

8th International Conference on Chinese as a Second Language Research

May 30, 2025 – June 1, 2025

Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania

A. Transportation to Braşov

Participants have the option of boarding a train at the Gara de Nord//Bucharest North Train Station or reserving a shuttle with M&M Express. The M&M shuttle will take you directly to any Braşov address and the driver will even greet you upon arrival (after you pass the green-lit “nothing to declare” exit doors). The website has an English version and you can pay online in advance (<https://transferairport.ro/en/>). The price should be 120 Lei (\$26 USD) for a one-way trip. If there is an interest in large groups traveling together, we can possibly book those seats for you, but will do so at a later date (more about that option in the next version of the Handbook). The shuttle trip to Braşov is approximately three hours, which includes a ten-minute bathroom break.

For those who wish to go to Braşov by train, the schedule is found here:

<https://mersultrenurilor.infofer.ro/en-GB/Itineraries?OldCultureName=ro-RO>.

Trains depart roughly every hour-and-a-half and tickets must be purchased at the Gara de Nord train station downtown. The price is roughly 50 Lei (\$13 USD), although the taxi fare to the train station is approximately 30 Lei (\$9 USD). For those traveling alone, who might need to spend considerable time at the train station, we recommend using the McDonalds restaurant as your “home-base” prior to boarding (no endorsement, just practical advice). It is located directly in front of the boarding platforms as well as the main arrivals/departures board. It is also the safest location, has public toilets (passcode available from the order counter) and has free Wi-Fi. There are additional public toilets but they generally cost one Lei and require exact change.

The public transportation system works well in Braşov and is tourist-friendly!

Most bus stops have electronic displays with the schedule of the buses. This is also available inside most of the buses on an electronic display. The price of one ticket is 8 RON (<2 EUR) and you can use it twice for 60 minutes each. You can even change buses as many times as you like during these 60 minutes. Uber and Bolt services are also available in Braşov and in costs around 30-50 lei to take you from the train station to the city center, for example.

B. Lodging

Conference participants have a variety of options for lodging in Braşov (your room is NOT covered in the registration fee). Besides hotels and Airbnbs, Transilvania University is offering a limited number of dormitory-style hotel rooms at reduced rates (see **Transilvania University Guesthouse** below). A quick search on any good hotel booking site will reveal other possibilities. Here are a few recommended hotels.

Hotel Drachenhau (<https://www.drachenhau.ro/en-gb>): This charming hotel is located near the Old City Center and is about a 20-minute walk to the conference site. Please note that most rooms are located up steep stairs, with only two rooms on the street-level.

Hotel City Center: <https://www.hotelcitycenter.ro/>. The City Center hotel is literally across the street from the conference site, which is being held in the university “Aula” (pronounced Ow-la) at Strada Iuliu Maniu nr. 41A.

Hotel Bella Muzica: <http://bellamuzica.ro/>: Located in the historic Old Town center, the hotel has lots of amenities, including one of the best restaurants in Braşov. It is a considerable distance to the conference site, about a twenty-minute walk or \$3.00 taxi ride.

Hotel Kolping (<https://hotel.kolping.ro/en/>): Resembling to what Americans are more accustomed to, this hotel looks out over the Old City as it is perched on the mountainside. Elevators take occupants to their rooms, although you will need to climb one staircase from street-level to the reception area. Taxis are easily obtained with the hotel staff’s help. With a steep climb down when leaving the hotel, and the reverse when returning, occupants are ensured a good workout to the Old City, which is about 10 – 15 minutes away, or to the conference site, which is about 30 – 45 minutes away.

