



Profile of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Founded in the beginning of the 20th century, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) is the first Georgian University and the first higher education institution in the South Caucasus. Historically, TSU has had a mission to support the development of a democratic society and foster affable relations with the international community via its students' outputs and through international educational, scientific cooperation.

First opened in 1918 TSU bears the name of its founder Professor Ivane Javakhishvili who gathered Georgian scholars educated in Europe to establish a national university. Being a renowned historian with a Western education himself, Javakhishvili contributed greatly to making "The Georgian University in Tiflis" as it was then called, a classical European institution of higher education.

Today, the university's main directions, principles, values and reforms are carried out dynamically in a systematic, coordinated manner and have placed TSU on a development path leading towards a common European Higher Education Area. As a forward-looking university, TSU realizes that it faces new demands and strives to meet the challenges of the century, and to prepare its students for further professional activities. TSU is the largest university in Georgia with over 22.000 students and 7 enlarged faculties:

1. Faculty of Humanities;
2. Faculty of Economics and Business;
3. Faculty of Law;
4. Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences;
5. Faculty of Social and Political Sciences;
6. Faculty of Psychology and Education;
7. Faculty of Medicine;

For all students (undergraduate, graduate and PhD), the university puts emphasis on the following:

- In-depth knowledge of a major field of study;
- Broad understanding of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts;
- Skills in communication and in critical thinking;
- Global perspectives gained through intellectual and social exchange of its academics and staff through professional and study programs;
- Responsible citizenship and an understanding of ethical norms.

Internationalization

We are currently performing well nationwide and in the region across a wide range of areas. This is evidenced by global university rankings. The first time in the history of Georgian higher education institutions Tbilisi State University was ranked as 800th among the 980 top universities in the world by Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

International outlook and generally internationalization is a high priority for TSU. The university puts special emphasis is on joint projects (local, regional and international) and on the international mobility of its students and staff. Tbilisi State University has been part of the Bologna process since 2005 and shares the

principles pertinent to the European higher education institutions in the organization of its studies and programs. The quality of study programs are assured by the evaluation processes including internal assessment, external review, international participation and cooperation. According to the European University Association Tbilisi State University was named as an outstanding reformer in the year of 2006. Besides, TSU is an active member of prestigious international networks: European University Association (EUA), Black Sea University Network (BSU) and Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF).

TSU faculty cooperates with numerous international organizations, examples include:

- Association of European Universities
- British Council
- Council of Europe
- DAAD- German Academic Exchange Service
- European Commission
- World Bank, UNDP, GIZ, USAID
- Fulbright Association
- U.S. Department of State
- Volkswagen Foundation

TSU has close scientific and educational contacts with over hundred universities and centers of the world and numerous international research and scientific organizations and foundations. Between 1995-2016, TSU has been the leader in the Post-Soviet region with the number of EU funded projects - TSU has been part of 35 TEMPUS-funded programs and a member of 7 Erasmus Mundus consortiums. Currently, TSU is a leader in the country with the number of Erasmus+ mobility projects with 59 ongoing projects with the EU universities.

Since 2012 TSU has forged partnership with Chinese universities where its students go on exchange mobility programs as well as the degree programs. Among our most active Chinese partner higher education institutions are Zhejiang Sci-Tech University (ZSTU), Beijing Institute of Technology, Peking University HSBC Business School and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Academic programs instructed in foreign languages

TSU is running several undergraduate and graduate programmes in cooperation with the European universities. As a result of such cooperation, students attending foreign language instructed programmes at TSU can receive dual diploma acknowledged both by TSU and its partner European university:

- Master of Public Administration is an English language graduate program implemented in collaboration with the German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer. This is an interdisciplinary program aimed to prepare future civil servants, who will have relevant understanding of the requirements of modern public administration.
- Master's in Law, a joint Georgian-German language program in cooperation with the University of Koln is instructed in German language. Students enrolled in this program have the opportunity to study law at TSU and the University of Cologne. In the first year, successful graduates of this program can earn their LL.M. from the University of Cologne. Should students wish to earn a Master's of Law from TSU as well they can continue their studies at TSU for the second year.
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics at International School of Economics (ISET) – The programme is taught in English and offers a specialization in Finance and Public Policy. The curriculum mirrors the best economics program in North America and Western Europe. Specializations in finance and public policy prepare students for careers in economic research, policy analysis, commercial banking, financial markets, insurance, business and policy consulting.

- Master Program in Economics at International School of Economics of TSU - the graduates of the program receive a Master of Arts in Economics diploma, which is recognized by the World Bank as one of five "centers of excellence" in economics education and research in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.
- MA program in European studies (MAES) at TSU Institute for European Studies (IES). This is an interdisciplinary program offering its students a unique combination of the knowledge of EU law, politics, economy, history and culture and Eastern European perspectives on EU membership.
- PhD in European Studies at TSU institute for European Studies (IES). The program offers theoretical and the applied research related to the European Union by applying the interdisciplinary approach. This will enable the future scientists to become skilled in research on the European Union from the perspective of the legal, economic, social-political and historical perspectives.
- PhD programs in Gender studies offered by the Institute of Gender. The program provides the students with training in research tools essential to scholarship in the field of gender studies - the study of masculinity, historical developments of women's rights and other related fields.
- Internationally accredited Bachelor of Science programs in Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering in collaboration with San Diego State University (SDSU) is offering internationally accredited Bachelor of Science programs in Georgia.
- Bachelor's program in Informatics at Georgian-French School of Informatics in cooperation with Université Paris 8.
- MSc in Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology. The program in Applied Biosciences was designed at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Tbilisi State University, within the framework of the TEMPUS Project in cooperation with other Georgian and foreign universities.
- PhD in European Literature at the Faculty of Humanities- is instructed in French and offers a joint international doctoral degree program in cooperation with Bologna University in Italy.

Other international activities of TSU include:

- Visiting Chair of Georgian Languages, Culture, and Society at Leiden University
- Chair of Georgian Studies at the University of La Plata, Argentina
- Camoes Institute of Portuguese culture at TSU
- Yunus Emre Center of Turkish Culture, Language of Society
- Center for Japanese Culture and Society
- Cooperation with the Millennium Challenge Corporation Georgia Office – STEM project
- Marie Curie IRSES project – People to People Exchange
- Various cooperation activities with China, South America, Africa, Japan

Among the long-term objectives of TSU are to: (1) increase the number of foreign language instructed programmes and ensure that they meet the quality requirements; (2) foster cooperation with the existing partners - universities, research and scientific centers, foundations and others; (3) expand cooperation with the universities in the region and in other parts of the world deemed as strategic areas according to the TSU's internationalization policy; (4) intensify project - related efforts; (5) increase the number of outgoing exchange TSU students; (6) increase the number of incoming exchange students to TSU; (7) expand the faculty exchange programs to increase faculty mobility opportunities.