian Politics and Society				JMM302
JTM665	Post-Conflict Societies of the Western Balkans				JMM029

Study plans codes:
J25NPBECESB1719
J25NPBECESR1719