

NEW STUDENTS' GUIDE 2020-2021
PRE-ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION

BATUMI



Welcome to Bau University. We look forward to seeing you in October. This guide is organised roughly chronologically taking you through the end of the summer, your first day, your first week, and then giving some general advice. It's worth giving this a read because hopefully many of your questions will be answered somewhere within these very pages.

Before you get here

At this point, we hope you'll be enjoying one of the longest and work-free summers you're ever going to get. Enjoy it, and make the most of the time you have at home. You'll probably have lots of questions about what to do before you get here. You'll want to know what to expect in terms of work, and the social side of life, as well as where you'll be living for the next terms. We hope that this guide answers some of the questions you might have, and gets you excited for all that's to come on the journey ahead.





Travelling in Georgia

Georgia is served by five airports:

1. International Airport of Tbilisi Shota Rustaveli — TAV Airport
tbilisiairport.com (+995 32) 231 00 07

2. International Airport Kutaisi Also known as the Kopitnari airport.
kutaisiairport.ge

3. Batumi International Airport
batumiairport.com

4. Natakhtari airport A small private airfield, which deals with air taxi.

5. Airport name Queen Tamar Mestia.
Svaneti <http://www.gcaa.ge/eng/mestiisaeroporti.php>



By Land



You can reach Batumi by land from the neighboring countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey you can reach Batumi by land transport. It is prohibited to cross administrative border of Abkhazia and South Ossetia for the citizens of Georgian and foreign countries.
Travelling by car: It is possible to reach Batumi from Europe and Asia through Armenia, Azerbaijan or Turkey motorways
Travelling

By Bus

Buses depart from Istanbul, Ankara and Trabzon to Batumi every day, during the summer period busses departed from Yerevan and Baku several times a week

Rail transport

The railway connects Georgia with Armenia and Azerbaijan. During the summer the train Yerevan-Batumi-Yerevan works every day as well as the train Tbilisi-Baku, but the train Yerevan-Tbilisi runs every other day.



Getting around Batumi

On foot

Batumi can be walked around from one end to the other -roughly 45 minutes.

By bus and minibus

Batumi has several bus routes. For using the municipal transportation means, one must purchase one of the contactless plastic cards for free. Standard Card - BATUMI CARD – Available for international travelers as well. It can be purchased in the service center of “Metro Service +” located at #55 Gorgasali Str. Batumi. It is also available at the Express Pay machines (the ones who have the function of issuing the transport card) of the Bank of Georgia..

Buses N9 and N10 go from and to the Airport.

By bicycle

There is a network of red painted bike paths through-out Batumi, including the most notable path a 8km path along the sea which stretches along both the beach and port side of Batumi. An automated bike sharing membership, called BatumVelo makes it available to rent bicycles and cycle around the city. To get a BatumVelo card visit the Tourist information center at the main entrance to the Boulevard, near the fountains. You should have an identity card or passport.

“BatumVelo” offers 2 types of packages: The annual package – 20 GEL (10 GEL – price of BatumVelo card+ 10 GEL to your balance for cycling) To replenish the balance on your card please visit the Tourist Information Centre where you purchased the package.

- The price of a 1 day package amounts to 4 Lari (2 Lari - price of BatumVelo card +2 Lari for a 1 hour drive on a bicycle)
- The price of a 10 day package amounts to 10 Lari (4 Lari - price of BatumVelo card +6 Lari for a 3 hour drive on a bicycle)
- The price of a 1 year package amounts to 20 Lari (10 Lari - price of BatumVelo card +10 Lari for a 5 hour drive on a bicycle)



Residence Permit in Georgia

Visa Regime

Citizens of the European Union and Eastern Europe as well as USA, Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, the Baltic states, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and many other countries are now able to enter and stay in Georgia for a year visa-free.

Citizens of European Union member states may enter Georgia with a travel document as well as with an ID card that is issued by an EU member state and contains the person's name, surname, date of birth and a photo.

In addition, entering Georgia and staying for 1 year visa-free is also possible for citizens who hold a United Nations (UN) Laissez-Passer, a travel document issued by the UN or its specialized agencies.

To enter in Georgia it is necessary to have a passport, valid for at least 6 months from the date of entering the country.

