



ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI

AN INTERNATIONAL GUEST'S COMPANION TO *ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA* UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI

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UAIC AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1860, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* University of Iași (UAIC) is Romania's oldest modern university and a leading center for education and research. For over 160 years, UAIC has brought together scholars, students, and visitors in a community dedicated to learning and discovery. Rooted in academic tradition and open to innovation, the university offers an environment that supports diligent study, dialogue, and collaboration.

The university includes 15 faculties offering 92 Bachelor's, 134 Master's, and 29 doctoral programmes across all major academic fields.

More than 25,000 students study at UAIC each year, supported by modern facilities, strong international partnerships, and active research networks. UAIC consistently ranks among Romania's top higher education and research institutions, welcoming guests from around the world to engage with its programmes, people and ideas.

Contact Us



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www.uaic.ro



[UAICdinIASI](https://www.facebook.com/UAICdinIASI)



[uaiciasi](https://www.instagram.com/uaiciasi)



THE CITY OF IAȘI

Iași is one of Romania's most historic and culturally active cities, known for its universities, theatres, museums, and literary heritage. Once the capital of Moldavia, the city combines elegant architecture, lively neighbourhoods, and green public spaces.

With a metropolitan population of over 400,000, Iași is easy to explore and well connected, offering direct flights to major European cities. It provides an ideal setting for academic visits, cultural activities, and professional collaboration.

BEFORE YOU START YOUR TRIP

Practical information to help you prepare for your visit to Iași and UAIC

VISAS

Romania is part of the Schengen Area, therefore citizens of the EU, EEA, Switzerland, and Schengen states may enter freely with a valid national ID or passport.

Depending on the duration and reason for their visit, guests from outside the EU/Schengen Area may need a visa; please check the latest requirements with the [Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) or the nearest [Romanian embassy or consular section](#) before travelling.

TRAVEL & HEALTH INSURANCE

All guests should hold valid travel and medical insurance covering healthcare, emergencies, and unexpected travel disruptions.

EU/EEA visitors may use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), though additional insurance is also recommended.





AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Iași experiences warm summers, colourful autumns, cold winters, and mild springs:

Summer: 25–35°C

Autumn: 10–22°C

Winter: –5 to 5°C

Spring: 10–20°C

WHAT TO PACK

Iași has four distinct seasons. To help you prepare comfortably, consider the essentials below:

Spring (March–May)

Light jacket or cardigan
Comfortable walking shoes
Umbrella or raincoat
Layered clothing (temperatures vary)

Summer (June–August)

Light, breathable clothing
Sun protection (hat, sunscreen, sunglasses)
Comfortable sandals or walking shoes
Reusable water bottle

Autumn (September–November)

Light-to-medium jacket
Layers for cooler mornings and evenings
Closed shoes suitable for walking
Compact umbrella

Winter (December–February)

Warm coat
Scarf, hat, gloves
Waterproof footwear
Warm layers (temperatures often drop below 0°C)



CURRENCY & PAYMENTS

Romania's currency is the **Romanian leu** (RON) - 1 EURO $\approx$ 5 RON.

Card payments (Visa/Mastercard) and contactless transactions are widely accepted. ATMs are easily accessible throughout Iași and around the campus.

TIME ZONE

GMT+2 - Eastern European Standard Time (more information [here](#)).

VOLTAGE & PLUGS

Romania uses 230V / 50Hz electricity and Type C and F (Schuko) plugs. Visitors from outside Europe may need an adaptor.

TELEPHONES

The country code for Romania is +40.

The main mobile operators are Orange, Vodafone, Lycamobile, RCS&RDS (Digi). You can purchase a SIM with calls-only or data-only services, or a combination.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

112 – Police, fire, ambulance (EU-wide)

USEFUL PHRASES IN ROMANIAN

Romanian is the official language, though English is widely spoken at UAIC and in most central areas of Iași. In case your interlocutor doesn't speak English, these simple phrases can be very helpful for everyday interactions:

Greetings & Politeness

Hello – **Bună**
Good morning – **Bună dimineața**
Good afternoon – **Bună ziua**
Good evening – **Bună seara**
Goodbye – **La revedere**
Please – **Vă rog**
Thank you – **Mulțumesc**
You're welcome – **Cu plăcere**

Getting Around

Where is...? – **Unde este...?**
The university – **Universitatea**
The city centre – **Centrul orașului**
The airport – **Aeroportul**
Bus / Tram – **Autobuz / Tramvai**

