

International Burch University ACM Student Chapter

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

URL: <https://it.ibu.edu.ba/>

The mission of the Department of Information Technologies is to educate students to gain an understanding of the fundamentals of science and engineering so that they can develop solutions to information technology problems and enhance their skills in computer science, computer architecture, design and analysis of algorithms, software engineering, communication and research skills. It is aimed to especially emphasize teamwork, independent and innovative thinking and leadership qualities.

Academic staff of the IT Department believes that neither theory nor practice alone is enough in teaching IT. Therefore, courses based on a balance of theory and practice is set up so that students gain a thorough understanding of the subjects. In order to provide practical experience for our students, our department is equipped with four teaching laboratories and two computer and network laboratories. Students use these labs extensively during their study years for their assignments, projects, research, and for fun! Furthermore, our students are required to do an internship lasting for 30 working days in order to get feeling of real business life that is ahead. Current number of students at our department is as following:

B.Sc.: 127

M.Sc.: 20

Ph.D.: 10

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHAPTER

International Burch University ACM Student Chapter was established in November 2016 with one simple mission: to serve as much students as possible and to try to make a difference in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Proof that our mission is right and well implemented can be found in number of our members that exceeds sixty students. Considering the fact that only 16% of the total number of IT students at our Department are females, our goal is to support female students in our country, increase their interest in technology, and to at least double the current number of female students at

our Department in following academic year. It is important to note that our chapter is currently the first and the only ACM chapter in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chapter Activities Essay

ACM International Burch University Student Chapter is a relatively new Chapter, having been founded in November 2016. However, despite its 'young age', the Chapter has already made a tremendous positive impact on the society around it. Starting from December, with a successful and well-attended official Opening Ceremony, which included a host of esteemed lecturers and professors from the field of IT, the Chapter has been focusing its efforts on inducting more people into the IT sector. The opening ceremony was accompanied by three competitions, one of which was an IT project competition focused on freshman and sophomore students, in which they had to develop, present and pitch a socially useful business idea, as if they were aiming it at a real market. The competition proved to be a tremendous success, with some students later commercializing their ideas. The second competition was of a more lively and relaxed nature, being a PlayStation game competition (Pro Evolution Soccer 2016). This competition was well-received as well, attracting numerous students. The third competition, titled "Games Without Limits", was an 'exclusive' competition for female students, which featured various fun games and team-building activities. Inspired and motivated by the success of these first few activities, the Chapter decided to move full steam ahead. Starting from 2017, the Chapter has introduced a concept of weekly presentations given by accomplished students and professors of the university. Each week, the lecturers would share interesting news and topics from the world of engineering and IT, as well as their personal stories, experiences and advice with the rest of the student body. In March 2017, a web development workshop/course was started by one of the Teaching Assistants (who is also an ACM member) at International Burch University. The course is primarily focused on freshman students, who have all been provided with their own sub-domains which they can freely use to practice the materials covered on the course, or host their own web sites. Another significant event in March was Women's Day, which was appropriately covered by the Chapter. A symposium aptly named "Celebration of Women in Technology" was held, featuring various female faculty members talking about their own experiences in the fields of IT and engineering, and encouraging more girls to join these prosperous sectors. Shortly after, stemming from the original idea in December, another game competition (Counter Strike) was organized, this time, however, open to students from outside the university as well. The competition proved to be a huge success, leaving all competitors with memorable experiences and new friends from all over Sarajevo. Last, but certainly not the least, in April, in cooperation with one of the most prominent IT organizations in the country, ACADEMY387, the Chapter organized a MEAN stack workshop in the premises of the university, available free of charge to all interested participants. The lecturer was an esteemed software engineer and member of ACADEMY387. The workshop was a resounding success, attracting not only eager students, but also seasoned software engineers wanting to learn more about latest technologies.