Citizens of other states need to arrange visa before travelling to Georgia. In some cases, visa can be issued at land border crossings or international airports upon arrival.

LIST OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BATUMI:

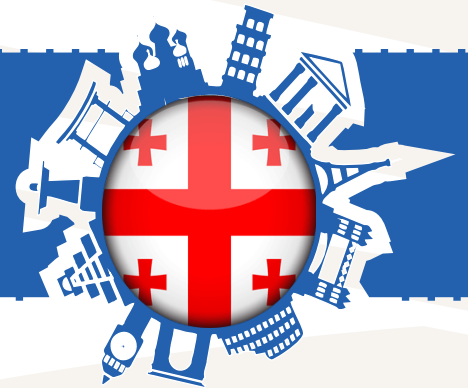
Azerbaijan - 62 Parnavaz Mepe street; t.: 0 422 27 67 00

Estonia - 60 Gorgasali street; t.: 0 422 27 09 10

Turkey - 9 Ninoshvili street; t.: 0 422 25 58 00

Iran - 83 Parnavaz Mepe street; t.: 0 422 22 86 01, 0 422 22 86 02

Armenia - 32 Gogebashvili street; t.: 0 422 21 63 02



Residence Permit

How to register an online application or residence permit?

To register an online application or residence permit you need to fill in an electronic application form, upload the relevant documents electronically, contact Remote Service Operator and express your will online to get residence permit.

Note:

1. Documents necessary for consideration of an application or residence permit in Georgia shall also be submitted materially within 10 days following registration of an electronic application and attached documents.
2. Documents issued abroad shall be translated into Georgian and notarized. Documents issued abroad (if applicable) shall also be legalized or certified by apostille.

Who can apply online for residence permit?

Legally capable foreigner of 18 years of age is eligible to apply online for residence permit. The issue of persons of up to 18 years of age shall be considered based on an application of their legal representative. Only an alien staying in Georgia is entitled to apply online for residence permit, while application or extension of residence permit can be filed online by a person residing both in Georgia and abroad.

Residence permit for study purposes

issued for the purpose of study at educational institutions authorized in Georgia.

What documents are required to apply online for a residence permit for study purposes?

Online application or a residence permit for study purposes should be electronically accompanied by the following documents::

- Photocopy of an alien's travel document.
- Photocopy of a document evidencing alien's lawful stay in Georgia
- Certificate issued by an educational institution authorized in Georgia confirming alien's studies (indicating the anticipated duration of study).
- Document evidencing legal income earned in Georgia by an alien and/or by a citizen of Georgia or by his/her relative having the right of residence in Georgia and a document confirming kinship with that person. The money in an alien's personal bank account may also be considered income; Taking into account the duration of a residence permit for study purposes, the monthly amount of the money should not be less than double the amount of minimum subsistence level of an average customer in Georgia.
- 3x4 cm photo.

How long does it take to consider an issue of granting a residence permit for study purposes and what is the fee for the mentioned service?

The issue of granting a residence permit for study purposes is considered in 30 calendar days and the service fee is GEL 210.

Fee for expedited service is GEL 330 in 20 calendar days and GEL 410 in 10 calendar days.

How to Open a Bank Account?

Opening a bank account in Georgia can be a good chance to manage your finances. Banks in Georgia serve foreigners efficiently and the opening process is quick and simple.

What Documents Are Necessary for a Foreigner to Open a Bank Account?

Foreigners willing to open a bank account are likely to need the following documents (some banks may open your account just with your passport):

- Passport
- Application form
- Birth Certificate and attendance of a parent (in case of being under eighteen)

None of these documents are required to be Georgian, including your address.

Which bank should I choose?

There are a multitude of banks to choose from in Georgia, many of which are local. That being said, it's possible to select a larger international institution for your personal banking. The most popular banks in Georgia include:

