



Ministry of Education
and Science of the
Republic of Armenia

2015 Higher Education Institutions in Armenia



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Human Development
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YOUR GUIDE TO
STUDYING IN ARMENIA

Your Guide to Studying in
Armenia

**Higher Education
Institutions in Armenia**

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It is my extraordinary honour as the Minister responsible for higher education in Armenia to host the Ninth Bologna Process Ministerial Conference together with the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum on 14-15 May, 2015 in Yerevan and this is really a momentous occasion for our country.

Education has been a treasure of unequalled value to Armenia: in the manuscripts of Agathangelos, the fourth century historian, there is a prove that Terdat, the Armenian King gave orders to train Armenian children in the literary arts and in 405 AD Mesrop Mashtots created Armenian alphabet which became the turning point for opening schools throughout the provinces of Armenia. In the Middle Ages Armenia became famous for its universities.

The foundations of contemporary education were laid down during the first years of the first Armenian Republic and subsequently developed in the Soviet era which allowed the Soviet Armenia to turn into one of the most educated Republics with one hundred per cent literacy of the population. Encompassing pre-school, vocational, secondary vocational and higher education subsystems, it ensured the country's social-economic, cultural and scientific prog-

ress. Education was one of the primary focuses for the small Republic which gave world-famous astrophysicists, doctors, artists, musicians.

Since its independence in 1991 Armenia has been actively reforming its higher education system.

The Ministerial events will bring together 47 EHEA delegations, the European Commission, as well as the Bologna Process consultative members and partners. As a result of the 16 years of intensive work the EHEA became a reality and proved that in this globalized and competitive environment education is the key for sustainable development of the European societies.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the trust and confidence that you placed in Armenia in 2012 by voting to be the host of the next Ministerial Conference. Secondly, I would like to express my huge appreciation for the unwavering support throughout these 3 years.

On behalf of the Government and academic community of Armenia, I'd like to extend our warmest greetings to visiting Ministers, the European Commissioner, Heads of delegations, delegates and all our guests.

Among other issues the 2015 Yerevan Ministerial Conference will attempt to identify the best ways to reinforce the Bologna Process in future and beyond 2020 and simultaneously strengthen the dialogue within and outside the EHEA. I stand by the principle that the EHEA is a platform where the differences of national values and diverse beliefs will facilitate to face the challenges of a new age. The EHEA was and should remain the platform where minorities are integrated members of societies with equal opportunities, and last but not the least that EHEA should be accessible to all who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue knowledge, understanding and determination to develop democratic societies that we need. Moreover, looking at the map of the EHEA there are still unrecognised territories where people are not exercising the advantages of the European education. This is an important issue since education should be without any discrimination and should provide solutions to the conflicts as a unique tool for the reconciliation and people to people relations.

We look forward to fruitful discussions and further cooperation. Welcome to hospitable Armenia!

Armen Ashotyan

*Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of
Armenia*

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STUDYING IN ARMENIA

Why choose to study in Armenia? Many reasons! However, there are three truly compelling reasons to attract students from all over the world, including the most ambitious and creative, to study in the universities of Armenia.

1. Access to Fundamental Knowledge and Mobility

The academic records of Armenian students make telling evidence – although Armenia is a developing country facing many challenges and undergoing essential reforms in higher education sector, its students

have actively embraced the emerging educational opportunities provided by various mobility schemes, bilateral agreements and private initiatives. From 2004-2013, 75 Armenian students were awarded Erasmus

Mundus scholarships to study at the best European universities. Compared with other Eastern Partnership countries, Armenia is the second to Ukraine in successfully preparing its students for this mobility scheme.ⁱ

Since 2009, more than 300 students from Armenian universities have continued their education in the world's most prestigious universities, such as MIT, Cambridge, Harvard, and ETH Zurich. Graduates of Armenian universities manifest that combination of strong technical knowledge within chosen field of

.....
ⁱ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/tools/documents/repository/em_eastern_partnership_may2014.pdf

2. Academic Excellence in Music, Architecture, Medicine, Iranian and Armenian Studies, Information Technologies and Mathematics

Armenia remains one of the few countries in the world which offers music studies at a specialised higher education institution. Students are able to immerse themselves in a vibrant fusion of both classical musical tradition, such as Rachmaninov and Prokofiev, Khachaturyan and Babajanyan, and modern jazz virtuosos, such as Levon Malkhasyan, Armen

study with the knowledge on liberal arts and social skill acquired through their education, provided them with great opportunities to successfully meet the requirements of a demanding global academic environment and labour market.

According to international students from the Middle East and India currently studying in Armenia, the integration of academic knowledge from Western countries, specifically from the US and the UK, is the most attractive feature of Armenian academic programmes. Armenian universities thus serve as a link for students from these countries to higher educational institutions of excellence worldwide.

Hyusnunts and Vahagn Hayrapetyan.

Armenia is a country that has successfully moulded stone into music; it has preserved this tradition through education and training. Armenia is an incredible venue for architecture – its unique churches are renowned as having “the first national style in

Christian architecture”, and it has a wonderful collection of pre-Christian monuments dated as early as the ninth to the sixth centuries B.C.ⁱ The study of Armenia’s thousands of surviving churches all over the country has inspired architects of religious and secular buildings both in Armenia and abroad. Today, Architectural studies are available in Armenian, English, French and Russian – professional architectural qualifications gained in higher education institutions in Armenia are highly valued and well respected around the world.

Armenia is among the very few countries where you can get state-of-the-art medical education at only a fraction of what medical students pay at many Western universities. The academic recognition of qualifications granted by Armenia’s major medical school opens doors to practising medicine in the USA and the UK, among others.

Matenadaran, the Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and a plethora

.....
ⁱ http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/arts_of_armenia/architecture.htm

of universities enjoy rich academic resources and rare artefacts offering a comprehensive academic and scholarly experience in aspects of Armenian and Oriental history and culture. Moreover, they serve as an academic platform to study and give voice to the perspectives of a much larger group of different ethnicities in the wider Caucasus area, such as in Dagestan, Talysh and Tat. The jewel of these academic efforts is the biannual multidisciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal published by Brill Publishers in collaboration with the Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies (Yerevan): *Iran and the Caucasus*. It covers the history (ancient, medieval and modern), culture, anthropology, literature, folklore, linguistics, archaeology, politics, and economy of the region.

Traditionally, Armenia has been on the forefront of high-tech research, development, and manufacturing. In modern Armenia strong university programmes specializing in IT and related disciplines ensure development of well-educated workforce with advanced technical skills. The range of academic programmes includes research and design of computer systems and networks, integrated



circuits and microelectronic devices, development of management information and communication systems, and software engineering. Recently, the extensive cooperation between universities and the IT industry has transformed Armenia into a home of highly qualified and industry-ready specialists.

Armenia takes pride in generations of leading mathematicians and phys-

icists who have made significant contributions to science globally. Sergey Mergelyan, the renowned mathematician and a major contributor to Approximation Theory, and Garik Israelian, a contemporary astrophysicist and a leading researcher in supernova explosions and formation of stellar mass black holes, are but two names to speak for the continuous excellence of mathematics and physics programmes in Armenia.

3. Crossroads of East and West

Asia or Europe? Try googling Armenia! Whether you are a student or an adventurous tourist, you would find it quite a challenge to classify it. Global corporations, such as Sony Corporation, IBM, Microsoft, BBC, CNN, FedEx and DHL, place Armenia in Europe, while others, such as Apple and Amazon, consider Armenia in the Middle East. This chal-

lenge plays to Armenia's advantage, as you can enjoy both the Orient and the Occident on less than 30 thousand square kilometres. The western ambience of the capital city, Yerevan, gradually dissolves into the rustic simplicity and oriental hospitality of the countryside, all in less than three hours' drive away!

Armenian Higher Education Institutions

After 1990, higher education institutions in Armenia proliferated after the private sector also became a stakeholder in and a provider of

higher education. According to official data, there are now 22 state higher education institutions in Armenia, four of which are military; 33

private; 8 affiliates of foreign universities, and 5 intergovernmental.

Higher education is provided in four types of institution: university, institute, academy and conservatoire.

After joining Bologna process in 2015, three-tiered structure of higher education was introduced in Armenia. HEIs now offer Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees Five- and six-year integrated higher education programmes are also offered in medical and military studies.

Armenia's Doctoral education landscape is undergoing a smooth transformation, bridging traditions of academic excellence and the modern trends of research.

Doctoral studies enrol graduate students with at least a Master's degree

(or a five-year higher education diploma) in one of three study tracks: aspirantura, doctorantura and clinical residency. It is possible to get a Candidate of Sciences degree (an equivalent of a PhD) or Doctor of Sciences degree upon successfully defending a dissertation and passing examinations.

Armenian universities offer more Bachelor's than Master's programmes, with the exception of Yerevan State University, where Master's programmes outnumber Bachelor's. Overall, programmes offering 200 qualifications are currently provided in Armenian universities.

Finally, studies at any level of higher education can be classified in four different modes: on full-time, part-time, distance, on-line and externship basis.

Student-friendly Armenia

Travelling Back in Time to the Cradle of an Ancient Civilisation

As a cultural bridge which merges traditions of East and West, Armenia

attracts students from both eastern and western societies who equally

feel at home there. You will indeed find understanding and support from Armenian people that traditionally value learning and knowledge. In this regard, Armenia is one of the world's top-ranking countries in terms of literacy rate. While Armenian is the main language of communication, most Armenians are fluent in Russian, and the younger generation is becoming increasingly more proficient in English.

Armenia is a modern country, but with a profound respect for tradition which is reflected in the daily lives of its population. It boasts an incredibly rich cultural heritage that makes it an attractive destination for those who value wisdom, authenticity and individuality. Only recently, a joint archaeological expedition from Armenia, the US, Italy and Ireland made the sensational discovery of the world's oldest shoe (5,500 years old) and winery (6,000 years old) – in Armenia!

In the world there are over 5,000 nations, yet only about 20 have their own alphabet. Armenia is one of these, and its alphabet dates back to 405 A.D. Yerevan, founded in 782 B.C., is an older city than Rome and

possesses a wealth of historical artefacts dating from the ancient state of Urartu. The entire country of Armenia is an open-air museum of religious architecture, a delight for connoisseurs of medieval culture. Matenadaran, a unique repository of nearly 17,000 ancient and medieval manuscripts and miniatures covering a wide array of disciplines such as historiography, geography, philosophy, grammar, art history, medicine and science, offers an exceptional gateway to human knowledge and understanding. Learning traditions are crystallised in Armenia, for example the medieval universities of Gladzor and Tatev attracted scholars from the region as long ago as the 13th-15th centuries, and are exceptional monuments to Armenian national heritage. Today Tatev monastery, which in 14th and 15th centuries hosted one of the most important Armenian medieval universities, the University of Tatev, is also famous for new, unique infrastructure – the world's longest cable car ropeway, Tatev Wings.

Enjoying Warm Hospitality and Feeling Safe

When deciding to study abroad, one of the first things you want to know is the standards of living in that country and how a foreigner can fit into the social fabric. In Armenia you are sure to find safety, warm hearts, delicious food, and ancient culture! These four aces beat any other challenges you may encounter in this country. You can enjoy Armenia's late night street life with family and friends without any concerns over crime.

“Guests are sent by God!” This Armenian saying has, for millennia, shaped

Armenians' attitude to foreigners. Simply approaching someone, greeting them and introducing yourself is sufficient to warrant their offering you any possible help – Armenians are very friendly and responsive to the concerns of others. They passionately love to hear and tell stories, but at the same time know how not to invade personal space – if you make it clear that you appreciate their attention but would appreciate a little more distance, this will be respected.

You Can Find It Here!

To be a student in Armenia also means opportunities and adventures that can only be limited by your imagination! You can enjoy a great choice of styles and tastes there, from modern bars and nightclubs to oriental farmers' markets (bazaars) and luxury boutique shops in Yerevan. There are also countless museums which are either free or have student discounts; these house some of the best collections of art, science and history in the country and the en-

tire region. You can travel across the country and the region to explore a diversity of cultures and ecosystems, traditions and lifestyles, and end up with new “family” as Armenians will offer you homemade cheese and *lavash* would insist!

Route to an Armenian University

If you have already decided to start or continue your learning journey in Armenia, we recommend a road map with the following features: univer-

sity admission procedures, fees and financial aid, accommodation, visa requirements, work and residence permits, and credit transfer.

Admission Procedures

Admission procedures are simple for foreign applicants. An initial application package should be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science. The application should include the following:

- Cover letter addressed to the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia;
- Completed application form provided by the Ministry;
- Evidence of a recent health check-up (which can also be issued by an Armenian medical institution);
- Copy of a current and valid travel document/passport, or birth (baptismal) certificate;
- Four passport sized (3x4 cm) colour photographs;

- Curriculum vitae (CV) in either Armenian, English, or Russian.

For Master level studies, applicants need to provide copies of official academic records for previous degrees. To study *in aspirantura*, applicants need to submit a 20-page essay on a research topic they intend to pursue during the programme.

These documents can be emailed to the ministry, or submitted either in person or by an authorised representative of the applicant. After a review of the documents, the applicant is informed of the specific entry requirements, and has to take programme-tailored exams, including a proficiency test in the language of instruction.

More details about enrolment procedures are available at the official

website of the Ministry of Education and Science: www.edu.am.

Fees and Financial aid

Studying in Armenia can be described as best “value for money”, as in many disciplines quality education is provided at a very moderate fee. The scale of tuition fees ranges between €500-6,000.

Moreover, moderately priced higher education in Armenia could be even more attractive because of the number of scholarships available to for-

eign students. Bilateral agreements and Erasmus Mundus programmes offer either full or partial funding for international students. Fellowships and scholarships are available from major charities, such as Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The Armenian government also awards scholarships, in particular to students of Armenian descent.

Accommodation

Several universities provide students with single- or multiple-occupancy rooms in their residence halls. As a rule these are off campus, but are generally located less than 15 minutes’ commute to and from the centre of Yerevan (where all the universities are located). However, many students prefer to rent off campus, as Yerevan offers a great choice of flats at prices as low as €90 per month for one person. There is a variety of great value accommodation, from single-

occupancy rooms to shared flats, from small and simple one-bedroom flats to newly refurbished boutique studios – all of which all are within easy reach of the universities and best entertainment and attractions.



Visa Requirements, Work and Residence Permits

The process of obtaining entry visa for Armenia is very simple and clear. Easy access to the country attracts foreign students and academics.

Entry visa procedures vary from country to country. Citizens of the 28 EU member states and 26 Schengen area, as well as from the USA, Argentina and CIS countries are exempted from the requirement of obtaining a visa and can stay in Armenia for up to 180 days per year – all they need is a valid passport.

Nationals of other countries are required to obtain an entry visa. Most require the submission of an invitation letter from an Armenian representative. Nationals of China, Egypt, India and Syria can enter the country without an invitation letter.

Students who need visa are issued either single- or multiple-entry visas valid for one year. Once an international student is admitted to an Armenian university, the university applies to the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia for permission to enter.

Upon arrival, international students receive a residence permit issued by the Passport and Visa Department of the Armenian Police. This is based on the admission letter provided by the university. A temporary residence permit is granted for up to one year, and may be extended every 12 months for no longer than a year.

More details about visa requirements are available at the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.am.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

Joining the Bologna Process has been a big step towards the alignment of developments in Armenian higher education to the European Higher

Education Area objectives, frameworks and systems. Academic recognition procedures (based on Lisbon Recognition Convention), ECTS, Eu-

ropean Diploma Supplement, Quality Assurance system, and Notational Qualifications Frameworks are in place in Armenia, which made it possible for both Armenian and foreign students to use their qualifications from Armenia to another country or vice versa without losing the real value of those qualifications. They can choose to study in any university of Armenia or of another country all across the globe.

Involvement of Armenian universities in European partnership and mobility programs has facilitated

student and academic staff exchange process even further.

The National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility (ARMENIC) which functions as Armenia's qualification recognition body in the ENIC/NARIC European network plays an important role in conducting evaluation and recognition of foreign qualifications pursuant to the Lisbon Recognition Convention and other intergovernmental agreements, as well as providing information and advice about Armenian national qualifications. ■

HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS IN ARMENIA



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



19,400 students



500 international students



Armenian, Russian, English



€1,000 - €2,000



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.ysu.am



www.facebook.com/ysu.am



[www.youtube.com/user/
TheStateUniversity](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheStateUniversity)



YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Yerevan State University (YSU), according to the Webometrics ranking of world universities, is one of the leading universities in the South Caucasus. Indeed, it is the alma mater of many Armenian universities – for almost a century YSU has provided quality education and research opportunities to its graduates, ensuring their competitiveness in local and global markets.

The university offers a wide range of study programmes at all three educational levels. Its 19 departments offer 60 Bachelor's, 130 Master's and 70 Doctoral programmes, in which 19,425 students are currently enrolled. YSU offers also professional training and lifelong learning opportunities through its extension programmes and courses.

The high quality of teaching and research is ensured by 1,300 permanent teaching staff, complemented by 700 guest professors and researchers. One of the strongest aspects of YSU staff are the 23 full

YSU's 19 departments offer 60 Bachelor's, 130 Master's and 70 Doctoral academic programmes.

members and 26 members of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, which opens paths into the prestigious Armenian scientific community for YSU students. YSU is also an attractive academic environment for visiting professors – currently instructors from the USA, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Iran, and Egypt are teaching on different programmes.

The high quality of teaching and research is ensured by almost 2000 professors and researchers.

YSU and its affiliated research centres offer diverse learning and research opportunities:

- YSU is one of the world's leading centres in Armenian Studies – YSU's Institute for Armenian Studies is

an academic hub bringing together scholars from a number of disciplines, ranging from Classical Armenian, Medieval and Oriental Studies to Modern Armenian Studies. The university is also a centre of excellence for teaching and researching Egyptology, and oriental and Ottoman Studies.

- The YSU Centre for European Studies offers an interdisciplinary Master's programme and excellent research opportunities. The Centre is in a consortium with the Taras Shchevchenko National University of Kyiv, the Belarusian State University, and the University of Political and Economic European Studies (Moldova), which offers a two-year regional Master's programme on Human Rights and Democratisation. Since the programme is taught in English, it provides fantastic opportunities for student and staff exchanges, study visits, and international internships.

- The university also offers advanced research and teaching in mathematics and natural sciences focusing on both traditional and modern dimensions of research in these fields, such as theory of functions and differential games. Aca-

ademic research is conducted together with Stockholm Royal Institute and Lehman College (USA). YSU has two natural science research centres and 20 laboratories which focus on a variety of research fields.

- YSU's Centre of Semiconductor Devices and Nanotechnologies possesses exciting equipment for researchers, including gas sensors, converters, and porous- and nano-structures.

- YSU's International Centre of Advanced Studies, established in collaboration with the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna (JINR), is well renowned for its advanced research possibilities in theoretical physics, solid state physics, chemical and biological systems, the biochemistry of nitrogen-containing compounds, and the biophysics of sub-cellular structures. The Research and Modelling Laboratory of Quantum Phenomena studies quantum macroscopic phenomena of superconductivity, superfluidity and micro-pro-



Facts & Figures

- ▶ **Yerevan State University is one of the leading universities in the South Caucasus.**
- ▶ **YSU has 19 departments, which offer 60 Bachelor's, 130 Master's and 70 Doctoral programmes.**
- ▶ **Currently 19,425 students study in YSU.**
- ▶ **The tuition fee at YSU for international students ranges from EUR 1,000 to EUR 2,000.**

cesses in astrophysical objects and nanostructures using laser technology. The Laboratory of Heterocyclic Submitted Amino Acids focuses on biomimetic synthesis and pharmaceutical technologies.

YSU has kept pace with rapid new developments in science and technology, and subsequent trends of the labour market through the introduction of competitive IT programmes. Its Information Technologies Education and Research Centre offers a joint Master's degree in visual computing in conjunction with Rostok University (Germany). The Armenian-Indian Centre for Excellence

in Information and Communication Technologies offers joint research and academic exchange opportunities. YSU has expanded its presence through online education as well, specifically in sociology, human resources management, public relations and marketing, philosophy, international relations, and English. A highlight in this regard is YSU's Armenian Virtual College.

The Institute for Armenian Studies, nine research centres and 24 research laboratories ensure quality research and collaborative projects, which are frequently financed through local and international

grants. About 100 research grants have been awarded to YSU research centres and staff by the Armenian government and the international development community and institutions, such as NATO SFP, ANSEF, NFSAT-CRDF, ISTC, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation, DAAD, OSI, and Russky Mir.

In 2010-2012, YSU organised 46 national and 39 thematic conferences for students to promote their involvement in academia.

YSU ensures student involvement in research. Students' Scientific Societies promote student participation in international research projects and conferences. In 2010-2012, YSU organised 46 national and 39 thematic conferences for students to promote their involvement in academia. Currently, every fourth graduate or Doctoral student is involved in YSU research. In addition, 15 grants have been awarded to the YSU young researchers. YSU's well-equipped laboratories are open to students for experimental research in biology, physics and chemistry. In addition, YSU offers hands-on workshops and training opportunities for students and young staff at its satellite facili-

ties in Tsakhkadzor, Dilijan, Hankavan and Byurakan.

