



European Summer School

ON INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES
AND PEACEBUILDING

SARAJEVO 1 – 15 JULY 2025

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's 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."





EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL

Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

01–15 JULY 2025

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.

program:

Arrival Day (June 30 – Monday – Arrival)

16:00 | **Arrival** in Sarajevo and accommodation at the **Catholic Theological Faculty**.

19:00 | Dinner

First Week (July 1 – 7)

Day 1 (Tuesday, July 1)

08:00 | Breakfast

09:30 | *The Bible on War and Peace* – Lecture by Professor from the Catholic Theological Faculty

11:00 | Break

11:30 | *Building Peace in the Sources of Islam* – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Islamic Sciences

13:00 | Lunch

14:30 | *The Question of War and Peace in Orthodox Biblical Exegesis* – Lecture by Professor from the Orthodox Theological Faculty

16:00 | Break

16:30 | Discussion

19:00 | Dinner

Day 2 (Wednesday, July 2)

08:00 | Breakfast

09:30 | *The Bible on War and Peace*

11:00 | Break

11:30 | *Building Peace in the Sources of Islam*

13:00 | Lunch

14:30 | *The Question of War and Peace in Orthodox Biblical Exegesis*

16:00 | Break

16:30 Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 3 (Thursday, July 3)

08:00 Breakfast

09:30 *Violence and Forgiveness through the Ethical Approach* – Lecture by Professor from the Catholic Theological Faculty

11:00 Break

11:30 *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Islam* – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Islamic Sciences

13:00 Lunch

14:30 *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Orthodox Theology* – Lecture by Professor from the Orthodox Theological Faculty

16:00 Break

16:30 Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 4 (Friday, July 4)

08:00 Breakfast

09:30 *Violence and Forgiveness through the Ethical Approach*

11:00 Break

11:30 *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Orthodox Theology*

13:00 Break and prayer for Muslim participants

14:00 Lunch

15:30 *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Islam* – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Islamic Sciences

17:00 Break

17:30 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

Day 5 (Saturday, July 5)

08:00 Breakfast

10:00 *Religion in Postmodern Times: Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina* – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Political Science

13:00 Lunch

14:30 *Key Socio-Political Topics of the 21st Century* – Lecture by Professor from the Faculty of Political Science

17:00 Break

17:30 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

Day 6 (Sunday, July 6)

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

14:30 Free time

19:00 Dinner

O Lord, You are the source of peace and the foundation of brother and sisterhood amongst people.

May Your Holy Spirit enlighten and guide us so that love instead of hatred, understanding instead of distrust, and sensitivity to the needs of others instead of selfishness, reign everywhere.

Grant that every day we may become ever better builders of peace.

Remind us that the true source of a just and lasting peace amongst people is peace with You, peace in a pure heart and conscience.

Amen!

Text of the prayer recited by Mons. Tomo Vukšić

Second Week (July 7 – 15)

Day 7 (Monday, July 7) – Religious Landmarks in Sarajevo

08:00 Breakfast

09:30 Visit to religious landmarks:

- **Sacred Heart Cathedral:** A neo-Gothic cathedral, symbolizing Catholicism in Sarajevo, built in the 19th century.
- **Gazi Husrev-Beg Mosque:** An Ottoman-era mosque and one of the largest and most important in Bosnia and Herzegovina, built in 1531.
- **Old Orthodox Church:** One of the oldest churches in Sarajevo, reflecting the rich Orthodox Christian heritage of the city.

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Visit to the **Synagogue** with a lecture. The **Synagogue** is the main Jewish place of worship in Sarajevo, built in the 16th century, part of the city's diverse cultural history.

18:00 Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 8 (Tuesday, July 8) – Visit to War Sites Around Sarajevo

08:00 Breakfast

09:30 Visit to the **Tunnel of Hope:** A vital passageway during the Siege of Sarajevo, it allowed the city to survive by providing access to supplies and evacuations.

14:00 Lunch

15:30 Visit to the **Franciscan Monastery of St. Anthony – Bistrič**: A peaceful retreat in the hills of Sarajevo, offering a glimpse into the religious life of the city's Franciscans.

19:00 Discussion

20:00 Dinner

Day 9 (Wednesday, July 9) – Brčko

07:00	Breakfast
07:30	Departure from Sarajevo
12:00	Arrival in Brčko – Visit to the St. Anthony Catholic Church: This church, built in the early 20th century, represents the Catholic community in Brčko. It is significant for its role in maintaining Catholic traditions in a multi-religious environment, and serves as a symbol of interfaith cooperation.
13:30	Lunch
15:00	- Visit to the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church: Founded in the 19th century, this church is a key symbol of the Orthodox community in Brčko. It has played an important role in preserving Orthodox traditions and fostering interreligious dialogue in the region. - Visit to the Islamic Center: Established in the post-war period, the Islamic Center serves as the spiritual and cultural hub for the Muslim community in Brčko, promoting peaceful coexistence and interfaith dialogue.
18:00	Coffee break
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Overnight stay in Brčko

Day 10 (Thursday, July 10) – Sanski Most

07:00	Breakfast in Brčko
07:30	Departure from Brčko to Sanski Most
11:30	Arrival in Sanski Most
12:00	Introductory Presentation of the Center for Peacebuilding
13:00	Lunch at the Center for Peacebuilding
13:30	Visit to the Center's Projects
15:30	Departure to Sarajevo
20:00	Dinner

Day 11 (Friday, July 11) – Mostar

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

Day 12 (Saturday, July 12) – Srebrenica

- 07:00** Breakfast
- 08:00** Departure from Sarajevo to **Srebrenica**
- 11:30** Meeting with the **Mothers of Srebrenica**: A poignant meeting with mothers who survived the genocide, where participants will listen to their stories and understand the deep emotional and social consequences of war.
- 13:00** Lunch at **Emaus** – Traditional food of the region
- 14:30** Visit to the **Srebrenica Memorial Center (Potočari)**: The Memorial Center and cemetery commemorate the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, with monuments, graves, and a museum dedicated to preserving their memory.
- 16:00** Return to Sarajevo
- 20:00** Dinner

Day 13 (Sunday, July 13)

- 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
- 14:30** Visit to **Vrelo Bosne**: A natural spring and park at the foot of Mount Igman, with stunning views and fresh air.
- 19:00** Dinner

Day 14 (Monday, July 14) – Reflection and Final Discussion

- 08:00** Breakfast
- 09:30** Reflection and group discussions
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:30** Evaluation and award of certificates
- 19:00** Dinner with socializing and dancing

Day 15 (Tuesday, July 15) – Departure

- 08:00** Breakfast
- 09:30** Departure from Sarajevo after breakfast