Bank of Georgia

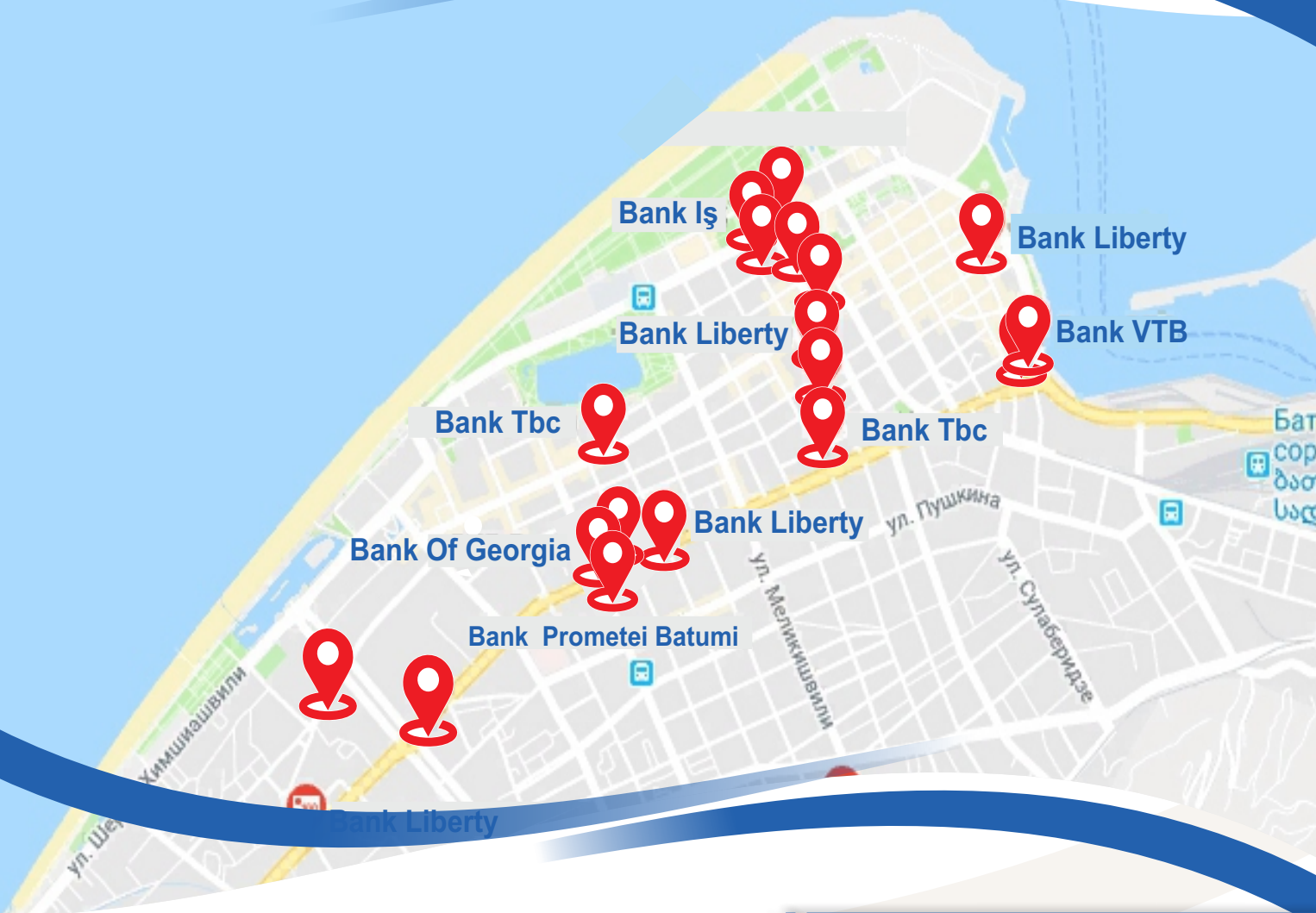
TBC

Liberty Bank

Basis Bank

Iş Bank

Bank Prometei Batumi



University fees and charges

An annual fee for the educational service provided in the terms of this contract is 6500 (six thousand five hundred) USD equivalent to GEL according to the National Bank exchange rate of the payment day. A tuition fee must be paid during one academic year on semester basis in two stages within the terms of the academic and financial registration set by the rector's order. A total tuition fee is paid in two installments.

When Do I Need To Pay

Term	Tuition FE S
Fall Semester	21-23 October 2020 (50 percent)
Spring Semester	15-16 March 2021 (50 percent)



Budgeting for life in the Batumi

Living in Batumi depends on your lifestyle. It is estimated that a single student living in Batumi needs approximately 500-600\$ a month to meet basic living expenses such as accommodation, food, and other necessities. The information below will help you plan your finances for living in Georgia.

