



The Agricultural University - Plovdiv is the only one state-funded university in Bulgaria, specialized in agricultural and related sciences. The University has been developing as a modern national and European educational, research and development center during its over 70-year history, which has integrated into the European Educational Area with a significant contribution to the sustainable and smart growth of agriculture, tourism and regional development.

Agricultural University has four faculties which offers **20 Bachelor programmes**:

Faculty of Agronomy

General Agronomy
Zoo-engineering
Agronomy /Plant Biotechnologies/
Plant Biology
Plant Breeding and Seed Production
Agribusiness

Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture

Horticulture with Viticulture
Ornamental Horticulture
Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture
Hydromeliorations
Agricultural Engineering
Information and Mechanized Technologies in
Agricultural Production

Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology

Plant Protection
Ecology and Environmental Protection
Agroforestry Systems and Mountainous
Agriculture
Organic Farming

Faculty of Economics

Agricultural Economics
Business Economics
Agricultural Tourism
Regional Development Management

Agricultural University offers **28 master programmes** и **26 PhD programmes** in: Crop Science, Plant Protection, Animal Breeding and Husbandry, Economics, Earth Sciences.

Master programmes in Crop Science

- Crop production
- Integrated Crop Production (International Master's degree course leading to a double diploma)
- Medicinal, Aromatic and Spicy Plants
- Plant Breeding and Seed Production
- Plant Biotechnologies
- Plant Biotechnologies (in English)
- Agribusiness
- Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
- Viticulture with Basis of Oenology (Wine Production)
- Planting Material and Seed Production
- Ornamental Plants and Landscape Design
- Nutritional Quality and Storage of Plant Products from Conventional and Organic Farming
- Mineral Plant Nutrition and Fertilization
- Organization and Management of Agrochemical Laboratories
- Food Quality and Safety – Methods of Control

Master programmes in Plant Protection

- Plant Protection
- Plant Medicine (*an international Master's degree course, the diploma being recognized by 11 Balkan and European universities*)

Master programmes in Animal Breeding and Husbandry

- Animal Breeding and Reproduction
- Evaluation and Control in Animal Breeding
- Small Ruminants (Sheep and Goat Breeding)
- Management Systems for the Production of Safe and Quality Food
- Apiculture (Bee-keeping)

Master programmes in Economics

- Financial Management and Accountancy
- Economics and Management of European Agriculture and Rural Areas
- European Agriculture and Rural Development

Master programmes in Earth Sciences

- Settlement System Ecology
- Organic Farming
- Ecological Control

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Erasmus+

The Agricultural University is among the first Bulgarian Universities awarded an Erasmus Charter as early as 1999 with the accession of the country to Socrates/Erasmus programme.

In 2007, the University received an Extended Erasmus Charter, which allows the students the opportunity to take part in international practical placements.

In 2014, the University joined the Erasmus+ programme with a vast network of contacts with almost all European countries. Nowadays we have Bilateral Agreements with over 90 higher education institutions and enterprises from including the agreements with partner countries - Russian Federation and Moldova.

Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for students to study at prestigious European universities or to join a traineeship programmes at university laboratories, farms and hotels. The period of study and/or traineeship abroad is fully recognized and it is documented in the Diploma Supplement.

From the start of the programme in 1999 to the middle of 2016, over 700 students and 550 teachers and administrators took part in outgoing mobilities.

Every academic year AU receives incoming Erasmus students and teachers. In the last several years one of the aims set by AU has been achieved, i.e. reaching a reciprocal number of incoming and outgoing student mobilities for study.

Training and experimental fields

The research activities are realized on the training-and-experimental fields, spreading on 185 ha round the city of Plovdiv and the village of Brestnik. It maintains on a high agrotechnical level more than 1500 biological units, including 40 apple, 10 peach, 25 sweet cherry, 20 pear, 20 plum and prunes, 9 quince cultivars, lavender, peppermint, maize, barley, sunflower, etc. with possibilities of producing seed and planting material. A big range of subtropical and tropical bushes and tree species are grown, including lemons, oranges, kiwi, etc., offering for sale planting material with the appropriate technology for their adaptation under the conditions of Bulgarian agriculture.

A collection vineyard has been established with over 400 cultivars of table and wine grape cultivars.

The modern experimental and research **wine cellar** is located on the experimental site in the village of Brestnik. It is the only winery in Bulgaria, designed and constructed for small-scale wine production for scientific and experimental purposes. The winery meets all the modern requirements for grapes processing and wine production.

The Laboratory Complex

The Agricultural University has a modern laboratory complex including: Accredited Laboratory Complex, Laboratory of Plant Biotechnologies, Laboratory of Microbiological Technologies and Laboratory for Photosynthetic Analyses.

The Agroecological Centre is a structural unit of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. It was founded in 1989 with the aim of coordinating the efforts of researchers, students, farmers and consumers to carry out research and provide education for the development of organic agriculture in Bulgaria.

The Agroecological Centre has been a member of the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) since 1993.

Since 1994 it has been functioning as a Demonstration Centre for biological farming. The Centre has facilities to train students, teachers, farmers, and agricultural specialists in the field of organic crop production. The produce obtained at the site of the Agroecological Centre is certified by "Balkan Bioscert" (Bioproduct certificate № 00226) and it is marketed at biological processing enterprises and via the new for Bulgaria subscription system for bio-foods.

"Sunny Garden" Organic Farm

"Sunny Garden" educational organic farm for children was established on the Agroecological Centre of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv – unique for Bulgaria. The project was financed by the Norwegian Cooperation programme for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Bulgaria. The aim of "Sunny Garden" organic farm is to contribute to ecological education of children and to give knowledge to students for sustainable production, especially organic farming, for sustainable way of life and preservation of the environment.

Centre of Integrated Management of Plant Diseases

The Centre was officially opened on 20 May 2014. Its establishment was realized with the kind assistance of the US Embassy in Sofia and the financial support of 'America for Bulgaria' Foundation.

The Centre offers up-to-date plant protection system in support of Bulgarian agricultural producers. The methods to be used include internet-based forecasting models, plant disease and pest development on the basis of meteorological data and mathematical models, carrying out field and laboratory studies for practical problem solving.

Demonstration Center for New Technologies in Agriculture

The demonstration center for new technologies in agriculture is a joint initiative of 'Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki' Faculty of Agronomy and 'America for Bulgaria' Foundation. The Centre was constructed with funds from the Foundation and organizationally structured by the Decision of the Academic Council of AU of 17 January 2014. It provides opportunities for the academic community and companies developing technologies and equipment for agriculture, to exhibit their latest achievements before students and teachers from different universities, experts on national and local levels, farmers and amateur gardeners.

The Centre organizes demonstrations presenting the latest agricultural machinery and technologies. The purpose of the presentations is to show the effective use of all the components of the whole technological cycle close to actual production conditions.

Centre for Biological Testing

The Centre was established in 2012 and in 2015 it was certified by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency for carrying out biological testing of plant protection products. The Certificate provides quality assurance of the conducted experiments on the effectivity of plant protection products in compliance with good experimental practices.

Biological testing of plant protection products was permitted in 2006 and at present the Centre established at AU – Plovdiv is the only station in the frames of a higher education establishment.

The Centre also carries out an expertise in the area of crop protection: analysis for establishing the health status of seeds and planting material, testing of material and products of plant origin, soil tests, physiological status of vegetating plants, identification of pests, etc. Preliminary trials prior formal biological testing of plant protection products are also conducted, as well as demonstration trials to promote innovative plant protection tools and methods.