The university makes its research available to the larger academic community and the general public through a number of different publications, such as the *Physics and Mathematics* (in English), *Chemistry and Biology*, *Geology and Geography* series, and bulletins in humanities and social sciences, such as Jurisprudence, Philology, International Relations, Political Science, Armenian Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, and Economics. Over 2,000 scientific papers and 300 monographs, textbooks and manuals were published by YSU in 2012 alone, some of which through its own publishing house, a unique facility for higher educational institutions in Armenia.

Over 2,000 scientific papers and 300 monographs, textbooks and manuals were published by YSU in 2012 alone.

One of the strongest assets of the university is its library, which is also open to the public. The YSU library is one of the best-equipped and easily navigated university libraries in the region, housing over 2 million



items in its combined collections. The eight reading halls can serve up to 1,600 readers at any one time. YSU's library is a member of international library networks, including LIBER and IFLA, and offers access to various scientific databases and academic information services, such as Springer, EBSCO, Directory of Open Access Journals, Virtual Reading Hall of Dissertations of Russian State Library, and the Armenian Virtual

Science Library. Free Wi-Fi is available in all YSU buildings.

Responding to the growing trend of internationalisation of higher education, the university now cooperates with over 240 higher education institutions and research centres in more than 50 countries, including the University of California (USA), M.V. Lomonosov State University in Moscow (Russia), Bologna University (Italy),

the University of Siegen (Germany), the National Institute of Eastern Languages and Cultures (France), Montpellier University (France), the University of Antwerp (Belgium), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), the University of Warsaw (Poland), and the University of Cairo (Egypt). YSU also participates actively in European exchange and university cooperation programmes and is member of many networks and associations, such as Erasmus Mundus, the Network of CIS Universities, the International Association of Universities, the Eurasian Universities Association, and the Black Sea Universities Network.

YSU now cooperates with over 240 higher education institutions and research centres in more than 50 countries.

As a leading academic centre, the university strives to be an important player in international academic exchange, participating in the Erasmus Mundus, ALRAKIS, BACIS, IANUS, WEBB and ELECTRA projects. These initiatives ensure that students, professors and administrative staff from EU member states and Armenia have the opportunity to visit each other on a professional or academic basis.

Over a quarter of YSU staff regularly participate in international academic events and projects.

YSU is one of the main hosts of the international academic community in Armenia. For example, YSU has hosted:

- 24th Annual Conference of EURASHE on qualifications for the labour market in 2014;
- Annual meeting of the Armenian Economic Association in 2014 (jointly with two other partner universities);
- International Conference “The Middle East: Language, Literature and History” in 2012;
- International Advanced School “Frontiers in Optics and Photonics” in 2012;
- 39th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology in 2009.

The university actively cooperates with partner institutions within the framework of various initiatives of the Tempus programme, and annu-

ally supports the organisation of conferences and workshops on various themes. Staff, students and experts from partner countries extensively contribute to these events.

YSU is one of the largest hosts of the international academic community in Armenia.

YSU strongly encourages and promotes student participation in academic exchange, and warmly welcomes international students. Throughout its history, 7,600 students from 80 countries have been enrolled in different programmes at YSU. At the moment over 500 foreign students, including 50 Doctoral students, are studying at YSU. State scholarships are available to students of Armenian descent from different parts of the world, while the Erasmus Mundus programme makes YSU education available to European students. Over the last five years efforts to attract more foreign students have paid off, for example, studying Russian at YSU is a growing tendency among students from China. Students from Iran are attracted to YSU's oriental studies, psychology and sciences. Students from Armenian communities worldwide tend to enrol in Armenian Language and

History programmes. Studying at YSU is an excellent investment, and tuition fees are moderate compared with the international average. Tuition fees at YSU for international students range from €1,000-2,000, depending on the programme. Partial scholarships are offered by Armenian Diaspora charities.

Throughout its history, 7,600 students from 80 countries have been enrolled in different programmes at YSU.

The YSU International Cooperation Office (ICO) offers support to international students on admission policies, procedures, and other related issues. YSU's International Education Centre also offers preparatory courses to international students and applicants. The university offers limited accommodation in its dormitory; however, ICO supports international students to find suitable accommodation in the city.

The YSU Alumni and Career Centre serves as a bridge for graduates from education to the labour market. The centre facilitates internship programmes with leading employers in a variety of industries, such as Synopsis-Armenia, Vivacell, and Orange

Armenia, and provides students with hands-on information about career opportunities. ■



“The program offered jointly by YSU and Synopsys Armenia gives you sufficient experience for a smooth transition from theoretical knowledge to a challenging practice. You get acquainted with the best practices in the field and meet internationally acclaimed experts. You experience the advantages of a creative learning environment and teamwork. Eventually, you become more competitive in the labour market and with a right ambition, you are guaranteed a stable job both locally and internationally”.

Aram Avetisyan

*Integral Circuits Design (VLSI) Master's Programme,
Department of Radiophysics
Memory compiler engineer,
Synopsys Armenia*



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



11,000 students



200 international students



Armenian, English



€500 - €1,000



Research facilities



Erasmus+



www.armspu.am



www.facebook.com/ASPUhome



www.youtube.com/user/armenianspu



KHACHATUR ABOVYAN ARMENIAN STATE PAEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Khachatur Abovyan Armenian State Paedagogical University (ASPU) aims to train highly skilled teachers who share a set of core values that include a commitment to excellence in education, and an understanding of the strengths and needs of a diverse student population. The university takes an approach to teaching and learning that is sensitive to family, community, and the political and national contexts of education. Its approach is grounded in the study of subject matter that enables high intellectual, academic and social standards by creating equitable and successful schools and classrooms. Its goal is to prepare graduates to meet both the practical and intellectual challenges of teaching and to revitalise the profession by equipping educators with the skills for tomorrow's schools.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **ASPU offers 48 Bachelor's, 45 Master's and 7 Doctoral education programmes.**
- ▶ **About 11,000 students are enrolled in ASPU.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees range from €500-1,000, depending on the programme.**

ASPU offers 48 Bachelor's, 45 Master's and 7 Doctoral programmes. Its eleven departments and seven interdepartmental chairs enrol about 11,000 students, who study to obtain teaching qualifications in pre-school and inclusive education, humanities and social sciences, life and formal sciences, natural sciences and fine arts, culture studies, as well as a degree in education management.

Desired outcomes for graduates include an understanding of teaching as intellectual work and as a caring profession; a depth of content knowledge and a repertoire of powerful paedagogical practices. The main language of instruction is Armenian, but the Master's programme in Education Management is also offered in English; the latter is also attractive to international students. Some courses

are available online. Emphasising the importance of lifelong learning, ASPU promotes different webinars and other e-learning tools. To ensure the high quality of teaching the university has recruited renowned academics, including 14 members of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

ASPU provides internship opportunities for students in educational institutions, summer schools and various local and international organisations active in children's rights.

The university provides internship opportunities for students in educational institutions, summer schools and various local and international organisations active in children's rights. It emphasises peer education and, thus, engages Master's students in various mentoring and intern-

ship schemes which are intended for Bachelors.

Since 2011, chess has become part of the compulsory primary school curriculum. To conduct more in-depth research on the role of chess in the general education curriculum, the university opened the Centre for Educational Research in Chess in early

2015. The Centre focuses on the effectiveness of chess and tools to assess the educational progress and needs for continuous improvement of chess teaching in schools.

ASPU makes its research facilities available to students interested in advanced studies in teaching, such as the School of Armenian and World





History, History Studies and Source Criticism; the School of Logic and Philosophy of Science; the School of Studies in Arts, Culture Studies, Armenian Miniature, Theory of Armenian and Medieval Art; the School of Metaphilosophy, Logic and Proofs. There are also seven research laboratories. The Laboratory of Quantum Electronics and New Materials of Integrated Optics and the Laboratory of Nonlinear Optical, Laser and Photonic Crystals spearheads ASPU research in natural science in close cooperation with Jean Lamour Institute (Nancy, France), a laboratory for

fundamental and applied research in materials science and process, and Laboratoire Matériaux Optiques, Photonique et Systèmes (Metz, France).

ASPU library offers 4 reading halls and three computer labs in all campus buildings.

ASPU library offers 4 reading halls and three computer labs in all campus buildings. The university provides access to various e-journals and online information databases. The university publishes its research in several journals, such as *Jour-*

nal of Armenian Studies, Research Proceedings, Journal of Pedagogy and Psychology, Journal of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation Psychology, and Wisdom. Annually, staff and students publish over 100 research papers in local and international peer-reviewed academic journals.

The university collaborates with over 70 academic and research institutions all over the world, and participates in Tempus projects (ARMENQA, ARMAZEG, MATH-GEAR, ESPAQ, ASPIRE, MAHATMA). Academic exchange and mobility of students and staff is ensured through cooperation with leading universities in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, France, Finland and Russia. ASPU is also a member of several academic networks, such as the European University Association, the Association of Rectors of Paedagogical Universities in Europe, and the Francophone University Association (Agence universitaire de la Francophonie).

The university collaborates with over 70 academic and research institutions all over the world, and participates in Tempus projects.

ASPU is an active host of international academic events in Armenia; each year over 20 conferences, exhibitions, and festivals are held at the university. For example, ASPU hosted the international conference Chess at School, co-organised with the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and Chess Academy of Armenia in 2014. The ASPU Laboratory of Psychology organised the Second and Fifth South Caucasus Academic Congresses of Psychologists.

ASPU is an active host of international academic events in Armenia; each year over 20 conferences, exhibitions, and festivals are held at the university.

ASPU has an entertaining and intense student life and has its own radio channel – RadioFama, mostly produced by students and broadcast online at www.radiofama.am. Participation of students is also encouraged through quotas in government-funded research. The university partially covers expenses of students' participation in international academic events.

The university enrolls over 200 international students, mostly of Armenian descent. Tuition fees range

from €500-1,000, depending on the programme. Full and partial scholarships are available from the government, private businesses and philanthropic organisations. ASPU's International Cooperation Office offers support to international students on admission procedures, visa and

residence permits, and accommodation. Preparation courses are also available for international students. ASPU's University-Employer Cooperation Centre provides transition advice to students and graduates on career paths and market demand. ■

“ I think Armenia's experience of teaching chess in schools is a great example for the whole world”.

Magnus Carlsen



Erland Aas, Scampix, File





Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



10,000 students



150 international students



Armenian, English



€500 - €1,500



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



seua.wordpress.com



goo.gl/RTzmIE



NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

The National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA) is the largest technical higher education institution offering a broad spectrum of study programmes at all three educational levels and awarding engineering degrees in various disciplines. The university delivers a comprehensive, 21st-century learning experience to help students develop the foundational skills needed to design, build, and manage different industries, along with career skills such as problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking.

NPUA offers 29 Bachelor's and 32 Master's and Doctoral programmes in engineering and technology. A choice of specialisation at NPUA ranges from industrial, civil and environmental engineering to information and communication technologies (IT), computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM), semiconductor physics, and microelectronics. The university is a hub

for technological studies in thermal, electric and nuclear energy, the chemical, food, biological and biomedical industries, metallurgy, machinery and machine-tool industries, material science, extraction, textile and printing, applied mechanics, and electromechanics. NPUA's IT-related programmes are particularly attractive to international students.

The university is the flagship of Armenia's IT education and professional development. The key to this unique success is NPUA's extensive collaboration with leading corporations in the industry. For example, the university's Microelectronic Circuits and Systems Chair is a member of Synopsys Worldwide University, which provides industry-leading electronic design automation (EDA) tools and resources for teaching and academic research. This partnership allows students to gain hands-on experience in a state-of-the-art learning and research environment, and enables graduates to immediately innovate in the fast-paced world of semiconductor technology.

The university is the flagship of Armenia's IT education and professional development.

EDA tools and academic applications, such as different integrated circuits, instructional design models and drivers developed by the Microelectronic Circuits and Systems Chair, a member of the Synopsys Worldwide University, are currently utilised by hundreds of universities worldwide. The top list includes:

- Stanford University;
- University of California, Berkeley;
- University of Massachusetts;
- University of Rochester;
- Ohio State University;
- Syracuse University;
- Arizona State University;
- Purdue University;
- Oregon State University, USA;
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Technische Universität München in Germany;
- Vienna University of Technology (Austria);
- University of Bologna (Italy);
- University of Southampton (UK);
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece);
- Tokyo University of Technology (Japan);
- Seoul National University (South Korea);
- Shanghai University (China);
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (India).

Among the companies that use the inventory of NPUA tools and applications are:

- Intel,
- Microsoft,
- Cisco Systems,
- Hewlett-Packard,
- Samsung Electronics,
- Motorola, Nvidia,
- Infineon Technologies,
- LSI,
- Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing.

More than 10,000 students are enrolled in four campuses in Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor and Kapan. NPUA programmes are offered in Armenian and English by staff with extensive academic and practitioner experience. Every tenth staff member has experience of teaching in English, and many have taught courses abroad. The university also invests in the continuous professional development of young academic staff, providing them with opportunities to engage in curriculum development, explore alternative teaching methodologies, expand their knowledge in the respective fields of study, and gather new teaching materials and resources.

NPUA is one of the major providers of lifelong learning in IT.

NPUA is one of the major providers of lifelong learning in IT. Its Continuous Education Centre (CEC) provides resources and infrastructure to support professionals and students in order to develop a qualified workforce, maintain its expertise, and give it access to the latest tools and technologies. CEC offers over 60 distance learning certificate courses, such as “Global Navigation Satellite System”

(GNSS), jointly with Bauman Moscow State Technical University.

NPUA's Continuous Education Centre offers over 60 distance learning certificate technological courses.

NPUA has quickly adopted innovative educational trends to widen the availability of its education resources globally. Therefore, it regularly offers distance learning courses in collaboration with leading technical universities and their staff, such as:

- “Modelling and simulations of many body physics in nanoclusters and nanomaterials” with California State University in Los Angeles;
- “Electrodeposition of Platinum-Iridium Coatings and Nanowires for Neurostimulating Applications” with the University of Southern California;
- “L1 Adaptive Control and Its Transition to Practice” with the University of Illinois;
- “On The Kinetic, Kinetostatic and Dynamic Properties of Parallel Manipulators in the Presence of Singu-

larity” with the National Institute of Applied Sciences of Rennes, France.

CEC also hosts the Microsoft IT Academy, which provides industry-leading technological skills to help bridge the skills gap. With this programme, NPUA students and staff receive digital curriculum and certifications in fundamental skills critical for success in the technologically evolving world. Annually, about 500 students of NPUA and other Armenian universities graduate from the Academy and start successful careers in relevant industries. CEC offers Microsoft-certified professional development and training for civil servants and the lead mobile operator in Armenia, VivaCell-MTS. Utilising its competitive advantage as a leader in IT education, NPUA hosts the Microsoft Innovation Centre, which supports IT start-ups, provides innovative new products and services, and helps to bring those products and services to market.

NPUA's Continuous Education Centre hosts the Microsoft IT Academy,

Other excellent learning facility offered is the Cisco Networking Academy on NPUA campuses in Yerevan

and Gyumri, which offer the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) course. Here students and the wider community can gain the skills needed to build, design, and maintain computer networks and improve their career prospects, while also filling the global demand for networking professionals. The university promotes professional education and development in information security and enhances relevant knowledge and skills. It also operates the Kaspersky Learning and Certification Centre.

NPUA is a regional centre which celebrates the integration of IT into architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, media, and entertainment industries. It operates the certified Autodesk Education Centre in Armenia, which offers programmes in Autodesk flagship software.

NPUA operates the certified Autodesk Education Centre in Armenia.

All these initiatives position the university as a champion of innovation in learning and technology in the entire South Caucasus. To trigger further interdisciplinary research, the university operates an Innovation



Centre as a common space for spearheading research in IT and engineering. One of its most effective facilities is the Armenian National Engineering Laboratories (ANEL), which has centres in Yerevan and on regional campuses. In ANEL's 30 state-of-the-art laboratories, equipped with cutting edge engineering hardware and software, students are involved in hands-on, project-based learning and research. ANEL offers a unique chance to undertake LabVIEW courses certified by the National Instruments Corporation (NI), a US-based transnational producer of automated test equipment and virtual instrumentation software. Paired

with modern curricula and learning resources in electronics, mechanics and programming, these facilities boost applied research at NPUA. This serves as a unique incubation environment for Armenia's industry and research institutes, offering quick and cost-effective solutions to technical and academic challenges.

The Armenian National Engineering Laboratories is a NPUA facility, which offers 30 state-of-the-art laboratories, equipped with cutting edge engineering hardware and software.

The NPUA Innovation Centre also hosts the first regional Mobile Appli-

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **The National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA) is the largest technical higher education institution.**
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- ▶ **Tuition fees at NPUA for international students range from €500-1500, depending on the programme.**

cation Laboratory for Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia (mLab ECA), a focal point for increasing the regional competitiveness of innovative enterprises working in mobile content and app creation. Supplied with state-of-the-art

The NPUA Innovation Centre also hosts the first regional Mobile Application Laboratory for Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia.

equipment, mLab offers technical training and workshops, connecting developers and entrepreneurs with potential investors, academic experts, and public sector leaders. The Innovation Centre's big data and

cloud computing laboratories also complement NPUA's education and research facilities.

NPUA's research in other engineering disciplines is conducted in 20 specialised research laboratories through more than 30 research projects funded by the Armenian government and the international academic and development communities. These laboratories are significant contributors to applied engineering research and development. For example, the NPUA Laboratory of Automated Systems and Simulation has developed a number of algorithms underlying the Armenian National GRID Initiative. This is a grid infra-

structure which offers the flexible organisation of geographically distributed computing resources and co-ordinately shares them with collaborating virtual teams. The Laboratory of Measurements Technology has developed and introduced SEUA-80, a digital hygrometer for wood (i.e. a wood moisture meter). The Laboratory of Semiconductor Photoelectrical Devices is introducing innovative photovoltaic systems jointly with Industrial Technologies Co., a leading engineering design and product development company in Armenia with an international presence. Researchers at the Laboratory of Chemical Technologies and Polymer Nanocomposites have authored two chapters of the *Encyclopedia of Polymer Composites: Properties, Performance and Applications*, a key resource for engineers and researchers. The Laboratory of Tribology is a contributor to the *Springer Encyclopedia of Tribology*, an authoritative and comprehensive reference covering all major aspects of tribology science and engineering relevant to researchers across all engineering industries and related scientific disciplines.

NPUA research laboratories are frequent contributors to acclaimed academic journals, such as the *Journal of Polymer Science Part B (Polymer Physics)*, *Macromolecular Reaction Engineering*, *Journal of Nanomaterials*, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, *Review Journal of Chemistry*, *Natural Science*, *Journal of Friction and Wear*, *Materials Science and Engineering*, *Applied Optics*, and *NATO Science for Peace and Security Series A: Chemistry and Biology*. Overall, NPUA staff and students annually publish more than 850 articles in local and international peer-reviewed academic journals and are granted about 10 patents.

NPUA's research in other engineering disciplines is conducted in 20 specialised research laboratories through more than 30 research projects.

NPUA publishes its own peer-reviewed trilingual journal, *Proceedings of State Engineering University of Armenia (Polytechnic)* in Armenian, Russian and English. Its five series include:

- Mechanics, machine science, machine building;

- Electrical engineering, energetics;
- Metallurgy, material science, mining engineering;
- Information technologies, electronics, radio engineering;
- Chemical and environmental technologies.

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the State Engineering University of Armenia. Series of Technical Sciences, a joint publication of two leading Armenian institutions, consolidates research in natural sciences and engineering. NPUA also publishes the trilingual journal *Mathematics in University* on issues and methods of teaching mathematics in both secondary and tertiary education.

NPUA publishes its own peer-reviewed journal in Armenian, Russian and English.

The university offers excellent facilities to support vibrant academic life of its students and staff. NPUA library, with its seven reading halls and computer and multi-media labs, can accommodate over 300 users. Its three recreational residences are lo-

cated in picturesque rustic environments in the heart of the country.

Keeping up with the globalising higher education landscape, NPUA has extended its geographical reach for collaboration. The university actively partners with over 60 technical universities around the world, such as California State Polytechnic University (Cal Poly Pomona) and Grambling State University in the USA, the University of Stuttgart, Heilbronn University, Darmstadt University of Technology (TU Darmstadt), and the University of Siegen in Germany, Brunel University London and Middlesex University in the UK, and many leading technical schools in France, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Greece, China, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Romania, and Iran.

NPUA library, with its seven reading halls and computer and multi-media labs, can accommodate over 300 users.

NPUA is an active member of international academic schemes, such as Erasmus Mundus (TEMPO, BACKIS and ACTIVE) and nine Tempus projects (La MANCHE, INARM, ATHENA, ARARAT, HEN-GEAR, ICo-op, DesIRE, MathGeAr, and PICASA).

