

Blended Intensive Program – BIP

A Blended Intensive Program (BIP) is a short, intensive learning format that combines physical mobility with a virtual component and uses innovative methods of teaching and cooperation. It is designed to offer flexible and inclusive international learning opportunities to students from different academic backgrounds and levels of study.

Contested Histories: Tools for Dialogue and Inclusive Memory Practices in Europe

The Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) “*Contested Histories and Inclusive Narratives for National Minorities in European Cooperation*,” coordinated by the University of Siena in partnership with Union University of Belgrade and Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje, is intended for **advanced undergraduate students (from the third year onward) MA, and PhD students**. The program focuses on the legal, political, and institutional implications of contested historical narratives in Europe, with particular reference to the OSCE context.

The present BIP starts from the premise that conflicts over interpretations of the past are not merely symbolic or cultural issues, but may also have important consequences for **minority protection, human rights, inter-State relations, democratic stability, and the rule of law**. For that reason, the program places particular emphasis on the **legal dimension** of public memory and contested histories, examining how **constitutional principles, international standards, minority-rights frameworks, and public policies** can respond to divisive narratives in plural societies.

The program combines **an online phase with a five-day intensive summer school in Siena**. Through lectures, seminars, workshops, and collaborative case-study work, students will explore how contested narratives interact with **legal norms, public institutions, education, and public-space governance**, and how inclusive and rights-based responses can be developed. The methodology is interactive and problem-oriented, encouraging comparative analysis, interdisciplinary discussion, and international teamwork.

By the end of the program, students will be able to critically assess contested narratives from a legal and institutional perspective, identify the risks they may pose to democratic coexistence and minority rights, and formulate inclusive responses grounded in **human rights, the rule of law, and relevant international legal principles**.

Deadline for application is 15 April 2026.

Eligibility: students of all cycles

Special requirement: Proficiency in English at a minimum of **B1 level**, or an average grade of **8.00** in English language examinations.