Practical Phrases

Yes / No – **Da / Nu**
Excuse me / Sorry – **Scuzați-mă**
Do you speak English? – **Vorbiți engleză?**
I don't understand – **Nu înțeleg**
I would like... – **Aș dori...**
How much does it cost? – **Cât costă?**

Miscellaneous Useful Word

Water – **Apă**
Food – **Mâncare**
Ticket – **Bilet**
Room/reservation – **Cameră/ Rezervare**
Help – **Ajutor**





ARRIVING IN IAȘI

How to reach the city and find your way to UAIC



BY PLANE

Iași International Airport (8 km northeast of the city center), although small, is served by several airlines (Tarom, Austrian Airlines, Wizzair, Ryanair, AnimaWings, Flydubai, HiSky) and offers direct flights to/from a large number of cities, like: Barcelona, Billund, Bologna, Bruxelles, Copenhagen, Dubai, Dortmund, Dublin, Eindhoven, Istanbul, Larnaca, Liverpool, London, Madrid, Malmo, Milan, Paris, Prague, Rome, Turin, Tel Aviv, Valencia, Venice, Vienna.



Once at Iași International Airport, the city center can be reached in approximately 20 minutes by:

- bus no. 50 (the bus stop is in front of the T4 terminal and the timetable can be found at this [link](#)) or
- taxi/ Uber/ Bolt (at a cost of approximately 12 Euros)



BY TRAIN

From Otopeni Airport to North Railway Station (Gara de Nord) in Bucharest, and then

- from North Railway Station to Iasi

You need to know that you have 6 options daily, and the travel duration is around 7 hours and 30 minutes.

Please check this [website](#) for timetables and online tickets.



BY BUS

From Otopeni Airport to Iași Bus Station.

The bus stop is in front of International Departures Terminal. The journey takes approximately 7 hours and the cost is approximately 25 - 30 Euros/one way.

Please check this [link](#) for timetables and online tickets.



GREEN TRAVEL

We fully support sustainable mobility and we encourage you to choose more sustainable means of transportation.

Check the train operator [website](#) and Interrail [website](#) for details.





GETTING AROUND THE CITY

Practical ways to move through Iași with ease

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Iași has an extensive and reliable network of buses and trams operated by the local transport authority.

Most routes pass through the city center, and several connect directly to Copou, home to many of UAIC's main buildings.

Tickets can be purchased from ticket machines (ticket price= ≈1 Euro); they can be paid for on the bus/tram (by contactless bank cards) or through mobile apps ([24Pay](#)).

Most lines run from early morning (5:30) until late evening (22:00).

Trams offer a scenic way to travel through the historic parts of the city.

Routes toward UAIC/Copou include 1, 8, 9, 13, 28, 36, as well as other lines depending on your starting point.

RIDESHARING & TAXIS

Bolt and Uber are widely used and offer fast, convenient rides.

Fares within the city are generally affordable:

City center → Copou: 15 – 20 RON

Airport → city center: 25 – 50 RON

Licensed taxis are also available. Choose those displaying clear company markings and meters.

WALKING

Iași's central neighbourhoods are compact and walkable, with cafés, parks, museums, and UAIC buildings located within short distances.

From the city center to Copou, expect a 20–25-minute walk (uphill, but very enjoyable), passing historic buildings, bookshops, and gardens along the way.

CYCLING & SCOOTERS

Electric scooters and rental bikes may be found in central areas.

PARKING & DRIVING

Visitors planning to rent a car during their visit should consider that:

- Parking zones are marked and may require payment in central areas.
- Copou and the university surroundings can be busy during peak hours.
- Traffic may be heavier in the mornings and early evenings.

For short stays in Iasi, public transport or ridesharing tends to be more convenient than driving.

GETTING TO UAIC

UAIC's central buildings are located in Copou, a leafy, historic district on one of the city's hills.

From the city center or railway station, you can reach the university by:

- Bus/Tram: routes 1, 8, 9, 13, 28, 36 (and others, depending on direction);
- Taxi, Uber or Bolt: typically, 10–20 RON from central areas;
- On foot: around 20–25 minutes from the city center, uphill.

UAIC provides specific guidance and student residence addresses in invitation letters and accompanying correspondence.

ARRIVAL TIPS FOR VISITORS

- Keep your passport/ID and invitation letter easily accessible.
- Have some local currency (RON) for small payments, though most taxis and cafés accept cards.
- Bolt or Uber is generally more recommended than hailing taxis.
- Buses/trams operate with (e-)tickets that can be purchased from machines on the bus or apps (**24Pay**). ➡



WHERE TO STAY

Iași offers a wide range of housing options – from elegant historic to modern boutique hotels. Most visitors prefer to stay near the city center or in Copou, where many UAIC buildings are located and where cafes, parks, and cultural sites are within easy walking distance.