Transilvania University Guesthouse: 1 Universităţii Street, Building 16 (located next to the Colina Sports Complex at the very top of the hill). This is the least expensive option for delegates, although the number of available rooms is limited (10). If you share with a roommate, your cost will be 65 Lei per person (\$17 USD). A private single room is \$20 USD, but there are only a few of those available. The guesthouse rooms have *ensuite* showers and toilettes, flat-screen televisions, towels, hand soap, shampoo, hair-dryers, mini-refrigerators, and Wi-Fi access. The guest house does NOT offer daily breakfast, but does have a nice commons kitchen/dining area with a toaster, microwave, coffee machine, etc. There is also a small convenience store in the lower level of the building that sells beverages, snacks, and detergent. Delegates should bunk with at least one other person in the guesthouse, although if you need a private room, that option is available upon request. Also, in case your luggage is lost in transit, have it delivered to the above address (if you are staying at a Braşov hotel, the luggage should obviously be sent there).

C. Other information:

1. **Phones:** Mobile phones are widely used in Romania. Prepaid SIM cards for unlocked GSM mobile phones are available and very inexpensive. The emergency number in Romania is 112.
2. **Electrical Current:** Related to the mobile phone issue is the problem of voltage, which in Romania is v220. Most delegates will want to purchase a voltage converter, which are readily available in most international airports. Romania has unique plugs and outlets that require the use of an adapter (Type F). Thus, in order to charge your computer, iPad, or smartphone, you will need both a voltage converter and universal plug adapter. Most laptop computers have built-in switches for the use of v220 current, but you will still need an adapter to recharge the battery. You can also use the USB port of your computer as a phone charging station.
3. **Bucharest:** Many delegates will likely spend an evening in Bucharest before departing. Recommendations for hotels in Bucharest that are both affordable and convenient include:

Ibis Bucharest Gara de Nord, Calea Grivitei 143, Sector 1. The Ibis Hotel is a five-minute walk from the Gara de Nord train station. \$45 dollars per night is the price of a standard single room. Breakfast is an additional \$8 dollars. Ask the front desk for cheaper taxis to the airport as those standing outside the hotel may be a higher rate than the norm. <http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-3302-ibis-bucuresti-gara-de-nord/index.shtml>.

Hotel Tempo, Strada Armand Calinescu 19. Hotel Tempo is located fairly far from the train station but is very near the Old City, a “must-see” area for those visiting Bucharest for the first time. Rooms are in the \$55 dollar range, but breakfast should be included in that price. The hotel consistently receives high ratings for staff hospitality.

Hotel Christina, Ion Slatineanu 13. This is an “eco” design hotel that is environmentally conscious and uses solar panels for much of its electricity. *Ranked #1 of all hotels in Bucharest by TripAdvisor*. Not far from the Old Center, Gara de Nord and the airport, but you will still need a taxi to get there from Gara de Nord or the Airport. It is much more pricey than the above hotels, however, at \$85 per night. <http://www.hotelchristina.ro/pages/galerie>.

4. **Drugs:** Most western over-the-counter drugs can be found in Romanian pharmacies, which often have extended hours, but generally close by 9:00 pm. Antibiotics, as well as extra-strength pain relievers [that contain codeine], can also be purchased in the Romanian *farmacie*. Prescription medicines will be harder to obtain, so please bring your own supplies.
5. **About the hosts:** Your host city is Braşov, a medium-sized town located in the wide valley that separates the eastern Carpathians from the Transylvania Alps. Its greater metropolitan population is 280,000. However, most people who visit Braşov spend the majority of their time in the historic Old Town [Centrul Vechi], a fortified village once occupied by Saxon artisans. The Old Town’s storybook architecture is quite impressive, which is one of the reasons Braşov is the second-most popular tourist

destination in Romania. The other tourist draw is the nearby Poiana Braşov,, a ski-resort that receives many year-round visitors. The below website--maintained by the Romanian National Tourist Office--provides a nice overview of Braşov and the surrounding vicinity and offers helpful hints regarding transportation to and from the area: <http://romaniatourism.com/brasov.html>

Your host institution is the Transilvania University of Braşov, a relatively large university with buildings scattered around the Old City and nearby main boulevards. Its main campus, however, is closer to the conference site in the “newer” part of town. The official university homepage is: <http://www.unitbv.ro/en/Home.aspx>. The student population at the university is 20,000 and the teaching staff is comprised of approximately eight-hundred part- and full-time faculty.