These projects are the primary triggers for the facilitation of academic exchange and mobility among NPUA students and staff – every third staff member is involved in a mobility project each year.

The university is a full member of different academic networks supporting the international exchange of researchers and engineers from a wide range of disciplines related to mechanical engineering, such as the European University Association (EUA), the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), the International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science (IFTToMM), the Technical Consortium of CIS Network University, and Russia's Association of Technical Universities.

The university is a full member of different academic networks supporting the international exchange of researchers and engineers from a wide range of disciplines.

NPUA staff contribute to such regular international academic events as European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition; World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion and the International

Conference on Concentrating Photovoltaic Systems; International Green Energy Conference; International Conference on High Power Impulse Magnetron Sputtering (HIPIMS); European Solid Mechanics Conference; Biennial Conference on Engineering Systems Design and Analysis; European Conference on NanoFilms; Global Congress on NanoEngineering for Medicine and Biology; International Conference on Multifunctional, Hybrid and Nanomaterials; International Conference on Wear of Materials; and EuroBrake International Conference.

The university is a recognised host to the global technical academic community. The International Conference on the Development of Technologies and Information Control of Environment Protection in Administrative Areas is one of the regular international academic events that brings together representatives from more than 30 countries. NPUA is a centre of excellence for the exchange of new knowledge and skills in the use of civil nuclear power technologies, as well as safety and emergency response, across the entire region and cooperates with leading universities and public institutions around



the world. In particular, NPUA works with the US Department of Energy, its National Nuclear Security Administration, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). NPUA is also the organiser of the annual International Conference on Machine-building Technologies and Automation Equipment.

NPUA is a centre of excellence for the exchange of new knowledge and skills in the use of civil nuclear power technologies, as well as safety and emergency response, across the entire region.

NPUA strongly encourages the involvement of young researchers in the academic life of the university. To hone their skills further, it organises summer schools on different disciplines ranging from engineering to innovation and entrepreneurship. To facilitate the participation of students and young staff in international academic cooperation, the university offers full or partial funding.

The university is home to over 150 foreign students from Syria, Georgia, Iran, India, Russia, Lebanon, Nepal, and Lithuania. Tuition fees at NPUA

for international students range from €500-1500, depending on the programme. Partial merit-based scholarships are offered by the university and Armenian Diaspora charities. Scholarships are available to Syrian Armenians.

NPUA strongly encourages the involvement of young researchers in the academic life of the university.

NPUA's Department for International Students (DIS) offers support to international students regarding admission policies and procedures, assistance with visa and residence permits, travel logistics, and dormitory accommodation. DIS also offers preparatory courses for foreign students.

As a focal point for graduates and alumni, NPUA's Career Centre continuously consolidates engineering job openings in the market and provides information on relevant vacancies. It regularly brings together students, alumni and employers in various job fairs that often feature more than 50 companies in the tar-

get industry. NPUA has cooperation agreements with over 100 companies, ranging from bottling companies, chemical plants, IT enterprises and commercial banks, which provides NPUA students with excellent internship opportunities.

The most successful endeavour of the university in bridging education and the market is its collaboration with Synopsys Armenia: over 55% of graduates of the joint programme are employed in this company, and about 40% of the senior engineering staff of the company is comprised of NPUA graduates. Other graduates of this joint programme have successfully built careers in other flagship companies in the industry, such as Mentor Graphics, Sonix, and National Instruments.

The Alumni Association brings together thousands of university alumni who provide external reviews of academic programmes to better match labour market demands. The Los Angeles branch of the association is particularly active in mobilising support for its alma mater. ■



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



12,000 students



30 international students



Armenian, English



€2,000



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.anau.am



goo.gl/NawLC7



www.youtube.com/user/ASAUTV



ARMENIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

The Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU) has provided professional education and conducted research in agricultural sciences since 1930. Its seven departments offer 36 Bachelor's, 39 Master's and 29 Doctoral programmes, in which over 12,000 students are currently enrolled. The Master's programmes offered by the Departments of Agronomy, Foodstuff Technologies, Hydro Melioration, Land Management and Land Cadastre, Agriculture Mechanization and Automobile Transportation, Veterinary Medicine and Sanitary Expertize, Agribusiness and Marketing, and Economics are particularly attractive to international students. ANAU also offers vocational education and training through its colleges in Yerevan and Gyumri.

The university regularly invites acclaimed foreign professors and guest speakers to teach on the different programmes. The English-language Agribusiness

and Marketing Bachelor's and Master's programmes offered by ANAU's Armenian-American Agribusiness Training Center jointly with Texas A&M University (USA) are some of the most competitive academic programmes in the region. ANAU also offers a Master's programme and international internship in agrarian management jointly with Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (Germany) in both the German and Armenian languages.

ANAU's seven departments offer 36 Bachelor's, 39 Master's and 29 Doctoral academic programmes.

ANAU is home to extensive multidisciplinary research and innovation pursued in two research institutes, four agricultural science research centres, and five laboratories. For example, the Research Institute of Agriculture Mechanisation, Electrification and Transportation has designed a highly efficient vineyard cultivation machine for large areas, and has already stirred up agribusiness interest from abroad. The Agrobiotechnology Research Centre, jointly with the Russian Agricultural Academy, provides a state-of-the-art applied research facility for biotechnology and

aeroponics, i.e. new tools for plant breeding and rapid propagation for effective and healthier crop production. The Department of Food Security and Biotechnology at the Research Institute of Foodstuff Technologies, Food Security and Biotechnology actively collaborates with research institutes in the USA, France, Japan, Canada, the UK, and Russia through 14 international research grants. The department's biotest research programme on enterobacteriaceae differentiation offers cutting-edge instruments for food diagnosis, and probiotic research in the laboratory is spearheaded in collaboration with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA). Genetic material of over 4,000 plants and their varieties, including 2,250 wild plants, are preserved in the gene biorepository of ANAU's Research Laboratory of Plants' Gene Pool and Selection. The Research Laboratory of Pesticides and Plant Protection focuses on the problems of synthesis of the derivatives of heterocycles, and explores the potential for environmentally friendly pesticides in collaboration with California Institute of Molecular Medicine (USA) and Masaryk University (Czech Republic). ANAU's

“Agrogitaspur” department provides evidence-based consultancy to farmers and agribusinesses across Armenia and the wider South Caucasus region.

Genetic material of over 4,000 plants and their varieties, including 2,250 wild plants, are preserved in the gene biorepository of ANAU's Research Laboratory.

Students have the choice to undertake their selected programmes in the three different branches of ANAU: Vanadzor, Sisian and Stepanakert

in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Inter-university cooperation also offers ANAU students the opportunity to continue their education in three leading agricultural science universities in Russia: the Russian State Agrarian University (Timiryazev Agricultural Academy in Moscow), Goryachkin State Agricultural University (in Moscow) and Kuban State Agrarian University.

ANAU's Agricultural Experiment Station is an 1,150-hectare facility which conducts valuable research driven by





real-world problems. The station is situated in Balahovit and Voskehat, not far from Yerevan. This helps researchers and students to develop and transfer agricultural technology to industry. ANAU is also a recipient of numerous research grants provided by the Armenian government and the international development community. ANAU actively promotes student involvement in agricultural

research through a number of special schemes.

The university presents its achievements in education, research and innovation to the international agricultural science community through the quarterly Bulletin of the Armenian National Agrarian University, published in English and Russian. Since 2003, ANAU has been the co-publisher of the international peer-re-

viewed journal *Annals of Agrarian Science* jointly with the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Austria), the European Soil Bureau Network (Italy), the Bureau of Soil Evaluation (Germany), the V. Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute (Russia), the Institute of Soil Science MSU-RAS (Russia), the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Azerbaijan State Agricultural University, and the Agricultural University of Georgia. Over 500 academic papers were published by ANAU researchers in 2014.

ANAU's Agricultural Experiment Station is an 1,150-hectare facility which conducts valuable research driven by real-world problems.

ANAU's library offers a unique collection of literature on agriculture science. It boasts over half a million items in the combined collections and can host over 6,500 guests in four reading halls, two computer labs and three study rooms. ANAU's library is a member of national and international library networks, which means that it can offer access to over 35 professional journals, various scientific databases, academic information services and e-prints, such as

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA), International System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS), arXiv, Directory of Open Access Journals, Virtual Reading Hall of Dissertations of Russian State Library, Armenian Virtual Science Library, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Full-Text and Image Database, Paediatric Neurology Briefs, Taylor & Francis Online, Wiley-Blackwell, VTI Agriculture and Forestry Research (Landbauforschung), and Agrarian Science (Аграрная наука). The library also hosts the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Information Centre.

ANAU's library boasts over half a million items in the combined collections and can host over 6,500 guests in four reading halls, two computer labs and three study rooms.

The university cooperates with over 55 higher education institutions and research centres, including the University of Agricultural Sciences of Sweden, the University of Kassel (Germany), the Agricultural Research Centre (Estonia), the National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF), the International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC),

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **ANAU's seven departments offer 36 Bachelor's, 39 Master's and 29 Doctoral programmes.**
- ▶ **Currently 12,000 students study in ANAU.**
- ▶ **The tuition fee at ANAU for international students is on average EUR 2,000.**
- ▶ **ANAU Career and Job Consultancy Centre facilitates internship programmes in over 200 farms and agricultural industries across Armenia and Georgia.**

the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Centre for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), and NATO.

The university cooperates with over 55 higher education institutions and research centres.

The university is actively involved in international academic exchange through Erasmus Mundus EFFORT, EMBER and ELECTRA, as well as Tempus MAPB projects. These ini-

tiatives offer extensive mobility opportunities to students and faculty members. ANAU strongly advocates for student participation in these schemes by promoting these projects through various media and networks. Over 65 ANAU students and 105 faculty staff have participated in these projects over the past three years. Specific exchange opportunities for students are available in Portugal, the UK and the USA.

ANAU hosts annual international conferences on agricultural science. Recent conferences have focused on food safety, biodiversity, organic farming and mechanised agriculture.

ANAU also organises annual student conferences, thus boosting the participation of innovative young minds in academic research. Faculty staff, students and experts from partner institutions from around the world extensively contribute to these events. In addition, ANAU is well represented at the European Conference on X-Ray Spectrometry (Italy) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) conferences, as well as in other international academic fora.

ANAU hosts annual international conferences on agricultural science.

ANAU consistently promotes student participation in academic exchange. In the last three years, over 100 students from Portugal, Iran, Syria, Iraq and Georgia have enrolled in different programmes at the university. Currently, over 30 foreign students are studying at ANAU. Special provisions exist for different groups of potential students, for example a state quota is available to students of Armenian descent worldwide; the Erasmus Mundus programme creates opportunities for European students; Master's and Doctoral programmes attract students from the Middle East in particular. Tuition fees at ANAU

for international students are, on average, €2,000. Partial scholarships are available to students.

A state quota is available to students of Armenian descent worldwide.

The International Student Office offers advice and support to international students on various issues, ranging from residence permits to certified translation. ANAU offers dormitory accommodation, as well as language courses in Armenian, English, German and French.

The ANAU Career and Job Consultancy Centre serves as a hub connecting employers and graduates. The centre facilitates internship programmes in over 200 farms and agricultural industries across Armenia and Georgia, including Armenia Wine; Bari Samaratsi (Good Samaritan), one of the largest domestic meat producers; Proshyan Brandy Factory; Golden Grape Armas vineyards and winery; Unifish Aquaculture; Ashtarak Kat, one of the leading dairy enterprises in the South Caucasus; Biga and Amster Flowers Dutch-Armenian joint venture; Arcolad, a local chocolate producer; Cheezler. The vast majority of graduates find

jobs in agribusiness, food processing, banking and public administration. The university-wide Alumni Directory helps ANAU graduates to find

fellow alumni, stay connected and establish new contacts. ■

“ I was looking for a study programme outside the EU, and I started to ask around. My professors in Portugal recommended the programme at ATC, as a few other students from my university had taken the programme earlier and were quite happy about it. So here I am, enjoying a new culture and an interesting programme. As an Erasmus Mundus student, I got all the help I could wish for. I like the academic programme and I like Yerevan. I believe the exposure to this incredibly rich culture and very friendly people is an experience that will leave a long-lasting mark on my life.

Anna Louisa da Silva Riberio Goncalves
Portugal

*Erasmus Mundus student at
ANAU Agribusiness Training Center*







Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



7,200 students



200 international students



€1,800 - €2,400



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.asue.am



goo.gl/okQHL



ARMENIAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

The Armenian State University of Economics (ASUE) has played a leading role in economics education, research, and public service in Armenia and in the South Caucasus. ASUE today is a vibrant collection of staff and students – its members continue to provide leadership to the economics profession. Its staff also continue the department’s tradition of broader public service. Thus, one of its tenured professors serves as Chair of the Department of Armenian Studies and Social Sciences at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

The university offers the most rigorous Bachelor’s programs in economics. Over 5,200 Bachelors are enrolled in economics courses in ASUE campuses in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor. ASUE is consistently recognised as an attractive graduate training institution, enrolling about 2,000 Master’s students.



ASUE's six departments offer about 50 Bachelor's and Master's programmes in management and business administration, microeconomics and macroeconomics, economic theory and labour economics, data analysis and econometric methodology, crisis management and tourism, international trade and economics of non-renewable resources, industrial organization and finance, banking

and insurance, marketing and trade, accounting and audit.

ASUE is committed to innovation in its curricula. New courses are constantly being developed to bring insights from recent research into its programmes. Recent innovations include courses on networks, environmental economics, and empirical financial economics. Studies at ASUE are more than just satisfying the

course requirements – regularly scheduled seminars offer a forum for students to learn about the latest research in their fields from invited speakers, including high-ranking officials from the public and private sectors.

New courses are constantly being developed to bring insights from recent research into its programmes.

Master's students can take advantage of numerous opportunities to hone their research skills. One such opportunity is Amberd Research Centre, which fosters close ties between students and staff. It brings together about 100 staff and students, civil servants and business managers. Amberd research supplements coursework, and its projects allow students to participate in ongoing research at the university and to meet with staff outside of class. They perform tasks such as gathering and analysing economic data, checking mathematical calculations, and gathering research materials. In addition, students develop research and writing skills through their coursework.

The university has long emphasised its commitment to both research

and teaching. ASUE staff direct a number of profession-wide research programmes. Most economics research at ASUE focuses on tangible economic problems. Thus, empirical research may identify new empirical patterns, test theoretical models of economic behaviour, or seek to evaluate the effectiveness of different policies. ASUE's theoretical research sheds new light on the behaviour and the interaction of key economic players, establishes new conceptual frameworks for studying markets and economic institutions, and leads to new statistical and analytical tools.

Business and government decision makers in Armenia frequently seek out ASUE staff for help in formulating and evaluating business decisions and public policy initiatives. The university has a long-standing relationship with the Central Bank of Armenia, where four out of five of the board members are ASUE graduates. ASUE is one of the providers of research and analysis for the Central Bank on a range of issues related to monetary policies.

ASUE currently carries out research on both microeconomics and macroeconomics. The range of current

Facts & Figures

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- ▶ **Over 5,200 students are enrolled in ASUE.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees range from €1,800-2,400 depending on the programme.**

theoretical research projects is quite wide, covering issues of national security, competitiveness, macroeconomic projections, and financial stability. Most of this research is funded by the government and involves every fifth staff member and a Master's student.

The university also actively engages in collaborative research with local and international partners. It currently conducts research with Max Planck Institute of Economics (Jena, Germany), the University of Trier (Germany), and the University of Ruse (Bulgaria).

ASUE cooperates with 30 universities and academic institutions worldwide.

ASUE cooperates with 30 universities and academic institutions

worldwide, such as the University of Economics in Bratislava (Slovakia), Poznań University of Economics (Poland), Adamson University (Philippines), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), Spiru Haret University (Romania), Kharkiv National University of Economics (Ukraine), Sumy State University (Ukraine), Tomas Bata University in Zlín (Czech Republic), Saint Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (Russia), and Rostov State University of Economics (Russia).

The university also participates in seven Tempus projects: ARARAT, HEN-GEAR, MAHATMA, ESPAQ, VERITAS, GOVERN, and PEOPLE. It has extended opportunities for mobility and academic exchange for staff and students through Erasmus Mundus partnerships (formerly the

External Cooperation Window). One out of six staff is involved in academic exchange in the EU or Southeast Asian universities, thus boosting the quality of education at ASUE.

The university publishes its research in local and international journals and in the proceedings of major academic events. Annually, ASUE staff and students submit over 500 research papers, including about 100 papers which appear in international peer-reviewed publications. The university also publishes research in

own academic journal *Messenger of the Armenian State University of Economics*. The university consolidates its academic achievements at the annual ASUE conferences. Every year it organises over 30 academic events which provide fora for the discussion of economic, financial and social public policy issues and engagement of leading experts in the country and the region.

Annually, ASUE staff and students submit over 500 research papers, including about 100 papers which appear in international peer-reviewed publications.



As the internet has enabled electronic dissemination of information to replace traditional print media, ASUE has developed a closely followed web presence. The university's website provides up-to-date information on courses and events. ASUE has also ensured a consistent online presence on various social media platforms, thus engaging the widest possible audiences and stakeholders.

Every year ASUE organises over 30 academic events.

An important development in recent years has been the growing internationalisation in demand for economics training. Currently, ASUE hosts about 200 students from the USA, Greece, Estonia, Lithuania, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Russia, Belarus, and Georgia.

Tuition fees range from €1,800-2,400 depending on the programme. Full and partial scholarships offered by the government and philanthropic organisations are available to students. The Office of External Relations offers support to international students and advice related to admission, visa and residence permits. It also provides dormitory accommo-

modation. Preparation courses on core curriculum subjects and three-month Armenian language courses are also offered to international students.

Whatever their destinations, ASUE students acquire essential skills for a wide variety of jobs, a strong foundation in economics, and an opportunity to interact with staff and fellow students in a challenging intellectual environment. ASUE graduates are well-represented in the workforces of many economics and business schools, as well as schools of public policy, across the region. Several current staff members have been recognised for their important contributions as teachers. Alumni also make major contributions to research, policy, and commerce, among whom three prime ministers of independent Armenia, several ministers, governors and members of the National Assembly are numbered. They also work in parliament and government advisory councils, as well as organisations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Central Bank of Armenia, the National Statistical Service, the Chamber of Control, and Armenian diplomatic missions across the globe. They are also found in influential positions in

the market economy, ranging from corporate executives to bank managers, economic consultants and think tank analysts. ■



“ I have applied for a graduate study in Armenia through an intergovernmental agreement between our countries. Thus, I got a full scholarship, covering the tuition fee and living expenses. I also get a medical insurance and a monthly allowance.

I like studying in Armenia and especially at ASUE. The lecturers are very helpful, and I love the way they share their knowledge. The university has a rich library with access to digital resources, which is a great help in our studies. I am also a member of an international research group within ASUE, which conducts research on the financial market in the Syrian Arab Republic before the war and nowadays.

I fully enjoy being a student here. After classes, I love getting together with friends at the university dorm where we cook our traditional meals and share stories.”

Ranim Alzain
Syria

MBA (Human Resources)



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



4,000 students



1,500 international students



Armenian, Russian, English



€1,500 - €5,000



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+ Erasmus+



www.ysmu.am



YEREVAN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) is a leading medical higher education institution in Eastern Europe recommended by the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Directory of Medical Schools. The university offers initial medical training through entry-level education, followed by Doctoral internship and additional training through residency and fellowship.

YSMU's three major departments offer nine different programmes in general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, public health and military medicine, with the opportunity to further specialise in 86 medical professions in Doctoral studies. Over 4,000 students are enrolled in these programs offered in the Armenian, English and Russian languages. The programmes are taught by internationally recognised and award-winning faculty committed to developing the

next generation of doctors and medical scientists. YSMU particularly focuses on sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and skills of continuously advancing medical science and technology – it has over 220 faculty with international teaching experience and regularly engages renowned practitioners and top names in the profession from Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, the USA, Canada, Australia, Russia, and Iran.

YSMU is a leading medical higher education institution in Eastern Europe recommended by the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Directory of Medical Schools

YSMU keeps its finger on the pulse of advanced medical knowledge through extensive cooperation with numerous leading medical schools and clinics across the globe. The university, its chairs and lead practitioners are valuable partners in research and education for centres of medical science and practice in Europe, the USA and Canada. Its traditional partners remain medical schools in Russia and the CIS region; indeed, YSMU continues to perfect the practice of and develop new academic programmes with the prestigious cohorts of Moscow- and St.

Petersburg-based centres of medical science. The university works extensively with the World Health Organization (WHO), the global champion in promoting international public health. In particular, YSMU aligns its academic programmes with WHO's recommendations on developing human resources for health, and draws on the virtual learning assets of the Health Sciences Online (HSO) platform.