Food prices vary depending on where you shop and what products you buy. Supermarkets often have 'own-label' brands which are much cheaper. You can also explore local markets or bulk buying.

Basic goods	Approximate costs in \$
Loaf of white bread	0.3 USD
Rice	0.67 USD
Noodles (300g)	0.2 USD
1 liter of semi-skimmed milk	1.34 USD
10 medium eggs	1.01 USD
Margarine (500g)	1.34 USD
Cheese (1 KG)	2.69 USD
Cooking oil	0.84 USD
Pasta – uncooked spaghetti	0.43 USD

Drinks	Approximate costs in \$
Cola (2ltr)	1.01 USD
Coffee – instant (100g)	0.37 USD
Tea bags (80 bags)	0.91 USD
Mineral water (3ltr)	0.67 USD

BAU | International University
Batumi



Studying at BAU INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BATUMI

BAU INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BATUMI is an ambitious international university. We have a strong desire of providing education of the highest quality and there is a strong partnership between our staff and our students that influences every part of the BAU activity and is a key of our success.



Important Dates

Fall semester	28 October
Final exams	16-28 February 2020
Spring semeste	17 march
Final exams	6-18 July 2021

Teaching sessions may be timetabled between 09:00 and 18,00 Monday to Saturday, We try to keep Sunday afternoons free from teaching to allow you to participate in extra-curricular activities. When being a medical student, you need to get used to this busy schedule, which may be very different from your previous experience.

For further studies, our library and electronic resources are available and worth using.

Your research might not happen just in books so it's worth exploring the library and electronic resources too during your first weeks.

YOUR FIRST WEEK

Freshers' Week

21-28 October 2019 Freshers' Week is a great opportunity for all new students to orientate themselves to the Bau batumi international university. The week is packed with academic induction and social activities for all students to join. The International Welcome Program sessions are specifically for international students and provide practical information and help to start your life at the Bau Batumi international university as well as social opportunities. You will be able to see your Academic Induction meetings in your online timetable via email to your arrival in BAU. So you will be able to check your academic assessment on your ois system. So do remember to check <http://ois.bauinternational.edu/auth/login>. Induction sessions can run across the whole week and all other activities (including events run by societies) fit around these sessions. Most societies put on multiple events during Freshers' Week, like welcome party, so if there is a make sure you check the online events guide to see when else you can catch your favorite society.

YOUR ACADEMIC INDUCTION WILL INCLUDE:

- Welcome from your Head of College/ Discipline
- Academic support and representation in our university
- Understand your program structure and the year ahead
- Meet your personal tutor
- Meet your fellow students
- Finalize your modules
- Familiarize yourself with your academic building



Living in the Batumi

Living in a new culture is exciting but can also be challenging. Here is some basic advice about life in the Batumi.

- Although simple politeness is always expected, Georgian people like to hear 'please' and 'thank you' repeatedly! People here are very friendly but can be reserved, especially when talking to strangers. You might also like to download application or basic phrases to communicate easily.
- If you are invited to someone's home for a meal it is polite to take a small gift (for example, wine, chocolates or flowers), or you could invite them to your home in return. It is considered good manners to tell your hosts in advance if you have special religious or dietary requirements.
- When you are in a bank, shop or waiting on a bus you are expected to queue; stand in line and wait your turn. People can get very angry if you 'jump the queue'.
- Georgian attitudes to sex and sexuality may be different from those in your own country. You are free to live according to your own personal standards, ethics and beliefs and not feel pressured to adopt those of any of your fellow students.
- Georgia has one of the easiest ways to pay your utility or any other bills. The whole country is full of pay boxes, where you can choose the service you would like to pay for, slide the cash and done. Easy! This way you don't need to wait in lines at a post office, bank, or any other office of the provider. You can even buy train tickets at certain pay boxes if you spontaneously decide to travel to other parts of the country.

Climate and clothing

Batumi has a warm climate thanks to its position next to the Black Sea. This means that it has nice temperature all year making it an all year destination. Summers can be very warm, but not too hot. The average annual temperature in Batumi is around 14 degrees Celsius (57 °Fahrenheit). Rainfall in Batumi is frequent year round.

Outerwear

It is better to have 3 options for outerwear:

- Something windproof — a windbreaker.
- Something warm — a winter jacket or a parka coat.
- Something in the middle, and better — waterproof.