Some of the options frequently used by UAIC's international guests include:



Traian Grand Hotel

Address: Piața Unirii, no. 1
16 minutes walking distance to
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași



Unirea Hotel & SPA

Address: Piața Unirii, no. 5
16 minutes walking distance to
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University



Booking score: 9.3

Select Hotel

Address: 14 Decembrie 1989 street
17 minutes walking distance to
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University



Booking score: 9.2

Prestige Hotel

Address: Titu Maiorescu street no. 1
7 minutes walking distance to
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University



Booking score: 9.5

Hotel Grand View Hotel&Suites

Address: Mihail Sadoveanu Alley, no. 61
25 minutes by bus



Booking score: 9.1

Hotel International

Address: Strada Palat 5A
25 minutes by tram



Booking score: 9.4

Arnia Hotel

Address: Sos. Arcu, no. 26
17 minutes walking distance to
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University



Booking score: 8.9

Ramada Iasi City Center

Address: Grigore Ureche street no. 27
20 minutes by tram

Private serviced apartments are also available throughout the city center and Copou.

More affordable than hotels – your UAIC host might be able to secure an on-campus place for you, depending on availability.

Booking Tips

The city is lively during academic events, festivals, and exams – booking early is highly recommended.

For your convenience, we suggest choosing accommodation within or near the city center or Copou.



ACCESS TO ON-CAMPUS INTERNET

Wireless internet access on campus is available via Eduroam. If your home university is part of the Eduroam network, you can connect right away using your usual institutional username and password – no additional steps required.

If your home institution is not affiliated with Eduroam, your UAIC host (the person who invited you) will need to register you in the university database via the Guest Validation section at <https://register.uaic.ro>



Once this step is completed, you will be asked to fill in the [Guest Registration Form](#). After submitting the form, you will receive your personal username and password, which you can use to access the campus Wi-Fi. Please note that the information entered by yourself and the one provided by your UAIC host must be identical in both forms.

HEALTH, SAFETY & ESSENTIALS

Information to help you feel safe, confident, and supported during your stay in Iași

HEALTHCARE IN IAȘI

Iași offers reliable medical services, including hospitals, clinics, and emergency care facilities.

There are several private clinics with English-speaking staff: [ARCADIA](#), [Regina Maria](#), [MEDICOVER](#)

If you require immediate medical attention, please call 112.

For less urgent health issues, your UAIC host may be able to assist you in finding appropriate care.



You should bring your passport/ID, insurance details, and any medications you use regularly.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All visitors should have valid travel and health insurance for the entire duration of their stay.

EU/EEA citizens may use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), but complementary travel insurance is strongly recommended.



ACCESSIBILITY & SUPPORT

UAIC and many public buildings in Iași offer ramps and adapted entrances.

Some heritage buildings may have limited accessibility, so guests with access needs are encouraged to inform their hosts in due course.

The IRO/ UAIC host department is always available to assist with individual accessibility arrangements, campus navigation, or additional support.

PHARMACIES

Pharmacies (RO: farmacii) are easy to find throughout the city.

A few central locations and some near UAIC remain open late or 24/7 ([Ropharma](#), [Rosmarin Pharmacy](#)). Basic over-the-counter medication (for allergies, common colds, pain relief) is readily available.

- ✓ Stick to well-lit streets at night.
- ✓ Keep your passport, ID, and insurance documents safely stored.
- ✓ Follow local instructions in case of emergencies.
- ✓ If you ever feel unsafe, call 112.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Iași is a safe and welcoming city. As with any urban area, we recommend a few simple precautions:

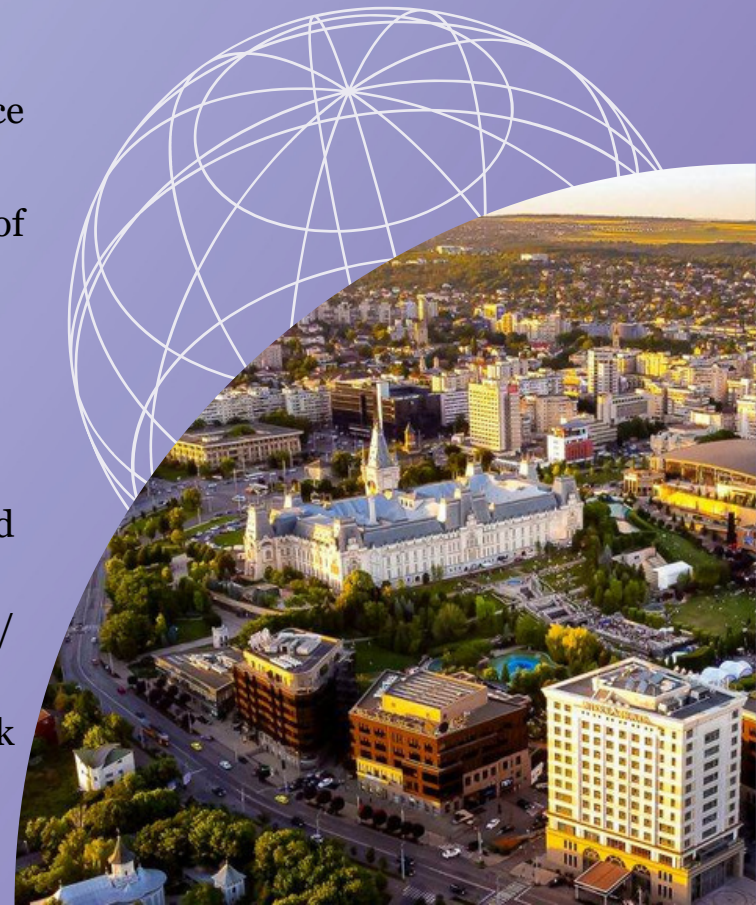
- ✓ Keep personal items secure in crowded areas.
- ✓ Use licensed taxis or ridesharing apps (Bolt/Uber).

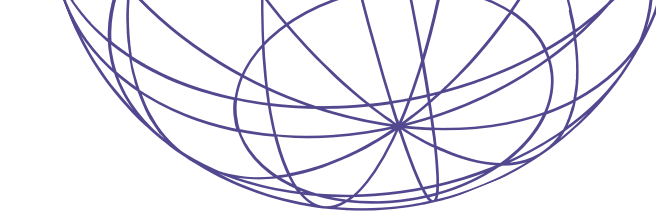
WATER, FOOD & HYGIENE

Tap water in Iași is safe to drink. Bottled water is also readily available.

Food standards are high, and restaurants/cafés follow EU hygiene norms.

Allergens are usually listed on menus; ask restaurant staff if unsure.





You can choose between the ***Titu Maiorescu cafeteria*** or one of the university's three restaurants: *Gaudeamus*, located slightly uphill from the main campus; ***Akademios***, at the foot of Copou Hill; and ***Casa Universitarilor***, just a short walk from the university's main building. The campus also hosts two cozy cafés: the ***Orest Tafrali bookstore café***, perfect for a quiet break among books, and the lively ***Erasmus Café***, a popular meeting spot for international and local students alike.



RESTAURANT & CAFÉ RECOMMENDATIONS

Iași boasts a lively culinary scene, blending traditional Romanian flavours with modern European cuisine, alongside welcoming cafés ideal for relaxed conversations and unhurried coffee breaks.

If you'd like to dine the way locals do, we strongly recommend eating on campus, where meals are both tasty and significantly more affordable.

For a more refined dining experience, we recommend exploring the many restaurants in the city centre and the Copou area, all conveniently located within easy reach of UAIC. Below, you'll find a curated selection of venues especially popular with our international guests.



La Conac 

Typical Romanian food, great atmosphere

Panoramic restaurant 

International food, wonderful panorama over the city.



 **Cuib (Vegetarian)**

Very cozy place, with a nice daily menu including sustainable local ingredients.





Bindu (Vegetarian)

Wonderful vegan burgers (peas protein), daily soup, excellent coffee too.

La Plăcinte

Typical Moldavian (Republic of Moldova) type of restaurant, a sort of fancy pizzeria, but without the pizza.



Bolta Rece

Typical Romanian food, a symbol and a place of reference for every local.

Oscar

International food, great cocktails and relaxed atmosphere



Berăria Veche

Typical Romanian & Eastern European grilled food, great beers, large terrace atmosphere.



Vivo - Fusion Food Bar

American style restaurant, best burgers in town

GOOD TO KNOW

Most restaurants accept card payments.

Dinner hours are typically from 18:00 to 22:00.

Reservations are recommended for weekend evenings or larger groups.

Many cafés offer vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options – simply ask the staff.

TOP PLACES TO VISIT

Iași is a city shaped by centuries of culture and architectural beauty. Whether you are visiting for a conference, a lecture, or a longer stay, the city offers a selection of memorable places well within reach of UAIC.