Through organic integration with the global medical science community YSMU has become a genuine gateway to the modernisation of medical practice, knowledge and technologies in Armenia. Thus, its extensive cooperation with British, American and Russian surgical clinics has significantly boosted the practice of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) in Armenia. Close collaboration with Belgian dental clinics has advanced prosthodontics and osseointegration. A new chair, the YSMU Chair of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine, was established through cooperation between the Boston University School of Medicine, the St. Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center and the Armenian National Institute of Health, which offers pro-



grammes in emergency medicine and training courses for healthcare professionals, paramedics and other relevant practitioners. This partnership has been extended further to include the University of Massachusetts' Medical School (UMAS) and the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), aimed at advancing successful nursing practices and strategies in Armenia. These efforts bore fruit in the introduction of the

American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) magnet recognition programme for quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice.

The partnership with the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA), the most prominent community of anaesthesiologists in Europe and the world, endorsed YSMU as a regional centre for delivering internationally

acclaimed courses in anaesthesiology with the Committee for European Education in Anaesthesiology (CEEAA), as well as for conducting the European Diploma in Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (EDAIC). EDAIC is a supranational, a multilingual, end-of-training, two-part examination in anaesthesiology covering the relevant basic sciences and clinical subjects appropriate for a specialist anaesthesiologist.

YSMU's extensive partnerships allow its students to pursue short- and long-term internships in a number of leading medical institutions.

A local partnership between YSMU and the American University of Armenia allows experienced health professionals and relevant practitioners to engage in transformational education and training anchored on population-based approaches to health and delivery of public health services by offering a joint MD/MPH dual degree programme. Moreover, YSMU's extensive partnerships allow its students to pursue short- and long-term internships in a number of leading medical institutions worldwide through exchange schemes. These schemes are offered by the

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), and the International Association of Dental Students (IADS).

To support academic excellence, YSMU is actively involved in various international consortia and programmes which enable partners to enhance their services, to make programmes innovative, to modernise governance, and to allow for student and staff exchange. YSMU is a committed reformer and is involved in EU-supported Tempus projects (MEDGEN, VERITAS, GOVERN, ALIGN, DIUSAS, PICQA, MPPHSS, "Development of e-learning and distance learning courses and assessment in Biomedical Sciences in the Southern Caucasus"), Erasmus Mundus (MEDEA, ALRAKIS), and the Swedish Linnaeus-Palme exchange programme. One of the innovative learning initiatives combining IT technologies and conventional teaching methods is the MSc programme in Medical Molecular Biology set up by the University of Westminster (UK) and offered in English by YSMU.

Qualifications awarded by YSMU are recognised by various national authorities and independent organisations which set the standards that doctors need to follow and decide which doctors are qualified to work in their countries, such as the Medical Council of India and the UK General Medical Council. Such academic recognition makes physicians with an MD degree from YSMU eligible to take the multi-part professional United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), and further get permission to practise medicine in the USA. Similarly, to demonstrate their skills and knowledge to practise medicine in the UK, YSMU medical graduates can take the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB).

Qualifications awarded by YSMU are recognised by various national authorities and independent organisations

The university is also home to advanced research in medical science. The YMSU Research Centre is the university's key facility providing technical and organisational support to research-orientated staff and students. It assists the introduction of modern experimental and clinical re-

search methods and technologies at the university. The research laboratories of the centre focus on morphology, immunology, biochemistry and biophysics, environmental hygiene and toxicology, engineering design, and simulation. In addition, there are specialised laboratories at each chair. Ultimately, it leads clinical research in its inpatient and outpatient facilities. YSMU is among the top three recipients of state funding for research into communicative and non-communicative diseases, public health and reproductive health. The university highly encourages student participation in these research activities; in the third year of their studies students are invited to join in YMSU research. Moreover, the participation of young researchers and students is an eligibility criterion to receive state funding for YMSU research.

YSMU is among the top three recipients of state funding for research into communicative and non-communicative diseases, public health and reproductive health.

Excellence in teaching, research and medical practice at YMSU is ensured by an extensive network of well-equipped clinical facilities. The core of YMSU medical facilities are

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- ▶ **YSMU library has a collection of over half a million items multilingual professional literature.**
- ▶ **Every third student at YSMU is an international student.**

hospitals and outpatient clinics in the Heratsi and Muratsan medical centres, including First University Hospital, 1st and 4th Children's Hospitals, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th University Dental Clinics, and the Marie-Nubar Ophthalmologic Clinic. YSMU is a unique medical school providing opportunities for medicine in practice in 27 hospitals, including Grigor Lousavorich Medical Centre, Izmirlian Medical Centre, Nairi Medical Centre, Nork Republican Infectious Clinical Hospital, Malayan's Eye Centre, Sourb Astvatsamayr Medical Centre, Yolyan Haematology Centre,

Armenicum Clinical Centre, Fanarjyan National Oncological Centre, Maternal and Child Health Centre, Outpatient Clinic at Grigor Narekatsi Medical Centre, Armenia Republican Medical Centre, Mikaelyan Institute of Surgery, and the Artmed, Malatia, Shengavit, Erebouni and Kanaker-Zeytun medical centres.

Opened in 2013, the YSMU Medical Simulation Centre is a state-of-the-art medical training facility that incorporates various types of simulation. It offers clinical training with an array of simulation modalities in an

interactive learning environment. Current and future healthcare professionals “practise on plastic” – they hone their skills, acquire advanced techniques and learn valuable social-ly interactive tools for delivering important news to patients. Multiple types of virtual reality devices and mid-to-high fidelity manikin-based patient simulators are used to teach procedures. Computer-based simulation tools are also commonly employed as part of various teaching activities in the centre. Working synergistically with other educational tools in YSMU curricula, the Medical Simulation Centre is fundamental to the technologically enhanced collaborative and experiential learning model. The centre continues YSMU’s long tradition of excellence as a national model for an atmosphere that fosters collaborative efforts in education, research and innovation.

The YSMU Medical Simulation Centre is a state-of-the-art medical training facility that incorporates various types of simulation.

The research and innovation in medical science initiated by YSMU is widely shared with and utilised by the local and international medical community through more than 30

research papers in peer-reviewed medical journals annually and YSMU journals: the multilingual *The New Armenian Medical Journal* and *Medicine, Science and Education*. *The New Armenian Medical Journal* ensures peer review by involving leading representatives from the medical communities of the USA, Italy, Russia, Greece, and Georgia.

The research and innovation in medical science initiated by YSMU is widely shared with the local and international medical community.

YSMU library has a collection of over half a million items multilingual professional literature and offers areas for self-study and for workshops. The library is also a unique repository of ancient and medieval medical literature.

YSMU is the largest host of the international life science community in Armenia. Every year, YSMU brings together leading medical practitioners and academics to discuss achievements in various fields of medical science, such as gynaecology and obstetrics, dentistry, radiology, neuroprosthetics, family medicine and public health, prevention, diag-

nosis, the treatment of cardio-vascular and respiratory diseases, cancers, and sexual disorders. YSMU encourages students and young researchers to refine their knowledge and skills in its summer schools and offers partial funding for their participation in relevant international conferences and fora.

YSMU is the largest host of the international life science community in Armenia.

The university is a proud home to the largest international student community in the country and the South Caucasus region: every third student at YSMU is an international student! The university is one of the most popular destinations for students from India, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Georgia. In recent years YSMU has also attracted a number of students from the USA, Canada, Germany, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Mauritius, the Maldives, Turkmenistan, and many others. A state quota is available to students of Armenian descent worldwide, while the Erasmus Mundus programme and bilateral agreements make YSMU education available to international students. YSMU

education is a competitive investment in medical education and career at a reasonable cost. The tuition fee at YSMU for international students ranges from €1,500-5,000, depending on the programme. Partial scholarships are available to students of Armenian descent from Georgia and Syria. Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) provides additional assistance to Syrian Armenians. Financial assistance is also offered by various Armenian Diaspora charities.

The university is a proud home to the largest international student community in the country and the South Caucasus region.

The Department of International Student Education (DISE) is the gateway to YSMU for international students. DISE offers assistance on visa and residence permits and arrival logistics. It also offers support to international students on admission policies and procedures. Preparatory courses are available to international students. The university offers accommodation in its fully-fledged dormitory not far from the main campus. The annual rate for a room that accommodates up to three people with three single beds is ap-

proximately €1,400. In addition to the usual amenities, the dormitory provides free breakfast and Wi-Fi.

Partial scholarships are available to students of Armenian descent from Georgia and Syria.

YSMU International Students' Alumni brings together graduates worldwide. In California (USA) alone, more than 500 YSMU graduates are involved in medical practice. In general, more than 95% of YSMU graduates successfully pave their professional way to a medical career.



“ I firmly believe that undergraduate education I received from YSMU, laid the foundation for my future professional achievements. I was an international student from India during early to late 90s. I fondly remember the utmost care taken by my teachers and the academic administration to guide us during our studies, and this not only helped me to become a successful doctor but also a well-balanced person.

YSMU has prepared me not only for the professional, but also for the personal challenges I would face in the future.

Dr. Rajeev B Kolluri

Class of 2000, Yerevan State Medical University

General practitioner, Coventry, UK

Member of Royal College of General Practitioners, UK

Teacher in good standing, Warwick Medical School, UK

YSMU is well represented through collaboration with and membership in cutting-edge medical communities, such as

- the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA),
- the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS), the International Association of Pancreatology (IAP),
- the European Society of Surgery (ESS), the European Surgical Association (ESA),
- the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (ESPO), the European Rhinologic Society (ERS),
- the Association Nationale des ORL en Formation (Anof),
- the European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology,
- the Head and Neck Surgery (CEORL-HNS),
- the World Psychiatric Association (WPA),
- the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI),
- the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the European Academy of Neurology (EAN),
- the European Neurological Society (ENS),
- the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA),
- the Committee for European Education in Anaesthesiology (CEEAA),
- the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiology (WFSA),
- the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS),
- the International Society for Pathophysiology (ISP),
- the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC),
- the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG),
- Cystic Fibrosis Worldwide (CFW),
- the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS),
- the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA),
- the British Association of Clinical Anatomists (BACA),
- the International Association of Universities (IAU),
- the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME),
- the Association of Medical Education in Europe (AMEE),
- the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA),
- the International Federation of Dental Students Association (IFDSA),
- the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF),
- the European Medical Students Association (EMSA),
- Global Universities in Distance Education (GUIDE Association),
- and the Association of Dental Education in Europe (ADEE).

Europe:

- Greifswald Medical School (Germany),
- Innsbruck Medical University (Austria),
- Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic),
- San Raffaele Hospital (Milan, Italy), Uppsala Centre for STD Research at Uppsala University (Sweden),
- University Hospital Zurich and its Perinatal Centre (Switzerland),
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Maternal and Child Health (Trieste, Italy),
- Imperial College London (UK),
- University Medical Centre Mainz (Germany),
- Vienna Open Medical Institute and Vienna Hospital Association (Austria),
- Jönköping University's School of Health Sciences,
- French Institute of Health and Medical Research (Paris),
- Curie Institute (Paris, France),
- Armand Trousseau Hospital (Paris, France),
- Necker Hospital-Enfants Malades (Paris, France),
- Institute of Myology (Paris, France),
- Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital (Paris, France),
- Danish Cancer Society Research

- Centre (Copenhagen, Denmark),
- University of Jena (Germany),
- University of Bologna (Italy),
- University of Tartu (Estonia),
- Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (Nicosia, Cyprus),
- Charité-University Medicine Berlin's Institute of Experimental Pediatric Endocrinology (Germany),
- University of Paris (France),
- Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden),
- School of Pharmacy at University of Camerino (Italy),
- Centre hospitalier de Fontainebleau (Paris, France),
- Porrentruy Hospital (Switzerland),
- Antwerp University Hospital (Belgium),
- Leibniz Universität Hannover (Germany),
- Heidelberg University Hospital (Germany),
- University Medical Centre Mannheim (Germany),
- Italian National Centre for Rare Diseases (Rome, Italy),
- Royal Brompton Hospital (UK),
- Porterbrook Clinic (Sheffield, UK),
- Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany),
- Memmingen Hospital (Germany),
- Hôpital Saint-Louis (Paris, France),
- Hôpital Cochin (Paris, France),
- Linz General Hospital (Austria),
- Hospital St.-Maartens (Nijmegen, Netherlands),
- Tivoli University Hospital (La Louvière, Belgium),
- Inselspital-University Hospital of Bern (Switzerland),
- Salzburg General Hospital (Austria),
- OLV Hospital Aalst (Belgium),
- University of the Mediterranean (Marseille, France),
- Claude Bernard Lyon I University (France),
- Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany),
- University of Murcia (Spain),
- University of Patras (Greece),
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece),
- University of Athens (Greece),
- Riga Stradins University (Latvia),
- Université René Descartes Paris 5 (France),
- L'Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium),
- University of Lübeck (Germany),
- Research Centre Borstel – Leibniz Centre for Medicine and Biosciences (Germany),
- University of Belgrade (Serbia).

North America:

- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson Ultrasound Radiology and Education Institute (Philadelphia, PA),
- University of Washington School of Medicine (Seattle, WA),
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, GA),
- Boston University School of Medicine (Boston, MA),
- University of Massachusetts Medical School (Worcester, MA),
- The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center (Los Angeles, CA),
- Doheny Eye Institute (Los Angeles, CA),
- Medical School of the University of California, San Francisco (San Francisco, CA),
- American International Health Alliance (Washington, DC),
- Duke University Hospital (Durham, NC),
- Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA),
- Georgia Neurosurgical Institute (Macon),
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University (New York, NY),
- Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA),
- Baltimore Washington Medical Center (MD),
- New York Medical College (NY),
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (Los Angeles, CA),
- Yale University School of Medicine (New Haven, CT),
- University of Kansas Medical Center (Kansas City, KS),
- Lahey Clinic Medical Center (Burlington, MA),
- Université de Montréal (Canada),
- Dalhousie University (Halifax, Canada).

Russia, Moscow:

- Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University and its Institute of Cerebrovascular Pathology and Stroke,
- Russian Stroke Centre,
- Institute for Medicine of Peoples' Friendship University of Russia,
- State Scientific Centre of Dermatology and Cosmetology,
- Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University and its Clinic of Ear,
- Nose and Throat, Moscow
- State University of Medicine and Dentistry,
- Moscow Centre for Manual Therapy,
- Petrovsky National Research Centre of Surgery,
- Scientific Research Institute of Nutrition,
- Federal Clinic Research Center of Otorhinolaryngology of Russia, Central Clinical Hospital of the Presidential Administration of Russia,
- Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry,
- State Research Institute of Eye Diseases of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences,
- National Research Center for Hematology,
- Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology,
- Endocrinology Research Centre,
- Central Research Institute of Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery,
- Russian Medical Academy for Post-graduate Education,
- Martinovsky Institute of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine,
- Zakusov Research Institute of Pharmacology,
- Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology,
- Scientific Centre of Children Health,
- Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute,
- Research Institute of Human Morphology,
- Russian Cystic Fibrosis Centre,
- Moscow Metropolitan Psycho-endocrinology Center,
- Priorov Research Institute of Trauma Surgery and Orthopedics,
- Institute of General Pathology and Pathological Physiology.

St. Petersburg:

- Mechnikov St. Petersburg State Medical Academy,
- Mechnikov North-West State Medical University,
- Kirov Military Medical Academy,
- Saint Petersburg State Paediatric Medical University,
- St. Petersburg Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies.
- As well as with Irkutsk State Medical University,
- Pavlov First Saint Petersburg State Medical University and its University Clinic,
- Rostov State Medical University,
- Tver State Medical Academy,
- Samara State Medical University.
- Partnerships in its immediate neighbourhood include Vitebsk State Medical University (Belarus),
- Kolomiychenko Otolaryngology Institute (Kiev, Ukraine),
- Kharkiv National Medical University (Ukraine),
- Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (Kiev, Ukraine),
- National University of Pharmacy (Kharkov, Ukraine),
- Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology (Kiev, Ukraine),
- Akhunbaev Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan),
- Dermatology and Venereology Research Institute (Tbilisi, Georgia),
- Research Institute for Mother and Child Health Care (Chisinau, Moldova),
- Sarajishvili Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Institute (Tbilisi, Georgia),
- Cairo University School of Medicine, University of Alexandria (Egypt). ■





Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



3,500 students



300 international students



Armenian, Russian, English, French



€700 - €1,800



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.ysuac.am



goo.gl/1142Lp



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIA

In the realm of Armenian art, architecture takes pride of place. It was perhaps the first of the arts to be seriously and formally studied in Armenia. To this day, Armenian architecture receives more scholarly attention than all of the other arts combined.

Today, the proud heir of this intellectual tradition is the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA), the home to professional education, research and practice in architecture. NUACA effectively combines learning and practice, creating a unique environment in which there is a fusion of knowledge and skills, drive and experience, passion and resources.

Its four Schools of Architecture, Design, Construction and Management, and Technology offer study programmes at all three educational levels. More than

3500 students are enrolled in 25 Bachelor's, 24 Master's and 8 Doctoral programmes. The university also offers professional development programmes to architectural firms and individuals.

School of Architecture offers its programmes in the Armenian, English, Russian and French languages; programmes in the School of Construction are available in English, Russian and Armenian. All other programmes are available in Armenian and Russian. The availability of education in different languages attracts international students to the schools' programmes.

The availability of education in different languages attracts international students to the schools' programmes.

NUACA and the Polytechnic University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano) offer one- and two-year joint Master's programmes. The university and the Lyon National School of Architecture (École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Lyon) offer a joint Doctoral programme. Generally, the qualifications awarded by the university are widely recognised across the world. Thus, NUACA's

Graduate Diploma in Architecture is officially recognised by the French authorities, granting access to the labour market for graduates. The quality of knowledge and skills acquired at the university is proven by numerous awards won by NUACA's graduates' projects at various international architectural competitions.

NUACA's Graduate Diploma in Architecture is officially recognised by the French authorities, granting access to the labour market for graduates.

Research is pivotal in the creative development of NUACA: staff and students share and exchange ideas, knowledge and interests. The highlights of the NUACA research portfolio include the maintenance and development of water systems, and high-precision monitoring of displacements of the crust using terrestrial laser scanning technology. NUACA, jointly with the Municipality of Thessaloniki (Greece), Karadeniz Technical University (Turkey) and the Union of Science and Energetics (Georgia) works on problems related to integrated coastal monitoring of the environment in sea ports, a project funded by the EU.



The university strongly encourages the participation of young researchers and students in academic projects focusing on preservation, restoration and reinforcement of architectural monuments, ventilation, and dam safety. Every 10th team member engaged in NUACA research projects is a student.

Eighteen fully-fledged laboratories promote hands-on and experiential

learning. These laboratories are the nerve centre of NUACA's educational programmes. It is here that study and research projects take shape, and that students, teachers and researchers meet to conduct experiments and tests. Specialised facilities support work in science and engineering, including conservation and restoration, water systems and water resource management, engineering geodesy, geocology and biosafety,

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- ▶ **The university hosts over 300 international students.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees range from €700-1,800 for different programmes and levels.**

information technologies, railway, bridge and tunnels engineering, construction technologies, materials, structures and machines, heating, gas transmission, ventilation and air conditioning, energy efficiency, chemical materials and silicates, and the strength of materials.

Eighteen fully-fledged laboratories promote hands-on and experiential learning.

The research results of staff and students are published in over 400 academic articles annually. The university publishes its own academic journal NUACA Bulletin. Abstracts from the bulletin are reprinted in the *Journal of Construction and Architecture* of Russian Research Institute of the Problems of Scientific and

Technological Progress and Information in Construction (VNIINTPI).

NUACA offers study facilities in its general and specialised libraries, such as the library of water science and technology and a well-equipped architecture workshop, as well as a library for studies in engineering and technology with three reading halls, two computer rooms, and a multimedia lab.

NUACA publishes its own academic journal NUACA Bulletin.

One of the strongest assets of the university is its international partnerships, based on joint projects involving students and staff. According to the French Agency for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education, the

university is strongly committed to fully integrating into the European area of higher education.ⁱ The geography of NUACA partnerships is large – the university has cooperation agreements with different universities in France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, China, Iraq and Iran. It partners with the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Strasbourg, the École des Ponts ParisTech (National School of Bridges and Roads), KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, and many other universities.

NUACA offers study library, well-equipped architecture workshop, library for studies in engineering and technology with 3 reading halls.

NUACA is an active stakeholder in urban development through cooperation with cities and communities across the country. It brings new experiences as a result of collaboration with the Swiss Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio. To tackle

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ⁱ Rapport d'Évaluation de l'Université Nationale d'Architecture et de Construction d'Arménie (UNACA), <http://goo.gl/upQ3lZ>.

real-world issues further, the university is cooperating with the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation (Italy).

The university is a member of academic and professional associations and networks in advanced architecture and construction studies, such as the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), the Network of Architecture Schools of France and Central and Eastern Europe (REA), Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), the Association of Energy Consumers and Energy Producers in Norway (Norsk Energi), the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), the International Academy of Engineering, the International Association of Construction Schools, and the Association of Architecture and Construction Schools of CIS Countries.