Living in the Batumi

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all government workplaces, schools, childcare facilities and recreation cultural facilities. Smoking restrictions are required in private workplaces, restaurants, bars and retail stores. The use of e-cigarettes is prohibited by food service employees at work, except in designated areas.

Drinking water

All Georgian tap water is safe to drink unless it is labelled 'not for drinking'. Do not use water from the hot water tap for making hot drinks. You should instead boil a kettle or use a microwave.

Georgian Language

The official language of Georgia is Georgian, along with Abkhazian language in Abkhazian A/R. Georgian language is one of the oldest living languages in the world. It belongs to the family of Ibero-Caucasian group. It should be noted that the Georgian alphabet is among the world's 14 alphabets and takes 5th place for its age. The majority of local people in Ajara talking in Georgian, Russian and English languages.

Useful vocabulary:

- Hello - Gamardjoba
- Goodbye - Nakhvamdis
- Please - Gtkhovt
- Thank you - Madloba
- Yes/No - Diakh/Ara
- Excuse me - Ukatsravad
- What's your name? - Ra gqvia?
- Where's hotel? - Sad aris sastumro?
- What's the address - Ra misamartia?
- How much is it? - Ra girs?



GEORGIAN DISHES

Homesickness

The decision to study at BAU international university Batumi brings the opportunity to make new friends, to expand your academic knowledge, and to change your existing view of the world. But in common with any major transition, it also brings challenges. Feeling homesick can be one of them, even if you've already lived abroad. It is one of the emotional states that can be a part of what is known as culture shock. Homesickness is a common experience for international students- and for many Georgian students who have left home for the first time. It can affect people in different forms: e.g. coming in waves, or slowly building up over time. So sometimes it seems like a physical illness, e.g. feeling tired, unwell, or lacking in energy. It can appear when you're not expecting - for example, when things have gone well.

The trigger in this case can be having no one really close or special with whom to share the experience.

Symptoms of homesickness can include:

- Feeling down-hearted, tearful or anxious
- Feeling lost or lonely
- Longing and grief for your former life
- Being unable to stop contacting people at home
- Being absent-minded, or finding it difficult to concentrate
- Feeling unwell
- Brooding on the past

Common triggers may include:

When the 'honeymoon period' has worn off, i.e. Batumi no longer seems wonderful or exciting

When you have doubts about your decision to study here

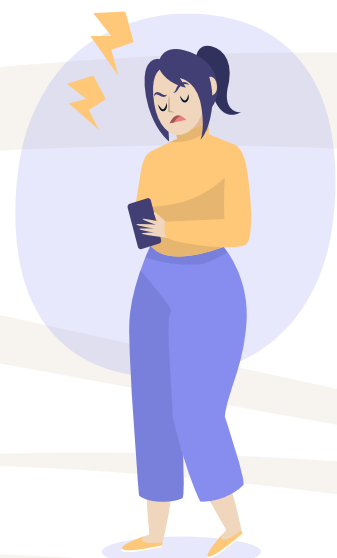
When the demands of your course have become more real, and your self-confidence is affected

If the local culture feels confusing, unwelcoming, or just too different

If you miss a major celebration, holiday or important event that is happening at home

When a crisis occurs and your parents, friends or partner aren't there to provide help and support

If friends leave Batumi, or if you spend long periods of time here when others have gone back home



Homesickness

There may be other causes, depending on your particular circumstances. But the most important thing to remember is that homesickness is normal. Be patient with yourself as you adjust. Try to accept that feeling comfortable in BAU will take some time. It helps if you can encourage yourself, and if you can remember that you are not alone in feeling this way.

Things you can do to cope with homesickness:

Leave your room

It can be tempting to seek the security of your own space, but don't hide in your room for too long. Reach out to others. Invite people for a cup of tea or coffee, or for a meal. Go into town, for a walk by the river, or see a film. Don't be afraid to talk about your experience of homesickness, but try to stay positive.

Consider how much time you spend in contact with the people back home:

If you keep in touch infrequently, you'll miss the support that you crave from the people who are important to you. But if you rely on them too much, you may risk becoming overly-dependent. Try to strike a reasonable balance to get the best of both worlds, with the aim of developing a new sense of your own independence.