PALACE OF CULTURE ✨

Perhaps Iași's most iconic landmark, the neo-Gothic Palace of Culture houses four major museums and offers a beautiful panoramic tower (when open). The building stands at the heart of the city's cultural district.

COPOU PARK & EMINESCU'S LINDEN TREE ✨

One of Romania's oldest public parks, Copou is a quiet oasis beloved by writers, students, and locals.

Here, you will find the famous Linden Tree of Mihai Eminescu, Romania's national poet, and many peaceful walking paths.

GHEORGHE ASACHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ✨

Often listed among the world's most beautiful libraries, this historic reading room offers a step back in time with its ornate woodwork, balconies, and book-lined walls. Please note that you must pre-book your visit.

THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL ✨

A monumental example of Romanian Orthodox architecture and one of the country's most important religious buildings. Its impressive interior and peaceful square make it a must-see.





HOUSE OF MUSEUMS (CASA MUZEELOR) ➤

Set in a beautifully restored historic building near the city center, the House of Museums brings together several small museums under one roof. Its thoughtfully curated exhibitions explore literature, theatre, Jewish history, and memorial culture, offering visitors a meaningful and quietly engaging introduction to Iași's rich multicultural heritage.

VASILE ALECSANDRI NATIONAL THEATRE ➤

The oldest theatre in Romania and a jewel of 19th-century architecture. Its richly decorated auditorium is considered one of the most beautiful in Europe.



ANASTASIE FĂTU BOTANICAL GARDEN ➤

Belonging to UAIC, it is the oldest and largest botanical garden in Romania, known for its seasonal flower displays, rose garden, and greenhouses. An ideal place for a relaxing afternoon stroll.

GOLIA MONASTERY & BELL TOWER ➤

An elegant 17th-century monastery with white stone walls and a peaceful courtyard.

Climb the Golia Tower for charming views over Iași's historic center.



UNIQUE EXPERIENCES IN IAȘI

Iași is a city where history, culture, and quiet beauty coexist harmoniously. Beyond its well-known landmarks, the city offers experiences that reveal its character in subtle, meaningful ways.

TEA AND CONVERSATIONS IN COPOU

Find a quiet corner in one of Copou's charming cafés and enjoy a slow cup of tea or coffee under old linden trees. Many visiting scholars call this their favourite place to unwind after meetings or conferences.

A STROLL THROUGH HISTORIC BOOKSHOPS

Iași has a long literary tradition, and its bookshops reflect that spirit.

The Orest Tafrali bookstore inside UAIC, Librarium, and Cărturești each offer atmospheric spaces perfect for browsing or finding a thoughtful souvenir.

MONASTERY COURTYARDS AT DUSK

Visit Golia, Cetățuia, or Three Hierarchs Monastery in the late afternoon. Their quiet courtyards, soft bells, and golden light create an atmosphere that feels timeless.

SEASONAL BLOSSOMS IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Whether it's the early spring tulips and daffodils, the summer rose garden, or the autumn dahlias, the Botanical Garden offers ever-changing colours and scents throughout the year.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS IN UNUSUAL VENUES

Iași's Philharmonic and Conservatory frequently host concerts in historic halls, churches, or even the Palas Gardens. Performances are high-quality and tickets are accessible – a delightful cultural surprise for many visitors.



A TRAM RIDE THROUGH OLD IAȘI

It may seem simple, but riding one of Iași's older trams through the city's historic neighbourhoods offers a charming glimpse into daily life and local rhythms.

EXPLORE THE PATHS OF EMINESCU AND CREANGĂ

Walk from Copou Park to the Mihai Eminescu Museum and the Ion Creangă Bojdeuca cottage. These gentle paths connect some of Romania's most beloved literary figures to the hills and gardens that inspired them.



DISCOVER MOLDAVIAN CUISINE WITH A LOCAL TWIST

Try traditional dishes with modern interpretations, such as poale-n brâu sweet cheese and raisin pastries, cozonac (a sweet bread with many different types of fillings), sarmale (cabbage or vine leaf rolls filled with minced meat and rice), ciorbă rădăuțeană (a delicious sour soup with chicken and sour cream) or seasonal local wines.

VISIT THE IAȘI CHRISTMAS MARKET (SEASONAL)

If visiting in winter, the Christmas market in the Palace of Culture square offers festive lights, local crafts, and warm treats – one of the most charming seasonal experiences in the city.



**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING UAIC AS YOUR HOST
– WE WISH YOU A LOVELY STAY IN IAȘI!**