

Algebra students will be able to study under the approved programmes of one of the 500 best universities in the world according to the World University Ranking

Algebra and Goldsmiths, University of London sign Academic Partnership Agreement to provide students with a Croatian and British degree

After the successful evaluation of study programmes and the institution itself, Algebra has become a strategic academic partner of one of the oldest colleges of the University of London. Due to inter-institutional cooperation with Goldsmiths, University of London, starting from the academic year 2022/2023, students will be able to study in Zagreb according to UK and EU standards and thus obtain both Croatian and British degrees.

Cooperation between the two institutions opens numerous opportunities for Croatian and foreign students to whom the British degree will be significantly more accessible, but also further motivates them to choose Croatia as their academic destination and support the growth and sustainability of the Croatian economy with their knowledge and skills.

The Algebra-Goldsmiths Academic Partnership Agreement is the result of a two-year validation process of Algebra's study programmes, student support framework and quality assurance systems, conducted by British experts and heads of study programmes with their Croatian colleagues: study and department heads, teachers, assistants, vice deans, teaching support department, international application office, examination coordinators and other professional services of Algebra. After analysing the study programmes, their contents and learning outcomes and the quality assurance system, the validation committee established that all the preconditions for cooperation have been met.

Deputy Warden of Goldsmiths, Professor Elisabeth Hill said: **“We will collaborate with colleagues at Algebra in ensuring these academic programmes meet the highest quality and standards, are dynamic and responsive to developments in industry, and are informed by the latest research and advancements in teaching practice. We are confident that students will enjoy the highest quality learning experiences, undertaking cutting-edge academic programmes that will equip them with the skills to thrive in the fast-paced digital and creative sectors and make a real difference in their communities.”**

Starting from the academic year 2022/2023, Algebra students will be able to study Design, 3D Design, Multimedia Computing, Digital Marketing, Data Science, Software Engineering, Systems Engineering or Game Development according to programmes validated by one of the 500 best universities in the world. Algebra students who opt for this option will take courses in English. The conditions for enrolment are the same as the conditions for the enrolment of studies conducted in Croatian, with a mandatory test of English language skills.

“In two cycles of audits of the quality assurance system conducted by Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education, Algebra University College received the highest possible grades and quality certificates. Our highly developed quality assurance system was a kind of ticket to open a dialogue with Goldsmiths and a pledge for this great success that we achieved by signing this Academic Partnership Agreement. During the process of validation of our study programmes, we were additionally convinced of the quality of our partners from London, which prompted us to start double-marking all exams in the current academic year and providing development-oriented feedback to students after each test. These and other approaches that we have adopted, and which are partly the reason why British higher education system is still at the very top of the world, have become our norm in the implementation of study programmes,” said Mislav Balković, Algebra University College Dean, during the signing ceremony of the partnership agreement in London.

The goal of this collaboration is to increase the number of students studying in English and contribute to the Algebra Development Strategy, which targets 2,300 enrolled students by the end of 2026, of which at least 500 are foreigners. Although the price of such study is somewhat higher than the average price of studies in Croatia, from the perspective of parents and students, this means that with a much lower financial cost and without the cost of living in a relatively expensive environment, students earn two esteemed degrees, trusted by Croatian and British employers.

With this partnership, Algebra forms one of the most potent international hubs for students in Croatia which launched more than a 1,000 candidates and students in the past five years. This partnership between the British and Croatian higher educational institutions also opens the door to Algebra graduates who will be interested in postgraduate specialization in the UK. The multinational and multicultural environment that today already exists on Algebra in Zagreb, and is consisted of students from India, Turkey, Brazil, China, USA, Ukraine, Russia, Spain, France, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Italy, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the UAE, will soon become even more attractive to a growing number of students coming from Asia, South America, Africa, the Middle East and rest of the Europe to Croatia.

Professor Frances Corner OBE, Warden of Goldsmiths, University of London, said: **“We are truly proud of our international partnerships at Goldsmiths, and I am delighted that Algebra University College is joining this global community. This partnership will provide more students around the world with access to a Goldsmiths degree. But more than that, it will bring opportunities to build on the strengths of our two institutions, develop our collaboration into new and exciting areas, and ensure all students - wherever they study - have a high quality, rewarding and impactful learning experience. I look forward to a rewarding relationship in the years ahead.”**

Information and applications for studies ending with a British and Croatian degree are available at <https://www.algebra.hr/visoko-uciliste/en/>. Starting now, high school graduates can choose Algebra undergraduate studies in English through the official portal of the Agency for Science and Higher Education at <https://www.postani-student.hr/>.

Goldsmiths, University of London (www.gold.ac.uk) is a British public university founded in 1891 and today has more than 10,000 active students. Among the alumni of this college are the famous fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, artist Damien Hirst, actress Liz Fraser, multitalented DJ Goldierocks, writer Anthony Joseph, founders of the world-famous band Blur, Graham Coxon and Alex James, a member of the royal family Princess Beatrice from York, but also Croatian director Tena Štivičić. Goldsmiths, University of London is one of the world's 500 best universities according to QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The University of London is a federal, scientific and research university founded by the Royal Charter of London in 1836. In addition to Goldsmiths, the most famous major constituents of the university are UCL, King's College London, Queen Mary, Birkbeck, the London School of Economics, Royal Holloway and City.

Algebra (www.algebra.hr) is the largest and fastest growing educational group in Croatia. During its foundation in 1998, more than 150,000 individuals have completed various types of educational programs in Algebra, and annually about 15,000 students of various ages enter its educational system in one of the studies, MBA programs, seminars and other educational programs. Algebra focuses on higher education (undergraduate and graduate courses), adult education (lifelong learning), corporate education, assistance to high school students in college enrolment and preparation for graduation, digital education of primary and secondary school teachers and students, and different e-learning and digital content projects. As the highest rated professional study in Croatia, according to the criteria of the quality assurance system of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, Algebra conducts undergraduate and graduate studies in computer science, multimedia, design, digital marketing, and e-Leadership MBA program in cooperation with one of the leading US business schools. Today, Algebra is the most important training and academic partner of largest technology vendors such as Microsoft, AWS, Google, Oracle, Cisco, Adobe, Red Hat, VMware. In mid-2014, Microsoft named Algebra World Education Partner of the Year, and Algebra received the same award for 2020 as a member of the Leading Learning Partner's Association. Algebra's development is based on continuous investment in curricula, teaching staff and their professional development, as well as the overall improvement of service quality. Today, Algebra consists of more than 180 full time employees and over 500 associate lecturers.

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