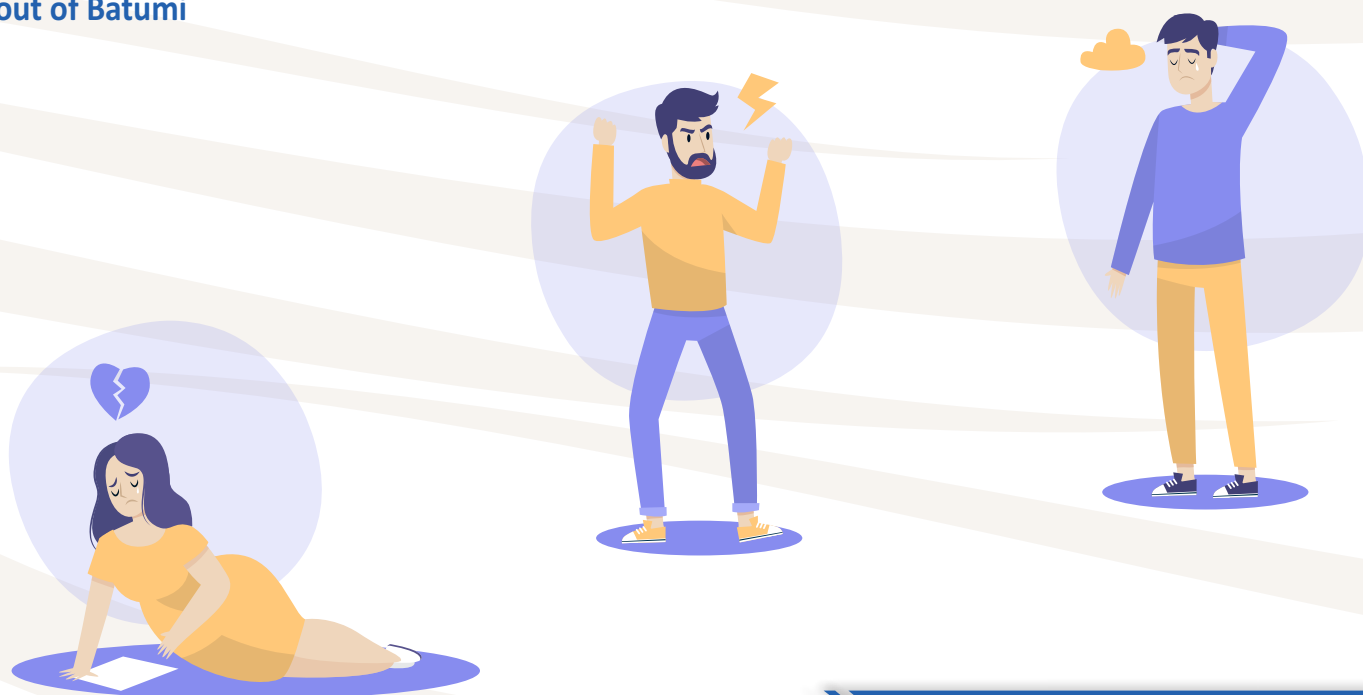
Do something

Meeting up with others from your own culture can be an antidote to loneliness, and an essential sense of comfort. But it's equally important to leave your comfort zone from time to time. The opportunities in BAU are many and varied- get involved, and get busy! Join a student society, play a sport, volunteer, try a new type of food. Attend one of the many performances, lectures, and events that regularly take place across the University and Colleges.

Find a way to process your experiences

Many international students post blogs, keep journals, take photographs, or find other mediums to help them get through times of homesickness and culture shock. A photo journal or blog can become a way of documenting our life at Cambridge, sharing with others what you experienced, what you've learned, and how you faced up to any obstacles along the journey.

Get out of Batumi



A white silhouette of the Batumi skyline on a dark blue background. From left to right, it includes a street lamp, a statue on a pedestal, a cylindrical building with a checkered pattern, a tall spire, a stepped tower, a couple embracing, and a classical building with columns. The word 'BATUMI' is written in white capital letters above the skyline.

BATUMI

BAU

International University
Batumi

Useful contacts

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Batumi 6010, Georgia

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Fax: +995 422 21 25 37

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BAUintbatumi/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Instagram @bauinbatumi