NUACA staff and students are active contributors to different regular international academic events and exchange programmes. The university successfully contributes to the work

of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

About 200 students and staff are involved in different academic exchange and mobility programmes every year.

The university participates in six Tempus projects and Erasmus Mundus ALRAKIS with partner universities in Armenia, EU member states and Eastern Partnership countries. About 200 students and staff are involved in different academic exchange and mobility programmes every year.

NUACA has galvanised one of the key academic events in the profession – the International Conference on Contemporary Problems of Architecture and Construction – providing a genuine forum for the exchange of academic perspectives. Since 2008, the university has organised this annual conference jointly with the VSB-Technical University of Ostrava (Czech Republic), Czestochowa University of Technology (Poland), Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (China), St. Petersburg State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering (Russia), and the University of Florence (Italy).

The conference proceedings appear in *Scopus*, the world's largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.

The university hosts over 300 international students. Tuition fees range from €700-1,800 for different programmes and levels. Merit-based full and partial scholarships are available to international students from the university, the private sector, the government, and charities, such as the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR). Bilateral agreements between Armenian and foreign governments and universities also make scholarships available to international students. Financial aid is also offered to students from Syria.

Merit-based full and partial scholarships are available to international students from the university, the private sector, the government, and charities.

NUACA's Department for International Relations and its Office of International Students offer support to foreign students and consultancy related to admission and academic affairs, and visa and residence permits, as well as dormitory or off-campus

accommodation. The university also offers a one-year free preparation programme and language courses to international students.

The university offers internships in leading businesses in the industry in Armenia and abroad. Students also have the opportunity to undertake internships in partner universities in France, China, Russia, Italy, Poland,

Sweden, Portugal and the Czech Republic.

NUACA's Career Centre and Alumni Association, with its national and international branches, are continuously involved in improving the university's academic programmes and governance. Major employers in Armenia are represented on the academic board of the university, as well as examination committees. ■



“When thinking of where I should do my Master's, in the EU or outside of it, I finally opted for the latter. Thus, I selected two universities in Istanbul and NUACA in Armenia. Eventually, I chose Armenia, since I was really keen on exploring religious architecture, and Armenia is an excellent venue for such studies.

Now I really enjoy my studies and the country. I get all the support one can hope for. Whenever we need any support or advice, we can rely on NUACA staff. The whole programme is in English, but if the lecturer knows French, they would often speak in French to make things easy for us. And the best thing is that we can easily transfer credits earned here back to my university in Lyon.

Overall, I enjoy my time here. I like people the best in the Armenia, their friendliness and responsiveness. I love the nature and the light in this country. “

Casimir Chauvin

France

Exchange student at MA Urban Planning



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



3,200 students



15 international students



Armenian, Russian, English



€500 - €800



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+ Erasmus+



www.gspi.am



GYUMRI STATE PAEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE

Gyumri State Paedagogical Institute (GSPI) is the alma mater of many talents of Armenia's Shirak province. Its six departments offer 59 Bachelor's and 21 Master's programmes. GSPI awards teaching degrees in formal, physical, social and life sciences, humanities, physical education, and military training.

The main language of instruction is Armenian, but certain programmes in foreign languages – English, French, German, French and Russian – are also available. The institute offers computer rooms, science labs, workshops and sports facilities, as well as a library with access to Springer. GSPI currently enrolls over 3,200 students at all educational levels.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **Its six departments offer 59 Bachelor's and 21 Master's programmes. GSPI awards teaching degrees in formal, physical, social and life sciences, humanities, physical education, and military training.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees range from €500-800.**

The institute is a partner in Tempus projects (ARARAT, HEN-GEAR, Su-To-Ma, ARMENQA, and PICQA) and the Erasmus Mundus INFINITY programme. GSPI staff and students actively participate in the exchange schemes offered by IREX and DAAD. The institute also encourages and supports student participation in the International Mathematics Competition for University Students (IMC).

GSPI collaborates with many European universities, including the University of Lisbon, the Technical University of Ostrava, the Estonian University of Life Sciences, the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, the University of Nova Gorica, the University of Alicante, Universität Koblenz-Landau, Technische Universität München, Rezeknes Augstskola, the Institute of Technology

in Tralee, Worms University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam University of Applied Science, Universidad de Huelva, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Universidade do Minho, and Universitet Marii Currie-Sklodowskiej

GSPI also works with higher education institutions in the CIS area, such as Belarusian State Technological University, the State Agrarian University of Moldova, the Technical University of Moldova, Donetsk National Technical University, Beketov National University of Urban Economy, Kharkov National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Lviv Polytechnic. GSPI has developed special partnerships with Georgian universities, including Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Rustaveli State University, Ilia State



University, the Agricultural University of Georgia, the Technical University of Georgia, Kutaisi University of Law and Economics, and Javakhsishvili Tbilisi State University.

GSPI is involved with international associations and organizations to expand student and staff access to educational resources, such as the European Centre of Studies and Initiatives, the Information Systems Management Institute, the World University Service – Austrian Committee, CHE Consult GmbH, the Transboundary Joint Secretariat for Nature Conser-

vation, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus, Centre International d'Etudes Pedagogiques, and Quality Assurance of Netherlands Universities.

GSPI consolidates its research in its own publication “GSPI Proceedings”.

Staff and students publish research in national and international journals; annually over 200 articles are submitted for publication by GSPI researchers. The institute also consolidates its research in its own publication *GSPI Proceedings*.

There are 15 international students studying at GSPI currently. Tuition fees range from €500-800, and financial aid is offered by the government, private businesses, and charities. GSPI's External Relations Office provides consultancy related to admission and academic life in general. The institute also offers dormitory accommodation and language courses to international students.

The GSPI Career Centre brings together staff, students, graduates, alumni and employers. The institute offers internships in schools, as well as other relevant organisations. The vast majority of graduates have successfully built careers in their chosen specialisations. ■





Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



3,000 students



80 international students



€1,000



Armenian, Russian, English



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.brusov.am



goo.gl/Z7U4Hk



[www.youtube.com/user/
LinguisticUniversity](https://www.youtube.com/user/LinguisticUniversity)



YEREVAN BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Science (Brusov University) is home to one of the oldest and distinguished linguistics programmes in the South Caucasus. The university is widely known for its highly engaged students and excellent teaching. Studying a language degree at Brusov is a challenging and enjoyable experience. As well as acquiring fluency in the spoken and written forms of a language, students are also introduced to global thought and literature. They can choose from an unusually wide range of language combinations or can opt to study a language with another subject, such as political science, journalism, tourism, psychology, or translation studies. The university strives to provide high-quality teaching informed by current research. It fosters a broad and integrated approach to the study of languages and linguistics.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **Brusov University is home to one of the oldest and distinguished linguistics programmes in the South Caucasus.**
- ▶ **Brusov's three departments offer 25 Bachelor's and 25 Master's programmes.**
- ▶ **The university is home to about 3,000 students and over 400 academic staff.**
- ▶ **Tuition fee is about €1,000.**

The university offers a genuine environment where students, who care about being precise in use of languages, really enjoy rigorous and intensive approach to advancing their language skills. Literary study at Brusov offers an opportunity to investigate some of the most interesting products of human imagination and thought.

The university is home to about 3,000 students and over 400 academic staff, constituting a thriving teaching and research community. Brusov's staff include many renowned experts in their respective fields. It also attracts visiting staff; currently, about 20 faculty members

from abroad are present at the university. It also engages many volunteers through the European Voluntary Service, which extends opportunities to perfect language proficiency skills.

Brusov's staff include many renowned experts in their respective fields.

The range of languages studied is diverse, including Russian, English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Modern Greek, Romanian, and Bulgarian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, Farsi, Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, and Georgian.

Courses are offered both at the Bachelor's and Master's level. The breadth of the university's focus is also reflected in its Doctoral research. Brusov's three departments offer 25 Bachelor's and 25 Master's and Doctoral programmes on phonological, grammatical, and semantic structure, which expose students to descriptive, experimental, and historical approaches to the study of language. The university has strengths in many linguistics areas reflected in the research interests of its staff. Those include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, and comparative and historical linguistics. Brusov is also home to Armenian Studies and language teaching methodologies.

Brusov is home for Armenian studies and language-teaching methodologies.

These programmes specifically focus on literature, which gives students an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through language learning, and leads into areas such as gender issues, popular culture, aesthetics, ethics, history, philosophy, and politics.

One of its most notable Master's programmes is the joint "Langue, Littérature et Civilisation Françaises", introduced with Université Paris IV Sorbonne. It also offers similar programmes in the methodology of teaching French and modern education technologies, translation, and project management. The language of instruction in these programmes is French.

Brusov continues the tradition of rigorous studies in language policy and is an exciting and fulfilling venue to carry out linguistic research. The university actively encourages the participation of students in its research.

It hosts academic events on public policies related to foreign languages, teaching and multilingualism. Thus, Brusov co-organises international conferences on teaching foreign languages and literature, such as the 4th International Conference of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature and the 5th International Conference on the Use of Modern Technologies in Teaching French.

The university offers a convenient meeting place for staff, students and research associates interested in the

nature of language: it has several laboratories dedicated to teaching, the investigation of phonological typology, and the art of translation. Its research library contains the largest specialist collection in this field in Armenia, and is the main lending library for students. It also hosts special collections, such as the Austrian and Swiss libraries, and offers access to EBSCOhost, SpringerLink, Sage, jSTORE, DOAJ, and other e-libraries and information databases.

Brusov has several laboratories dedicated to teaching, the investigation of phonological typology, and the art of translation.

The university publishes its research in two specialised volumes: *Brusov Bulletin on Philology*, and *Pedagogy and Social Sciences*. Brusov staff and students publish about 200 papers in local and international academic journals every year.

Brusov staff and students publish about 200 papers in local and international academic journals every year.

Brusov is an active partner in the Tempus VERITS, GOVERN, ARMENQA and SSRULLI projects, and coordinates the ALIGN project.

In an effort to internationalise its education, the university cooperates with many academic centres of excellence worldwide:

- Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany),
- the University of Siegen (Germany),
- Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany),
- Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium),
- Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania),
- Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg (Switzerland),
- the University of Perugia (Italy),
- the University of Verona (Italy),
- Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (Romania),
- Moldova State University, (Moldova),
- Kyiv National Linguistic University (Ukraine),
- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia),
- Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (Iran),
- Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea),
- Seoul National University (South Korea),
- Tallinn University (Estonia),
- the University of Vienna (Austria),
- Minsk State Linguistic University (Belarus),
- Dalian University of Foreign Languages (China),
- Moscow State Linguistic University (Russia),
- Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, (Russia),
- Pushkin State Russian Language Institute (Russia),
- Maxim Gorky Literature Institute (Russia),
- Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages (Kazakhstan).

It also participates in the Erasmus Mundus EFFORT and IANUS II programmes, as well as the EU-funded EVS and Youth in Action projects.

The university is home to about 80 international students from the USA, France, Poland, Greece, Cyprus, Ukraine, Syria, Iran, South Korea, China, Georgia, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Tuition fee is about €1,000. Full and partial scholarships are available to students offered by the Government of Armenia and various charities.

The Department of International Relations provides assistance to international students related to admission and dormitory accommodation. Free Armenian-language courses are also available to international students.

Brusov's Career Centre is the liaison between the labour market and its

students and graduates. Its annual job fairs attract over 100 employers; indeed, the skills gained and fostered by studying languages at Brusov are much prized by employers. Employers value Brusov graduates because they are competent in one or two languages, have acquired a range of transferable skills, and have first-hand experience of other cultures.

Brusov's Career Centre's annual job fairs attract over 100 employers.

Among the careers successfully followed by Brusov graduates are journalism, management, law, international development agencies, teaching and lecturing, advertising, arts and administration, civil and diplomatic service, and environmental and development work, to name but a few. ■



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



2,800 students



30 international students



Armenian



€500 - €800



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.vspi.am



www.facebook.com/vanadzor.vph



VANADZOR HOVHANNES TUMANYAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Vanadzor Hovhannes Tumanyan State University (VSU) offers higher education in humanities, natural and social sciences. Its students come primarily from the northeastern region of Lori, a pearl of aesthetic, poetic and natural beauty of the nation.

VSU's five departments offer 28 Bachelor's and 13 Master's programmes, enrolling over 2,800 students. The Department of Philology provides Bachelor's and Master's programmes in the Armenian, Russian and English languages and literature. It also delivers Bachelor's programmes in journalism and translation studies. The Department of History and Geography Studies provides Bachelor's programmes in teaching history, law, geography, management, social work, culture studies, as well as a Master's programme in history studies. The Department of Paedagogy covers teaching at the pre-school

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **VSU's five departments offer 28 Bachelor's and 13 Master's programmes.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees vary between €500-800.**

and secondary level. The Department of Physics and Mathematics offers Bachelor's and Master's teaching degrees in science; the Department of Biochemistry provides degrees in biology, chemistry, physical culture and sport, as well as in pharmaceutical chemistry and the environmental studies.

The main language of instruction is Armenian, although some programmes in language studies, literature, mathematics, informatics and biology are also offered in Russian.

The faculty is actively involved in international academic cooperation, with partners in 80 countries. VSU currently hosts over 30 international students. Recently, Erasmus Mundus programmes have enabled European

staff and students to work and study in VSU.

VSU library has two reading halls in humanities and natural sciences, as well as three study rooms. It also provides free Wi-Fi. The university has a computer lab and science laboratories in relevant disciplines. A number of centres, such as the language centre, enable the integration of theory and practice. VSU ensures a vibrant connection between the university and the community by providing legal consultancy. Internships are offered in schools, care centres, pharmacies, banks and leading mobile and data companies operational in Lori.

The university is a host of academic events, such as the Fourth Symposium of the Armenian Chemical

Society in 2014. The university participates in Tempus MAHATMA, SRULLI, LeAGUe, VERITAS and GOVERN projects, and in Erasmus Mundus EMINENCE I and II, and JANUS I and II programmes.

VSU provides advice to international students on admission and educa-

tion, and provides dormitory accommodation. Tuition fees vary between €500-800. Full and partial scholarships are offered by the university and private donors. ■



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



2,700 students



50 international students



Armenian, Russian



€800 - €1,200



Research facilities



www.asipc.am



ARMENIAN STATE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE

The Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture (ASIPC) is a centre of national and regional significance that promotes careers related to a humanities-based and social science approach to sport and exercise. Examples of these careers include journalism, youth sport development, facilitation of health-promotion programmes, public relations, governmental and sport agency work, community outreach, and coaching in and outside of public schools.

ASIPC offers Bachelor's and Master's programmes in two major areas: sports and health promotion, and physical education and coaching. Its eighteen chairs deliver courses in kinesiology and health, exercise science and adaptive physical education, athletic training and sport management, sport history and sociology, sport philosophy and psychology, and teaching and journalism.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **ASIPC offers Bachelor's and Master's programmes in two major areas: sports and health promotion, and physical education and coaching.**
- ▶ **More than 2,700 students are enrolled in ASIPC.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees vary from €800-1200 for different programmes.**

Some programmes are also offered in Russian. More than 2,700 students are enrolled in ASIPC programmes at three educational levels.

Programmes focusing on exercise science prepare students for professional studies in sport, as well as physical and occupational therapy. These programmes offer courses on anatomy, exercise physiology, biomechanics, fitness evaluation, neuromuscular control, motor learning, motor development, and sport psychology. Students are also offered courses in adaptive physical education; this is the art and science of developing, implementing, and monitoring a carefully designed physical education instructional programme for learners with disabilities.

Athletic training programmes are designed to prepare students for a career as an athletic trainer and coach. The institute recruits the highest-flying retired Armenian professional athletes as staff and at the same time encourages the enrolment of younger talented athletes as students. This genuine, reinforcing cycle ensures the quality of the programmes and contributes towards excellence in physical education across the nation. In this way, 30 Olympic medallists, every nine in ten Champions of Europe, and eight in ten World Champions from Armenia have studied at the institute; many of them later became coaches. This tradition in excellence has peaked in outstanding achievements in the second half of the 20th century, when 90 percent of

Armenian athletes on Olympic teams came home with medals.

ASIPC recruits the highest-flying retired Armenian professional athletes as staff.

This distinct school of sports and physical education has made Armenian sports competitive in chess, athletics, swimming, fencing, boxing, wrestling, Olympic weightlifting, football, tennis, gymnastics, and shooting.

Sports management courses at ASIPC prepare graduates for work in the dynamic sport and fitness industry. Many graduates have enjoyed prosperous careers at all levels of sport, management, marketing, and the administration of sport and fitness programmes in educational settings, business, and entertainment both in Armenia and internationally.

Physical education courses prepare teachers and coaches who empower youth with the skills, knowledge, habits, and desire to be physically active and to make healthy choices both today and for the rest of their lives. These courses allow students to explore developmental issues of children and adolescents, learning theo-

ry, and teaching methods, as well as incorporate a substantial component of field experience in public schools. ASIPC has secured teaching and coaching positions at the elementary, middle, and high school levels across the country, throughout the region, and around the world.

ASIPC graduates are also able to become allied healthcare professionals and specialise in the prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses of athletes and those engaged in physical activity. To increase marketability, many graduates also pursue coaching and teaching opportunities. ASIPC is also appropriate for students interested in continuing their education in medicine, sports medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or other allied healthcare professions.

The quality of teaching in ASIPC is reinforced by fully fledged facilities, such as ten courts and gyms, a multi-purpose indoor arena, and a football pitch.

The quality of teaching, supported by the pillars of curricula and staff, is reinforced by fully fledged facilities, such as ten courts and gyms, a



multi-purpose indoor arena, and a football pitch. The research centre and library, full of relevant literature and computer equipment, are available to research students. Annually, about 50 articles by ASIPC research students and staff appear in peer-reviewed journals. ASIPC also hosts the National Olympic Academy.

The institute shares its achievements at the annual ASIPC International Academic Conference. It also collaborates with other universities in Ar-

menia and abroad. ASIPC is a member of the Eurasian Association of Universities of Physical Culture and International Olympic Academy, and regularly contributes to different academic events.

Annually, about 50 articles by ASIPC research students and staff appear in peer-reviewed journals.

The institute also attracts international students – about 50 students from Georgia, Russia, Syria, Cyprus,

Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan study at ASIPC. Tuition fees vary from €800-1200 for different programmes. Full and partial merit-based scholarships offered by the Armenian government and charities are available for both local and international students.

Full and partial merit-based scholarships offered by the Armenian government and charities are available for both local and international students.

The Office of External Relations offers counselling on admission and programmes, support for accommodation, and puts on preparation courses in Russian and English. In addition, the ASIPC Career Centre bridges the careers of graduates in the education, sports, recreation and entertainment industries. ■



Bachelor's
Master's



2,500 students



2 international students



Armenian, Russian, English



€500-€700



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.gsu.am



goo.gl/AE0S5a



www.youtube.com/user/gsuadmin



twitter.com/UniversityGSU



GAVAR STATE UNIVERSITY

Gavar State University (GSU) is one of the most dynamically developing new universities in Armenia. As one of the first higher education institutions in independent Armenia, GSU successfully overcame transitional challenges and became one of the most vibrant academic communities in the country today.

The five departments of the university offer 30 Bachelor's and Master's programmes in philology, natural sciences, humanities and economics, in which currently more than 2,500 students from across the country are enrolled. The main language of instruction is Armenian, but certain language and literature programmes are available in both English and Russian.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **GSU's five departments offer 30 Bachelor's and Master's programmes.**
- ▶ **Currently more than 2,500 students are enrolled in GSU.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees vary between €500-700.**

The university's e-learning platform (*elearning.gsu.am*) is a valuable modern facility which provides additional academic support and access to learning resources. GSU also offers research facilities to of biology and chemistry staff and students, as well as fully fledged computer labs. The university's Museum of History has a fascinating collection of artefacts available for students and staff of archaeological studies. The university

GSU's e-learning platform is a valuable modern facility which provides additional academic support and access to learning resources.

is a knowledge hub for the wider community – GSU's legal clinic is a non-profit law practice which serves the public interest, and provides

hands-on experience to students and services to local community. Students typically provide assistance with research, drafting legal arguments, and meeting with clients.

GSU's e-library provides students with access to national and global libraries and databases such as Springer, Ebsco and Sage.

GSU has two libraries which offer collections in humanities and science; GSU's e-library provides students with access to national libraries and on-line databases such as Springer, Ebsco and Sage. The university provides a wealth of internship opportunities in the province's secondary schools, the Administration of the President of the Republic of Armenia, the National Assembly, the Chamber of Advocates of Arme-

nia, different courts, the police, tax offices, Armstat and other public institutions, Chambers of Commerce, banks, leading mobile operators and relevant businesses, non-governmental organisations, regional administrations and local governance bodies.

GSU has attracted excellent teaching staff from all over the country and successfully integrates teaching and research.

