VASIL LEVSKI NATIONAL MILITARY UNIVERSITY · SHUMEN

English Language Education at the Foreign Language Center

Military English training and instructor development

OCTOBER 2026

A university language centre

01 Part of a university

Based at Vasil Levski National Military University in Shumen, Bulgaria.

02 A new name, a long history

Renamed the Foreign Language Center in December 2025, after years as the Foreign Languages Department.

03 NATO-approved PTEC

A Partnership Training and Education Center with six years of unconditional NATO quality-assurance accreditation.

04 Active in the NATO network

Contributes expertise to BILC through professional events and cooperation.

Our focus: operational language proficiency, instructor development and international cooperation.

Language skills that enable interoperability

Provide high-quality language training that meets the needs of the armed forces for achieving NATO interoperability.

01 Train for multinational work

Provide English training for military and civilian personnel to the proficiency levels required in multinational environments.

02 Support deployable forces

Develop the language skills of personnel from deployable forces, multinational staffs and task formations.

03 Meet national requirements

Enable trainees to reach the proficiency levels set out in the national language training strategy.

Two decades of development

2005	Established by decision of the Defence Council
2006	First courses delivered (April–August)
2007	Officially inaugurated on 16 October
2010	Declared a Partnership for Peace Education and Training Center
2016	Full unconditional NATO QA accreditation
2022	NATO QA re-accreditation
2025	Renamed the Foreign Language Center



Investment:
Bulgarian MOD: > €1M
USA (FMF/IMET): > $1M

A network spanning four continents

PARTNER NATIONS INCLUDE

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- France
- Georgia
- Hungary
- Jordan
- Mongolia
- North Macedonia
- Poland
- Ukraine

And other partner nations.



NATO-approved courses

01 NATO approval

Two courses are listed in NATO’s education and training catalogue.

02 Partner-nation access

Seats are open to participants from NATO partner nations, supported by SHAPE Partnerships Directorate.

03 Continuous improvement

Each iteration ends with participant and instructor feedback, followed by a tracked action plan.

NATO-Accredited Education and Training Facility

Contributing expertise across programmes

01 NATO BILC

Tailored support and expertise for partners, through cooperation and professional events.

02 NATO DEEP · Ukraine

Two instructor-development courses for the defence and security sector.

03 NATO DCB · Jordan

English language training for Jordanian military personnel under Defence Capacity Building.
148 Jordanians have completed training in FLC.

The two NATO-approved courses also open seats to partner nations.

Two courses supporting Ukraine

01 Event 1 · Maximizing Learning: Developing Speaking Skills

A course for language instructors from the defence and security sector.
Started in 2020
8 people at the moment in FLC

02 Event 2 · English as a Medium of Instruction

A course for military instructors who teach their subjects in English, often without prior training in how to do so.
Started in 2023
5 courses
40 people (8 per course)

Delivered under NATO DEEP — the Defence Education Enhancement Programme.

English language courses

Beginner level	**16 weeks**	480 classes
Level I	**16 weeks**	480 classes
Level II	**16 weeks**	480 classes
Level III	**16 weeks**	480 classes
Refresher courses	**4 weeks**	Levels 2 and 3
Specialized courses	**Variable**	By requirement
Cadet English classes	**5 years**	**780 classes**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER · SHUMEN

Cadet Training

254

cadets currently in training

5 YEARS

of academic and military education

780

classes across the five-year programme

HOW THE CLASSES ARE DISTRIBUTED

90 **classes per semester**

Semesters 1–6 · 540 classes total

60 **classes per semester**

Semesters 7–10 · 240 classes total

+ Part-time cadets and civilian students

VASIL LEVSKI NATIONAL MILITARY UNIVERSITY

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER · SHUMEN

Building Bridges Through Language

Enabling communication. Strengthening partnerships.
Supporting NATO interoperability.

Committed to excellence in military English training and instructor development

Thank you for your attention.

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