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IN POSTMODERN DIGITAL SOCIETY

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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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(ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, 5–6 September 2025

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SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGIOSITY AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: THE CONTEXT OF SERBIA

The international mobility of students at the global level has been on the rise in recent years. This phenomenon is observed in countries with different economic standards, but world's small and less developed countries are especially and increasingly looking for new models that would help them attract young, highly educated experts who would be attending the higher-education institutions within their borders. The IS who enroll in tertiary education programs outside their home country, or their country of residence, are at a great point of transition in their life – moving from one culture to another, and from youth to adulthood. Furthermore, with the end of their studies their student status ends and they become a part of (competitive) workforce. During the process of (academic) migration, regardless of whether it is permanent or temporary, new perceptions of the world and one's own role in it are often gained. The challenges that IS face during their stay outside their home country also affect their spiritual and religious world, as well as their spiritual practice. The aim of the paper is to examine the extent to which education abroad has influenced the spiritual among the IS who study in Serbia, as well as students from Serbia who have studied abroad. The paper uses a combined methods approach to analyze the data collected through all three phases of the research (focus group, survey method, and individual interviews). The sample includes IS of all levels of academic studies. The research was conducted from June 2023 to January 2024 within the ISMIGaIN project.

Key words: international students (IS), academic migration, spirituality, religiosity, Serbia