GSU has attracted excellent teaching staff from all over the country and successfully integrates teaching and research. University staff publish research in international peer-reviewed journals such as *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, *Journal of Basic Microbiology*, *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek*, *International Journal of Engineering-Transactions B: Applications*, *FEBS Journal*, *Transactions of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics*, *Eurasian Mathematical Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary Mathematical Analysis*, *Advances in Environmental Biology*, and *Research Journal of Recent Sciences*. The university also publishes research in its annual *Anthology of Academic Articles*.

GSU is well represented in international academic fora; its staff and students participate in and contribute to regular conferences and symposia such as the Federation of the Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FEBS) Congress, International Meeting of Thermophiles, the Congress of European Microbiologists, and the International Symposium on Microbial Ecology.

The university successfully partners with universities around the world, including the University of Parma, the University of Tuscia, Rome Sapienza University, St. Petersburg State University of Economics, the Alexander Technological Educational Institute in Thessaloniki, the University of Ruse, Swansea Metropolitan University, Vitebsk State Technological University, the Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo, Rezekne University of Applied Sciences, and Telavi State University.

GSU participates in 15 international programmes which offer genuine opportunities for academic exchange and mobility, including eleven Tempus projects (ARARAT, ATHENA, ARMENQA, GOVERN, HEN.GEAR, LAMANCHE, LeAGUe, PACT, PICA-

SA, RETHINK, and VERITAS), Erasmus Mundus programmes (EURO-EAST, HERMES, TEMPO), and the Black Sea Cross-border Cooperation (BLAC-SEA) project.

GSU participates in 15 international programmes which offer genuine opportunities for academic exchange and mobility, including eleven Tempus projects.

Currently, GSU hosts international students from Spain, Russia, Georgia and Kazakhstan. Tuition fees at GSU range from €500-700, depending on the programme. Full and partial scholarships are offered by the government, private businesses, philanthropic organisations, and Diaspora

charities. The university provides international students with all possible assistance and advice related to admission, visa and residence permits, and also offers dormitory accommodation.

The GSU Alumni Association and Career Centre have created a joint online platform (www.career.gsu.am) to connect alumni and to bridge the space between graduates and employers. The university ensures public outreach through presence on social platforms, including the production and broadcast of its own programme on local television and on Youtube. ■



Jirishian Memorial Foundation
Հիշատակալիցի և արձանաբանի
հիմնադրամ
JMF
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ
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ՀԻՄՆԱԿԱՆ
ՖՈՒՆԴԱԿՆԵՐ

University
DEBATES



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



2,400 students



700 international students



Russian, English, Armenian



€1,000



Research facilities



Erasmus+



www.rau.am



goo.gl/9Yalxa



RUSSIAN-ARMENIAN (SLAVONIC) UNIVERSITY

Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (RAU) is a unique establishment which brings together the best of Armenian and Russian educational traditions. Since 1997, it has become one of the most successful joint endeavours in higher education in Armenia.

The university offers study programs in humanities and natural sciences at all three education levels. 18 Bachelor's, 45 Master's and four one-cycle Master of Art programmes are offered at five schools: the Institute of Mathematics and High Technology, the Institute of Economics and Business, the Institute of Law and Political Science, the Institute of Humanities, and the Institute of Media, Advertising and Film Art. Over 2,400 students are currently enrolled in RAU schools.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **RAU is a unique establishment which brings together the best of Armenian and Russian educational traditions.**
- ▶ **18 Bachelor's, 45 Master's and four one-cycle Master of Art programmes are offered at five schools.**
- ▶ **The average tuition at RAU is €1,000 for Bachelor'ss.**

The main language of instruction at RAU is Russian, and curricula are based on higher education benchmarks and best practices from the Russian Federation. Bachelor's courses in applied mathematics and informatics, economics, management, finance, international economics, accountancy and audit, marketing, services, law, international relations, political science, and journalism are also offered in Armenian.

Nine Master's programmes are also available in English, run jointly with leading European universities. Indeed, RAU is one of the few universities in Armenia that provides multi- and double-degree Master's programmes jointly with European universities. RAU offers three multi-degree Master's programs with Uni-

versity of Glasgow in finance and banking. Within the framework of these programmes students study the first half of the programme at RAU and finish their studies at the University of Glasgow. Upon successful completion of the programme, graduates obtain Master of Science or Master of Finance degree from University of Glasgow and a Master's degree from RAU, accredited by the Russian and Armenian Ministries of Education and Science.

RAU also offers six double-degree MBA programmes jointly with the SBS Swiss Business School in entrepreneurship, global finances and banking, marketing, international management, tourism management, and human resources management. Swiss professors deliver these pro-

grammes through offline and distance learning hybrid courses. Upon successful completion of the programme, graduates obtain a MBA degree from both SBS and RAU.

RAU graduates can be awarded double diplomas recognised by the Armenian and Russian governments.

RAU graduates can also be awarded double diplomas recognised by the Armenian and Russian governments, which safeguards the credibility of the qualifications and makes education at RAU very attractive for international Russian-speaking students from the CIS region. Furthermore, since 2015, the university graduates will be awarded joint Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with leading technical universities in Russia: St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University, St. Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics, the National University of Science and Technology (MISIS), the Moscow Power Engineering Institute (MPEI), Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas, and the National Research Nuclear University (MEPhI).

To ensure high quality of teaching and research, RAU cooperates with the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) and attracts prominent academics and professors both from Armenia and abroad. RAU has thus secured leadership and excellence in bioengineering, bioinformatics, electronics, micro-electronics, and nanoelectronics.

The university's 28 chairs, three joint facilities in collaboration with the NASRA, specifically the Chair of Quantum and Optical Electronics with the Institute of Physics Research; Chair of Bioinformatics, Bioengineering and Molecular Biology with the Institute of Molecular Biology; and the Chair of Telecommunications with Yerevan Telecommunication Research Institute and more than ten research centres and laboratories, such as Institute of Russian Philology, Centre for Nanotechnologies in Electronics, Laboratory of System Programming, Laboratory for Molecular Biology and Medical Research offer excellent research facilities to RAU faculty and students. To encourage excellence in research and innovation RAU offers two awards in best research.

The university publishes its research in humanities, social and natural sciences in two volumes of the *Vestnik RAU* journal. The best of RAU research occasionally appears in top international peer-reviewed journals, such as *Physical Review* (A and B), *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics*, *British Journal of Mathematics & Computer Science*, *Advances in Pure Mathematics*, and *Comparative Studies on Regional Powers*.

RAU library is one of the best facilities in Armenia with two reading halls, an area for poster presentation and exhibition, computers, a digital repository, and internet access. RAU provides students with free access to more than 50 academic journals, online resources and valuable digital libraries and major collections of e-journals, such as JSTOR, Royal Society Publishing, and the eBook Academic Subscription Collection (EBSCO). As a member of the Electronic Library Consortium of Arme-



nia (ELCA), RAU library also offers access to ELCA collections.

RAU library is one of the best facilities in Armenia with two reading halls, an area for poster presentation and exhibition, computers, a digital repository, and internet access.

The university extends its global presence through various academic networks and relevant platforms, including the Association of Asian Universities, the Eurasian Association of Universities, the Association of Technical Universities, the Association of Law Universities, and the International Association for Management Development in Dynamic Societies.

The university promotes international academic exchanges for its staff and students by being actively involved in Erasmus Mundus initiatives, such as HERMES. Furthermore, RAU offers more than 15 bilateral short- and long-term mobility programmes for students in conjunction with partner universities in Germany, Latvia, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, and Georgia. RAU strongly encourages student and staff participation in academic exchanges by promoting opportunities on its website and by organising regular infor-

mation sessions on scholarship opportunities, such as DAAD, Visegrad Foundation, US-funded, and others. In recent years, over 120 RAU students and staff have benefited from various mobility programmes.

RAU hosts various academic events, including RAU Annual Academic Conferences; VII International Forum of Translators and Editors of CIS and Baltic States; International Conference on International Humanitarian Rights: Problems and Perspectives of Development; International Optical Society of America Network of Students Conference; International Conference on Literature in the Changing World.

RAU staff and students are well represented in international academic fora, specifically physics, chemistry, mathematics, and economics. The university encourages student participation in these events by providing full or partial funding, covering travel, accommodation and participation expenses.

RAU is the most attractive Armenian university for Russian nationals – every fourth RAU student comes from Russia, Georgia, and CIS countries.



This diversity is a distinct feature of the university's culture, bringing together hundreds of young students of Armenian descent from various countries. The average tuition at RAU is €1,000 for Bachelor's studies. RAU offers tuition waivers to socially disadvantaged groups, as well as merit-based full and partial scholarships sponsored by the governments of Armenia and the Russian Federation.

The university encourages student participation in academic fora by providing full or partial funding.

The university's Department of International Cooperation offers a wide range of services to international students and staff, such as visa assistance, immigration counselling, social services, health insurance, residence and work permits, accommodation, language courses, and cultural events. RAU also offers integrated language courses in Armenian, Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, Turkish, Farsi and Arabic at all levels of proficiency.

RAU is actively chasing new market trends and entering into dialogue

with businesses in relevant industries. RAU ensures employability of its students by providing robust internship opportunities and extending its network with employers. The growing credibility of the quality of education at the university has con-

vinced many businesses to seek out successful candidates among RAU graduates. RAU runs an employment platform (umcu.rau.am) to consolidate its career services, where the students and alumni can learn about job offers and vacancies. ■



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



1,300 students



30 international students



Armenian, English



€500 - €1,700



Research facilities



www.era.am



goo.gl/vAQ5tm



THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACADEMY

The European Regional Academy (ERA) is one of the several higher education institutions in Armenia which has emerged from multilateral cooperation in education. It offers 9 Bachelor's, 16 Master's programmes and 7 third-cycle programmes.

ERA's four departments enrol over 1,300 students in different programmes in information technologies (IT), economics and management, law and international relations, linguistics, and tourism. The language of instruction is Armenian for the first two years of study, and English from the third.

The Department of Information Technologies offers courses ranging from management information systems and software development to the design of integrated circuits and communication systems. The educational laboratory

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **ERA offers 9 Bachelor's, 16 Master's programmes and 7 third-cycle programmes.**
- ▶ **ERA's four departments enrol over 1,300 students in different programmes.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees range from €500-1,700 for different programmes.**

established in cooperation with Synopsys Armenia and VivaCell-MTS further enhances the quality of IT education at ERA. The lab enables state-of-the-art integrated circuit design in an educational environment, and is equipped with comprehensive educational packages of electronic design automation software, educational design kits, and interoperable design kits for 90-nanometre (nm) and 32/28-nm technologies.

ERA's education laboratory enables state-of-the-art integrated circuit design in an educational environment.

The Department of Economics offers courses in Economics and Management, Finance and Accounting, and Governance in Armenia and the EU. Its programmes prepare students to

become qualified managers, executives, economists, analysts and other business, finance, international trade and logistics professionals.

The Department of Law and International Relations provides courses on human rights, Armenian and European public and private law, international and comparative law, and international politics and relations.

The Department of Linguistics and Tourism focuses on English, French, German, Armenian, Russian and Farsi language studies, as well as on planning, organising and managing tourism and related services in both public and private sectors.

ERA has branches in Gyumri, Vanadzor, Gavar and Ijevan, which of-

fer vocational education as well. Through these branches ERA promotes lifelong learning by providing professional development courses across the country.

ERA research interests include management, economics, international relations, comparative linguistics, and law. It publishes its research in the *Annual Anthology of Research Papers*, which includes a selection of over 80 submissions by ERA staff and students. The academy encourages academic achievements among students, and thus supports the Student Annual Conference.

ERA publishes its research in the Annual Anthology of Research Papers, which includes a selection of over 80 submissions by ERA staff and students.

The academy cooperates with about 20 European universities and academic institutions. Currently, about 30 foreign students are enrolled in various ERA programmes. Tuition fees range from €500-1,700 for different programmes. Full and partial

scholarships are available from the government, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and other charities.

ERA's Office for Support and Counselling to International Students provides comprehensive assistance related to admission, programmes, student life, accommodation in Armenia, and visa and resident permits. Although the academy does not have its own dormitory, ERA helps students to find accommodation in the residence halls of partner universities. The academy also provides language courses to international students and organises cultural events regularly.

The academy promotes internships in various public institutions, such as the Armenian parliament, governmental ministries, diplomatic missions of EU member states to Armenia, and intergovernmental and international organisations (for example United Nations agencies in Armenia and World Vision Armenia). ■



Bachelor's
Master's



1,200 students



32 international students



English



€4,000 - €6,000



Research facilities



Dormitory



Erasmus+



www.aua.am



www.facebook.com/AUArmenia



www.youtube.com/user/auauploads



twitter.com/auanewsroom



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

The American University of Armenia (AUA) provides high-quality graduate and undergraduate education that encourages civic engagement and promotes democratic values. AUA fosters scholarship in a setting that values and develops academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society. AUA is accredited by the US-based WASC Senior College and University Commission, and is affiliated with the University of California.

AUA offers Master's degrees in eight fields of study: business administration, industrial engineering and systems management, computer and information science, political science and international affairs, economics, law, teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL), and public health, enjoying an affiliation with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. It also offers

a dual Master of Business Administration/Master of Public Health programme. AUA's Bachelor's programme offers degrees in English and communications, computational sciences, and business. Through these courses, the university offers students depth of knowledge for career preparation and further study, as well a foundation of general knowledge and skills for lifelong learning. Additionally, AUA offers graduate certificates in teaching English as a foreign language, translation, public health, and environmental science and conservation.

AUA is accredited by the US-based WASC Senior College and University Commission, and is affiliated with the University of California.

AUA has a diverse faculty representing many different nationalities and cultures, which are key to ensuring excellence in education. Currently, 44% of the faculty are foreign citizens. AUA operates research centres affiliated with each of the Master's programmes, including the Acopian Center for the Environment, the Center for Responsible Mining, and the Digital Library of Classical Armenian Literature. These programmes and

centres are a clear illustration of the value of ties between university and community through the application of knowledge and research. This allows AUA to find solutions to real-world challenges:

- Computer and information science department staff and students have developed a security algorithm for Samsung video devices;
- The cryptography team leads collaborative research projects with NTX Research and the Volkswagen Foundation;
- The School of Public Health works to improve control of tuberculosis among migrant workers.

AUA operates research centres affiliated with each of the Master's programmes.

AUA's Turpanjian Rural Development Program (TRDP) provides educational and economic opportunities to people in rural areas in Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Since 2006, 256 rural businesses – auto repair shops, bakeries, retail stores, internet clubs – have been established and 433 jobs created through TRDP support. AUA's Tur-

panjian Center for Policy Analysis is able to draw on expertise from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' permanent and visiting staff in its various projects. In addition to its regular researchers, the Center hosts research fellows and visiting scholars from both the United States and Europe. The Center also hires AUA students and graduates as short-term assistants for research projects, thus providing opportunities for direct project participation and analysis.

AUA has a number of other centres which promote wider academic development:

- The Center for Health Services Research and Development is an applied research facility that responds to public health research and development needs in Armenia.
- The Center for Business Research and Development provides hands-on research experience to students, allowing them to apply concepts and



skills learned in the classroom directly to development projects.

- The Engineering Research Center's areas of focus include information technology, cyber security, and artificial intelligence; logistics, scheduling, optimisation, and business process analysis; energy efficiency and renewable energy; computer-aided design and manufacturing; civil and environmental engineering; computational geometry.

- The Legal Resource Center is an integral part of the AUA Master of Laws programme. The two complement each other to promote international standards in legal education and research with a focus on law reform, legal-education reform, and legal information dissemination through public events and online resources.

- The Center for Research in Applied Linguistics provides AUA TEFL students with a unique opportunity to experience teaching and engage in research activity first hand.

- Through research, training, and advocacy the AUA Center for Responsible Mining promotes the cre-

ation and adoption of global best practices in socially, environmentally, and economically responsible mining in Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

- Finally, areas of interest of the AUA Acopian Center for the Environment include environmental policy; sustainable natural resource management; built and natural environment; information technology and the natural environment. In 2013, the Center was appointed as the national coordinator for the "European Breeding Bird Atlas 2" project by the European Bird Census Council. The Center is working on the first ever monitoring atlas on butterflies in Armenia and is developing ecological and ornithological education programmes with local secondary schools. It also partners with the Blacksmith Institute and Armenian government to develop an inventory of toxic waste sites in Armenia.

AGBU-Papazian Library boasts one of the most extensive collections of English-language print and electronic materials in the entire region.

Education and research at AUA are housed in a modern, state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Yerevan. One



of its strongest assets is the AGBU-Papazian Library, which is also open to the public. The library boasts one of the most extensive collections of English-language print and electronic materials in the entire region. AUA's Information and Communication Technologies Services Department provides IT-related strategy, applications, infrastructure, and support services, ensuring that leading-edge technology is readily accessible to staff and students to complement their teaching and learning experiences. It also hosts the VivaCell-MTS

videoconferencing facility for over 60 participants.

AUA Extension holds a unique position in Armenia and the region as a centre for education and training programmes, having served the community for the over 18 years. Close cooperation between AUA Extension and academic and research programmes at the university have resulted in outstanding and sustainable educational offerings to clients across corporate, governmental and non-profit organisations. Furthermore, AUA Extension enrolls thou-

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **Currently 1,200 students from 15 countries study in AUA.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees for international students range from EUR 4,000 to EUR 6,000.**
- ▶ **44% of the faculty are foreign citizens.**

sands of students annually in lifelong learning and certificate courses in Yerevan, Gyumri, Dilijan and Stepanakert.

AUA is a centre of gravity for the local and international academic community, and regularly hosts high-quality academic events. In 2009-2013 AUA hosted many international conferences, including “Reliability and Optimization of Structural Systems”; “Emerging Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health: Mining and Construction in Transition Economies”; “The International Criminal Court and Armenia”; “Crossroads of Psychology and Law”; “Rethinking Values, Norms and Institutions in Armenia” seminar series.

Since 2012, the MA TEFL programme has organised an annual

student research conference with the participation of students from other Armenian universities. The programme hosted the 2010 IATEFL Virtual Conference, one of the most significant events in the TEFL world, and convened the 2009 International Language Assessment Conference, attended by more than 150 international scholars.

The admissions process is the same for all students, regardless of citizenship or country of residence. Since the language of instruction at AUA is English, all applicants must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English to successfully participate in courses at the university. For Bachelor’s programmes, requirements include a complete application form and official certification of proficiency in English and mathematics.

English-language proficiency is typically demonstrated through TOEFL iBT or IELTS. For Master's studies, depending on the programme, applicants may be required to take the GRE, GMAT or LSAT.

As of autumn 2014, AUA enrolls over 1,200 students from 15 countries in addition to Armenia. Although the majority of the students are from Armenia, an increasing number are coming from abroad, including many diasporan Armenians. For international students, AUA offers the opportunity to experience learning in a fascinating and historically important centre of world civilization. Interaction between local and international students enriches their lives and fosters lifelong friendships. Indeed, international students represent a significant and inseparable

part of the AUA community, contributing to the university's diversity.

International students have the opportunity to obtain a US-accredited education at a fraction of the average US university cost. Tuition fees for international students range from €4000-6000. International students at AUA are also eligible to apply for scholarships, which may cover up to 50% of tuition.

For over a decade, AUA has continued to successfully pursue its ideals of academic freedom, shared governance, social responsibility, interdisciplinary studies, and critical thinking. Imbued with these qualities, AUA graduates go on to assume leadership positions in society and serve as catalysts for positive change and advancement. ■



“ I had never heard about Armenia before, but now I feel like I really belong here. I'm proud to carry AUA's flag with me. I just think everything is possible now. I can do anything and my dreams will come true. Our professors are really engaged and are doing everything possible to make sure that each student leaves AUA with a bright future.”

Laura Vuchase Yenye

Cameron

MA Teaching English as a Foreign Language



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



1,000 students



120 international students



Armenian



€1,300 - €1,700



Research facilities



Erasmus+



www.conservatory.am



www.facebook.com/EPKEE



KOMITAS YEREVAN STATE CONSERVATOIRE

Komitas Yerevan State Conservatoire enjoys an outstanding reputation and has attracted talented young musicians for about a century.

The conservatoire remains renowned for its diversity of styles, signature training, approaches, staff and alumni. The conservatoire is a successful and prestigious heir of the Russian school of classical music education. It is appreciated globally for its methodology which emphasises all dimensions of performance – the greatest possible technical ability and excellence in musicianship. Music education at the conservatoire bears the signature of Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Prokofiev, and other great musicians. Its own distinctive pool of Armenian composers – Komitas, Khachaturian, Babajanian, Mansurian, Alan Hovhanness and many others – adds additional, unique quality to this incredibly rich texture of musical education,.



The three departments and over 20 chairs offer degree programmes from Bachelor's through to Doctoral studies. The curriculum is intense, combining classroom experience with performance opportunities at every level. Within each programme, the conservatoire challenges students to become mature and informed artists, capable of making their own artistic and professional decisions while still

working as a member of a larger artistic community.

It offers majors in piano, organ and collaborative piano, strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, guitar), brass and woodwind (trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, contrabassoon, saxophone), percussion, choral and orchestral conducting, voice/opera, composition, and music theory.

The conservatoire is also home to jazz studies and folk music, including majors in voice and traditional Armenian instruments such as the duduk, varieties of a recorder (sring, shvi), end-blown flute (blul), and string instruments, including tar, qanon, kamancheh, oud, santur and bambir.

The conservatoire is also home to jazz studies and folk music, including majors in voice and traditional Armenian instruments.

The current staff are among the most respected composers and performers in Armenia today; their music is heard regularly in concert halls and opera houses; in theatres and on movie soundtracks; on all major record labels. Staff include internationally renowned soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians, and jazz artists, as well as leading paedagogues and scholars. Among them are over a hundred recipients of prizes in prestigious international competitions, such as the Sydney International Piano Competition, the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition, Internationaler Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Wettbewerb, Internationaler Robert-Schumann-Wettbewerb, Concours Long-Thibaud-Crespin, Internation-

aler Instrumentalwettbewerb Markneukirchen, and many others.

The conservatoire staff include internationally renowned soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians, and jazz artists, as well as leading paedagogues and scholars.

Staff are also jury members at international competitions, such as the Aram Khachaturian International Competition, the Komitas International Competition, the Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, the Tariverdiev International Organ Competition, Franz Liszt International Piano Competition, International Piano Competition Rome, Tongyeong International Music Festival, the ARD International Music Competition, the Edvard Grieg International Piano Competition, the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, and the International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition.

Some staff are regularly invited to teach in other music schools across the globe, giving recitals in Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Russia, the USA, Iran, Japan, Turkey, and Georgia.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **The Komitas Conservatoire currently trains about a thousand Bachelor's and Master's students.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees for international students at the conservatoire vary from €1,300-1,700.**

Their skills, talent, and dedication are the cornerstone of the learning experience for Komitas Conservatoire students.

The conservatoire provides exceptional opportunities for world-class musicians who visit Yerevan to give concerts and masterclasses. Each year, over 30 maestros from Germany, the UK, Italy, France, Russia, the USA, Belgium, Spain and many other countries with a tradition of excellence in classical music exhibit their virtuosity at the conservatoire.

The conservatoire provides exceptional opportunities for world-class musicians who visit Yerevan to give concerts and masterclasses.

The Komitas Conservatoire is a shrine of hereditary, time-honoured

musical talent. It hands down knowledge and brilliance in performance and composition from generation to generation. Thus, the Komitas Quartet, the world's oldest string quartet still performing, has the celebrated virtuoso Eduard Tadevosian and the young talented Syuzi Yeritsyan on violin, the renowned Aleksandr Kosemian on viola, and the accomplished young musician Hasmik Vardanyan on cello. The quartet is a marvellous advertisement for the high quality of the conservatoire's approach to its majors in instrumental performance.

The conservatoire's composition programmes have a distinguished history, and its conducting programme has a strong record of achievement of having trained many prominent orchestral conductors. Led by excellent staff committed to the educational

development of the next generation of first-class vocalists, the voice/opera programmes prepare students for the challenges and rewards of professional singing careers. The conservatoire's exciting and innovative jazz programme offers unparalleled professional performance opportunities designed to integrate students into a thriving jazz environment. Programmes in all departments offer a comprehensive repertoire built on the classical tradition of Western music. Students also have a unique opportunity to learn Armenian classical music, an important part of orchestral repertoire.

Programmes in all departments offer a comprehensive repertoire built on the classical tradition of Western music.

The Komitas Conservatoire currently trains about a thousand Bachelor's and Master's students on its Yerevan and Gyumri campuses. Students experience a unique mentorship approach to studio instruction and enjoy ample performance opportunities. The conservatoire's student-staff ratio of approximately 2:1 ensures small class sizes and a high degree of personalised attention for each student. Students also enjoy informal

networking opportunities with staff members, who often provide recommendations for outside jobs and invite their students to perform with them.

The conservatoire's student-staff ratio of approximately 2:1 ensures small class sizes and a high degree of personalised attention for each student.

Students can join orchestras, chamber groups, or new music ensembles at the conservatoire. Students also gain valuable experience by participating in various educational or community outreach initiatives. Series of regular competitions and concerts offer additional opportunities for students to perform and feature their achievements. Being close to other universities in Yerevan and Gyumri, students also have the chance to collaborate in wider art projects.

Students can further improve their art with performances in a fully-staged opera studio – the heart of the conservatoire. Its two stages are specifically designed to create a working environment that reflects the professional opera world. The opera studio provides high-quality professional training for musicians who have the

potential to become the leading artists of their generation. Trainees also have regular opportunities to work closely with leading directors and conductors to prepare opera scenes for performance.

The Folkloristics Lab offers unique collections of Armenian medieval spiritual songs and hymns, and over 15,000 samples of folk music assembled over the past seven decades.

The Folkloristics Lab offers unique collections of Armenian medieval spiritual songs and hymns (sharakans), and over 15,000 samples of folk music assembled over the past seven decades. The audio archive at the Komitas Conservatoire provides access to all formats of recorded music, including collections of rare recordings dating back to the late 19th century. The Yerevan campus provides access to free Wi-Fi and internet resources. The conservatoire publishes its own periodical, Musical Armenia.

Part of the vibrant educational milieu that the conservatoire offers is its central location in the heart of the city. This allows students to access numerous cultural events. Within a thousand-kilometre radius

of Yerevan, the city hosts the largest variety of music events. One can walk through an oversubscribed day moving from one concert to another! Yerevan hosts over ten international music competitions and festivals throughout the year, which conservatoire students can attend free of charge or enjoy discounts:

- The Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival welcomes aficionados of classical music to enjoy the performances of world-renowned musicians Pinchas Zukerman, Camerata Salzburg, and Daniel Barenboim, to name but a few.
- The Aram Khachaturian International Competition brings together promising young talents and famous musicians to excel on the piano, violin and cello.
- The Veradardz (Return) Festival of Classical Music hosts famous Armenian musicians across the world every year.
- The Babajanian International Piano Competition-Festival features junior performers.

■ The Renaissance International Contest-Festival in Gyumri brings together over 2,500 performers from more than 30 countries.

The Komitas Conservatoire collaborates with other conservatoires, music and art schools worldwide, such as the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory (Russia), Gnessin Russian Academy of Music, Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg State Conservatory, Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts (Austria), Conservatorium van Amsterdam (the Netherlands), the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (Belgium), the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the University of Agder (Norway), Michigan State University College of Music (USA), the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, and the Tbilisi State Conservatoire (Georgia).

The conservatoire is a member of the Association Européenne des Conservatoires and Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC). The Komitas Conservatoire cooperates with the World Education Service (WES), and this cooperation has resulted in possibilities for students

and graduates to study or work in the US and Canada since 2005. The conservatoire facilitates academic exchange and mobility of its staff and students through bilateral cooperation and participation in Erasmus Mundus initiatives; currently it is an associate partner in the IANUS II project.

The conservatoire has over 120 students from France, Germany, Latvia, Australia, Canada, the USA, Russia, Georgia, China, Iran, and Syria, as well as other countries from the Middle East enrolled at all levels. The most attractive programmes for international students include majors in piano, violin and saxophone. For many international students, education at the Komitas Conservatoire is a stepping stone for further studies in Europe and Russia.

Tuition fees for international students at the conservatoire vary from €1,300-1,700. Partial discounts are available for international students of Armenian descent. The conservatoire also offers eleven merit-based scholarships.

While the programmes are offered mainly in Armenian, there are in-

creasingly more staff capable of instruction in Farsi, Russian, English and French. Nevertheless, linguistic challenges are often overcome through the universal language of music. The conservatoire offers Armenian-language and other preparatory courses to international students.

The conservatoire offers Armenian-language and other preparatory courses to international students.

The International Relations Office provides comprehensive support to international students and staff related to admission, travel and accommodation.

Graduates of the conservatoire appear on major European stages with top-notch orchestras, such as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, the Baden-Baden Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philhar-

monic, the London Philharmonic, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Osaka Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Academic State Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dresdner Philharmonie and Dresden Staatskapelle, Potsdamer Kammerakademie, the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, the Munich Symphony Orchestra, the Würzburg Philharmonic, the Munich and Hamburg Chamber Orchestras, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra, Kärntner Sinfonieorchestre, the Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra.

For about a century, thousands of successful musicians have started their careers at the Komitas Conservatoire, including household names such as Alexander Arutiunian, Konstantin Orbelian, Tigran Hamasian and Vahagn Hayrapetyan, and countless others in every branch of the music profession. Celebrated graduates of the conservatoire include Avet Terteryan, Svetlana Navasardyan,

Stepan Shakaryan, Medea Abrahamyan, Robert Amirkhanyan, Hasmik Papyan, and Eduard Topchjan. ■



“ There are several reasons why I have chosen to study at the Yerevan State Conservatoire. First, I wanted to learn Armenian. Second, I have heard a lot about the signature school and tradition of the university, and I wanted to experience it. Third, I preferred to study in a specialized music school. If I were to study music in Greece, I would have to apply to a university, as there is no conservatoire there. It felt strange that I would need to pass exams in math and Latin, but no one would care about how I played the violin... Whereas here in Yerevan the admission committee first wants to know how well you already perform.

What I appreciate the most here is individualized instruction. I am lucky to have an excellent tutor who can spend hours with me perfecting my performance.

I also love Yerevan! It is a very musical city. You can walk downtown in the evening and find all kinds of concerts at every corner: jazz, rock, classical...

Aggeliki Lalabekova
Greece
BA Violin



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



1,000 students



30 international students



€600 - €1,000



Research facilities



www.ysitc.am



goo.gl/L3zdWZ



www.youtube.com/user/YSITC



THE YEREVAN STATE INSTITUTE OF THEATRE AND CINEMA

The Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinema (YSITC) provides opportunities for diverse, talented students to explore theatre and film as distinct art forms, or to combine these disciplines in exciting ways. It offers professional training that imaginatively balances theory and practice in order to develop artists and scholars who can use their voices, work and research to enlighten, engage and inspire change for a better world. YSTIC has created an environment in which performing stars, storytellers, scholars and the industry leaders of tomorrow begin their journey.

YSTIC's three departments offer 13 Bachelor's, 11 Master's and Doctoral programmes, enrolling approximately 1,000 students on campuses in Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor and Goris.

The Department of Theatre offers programmes in acting, directing and dance. The acting programme provides students with the opportunity to pursue comprehensive acting training and to collaborate fully with other theatre artists. Different acting courses move from basic process work to detailed exploration of specific technical and stylistic demands of drama, musical, pantomime, puppets and marionettes. The guiding vision for YSTIC's directing programme is its deep commitment to telling stories through theatrical work and dance, exploring available technologies and movements. These comprehensive programmes combine the critical study of theatre with experiential practice. Students explore various areas of theatre to build a foundation for future creative work.

The Department of Film, Television and Animation offers study programmes in the history and theory, as well as the creative and technical aspects, of moving images, such as film and television production, narrative film, documentary and animation directing, cinematography, camera directing, sound editing, scene, and stage and costume design. The programmes explore the best work of

past masters of film and television, and encourage students to aspire to similar accomplishments. The institute empowers the creative innovators of tomorrow by training students in all aspects of the arts and crafts of film and animation, from the aesthetic to the technological. While all media technologies are means to creative ends and not ends in themselves, YSITC helps students to be actively engaged in the digital and telecommunications revolution that is transforming all areas of contemporary culture. Staff and students work together to unpack the social, political, cultural, and economic significance of film, television, and digital media.

YSITC has large studios for acting classes, musical theatre classes and rehearsals, as well as its Educational Theatre.

The strong academic foundations of these programmes are enhanced by access to exceptional resources offered by the YSITC Film and Television Archive. The institute has large studios for acting classes, musical theatre classes and rehearsals, as well as its Educational Theatre. The Learning Centre of Creative Technologies offers a learning environment



to experiment and create. Through classroom study, studio and lab preparation, field studies, and stage productions students are challenged to pursue their commitment to individual excellence and collaboration, discover the passion for discipline, and develop a firm grounding in the core components of live and mediated performance.

The Department of History, Theory and Management of Art offers interdisciplinary studies in the arts. The Master of Arts degree prepares students who want to focus their Mas-

ter's study on research and scholarship in the history, literature, and criticism of the theatre and film, and who may also plan to continue graduate work in a doctoral programme. It also prepares students who wish to focus more intensively on performance and production in preparation for a career in the profession.

The curricula of YSITC offer a robust selection of courses, from introductory to advanced levels, and from both creative and critical perspectives.



The curricula of the institute offer a robust selection of courses, from introductory to advanced levels, and from both creative and critical perspectives. The excellence of teaching is ensured under the mentorship of industry leaders, YSITC's award-winning staff and distinguished visiting artists and scholars. Students have the possibility to share their innovative voices and build distinctive, successful careers in every medium and on every entertainment and performing arts platform – mainstream, independent or digital. YSITC students have the unique opportunity

to regularly attend masterclasses of world class maestros such as Tonino Guerra, Krzysztof Zanussi, Jos Stelling, and Garri Bardin.

Studying theatre and film in Yerevan, one of the largest cultural centres in the South Caucasus region, allows students to enjoy the bohemian ambiance of the city all year long. There are about 20 theatres in the city accommodating almost all styles of theatre, from classical to absurd and postmodern. Yerevan offers a national flavour to global performance art through its own shadow theatre

Ayrogi, a favourite pastime since the middle ages. Furthermore, every season offers a signature festival, many of which are now internationally acclaimed theatre and film events. Summers in Armenia witness the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, which presents the best cinema in the world and invites the most renowned filmmakers in contemporary film. To name a few, Godfrey Reggio, Abbas Kiarostami, Artavazd Peleshian, Charles Aznavour, Fanny Ardant, Alexander Sokurov, Atom Egoyan, and many others have been among the honorary guests of the festival.

Studying theatre and film in Yerevan, one of the largest cultural centres in the South Caucasus region, allows students to enjoy the bohemian ambiance of the city all year long.

An event of equal status in the theatre industry, the “HighFest” international performing arts festival, welcomes companies and artists in theatre, dance, music and other forms of performing arts. This is an incredibly expressive and aesthetic forum for students of theatre, as there is a special student event alongside the festival’s main and fringe programmes: Arms

Fest – the Armenian International Student and Youth Programme.

Another highly acclaimed theatre event in the country is the Yerevan International Shakespeare Festival, which celebrates classical and modern interpretations of Shakespeare. The ArmMono One Man Show International Festival invites the most extraordinary mono performances, integrating dance, music and contemporary drama from around the world. The One Square Metre Theatre Festival is another excellent experimental opportunity – artists have 45 minutes on one square metre and can choose any creative genre and style.

Armenia regularly hosts many other international events in the industry. The biennial Leonid Yengibaryan International Mime Festival near Yerevan is another outstanding summer event which offers an open-air performance, a professional forum, theatre workshops, masterclasses, and feedback evenings to YSITC students.

YSITC is a member of the UNESCO-ITI Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts, and played a

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **YSTIC's three departments offer 13 Bachelor's, 11 Master's and Doctoral programmes.**
- ▶ **Over 1,000 students are enrolled in YSTIC.**
- ▶ **Tuition fees vary from €600-1,000.**

key role in hosting the International Theatre Institute World Congress 2014 in Yerevan. YSITC staff are often conceptual drivers of many of these cultural events, contributing professional insights and the wealth of their artistic connections. They also inspire students towards creative excellence and involvement in these vibrant cultural milieus.

Students seeking professional careers, preparing for advanced degree programmes, or pursuing interdisciplinary studies in the arts extensively participate in the theatrical, film-production and media industry. Indeed, YSITC graduates have an array of potential career paths to choose from. Many graduates go on to work as successful writers, producers, directors, editors, cinematographers,

journalists, animators, educators, and executives.

These students join a community of remarkable alumni that includes winners and nominees of the Festival de Cannes, the Venice Film Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the International Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg, the Trieste Film Festival, the Lille Short Film Festival, the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, and the Vilnius International Film Festival. Accomplished alumni include: Henrik Malyan, Edmond Keosayan, Aghasi Ayvazyan, Nerses Hovhannisyan, Nikolay Tsaturyan, Albert Mkrtchyan, Vigen Chaldranyan, Genadi Melkonyan, Yervand Manaryan, Henry Markaryan, Suren Babayan, Mher Mkrtchyan, Armen Dzhigarkhanyan,

Sos Sargsyan, Galya Novents, Khoren Abrahamyan, Metaksia Simonyan, Svetlana Grigoryan, Guzh Manukyan, Hovak Galoyan, and Vladimir Msryan. YSITC also has an amazing array of alumni breaking new ground in animation, directing, writing, designing, producing, running shows, scholarship, and digital innovation, such as Henrik Hovhannisyan, Jivan Avetisyan and Armen Elbakyan.

This plethora of achievements is attracting a growing number of international students. About 30 nation-

als from Georgia, Russia, Syria, Iran, Jordan, Bulgaria and the USA are currently enrolled in various Armenian-language programmes. Tuition fees vary from €600-1,000. Full and partial scholarships are available to students based on merit or social vulnerability. YSITC's International Office offers comprehensive support to international students on issues related to admission, accommodation, visas, and residence permits. ■



Bachelor's
Master's



900 students



35 international students



Armenian, French



€1,200



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FONDATION UNIVERSITÉ FRANÇAISE EN ARMÉNIE

Fondation Université Française en Arménie (UFAR) is a French-language higher education institution in Armenia which promotes European standards of quality education.

UFAR's four departments offer four Bachelor's and three Master's programmes, which enrol over 900 students. The Bachelor's programmes focus on law, management, marketing and finance (banking and insurance); the Master's programmes offer advanced studies in international business law, finance and audit, and international marketing. All of these programmes are offered jointly with the Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, UFAR's key academic partner. Another Master's programme in Cultural Communication, Tourism and Management is also available jointly with Toulouse 1 Capitole University.

Facts & Figures

- ▶ **UFAR's four departments offer four Bachelor's and three Master's programmes,**
- ▶ **Over 900 students are enrolled in UFAR.**
- ▶ **20-50% of courses are delivered in French.**
- ▶ **Tuition fee is approximately €1,200.**

UFAR programmes use the curricula of their French counterparts, adapted to Armenian higher education needs and the learning environment. Thus, from the third year of education the university offers bilingual instruction: 20-50% of courses are delivered in French. The university emphasises the multilingual capacities of future managers, leaders and businesspeople by offering them intensive courses in French, English, Armenian, German, Spanish and Russian.

Master's programmes are offered jointly with the Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University and Toulouse 1 Capitole University.

Graduates are awarded degrees and double diplomas by UFAR and Jean

Moulin Lyon 3 University (French Licence and Masters degrees). The quality of teaching and integration of curricula are ensured through the extensive presence of French lecturers and administrative staff at UFAR. More than one third of faculty come from France or other European countries.

The quality of teaching and integration of curricula is ensured through the extensive presence of French lecturers and administrative staff at UFAR.

The university has introduced the European tradition of excelling through practice. It supports student enterprises, which facilitate the integration of learning and service delivery. Thus, Junior UFAR is the uni-

versity's professional student association which allows students to engage in solutions of real-world problems, for example in business and trade. The clients of Junior UFAR include entrepreneurs, small- and medium-size businesses and business associations. The Junior Marketing Communication (JMC) is another UFAR enterprise which

helps students to plan career paths by bridging the knowledge of theory and the challenges of practice.

Three computer labs provide full access to internet and multimedia resources, as well as a unique collection of French-language resources.





UFAR offers fully fledged teaching and learning facilities, including distance learning courses. Three computer labs provide full access to internet and multimedia resources, as well as a unique collection of French-language resources. UFAR library, with its spacious reading hall and three study rooms, provides an excellent environment for individual study, including access to Jean Moulin III University library. UFAR hosts the Information Centre of Francophone University Association (Agence universitaire de la Francophonie/AUF), which provides a rich database of

professional literature, e-journals and the French-language Encyclopædia Universalis.

The university is the lead promoter of French as an international language, as well as cultural and linguistic diversity in Armenia. It strives to connect Armenians and other Europeans, using French as a common language in education to be a universal platform for knowledge exchange. UFAR is a member of AUF and Réseau des Chaires Senghor de la Francophonie (RCSF). The university cooperates with the European Foundation for

Management Development (EFMD), Europe's largest network association in the field of management development. UFAR is also the coordinator of the Tempus TNE_QA project.

Currently, over 35 international students are studying at UFAR. Tuition fee is approximately €1,200. Full and partial scholarships are offered various charities and private donors. UFAR's Office of External Relations consults foreign students on issues related to admission, visa, residence permits and other relevant procedures. French courses are available to applicants of Master's programmes.

UFAR offers a unique opportunity to undertake internships with businesses in relevant industries, as well as public institutions in France and Belgium.

The university offers a unique opportunity to undertake internships with businesses in relevant industries, as

well as public institutions in France and Belgium. Annually, about 40 students at the last year of their Bachelor studies are granted such opportunities and receive funding from partner institutions.

UFAR engages employers at various stages of the learning process, such as revision of curricula and new programme design. In this way, the Bachelor's programme in banking and insurance has been designed in close cooperation with the Union of Banks of Armenia, and funding has been provided by Acba-Credit Agricole Bank.

UFAR graduates are among the most competitive in Armenia and the wider region. About 80% of graduates go on to successfully pursue respective careers. ■



Bachelor's
Master's
Doctoral



860 students



€600 - €1,200



Research facilities



Erasmus+



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YEREVAN STATE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts (YSAFA) is a leading Armenian art and design institution with an international reputation. YSAFA continues a long and proud tradition of intellectual rigour, innovative knowledge, and creative arts. The academy is committed to examining and supporting both the means by which fine art is made – the rich array of positions, techniques, methods and materials that artists use to develop their work – as well as the subjects, ideas and issues that are successfully articulated by art.

The academy is dedicated to fostering an educational environment that is professional, practice oriented, innovative, and simultaneously rooted in history and critical theory.

The academy offers a wide range of study programmes up to a Doctoral level. Its four-year Bachelor's programmes merge critical theory with community and studio practice; the two-year Master's programmes further prepare students to engage and compete in a growing creative economy, where the demand for visual art, design, and media talent is increasing exponentially. These professional programmes enable students to engage in a range of diverse and expanding sectors of culture and creative industry. Graduates demonstrate significant expertise in the application of creative knowledge in their field.

More than 860 students are enrolled in its two departments – Fine Arts and Design, and Decorative Applied Arts – in Yerevan and on two campuses in Gyumri and Dilijan. YSAFA is committed to a solid studio-based experience for students in fine art and design – an experience balanced with relevant, complementary liberal studies and practical theory. The result is a rigorous studio programme, which produces innovative thinkers, creative problem solvers, and visually talented students. Staff include prominent artists and designers who

encourage experimentation within every artistic medium, from sculpture and graphics to multimedia and industrial design. Renowned art theorists and critics from Europe, the Americas and Asia are frequent speakers at the academy.

YSAFA is committed to a solid studio-based experience for students in fine art and design.

The Department of Fine Arts offers programmes in painting, sculpture, graphics, and the history and theory of art. The curricula are flexible, tailored and multidisciplinary, and are based on the learning needs of students. This encourages them to develop new and innovative ways of thinking and creating. The academy provides each student with the opportunity to develop a distinct style in the studios and workshops alongside like-minded artists. The main focus in sculpture studies is technical, visual and conceptual issues essential to the development of sculptural skills in easel, monumental, animalistic and decorative sculptures. The study of human body structure, proportionality and plastics is also offered. The programme underpins the use of sculpture in architectural projects. The knowledge



and skills gained in studios is refined during internships in the studios of renowned sculptors. The graphics programme particularly focuses on the in-depth knowledge of techniques and technologies, such as lithography, linography, zincography, etching and different types of engraving. The programme also offers internships in YSAFA laboratory and in publishing and printing houses across Yerevan. The Art History and

Theory programme offers courses in the history of art, architecture, theatre, and music, ethnography, and archaeology. It offers internships in exhibition halls, galleries, museums, public archives, and publishing houses.

The knowledge and skills gained in studios is refined during internships in the studios of renowned sculptors.

The Department of Design and Decorative Applied Arts offers programmes in design, applied arts, fashion design, computer graphics, and digital arts. Students are also offered advanced studies in the history and philosophy of art, design, technology, urbanism, landscape, ecology, and conservation, among others. The exceptional academic setting offers considerable learning opportunities to comprehend the incredible richness of techniques and technologies in applied arts, and the history, origins and traditions of national applied arts and modern innovations and interpretations. The programme in fashion design offers a challenging curriculum to bring about a variety of solutions to complex modelling problems, the development of modelling projects in line with new trends in contemporary fashion and high aesthetic taste, and the generation of compositional ideas and their fruition into real life. Courses offered include composition, technology, design, architectonics, and national attire. It also offers a challenging internship, the pinnacle of which is a student fashion show.

The interdisciplinary Master's programmes in research, theory and stu-

dio practice integrate methodological threads that span diverse fields of cultural production. Seminars offer a constructive environment for discourse and critique, while a series of lectures and studio visits to renowned artists inform and supplement student practice.

Excellently equipped studios and laboratories provide the ideal working conditions for all intellectual, creative and artistic processes.

YSAFA facilities and resources support student learning, research and academic programmes. Its campuses provide fully fledged facilities and a vibrant community of artists and aficionados to inspire students. Well-equipped studios and laboratories provide the ideal working conditions for all intellectual, creative and artistic processes. Traditionally, students exhibit their works at the Albert and Tove Boyajian Gallery, the academy's official exhibition hall. YSAFA organises over 50 exhibits every year in its three campuses and in art galleries across the region. It is also an essential contributor to and promoter of all kinds of arts events in the country. Thus, the academy's Gyumri campus hosted the 6th ReAnimania International Animation Film Festival, a key

event which brings together animators and artists from as many as 40 countries.

YSAFA organises over 50 exhibits every year in its three campuses and in art galleries across the region.

The academy makes its workshop at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris (France) available to staff and students for short or long stays (2 months to 1 year). Here they can practise artistic discipline, develop

creative techniques, and exhibit works.

YSAFA strives to make its students' learning experience interesting, supportive and dynamic though occasional field trips to picturesque sites in Armenia and Georgia, as well as open-air workshops. Masterclasses are offered to students on the ornamental techniques of *khachkars* (cross stones), a signature of Armenian art on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. These exceptional classes are organised at the



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- ▶ **Tuition fees at the academy range from €600-1,200**

Noratus medieval cemetery, which has the largest cluster of *khachkars* dating back to the late 10th century. Armenia's rich cultural heritage and its many different galleries and art centres embrace students with a vibrant bohemian spirit.

Staff expertise covers a broad spectrum of interests and individual, collaborative and interdisciplinary research. The YSAFA Research Centre was recently established on the Yerevan campus to enhance research in the fine arts. Annually, the staff and students of the academy publish over 80 articles in various local and international popular and academic jour-

nals, as well as the YSAFA *Yearbook of Studies in Art and Humanities*.

The YSAFA Research Centre was recently established on the Yerevan campus to enhance research in the fine arts.

YSAFA successfully cooperates with partner art schools in France, such as the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, L'École Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Reims, L'École Nationale Supérieure d'art de Limoges, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, the Écoles Supérieures des Beaux-Arts de Tours, Angers et Le Mans, and L'École Supérieure d'Art et de Design Marseille-Méditerranée. This map of partner-

ships extends across Europe, involving the Tomas Bata University in Zlín (Czech Republic); Stieglitz Saint Petersburg State Art and Industry Academy (Russia); Art Academy of Latvia and Institute of Information Systems Management (ISMA); Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze (Italy); Kyiv National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture and Lviv National Academy of Arts (Ukraine); Braunschweig University of Art (Germany); Estonian Academy of Arts; Belarusian State Academy of Arts; Apolon Kutateladze Tbilisi State Academy of Arts and Batumi Art Teaching University (Georgia).

YSAFA provides learning opportunities in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of the largest and oldest repositories of artwork across time and from all over the globe.

This cooperation ensures extensive student mobility and academic exchange. In addition, YSAFA provides learning opportunities in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of the largest and oldest repositories of artwork across time and from all over the globe. The academy also participates in Tempus GOVERN, PICASA, ESPAQ, VERITAS and ALIGN projects, and is a partner in the Erasmus Mundus HUMERIA programme.

The academy consistently attracts international students from Greece, the USA, the Netherlands, Russia, Iran, Syria and Georgia. Today, one in seven YSAFA students comes from abroad. Tuition fees at the academy range from €600-1200. ■



Master's
Doctoral



500 students



Armenian



€800 - €1,200



Research facilities



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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACADEMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia (PAARA) is the only higher educational institution that specifically targets the needs of the public service sector. It was created to democratise access to the senior civil service and is now entrusted with the initial training of senior Armenian officials. It is the one of the most elite Armenian schools and has a *de facto* quasi-monopoly over access to some of the most prestigious positions in the Armenian civil service.

The academy offers a two-year Master's programme in public administration, legal studies, management, political science and psychology. In addition, through its PhD studies, it supports social science research in relevant disciplines, such as public law, general theory of law and state, history of legal and state theories, economics and management, political institutions

and processes, and social psychology. The Master's programmes of the academy equip students with the skills, perspectives, and nuanced understanding they need to be effective leaders in solving public issues. The tuition for these programmes ranges from €800-1200. PAARA enrolls over 500 students.

The academy is also a key provider of lifelong professional development and career enhancement opportunities for civil servants. Every year, more than 1,400 civil servants and representatives of local government participate in training offered by PAARA. The academic and training curricula are designed to be flexible, allowing students and practitioners to pursue their personal and professional aspirations through distance and e-learning modules. The added value of these programmes is the availability of consulting and mentoring schemes.

The academy is a key provider of lifelong professional development and career enhancement opportunities for civil servants.

PAARA emphasises the human dimension of public administration and, thus, offers students initial

personal profiling. Identifying their leadership, communication and management skills allows PAARA to offer them tailored programmes and thereby enhance their learning curve. Project-based teaching and self-learning are two key approaches to education at the academy, which are complemented with regular academic activities involving high-ranking officials from the public sector. To ensure high relevance of knowledge and skills, the academy designs its programmes in close collaboration with institutions in the private, public and non-governmental sectors. Some courses in legal studies are offered jointly with the Institute of Forensic Investigations.

The academy actively seeks cooperation with international partners, and regularly invites visiting professors and hosts special courses offered by these partners. PAARA hosted a six-month course on Strategic Management of Companies offered by the Aix-en-Provence Institute of Political Studies. PAARA has hosted lecturers from partner universities, including the National University of Public Service (Hungary), the School of Public Policy and Administration of Carleton University (Canada),

the University of Kansas's School of Public Affairs and Administration (USA), Maastricht University (the Netherlands), Moscow City University of Psychology & Education (Russia), among others. Guest speakers from the California Bar Association, California State Senate Judiciary Committee, and the President of Ukraine's National Academy for Public Administration also frequent academic events at PAARA. Perhaps one of the best indicators of PAARA's commitment to internationalisation is the appointment of one of the most renowned European academics with vast experience of teaching in public administration and modernising public administrative management as the vice-rector.

The academy invests in research in order to prioritise the role of evidence-based policy making. Therefore, the research of the Laboratory of Research in the Psychology of Governance is aimed at improving the quality of management and administration through increasing the efficiency of officials at all levels. The Centre for Regional Studies focuses on trends in regional developments and evidence-based policies in the South Caucasus and the Middle East,

as well as on assessing the impact of regional developments on Armenian communities in the countries of the region.

PAARA's research is published in the academy's journal *Public Administration*.

PAARA's research is published in the academy's journal *Public Administration*. The editorial board comprises seven international scholars from Canada, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, *inter alia*. Academy students and staff publish over 100 articles in both local and international journals annually. PAARA encourages student involvement in academic life through its annual student conferences. The academy also offers excellent additional learning facilities, such as a rich multilingual library with access to online collections of peer-reviewed journals, such as *SpingerLink* and *EBSCOhost*, to a computer lab, and free Wi-Fi.

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PAARA staff and students are active participants in various academic

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events across the country, adopting knowledge and evidence from various disciplines into their own teaching and learning processes. They also actively contribute to relevant international events. In particular, PAARA is a member of the European Network of Training Organisations for Local and Regional Authorities (ENTO), which initiates exchange of information and experiences on a wide array of important concerns facing local governments and training institutions. It is also a member of the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee), that consolidates a genuine effort of the region's peoples and institutions to share knowledge and skills, and to project and address challenges.

PAARA is a partner in Tempus projects, specifically ASPIRE, VERITAS and GOVERN. The academy offers also two dual degree Master's programmes with the support of the Competitive Innovation Fund for Higher Education Institutions (CIF): "E-governance" and "E-business administration". The latter is developed and taught in consortium with another Armenian university - the Eurasia International University, and Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania, as well as Microsoft Armenia and the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE).

The academy prides itself on successfully bridging learning and practice. Since the majority of its teaching staff are high-ranking officials and

senior-level civil servants, PAARA offers excellent internship opportunities in various government agencies and beyond. Students can hone their skills and build up capacities through internships in the President's Office, the National Assembly, the Constitutional Court, the Human Rights Defender's Office, and almost all other ministries and adjacent agencies.

Internship opportunities are also available in partner institutions abroad, such as the Franco-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI), 13 and 14 municipal arrondissements of Marseille, and Haigazian University in Beirut. The academy makes merit-based funding available for these internships.

PAARA closely cooperates with the private sector as well, and a small number of internships are available in leading companies, such as Viva-Cell MTS and Ingo Armenia.

PAARA offers excellent internship opportunities in various government agencies and beyond

Due to these collaborations and the fact that the majority of its teaching staff are also potential employers, there are significant advantages to studying at PAARA. Indeed, PAARA graduates are in high demand, with approximately 90% of them employed in either the public or private sector. ■

INSTITUTIONS ENHANCING
ACADEMIC MOBILITY
AND RECOGNITION,
EDUCATION QUALITY
AND RESEARCH, AND
STUDENT PARTICIPATION

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) is the highest self-governing scientific organisation with special legal status recognised by the state. Founded in 1943, in the middle of the World War Two, the National Academy of Sciences brings together men and women from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Armenian public life.

Election to the Academy is considered the highest distinction a scholar can achieve, and members enjoy life tenure and an annual monetary stipend. The first female member was elected in 1950. This academic society is dedicated to making its members' broad and varied knowledge in life and physical sciences, humanities and social sciences available to all the

interested audiences. The National Academy of Sciences offers solicited and unsolicited advice to the Armenian government, universities and research institutes, funding agencies and international organizations.

In addition to various advisory and administrative functions it operates a 34 research institutes and centres which engage over 3700 researchers and assistant staff. This official academic society brings together 124 members. It has also four honorary and 111 foreign members, as well as 52 honorary doctors.

In addition to its prominent research, the institutes and research centres of the academy are also home for Master's and Doctoral studies. Thus, the International Scientific Educational Centre (ISEC), one of the academy's institutes offers 25 Master's pro-

grammes. Some programs are also available to foreign students in the English language. About 100 international students are currently involved in various programs at the academy. ISEC operates also a distance learning platform which offers state-of-the-art online courses. The National Academy of Sciences regularly hosts a variety of international conferences and other academic events, attracting renowned academicians worldwide.

The National Academy of Sciences publishes 18 peer reviewed journals, thus consolidating research and innovation in disciplines, such as physics and astrophysics, mathematics and mechanics, earth and technical sciences, humanities, medical and biological sciences, chemistry and neurochemistry.

The academy's home is next door to the official residence of the President of Armenia and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. Its Fundamental Scientific Library is one of the largest academic libraries in the entire region and boasts a collection of over 2.5 million units of literature and a unique repository of valuable publications.

The academy has signed memoranda and collaboration agreements with academies and research institutions from different countries, such as the Scientific National Research Centre (CNRS), All European Academies (ALLEA), and the International Council of Science (ISCU). It is also involved in a number of EU research programmes (for instance, EU FP7 IncoNet EaP (2013-2016) – “STI International Cooperation Network for Eastern Partnership Countries”) which promote young Armenian scientists' integration into the international scientific community, as well as foreign students' involvement in Master's and Doctoral programmes. A number of NAS RA research organisations are members of international associations and scientific networks aimed at promoting student and researcher exchange, such as the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS), the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO), and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

More information can be found on at www.sci.am. ■

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

Within the European integration policy agenda, the Armenian government committed itself to move beyond the system of the state accreditation of tertiary education institutions and their programs and established a more robust and independent external quality assurance system at the national level. Full operationalization of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance (ANQA) in 2008 was the result. ANQA's mission evolves around safeguarding and enhancing the quality of tertiary education provisions in the Republic of Armenia while ensuring promotion of recognition and competitiveness at the international level.

The external quality assurance framework in the Armenian tertiary education includes, but is not limited to, mandatory institutional and vol-

untary program accreditation. The policies and procedures on external quality assurance of tertiary education institutions and study programs underpinned by ANQA extensively draw on the local needs of the system while taking into consideration the good practices at the international level, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), in particular. A substantial share of ANQA activities capitalizes capacity building in both internal and external quality assurance of tertiary education institutions and their programs through a series of workshops, trainings and annual conferences, which have become a traditional element and building blocks of the newly evolving quality culture.

The ANQA accreditation procedures bear a cyclical character. ANQA offi-

cially launched its first cycle of institutional accreditation in 2010, with the approved closure envisioned in 2018. So far, almost all the state run higher education institutions and several private ones have already undergone the first cycle of accreditation and decisions on accreditation have been granted to the best performing ones. The pilot phase for program accreditation was officially launched in 2012 and the first cycle of program accreditation is planned for 2016. Program accreditation results will serve as a major background information for decision taking at the governmental level. Overall, the results accumulated through the ANQA external quality assurance procedures will feed into recommendations to the policymakers for further enhancement of the system.

ANQA is also conscious of its own performance effectiveness spelled out in the internal quality assurance system measuring the effectiveness and validity of ANQA operations. The first cycle of ANQA internal and external evaluations of its activities

was over in 2013 with a favorable feedback of European reviewers on the ANQA achievements. ANQA is planning to apply for a full ENQA recognition procedure in 2016. This is a crucial act to attest the alignment of ANQA approaches with the ESGs, which in turn will promote recognition of the accreditation procedures conducted by ANQA.

ANQA is proactive in the quality assurance arena internationally. It is an active affiliate member of ENQA and a full member of INQAAHE, being actively involved in the strategic developments of the latter. ANQA's international visibility is also ensured through its active initiation and implementation of a variety of the World Bank and European Commission projects, which successfully tackle a diversity of challenges related to the higher education reforms in Armenia.

More information can be found on the official website of ANQA: www.anqa.am. ■

NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AND MOBILITY

Since 2005 the National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility (ArmENIC) has been providing information on Armenian and foreign higher education systems to local and foreign stakeholders, as well as on the recognition of foreign qualifications. The centre is active participant in the international ENIC-NARIC network.

ArmENIC:

- provides accurate and reliable information about Armenian and foreign education systems and relevant qualifications, as well as advice on and verification of decisions made about the assessment and recognition of qualifications in line with ENIC-NARIC criteria and procedures;
- promotes the internationalisation of the Armenian education system,

academic mobility, and the Bologna transparency tools, such as the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and Diploma Supplement (DS);

- represents Armenia at the international level.

ArmENIC is actively involved higher education legislative amendment processes at both the national and international level. It is one of the key actors involved in developing the Armenian National Qualifications Framework (ANQF). Currently, the centre is a social partner in the Tempus project “Implementation of National and Sectorial Qualifications Frameworks in Armenia” (ARMEN-QA).

ArmENIC collaborates closely with Armenian higher educational insti-

tutions, providing consultancy and training on qualification frameworks and academic recognition.

Since 2007, the centre has provided diploma supplements, a document developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The document is linked to higher education qualifications and is aimed at providing suf-

ficient independent data in order to improve international transparency and facilitate fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, and certificates). ArmENIC processes over 1,000 requests annually.

More information can be found on the official website of ArmENIC: www.armenic.am. ■

ARMENIAN NATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Armenian National Students' Association is an umbrella organisation representing the student self-governing bodies of 18 higher education institutions in Armenia. As the largest student body in the country, it represents and defends the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of Armenian students on the national and international level, and promotes the availability and sustainability of quality higher education in Armenia. Since 2012, ANSA has been a full member of the European Students' Union and, as such, it serves as a link between local and international students.

The three cornerstones of ANSA's mission are involvement, representativeness and cooperation. The association aims to bring together students from all higher education institutions in Armenia to better meet their

educational needs. ANSA specifically promotes student engagement outside the capital city of Yerevan. Initially starting as an organisation dealing mostly with students' social issues, ANSA has recently begun to focus on the quality of education, student involvement, the and protection of their interests. Its primary objectives are:

- To raise the level of student involvement in higher education decision-making process and provide opportunities for independent, transparent and democratic participation;
- To provide equal possibilities to all students, regardless of their gender, social status, political and religious beliefs, ethnic, racial or cultural origin;

■ To promote and strengthen cooperation between youth from all regions of the Republic of Armenia, the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and students from the Armenian Diaspora.

ANSA is an active stakeholder in higher education practices across Armenia, contributing to research and advocacy activities to give voice to the perspectives of the Arme-

nian students on higher education institutions' policies and practices. ANSA also facilitates Armenian students' access to international student events, thus enhancing their international mobility and chances to exchange best practices.

More information is available on the ANSA official website www.ansa.am and its Facebook page www.facebook.com/ansaarmenia. ■

Notes

2015 Higher Education Institutions in Armenia: Your Guide to Studying in Armenia presents a selection of Armenian higher education institutions for the 2015 EHEA Ministerial Conference in Armenia, which holds the Secretariat of the Bologna Follow-up Group between 1 July, 2012 and 30 June 2015.

